

# VEGA Programs Fact Sheet

The 16 member strong Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance has made tremendous progress worldwide. With the support of more than 67,000 volunteer experts and professional in-house staff we've undertaken 19 awards in 24 countries constituting \$63 million of activities that span all USAID regions.



## Current Programs - April 2011

### Ethiopia

#### African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA +) Program

Duration: 6/2005 – 9/2011

Value: \$ 3,663,914

Implementing Organizations: IESC  
USAID Project COTR: Daniel Moore



VEGA's African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA +) program is an export promotion program under the broader trade initiative AGOA, which was signed into law on May 18, 2000. The project works in close partnership with the Government of Ethiopia, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington DC, and the Ethiopian and Addis Ababa Chambers of Commerce and Sectoral Associations. The program has assisted in the formation of new business partnerships between local producers and foreign purchasers, particularly in the coffee industry. It has also created opportunities for diaspora members to form partnerships with other foreign investors to produce and market products globally. In addition, the program is positively impacting the local community by stimulating the formation of new businesses. This creates local jobs and produces tax revenues for the government.

### Indonesia

#### Long Term Business Advisers (LTBA)

Duration: 8/2005 – 2/2014

Value: \$1,070,209

Implementing Organization(s): IIE  
USAID Project COTR: Irene Herawati



VEGA/LTBAs in Indonesia work for the American Chamber of Commerce in Jakarta (AmCham) and USAID-Indonesia's Program Coordination Office. These Advisers work in tandem to support USAID initiatives in Public-Private Economic Development. The AmCham adviser also works closely with AmCham on organizational development projects to streamline services and expand its membership in order to implement a more robust strategy for economic growth. One of the key achievements of VEGA advisers in Indonesia has been to begin structuring a public private partnership program, the origins of which were tsunami relief efforts. VEGA Advisers led communication and public outreach efforts, completed due diligence reports, published and presented research at conferences, conducted client surveys, and developed linkages between the business sector and development organizations to support overall improvement of the Indonesia's business climate.

### Kazakhstan

#### Long Term Business Advisers (LTBA)

Duration: 1/2008 – 8/2011

Value: \$269,702

Implementing Organization(s): IIE  
USAID Project COTR: Erin Cole



The aim of the program in Kazakhstan is to develop and enhance the competitiveness of the country's private sector with the ultimate goal of promoting growth in the local economy. The VEGA Adviser in Kazakhstan directly supports the research and marketing efforts of the American Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan. This adviser has developed research on the Kazakhstan investment climate, drafted papers on the Public-Private Economic Partnership initiative and is liaising with representatives of the private, public and government sectors. The Adviser will continue to assist the Chamber in researching economic impact and opportunities available for US and Kazakh businesses in the legislative and regulatory environment in Kazakhstan while assisting with partnering US and Kazakh enterprises.

## Jordan

### Long Term Business Advisers (LTBA)

Duration: 6/2005 – 7/2012



The program in Jordan uses VEGA LTBA Advisers to develop and enhance the competitiveness of Jordan's private sector with the ultimate goal of promoting growth of the nation's economy and by supporting and implementing USAID's Economic Opportunities Program (EOP). These advisers support Jordanian businesses and organizations in improving their operations. Advisers work in the American Chamber of Commerce, stone, tile, and olive export businesses, business support organizations, as well as tourism-related associations. The advisers have served as staff development, management, product, and sector development specialists. Recently, an adviser served as an export promotion officer for a Business Development Center (BDC), organized a regional SME conference by securing \$100,000 in sponsorship and generated \$50,000 for the BDC. She also designed 35 hour curriculum to train 100 youth entrepreneurs.

Value: \$2,686,533

Implementing Organization(s): IIE  
 USAID Project COTR: Nujoud Serhan

## Sri Lanka

### Facilitating Economic Growth

Duration: 9/2009 – 9/2012



This program aims to address the disparity in economic development between conflict-affected and strategic districts in the East and the rest of the country. The prime implementer, IESC, leads a team of VEGA member organizations which consists of ACDI/VOCA, ICMA, LoL, and FSVC. The primary objective is to contribute to the economic revitalization of the Eastern provinces. This will be achieved through the provision of technical services that support USAID Sri Lanka programs PEER and CORE as well as workforce development and other initiatives.

Value: \$1,721,455

Implementing Organization(s): IESC, IIE,  
 ACDI/VOCA, LoL, FSVC  
 USAID Project COTR: Daniel Lee

## Lebanon

### Investment in Microfinance

Duration: 5/2009 – 04/2015



The Lebanon Investment in Microfinance program administers grants ranging between \$350,000 and \$600,000 to capable microfinance institutions, NGOs, and other providers of micro-credit loans. These institutions then disburse loans to micro-enterprises in the tourism, ICT, and agribusiness sectors. To meet the goals and objectives of the program, VEGA's member organization, IESC, leads the program with a mobilized team of member organizations comprised of FSVC and ISLP.

Value: \$12,182,636

Implementing Organization: IESC, FSVC, ISLP  
 USAID Project COTR: Georges Frenn

## Afghanistan

### Capacity Building and Change Management

Duration: 11/2010 – 11/2014



The Afghanistan Capacity Building and Change Management (CBCM) program for the Afghanistan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL) will take a multifaceted approach to recommending modernizing ministry operations, enhancing the capability and effectiveness of MAIL, and establishing a grants management unit to achieve the Ministry's goal of directly receiving and managing international donor funds. Ultimately, this program will reach and assist farmers throughout Afghanistan.

Value: \$36,000,000

Implementing Organizations: IESC, ICMA, LoL,  
 IIE, ISLP  
 USDA Project Manager: Jocelyn Brown

As Afghan Agriculture Minister Mohammad Asif Rahimi has stated, the CBCM Program will "connect American know-how to Afghan policies and change the life of Afghan farmers and their families." This initiative highlights the commitment of the United States to support both the government and people of Afghanistan and will work in partnership with Afghan leadership toward greater economic prosperity.