

**State Building Up Former AID positions.** By Anna Gawel, *Devex*, 5 June 2026

### **Building back up after tearing it down**

The [U.S. Global Leadership Coalition](#) hosted its 2026 Impact Forum this week, bringing nearly 500 aid professionals, government reps, activists, and farmers to the Westin Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C., according to the event organizers.

It was **a day dedicated to America's role in international affairs**, and how the country was — or for some, was not — showing up to take charge, my colleague Elissa Miolene tells me.

**Jim Richardson**, the former head of the [U.S. State Department](#)'s foreign assistance bureau during the first Trump administration, was firmly in the glass-half-full camp, telling the forum attendees that he was **hopeful about development and diplomacy's "true alignment"** since the absorption of [USAID](#).

"So much of the infrastructure that was found at USAID is now starting to be replicated in the State Department, which I think is really important for us to recognize," Richardson said. "They are **starting to have to rebuild the personnel, the infrastructure, the processes**. This was all to be expected."

Proof of that buildup can be seen across LinkedIn, where **job postings have continued to pop up in recent months**. Roles for the State Department's global health bureau, for example, [are listed via firms](#) such as Nakupuna Companies, a Honolulu-headquartered contracting outfit.

"I thought it would probably take a couple more years for that to actually come to fruition, but we're really starting to see it right now," Richardson said.