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## U.S. to Dispose of 550 Tons of Unused Foreign Aid Food

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The United States government is moving forward with plans to destroy 550 tons of emergency food rations that were originally purchased for malnourished children in crisis zones. The shipment, made up of high-nutrient biscuits designed to sustain children in disaster areas, has been left in limbo following the formal termination of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) program earlier this month.

According to a report by The Atlantic, the high-energy biscuits formulated to provide essential nutrition for children under five were being stored in Dubai. They were intended for distribution in conflict-stricken countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. With USAID operations suspended, the food is now slated for destruction due to lack of distribution channels. Aid experts have noted that the shipment could have fed as many as 1.5 million children for an entire week.

USAID, a long-standing American foreign aid institution, suspended major operations on July 1 following an earlier announcement from the Trump administration in January, which cited inefficiency and bloated bureaucracy within the program. Elon Musk, who has taken a lead role in the newly formed Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), has been vocal about redirecting taxpayer dollars toward domestic priorities, criticizing USAID as “a criminal organization,” a claim for which he has presented no substantiating evidence.

The broader impact of USAID’s dismantling is already raising alarm among former officials and humanitarian observers. They warn that the termination of USAID’s infrastructure will leave an estimated one million children without access to malnutrition treatment. Additionally, the agency’s closure could result in up to 200,000 cases of childhood paralysis due to halted polio vaccination efforts, and potentially 160,000 deaths from preventable diseases such as malaria.

Criticism of the decision has come from across the political aisle. Senator Tim Kaine, a Democrat from Virginia, condemned the plan to destroy the food rather than redirect it to areas still in desperate need. In a statement posted on Bluesky, Kaine wrote, “If the U.S. has ALREADY purchased specialty foods to keep kids from starving to death, should we deliver that food to dying kids or allow it to spoil, and destroy it? It’s a simple question, but the Trump Administration can’t answer it. Disgusting.”

Meanwhile, warehouses holding thousands more tons of U.S.-owned emergency food supplies remain idle across the globe, with no logistical path forward for distribution. The move reflects a dramatic shift in American foreign aid policy, one that prioritizes streamlining government operations and cutting legacy programs, even at the cost of humanitarian outreach.

While some see the closure of USAID as overdue reform, others argue that abandoning food aid during ongoing global crises undermines both U.S. values and international leadership.