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VEGA

Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance

VEGA Awarded Five New USAID Programs

At the close of the U.S. fiscal year, USAID awarded VEGA over \$30 million for five new programs, as detailed below:

Sri Lanka BIZ+ Program



VEGA commenced the four-year \$24 million USAID- funded VEGA/BIZ+ Program in Sri Lanka on October 1, 2011. Implemented by Land O'Lakes International Development with support from CDC

Development Solutions and SAVE Travel Alliance, the program will increase jobs and income generation in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka through enterprise development activities. Through grants, coupled with the enterprise recipients' cost-share and leveraged match, VEGA/BIZ+ will work towards financially and technically supporting commercially viable investments that result in strengthening institutional capacity, increasing productivity, raising employment and enhancing incomes of vulnerable populations. The grants will decrease investment risk, while providing critical technical input for enterprises that otherwise might avoid investing in post-conflict regions of Sri Lanka. Through establishing Public Private Alliances (PPAs) with small and medium-size Sri Lankan enterprises - and a few key multinational firms - Biz+ will both attract and make key investments that result in job creation and economic growth in the North and East. Biz+ investments will be disseminated via a grants process, and recipients will be selected based on sound business and economic analyses to ensure long-term sustainability and growth. The investment grants will also prioritize indigenous enterprises from the North and East, and those that create equitable jobs for women and ethnic minorities.



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Albania Financial Sector Development Program

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USAID Breakfast Seminar on Sustainable Tourism



On Friday, September 30, 2011, VEGA hosted a presentation on "Tourism as a Sustainable Development Strategy: A Systemic Supply Chain Approach" for the USAID Breakfast Seminar Series to a dynamic audience of international development professionals. The presentation was led by Kristin Lamoureux of the SAVE

USAID Albania awarded VEGA the three-year \$3.4 million Financial Sector Development Program on September 28, 2011. This initiative will be implemented by the Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC) and will build upon FSVC's previous successful experience supporting the Central Bank of Albania (BOA). The objective of the program is to strengthen the Albanian financial sector through improving quality and consistency of banking regulations and supervision. Activities will include strengthening the professional capacity of the BOA, in particular the Banking Supervision Department (BSD) staff, by providing training for bank examiners to detect emerging credit problems, to dialogue with commercial banks and to advise regarding their policies and risk tolerances. The Financial Sector Development Program also seeks to assist the Financial Supervisory Authority (FSA) in creating a risk-based insurance supervision framework, which will train staff to supervise insurance companies and help draft relevant regulations. Further, the project seeks to develop and support the actuarial profession through the development of a professional actuarial association and offering of continuing education opportunities to certified actuaries.

Kazakhstan Business Connections

USAID Central Asian Republics, in partnership with the Government of Kazakhstan, awarded VEGA the two-year \$2.9 million Kazakhstan Business Connections Program on October 1, 2011. This initiative, to be implemented by the International Executive Service Corps with participation by CNFA and The Graduate School, will build the competitiveness of Kazakhstani small and medium enterprises. Project activities will include SME training at the Turan Profi academic institute in the city of Astana; study tours bringing delegations of Kazakh businessmen and women to the US under targeted industry sectors; and the expansion of a web portal hosting a range of online tools and resources for small and medium enterprises in Russian and Kazakh.

Ukraine Crimea Competitiveness Advisor Program

On August 31, 2011 VEGA commenced the USAID/Ukraine-funded Crimea Competitiveness Advisor Program in Simferopol. Implemented by the Institute for International Education, through its Emerging Markets Development Advisor initiative (EMDAP), the program will provide support for USAID's Crimea Initiative under the Local Investment and National Competitiveness (LINC) project. The scope of the position will include a broad array of LINC activities aimed at the enhancement of Crimea's investment attractiveness and competitiveness.

USAID/EGAT Job Opportunities for Business Scale-up (JOBS) Program

Implemented by the Institute for International Education, through its Emerging Markets Development Advisor initiative(EMDAP), the program will provide expertise and assistance in the assessment, implementation, and evolution of the EGAT JOBS Program. The EMDAP Adviser will be based in Washington, DC and will travel to 10 to 15 USAID Missions to initiate the JOBS Program and to counsel and assist in the design of higher education partnerships and relationships with micro- and small-business enterprises. The Adviser will target and strengthen relationships with the business sector, corporations, foundations, agribusiness, and educational and scientific organizations to better prepare higher education graduates (from two- and four-year universities) for the workforce.

