



United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Timeline of Attacks

- **January 27, 2025:** Following Trump's executive order freezing all foreign aid, over 50 USAID staff members, including senior officials, were placed on administrative leave. The administration claimed the staffers were trying to circumvent the freeze.
- **January 30, 2025:** Nicholas Gottlieb, a top USAID official, was placed on administrative leave after attempting to reverse the firings of senior staff.
- **January 31, 2025:** Acting administrator of USAID Jason Gray ordered staff to give DOGE agents Luke Farritor and Gavin Kliger access to the agency's IT systems.
- **February 1, 2025:** USAID's website was shut down.
- **February 2, 2025:** CNN reported that DOGE agents had gained access to USAID security systems and personnel files. John Voorhees and Brian McGill, USAID's Director and Deputy Director of Security respectively, were placed on administrative leave after attempting to prevent DOGE agents from accessing classified material. DOGE also accessed USAID's financial management system and shut it down.
- **February 3, 2025:** USAID staff were told via email that the agency headquarters would be closed and staff should work remotely.
- **February 4, 2025:** USAID employees received an email notifying them that "direct hire personnel" would be placed on administrative leave, with the exception of "mission-critical" staff.
- **February 6, 2025:** Wired reported that DOGE was cutting USAID staff from over 10,000 people to under 300.
- **February 6, 2025:** The Associated Press reported that DOGE's incursion at the Treasury Department was carried out in order to access the payment system and stop disbursements to USAID.
- **February 27, 2025:** Over 4,000 USAID workers were placed on administrative leave while another 1,600 were terminated. Staff at USAID headquarters were given 15 minute windows to come in and clear their desks.
- **March 10, 2025:** Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that USAID had eliminated 83% of its programs and thanked DOGE for its help. The remaining programs were to be administered by the State Department.
- **March 12, 2025:** Leadership at USAID ordered employees to shred and burn the agency's classified and personnel records.
- **March 19, 2025:** Pete Marocco, the acting deputy administrator of USAID, informed employees that he was leaving the agency and handing over authority to DOGE Agent Jeremy Lewin.



- **March 28, 2025:** Lewin [sent](#) a memo titled “USAID’s Final Mission,” informing employees and Congress that USAID would eliminate all positions not required by law, with employees being terminated on July 1 or September 2, 2025. Only [around](#) 15 positions remained.

Impacts on Capacity

DOGE’s attack on USAID effectively dismantled the agency, abruptly [ending](#) funding for thousands of humanitarian efforts, which forced staff across the globe to abandon their posts and return to the United States. The vast majority of US foreign aid programs were eliminated and nearly all staff were terminated, with the small percentage of remaining contracts [transferred](#) to the State Department.

Material Harms

For more information on USAID’s impact and the humanitarian cost of DOGE’s cuts, see this study published in [The Lancet](#) and the documentary [Rovina’s Choice](#).

DOGE’s dismantling of USAID will likely have the most devastating and far-reaching harms of any of the DOGE attacks. The gutting of foreign aid has destabilized humanitarian efforts in every region of the globe, which will lead to increased death rates as funding dries up for nutrition and food aid, and prevention of diseases like HIV and malaria, among other programs. A [model](#) from Dr. Brooke Nichols of Boston University’s School of Public Health estimated that USAID cuts caused over 700,000 excess deaths and rising as of January 2026.

Examples of the impacts of eliminating USAID’s lifesaving programs include:

- DOGE [cut](#) \$1.3 billion for emergency food assistance and nutrition programs for children administered by the World Food Programme in Middle East and African countries. [ProPublica](#) [reported](#) that US embassy officials noted increases in “criminality, sexual violence, and instances of human trafficking” in Malawi refugee camps and violent protests at food distribution centers in Kenya. The [New York Times](#) [reported](#) on the severe malnutrition and starvation of children in war-torn areas of Sudan as 300 soup kitchens were forced to close.
- Four contracts to contain an Ebola outbreak in Uganda were discontinued, [leaving](#) just six USAID contractors to manage the crisis. In late February, after the cuts, a 4- year-old boy died from the disease.
- [Reuters](#) [reported](#) on 60,000 metric tonnes of food rations, which could feed 3.5 million people for a month, that were at risk of becoming unusable due to DOGE cuts to distribution programs and contracts with warehouses that store the food.
- DOGE [cut off](#) USAID funding for World Relief, an organization that helped treat a cholera outbreak in South Sudan that had infected 36,000 and killed 600 in the



first three months of 2025. World Relief clinics in the country had saved 500 lives.

Notable Names

Ousted Leadership

- **Matt Hopson:** USAID chief of staff that was appointed by President Trump resigned after security staff tried to block DOGE agents from accessing classified USAID material.

DOGE Agents

- **Jeremy Lewin**
- **Luke Farritor**
- **Edward Coristine**
- **Gavin Kliger**