

Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance

Effectively Delivering Broad-Based Economic Development Programs

WHAT IS VEGA?

The Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, founded in 2004 through a Leader with Associate (LWA) cooperative agreement, as a vehicle to allow USAID Economic Growth Officers to reach out to organizations providing technical experts in private, public and NGO sector development. VEGA is the world's largest consortium of economic growth volunteer organizations that collectively have assisted 140 developing and transitional countries by sending out more than 67,000 experts/advisers to help promote economic growth activities. VEGA has a credible track record of delivering economic development programs with sustainable solutions throughout the developing world. Since its inception in 2004, USAID funding of \$4 million for VEGA has resulted in global programs worth more than \$100 million.

THE VEGA LWA

- **The VEGA LWA has been extended until 2014.**
- **There is no award ceiling.**
- Programs awarded under the VEGA LWA can continue for 5 years beyond the 2014 LWA end-date.
- The VEGA LWA requires an internal competition among the member organizations, a unique asset compared to other LWA mechanisms.

HOW CAN THE VEGA LWA MECHANISM HELP YOU?

- Program proposal development is highly interactive & responsive to Mission directives. **USAID representatives are encouraged to participate in proposal reviews.**
- **Quick turnaround** on review, approval, and granting of program awards
- VEGA's sixteen member alliance is a much broader representation of the NGO community. The practical effect is that this allows for very flexible programming, while one small portion of work (i.e. engineering) might be undertaken by one alliance member, other members of the consortium can carry much larger roles.
- VEGA is unique in that it leverages senior and mid-level professional volunteers as well as paid experts, thereby stretching the implementation dollar much further.

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS CAN YOU ACCESS THROUGH VEGA?

VEGA brings together a mix of implementing organizations with credible track records in implementing economic development programs globally.

ACDI/VOCA	IESC
Aid to Artisans	International Senior Lawyers Project
CDC Development Solutions	International Real Property Foundation
CNFA	Land O'Lakes International Development
FSVC	NCBA-CLUSA International
Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas, Inc. (FAVACA)	OICI
IIE/Emerging Markets Development Advisers Program (EMDAP)	Partners of the Americas
ICMA	SAVE Travel Alliance
	Winrock International



VEGA implements sustainable economic programs in its core areas of expertise, which include:

- **Private Market Development**
- **Financial Services**
- **Agribusiness Development**
- **Expanded Opportunities for the Rural and Urban Poor**



Efforts to modernize and strengthen our Agency, requires an array of technical assistance. USAID/Sri Lanka has quickly responded to a spectrum of strategic and tactical level needs through Leader with Associate, VEGA, technical experts. We recommend a flexible, rapid response capability, like VEGA provides, for every economic growth program.

Gerald R. Andersen
USAID/Sri Lanka/Maldives

WHAT TYPE OF PROGRAMS DOES VEGA IMPLEMENT?

VEGA is exceptionally well suited to carry out broad economic growth programs ranging from SME development and financing, microfinance capability building, governance and democracy, agribusiness development and more. Our programs focus on private market development, agriculture and expanded opportunities, financial services, and reaching out to the rural poor. VEGA also has experience mobilizing Diaspora communities to accelerate economic progress in their homelands.

WHERE DOES VEGA WORK?

VEGA works worldwide. A few of our programs are listed below.

- **Afghanistan:** Capacity Building & Change Management Program for the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
- **Bulgaria:** Business Trade Development Program
- **Ethiopia:** African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA +) Program
- **Iraq:** Private Sector Development Initiative
- **Jordan:** Long Term Business Advisors Program
- **Lebanon:** Investment in Microfinance Program
- **South Africa:** APS Grants Administration Program
- **Sri Lanka:** Facilitating Economic Growth program

ACCESSING VEGA

Accessing VEGA is possible through five easy steps. The steps are:

1. The Technical Office submits a Program Description (Scope of Work) to the VEGA AOTR, Kathleen Wu (kwu@usaid.gov). The AOTR confirms that the work is consistent with the Leader Agreement and approves the Program Description or sends it back for revisions.
2. Once approved, the Contracting Officer for the Mission issues a request for proposal to VEGA.
3. VEGA undertakes an internal competition among the consortium members to find the best candidates and most qualified implementing organizations. The Mission may participate in this selection process, if desired, by appointing a mission staff person to serve on the selection panel.
4. VEGA submits the Technical and Cost proposal to the Mission.
5. Mission review and approval leads to an Associate Award, Cooperative Agreement in which a mission staff person is designated as the AOTR for the activity.

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE DEVELOPING THE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION?

We are here to support you and provide excellent service. If you need assistance in developing a program description, we can provide that assistance on-site or remotely.

VEGA LWA CONTACTS

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WHY USE THE VEGA LWA?

Other LWAs typically focus exclusively on one sector, such as Agriculture, Tourism, Microfinance and Health programs while VEGA is the only LWA focusing on broad economic growth programs.

VEGA gives you access to the very best in the business of economic development.

Only one economic-development consortium—VEGA—stretches limited implementation dollars by leveraging Volunteer Experts.

VEGA works in post-conflict areas

VEGA simplifies the contracting process

VEGA has experience mobilizing Diaspora communities to accelerate economic progress in their homelands.