



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VEGA wins Associate Award for the Lebanon Assessment for Growth and Opportunity (LAGO) Program

USAID/Lebanon has signed an Associate Cooperative Agreement with the Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA), awarding \$249,737 for a five month program to provide support for the implementation of the USAID/Lebanon, Improved Economy, Education and Municipal Governance capacity program. The Lebanon Assessment for Growth and Opportunity (LAGO) will assist USAID/Lebanon in developing a new country Strategic Objective, Economic Equality in Utility Investment Transferred into Yields (EQUITY). LAGO will be implemented by VEGA members Citizens Development Corps (CDC) and Partners of the Americas (POA).

The new USAID/Lebanon EQUITY Strategic Objective is focused on creating viable economic and social development at the municipal level via decentralization, while incorporating good governance and community participation into the strategic objective.

The project will focus on community planning assessments which will help the Mission to identify training and technical assistance needs for local economic development in Lebanon. The VEGA team will also leverage past and present USAID/Lebanon programs and other donor initiatives to provide useful insight for the EQUITY Strategic Objective development. In addition, the team will identify models of collaboration that would enhance activities and projects that fall under the EQUITY SO. Finally, the VEGA team will ensure that the strategy is based on up-to-date and relevant information so that it is reasonable and has maximum opportunity for success.

VEGA will utilize a team that brings together the extensive technical expertise of CDC and POA Volunteer Advisors and in-country consultants. The team will explore the structural and social means by which Lebanon might achieve accelerated economic recovery, improved living standards and education, increased political stability and

municipal governance capacity, improved environmental practices, and strengthened institutions. A volunteer-based Advisory Board has been convened to give guidance to this program. It is comprised of senior advisors who have significant experience with USAID strategic objectives and operations, strategic management, and the Lebanese context. The program team along with the Advisory Board will work closely with USAID to develop the final strategy document, which will assist USAID/Lebanon in the development of its new EQUITY Strategic Objective.

The Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA) is the world's largest consortium of economic growth volunteer organizations providing technical expertise in private sector development. Collectively, VEGA has more than 350 years of experience in mobilizing American volunteers to support economic growth in developing countries (including post-conflict and transition), and in designing and implementing successful technical assistance projects across the spectrum of economic growth activities worldwide.

VEGA is demand-driven and provides comprehensive resources with a single point of contact. Program designs are consolidated, but created through a collaborative process based on our members' extensive expertise in:

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