Travel Alliance and Amanda MacArthur of CDC Development Solutions. A total of 79 in-person RSVPs and 87 Webinar Registrants from all over the world engaged in a spirited dialogue with the VEGA panel on topics ranging from Experience Value Chains, Destination Management Organizations, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring & Evaluation, to the cross-sectoral nature of tourism development and its high potential for Public Private Partnerships, systemic impact and sustainable solutions. [Click here](#) to see presentation, Screencast and interviews.

Please [contact us](#) for further information.

Kristin Lamoureux
VEGA/SAVE Travel Alliance



Amanda MacArthur
VEGA/CDC Development Solutions



Impact Capital Investment Series

VEGA, in collaboration with NetImpact, Abt Associates, and More Than Money Careers, has initiated an event series on Impact Capital Investment and its role in international development. The first of this series was held October 10th, 2011, at GWU and discussed "Investment Partnerships for

The work involves conceptualizing, designing/implementing initiatives, and providing direct and indirect support to activities vital to EGAT's strategic objectives in business, higher education, and workforce development. It further involves providing senior technical assistance to field missions which will improve the economic and social impact of U. S. foreign assistance resources.

VEGA's Capacity Building and Change Management Program (CBCMP) in Afghanistan

Under a \$36 million Cooperative Agreement with USDA, is building capacity and improving the effectiveness of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (MAIL). A consortium of six VEGA partners led by IESC is implementing the program.

CBCMP addresses the challenge of supporting institutional development in MAIL, an organization of over 9,000 employees headquartered in Kabul with 34 Provincial offices and almost 400 District offices in a country still coping with 30 years of political, social and economic instability. MAIL's crucial mandate is to support development of the agricultural sector comprising 80% of Afghanistan's 30 million people, but it suffers from lack of automated management information and communication systems, effective managers and skilled civil service employees.

To address these gaps, CBCMP comprises two complementary Components. Component 1, under DCOP Noor Seddiq, focuses on building the capacity of MAIL's financial, human and physical resources so that MAIL can receive and manage US Government and other donor funds. Component 2, under DCOP Mark Glover from ICMA, aims to improve MAIL's organizational and management capacity in its technical Directorates. CBCMP has recruited, trained and mentored over 110 Afghan professional Change Agents in 10 key Directorates, offices, and pilot districts. Accomplishments to date include successful and sustainable implementation of automated financial management and time & attendance systems, establishment of a training and resource center, and actions to help MAIL qualify to receive USG funds 'on-budget'. Future activities include implementation of workforce and facilities management automated systems and deployment of over 70 additional Change Agents to MAIL's seven agro-climatic regional centers.



An employee of the Ministry of Agriculture using the new Time Keeping and Attendance finger print scanner to sign into work.

Agricultural Development". Moderated by John Lamb (Principal Associate, Abt Associates Inc. & Sr. Agro-investment Advisor to the World Bank) this panel shed light on the different stakeholder perspectives on impact investing partnerships for international development in agriculture and the resulting synergies, sustainability and lessons learned from working towards economic and social returns simultaneously. Panelists were:

- Ambassador John Simon, Founding Partner, Total Impact Advisors & CGD Fellow
- Agnes Dasewicz, Chief Operating Officer, Grass Roots Business Fund
- Susan Sechlar, Managing Director, TransFarm Africa at the Aspen Institute
- Jill Macari, Junior Investment Officer, Calvert Foundation



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Please help VEGA and its partners improve the lives of people around the world. A modest contribution can make a world of difference in the lives of many.

The Ministry of Agriculture in Afghanistan had a ledger based attendance system for its 9,300 employees, which led to delayed salaries for staff and inadequate supervision by supervisors. CBCMP installed a finger print based time keeping and attendance system at the Ministry's office in Kabul which has 2,200 employees, which has led to better management and regular attendance.

Volunteers For Economic Growth Alliance

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