



USAID
EMPLOYEE
SUPPORT FUND

BETRAYED

A DECADE OF SERVICE, ENDED WITHOUT DIGNITY

The Interview That Almost Broke Me

I joined USAID from Haiti, where I worked on recovery programming following the devastating 2010 earthquake. I remember the day-long interview that meant flying from Port-au-Prince to Washington, DC. You got one assigned date and time. That was the only slot.

The day was long and grueling. As I was leaving the multi-hour interview, someone asked about the prevalence of Chikungunya in Haiti. I said yes, the disease is not for the faint of heart, and I was recently on the mend from this atrocious illness, which made the interview even harder. There were moments I genuinely thought I might die from the physical pain and exhaustion.

What Dedication Really Means

That interview was just the beginning. When they say you need dedication and resilience for this line of work, they mean this. It means accepting assignments where disease outbreaks are common, security risks are high, and separation from family can last months or years, in places most Americans couldn't locate on a map. My colleagues and I made these sacrifices because our work mattered: providing access to essential medicines, improving education for children, delivering school supplies, responding to earthquakes and floods, and providing emergency food relief in areas of conflict, disease, and political instability. We believed that opportunity, fairness, and compassion aren't abstract ideals but principles of strong American leadership, and USAID turned those principles into action. Around the world, the agency earned respect for its technical expertise, professionalism, and willingness to go where others wouldn't.

A Decade of Service, Across Continents

After devoting a decade of my life to USAID, I remain stunned. I struggle to understand how years of service and so many exceptional colleagues across the globe could be casually dismissed. My work took me across Kenya, Liberia, India, Pakistan, and Washington, DC, alongside remarkable colleagues, government officials, local organizations, and communities that welcomed us as partners. Together, we navigated humanitarian crises, strengthened public institutions, and celebrated hard-earned successes despite immense obstacles. The work demanded diplomacy, technical expertise, resilience, and constant adaptation. It was often exhausting, but it was important and meaningful.

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Some of those successes still stand out clearly. My career has many personal memories and successes. In Liberia, I had the privilege of meeting President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female president, whose commitment to investing in young people reflected the optimism of a nation rebuilding itself. In India, I supported gender equality programs and visited tuberculosis clinics in Mumbai, where American-supported programs were helping save lives. We were professionals with highly specialized technical expertise.

The Email That Ended It All

I had recently arrived at my position in Pakistan when I received an abrupt, confusing, and cryptic email stating the agency was coming to an end. That communication was unprofessional, odd, and excruciatingly painful. I continue to feel appalled, carrying a deep sense of grief alongside countless unanswered questions. The rights of employees, our integrity, and that of the agency and the American people have all been undermined.



I condemn the destruction of USAID, the wealthiest man alive, whose ideology stands in complete opposition to investment in and support for the most vulnerable. Together with a ramshackle group of youths, they deleted years of important data and public servant careers. It's incredulous and egregious.

This Is Bigger Than One Career

This is far larger than my personal loss. It is about whether the institutions that support American values, serve American interests abroad, and remain faithful to the laws and values we created are allowed to be destroyed in front of us. It is about whether dedicated public servants can be treated with disdain.

I never imagined my career with USAID would end this way. Our work was and remains valuable. We continue to hold on to our personal integrity and larger American values: service, compassion, professionalism, and respect for human dignity. These are worth defending, and we have a moral and legal obligation to rectify the atrocious actions that undermined the careers of USAID employees and a well-renowned agency.

What This Cost Me & Cost All of Us

The ending cost me more than dignity. If you had asked me, when I joined USAID, whether I could predict the future, I would never have imagined my career being cut short unlawfully. In return for that decade of service, I'm offered no pension in October 2026 (due to other government time with USDA and the Peace Corps) and no long-term healthcare. I could never have predicted the disdain, the vitriol, or the false accusations against our personal integrity and the image of an agency painted as a cesspool of fraud, waste, and abuse. I personally worked on program evaluations throughout my tenure and can attest that my work ensured fiduciary accountability and proper spending.

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This piece is part of our ongoing testimonial series, where we share first-person accounts from USAID employees and families about what happened to us — in our own words. These stories are not policy briefs or legal filings. They are what survival actually looked like: the silence, the fear, the diagnoses that came months later, the slow work of naming what was done to us. We publish them because the truth of this dismantling lives in individual experience as much as in any court record.

If this story resonates with you, or reflects something you've lived through, we want to hear it. Reach out at info@usaidemployeefund.org.

They wrote the obituary too early. USAID lives.

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