



# WHAT THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORLD IS SAYING ABOUT VOLUNTEERS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH ALLIANCE

## WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY ABOUT VEGA

Andrew Sisson  
USAID Mission Director  
Sri Lanka

“The Biz+ program is remarkable because it is made up of determined women and men who not only want to succeed but are also committed to seeing their communities

improve. That is why a hallmark of Biz+ businesses is their focus on how they can employ, train and partner with their community so that they benefit as a whole. This is how Biz+ is helping to provide war widows, the disabled, survivors of gender-based violence and other vulnerable populations with hope for a brighter tomorrow.”

“Ethiopia, ‘Open for Business’ is more than a catchy saying...you made it happen. VEGA has made a major positive impact on the way the rest of the world does business with Ethiopian firms. Funding of AGOA+ was the best money we ever invested in Ethiopia.”

Bruno Cornelio,  
Deputy Director,  
Economic Growth  
Office, USAID  
Afghanistan (formerly  
with USAID / Ethiopia)

Andrew S. Natsios  
Former USAID Administrator  
2001 - 2006

“I am committed to utilizing the full capacity of informed, active and knowledgeable volunteers to meet USAID’s goals of increased economic growth in developing and transitional countries.”



“These projects are the perfect kinds of things where the United States can connect with local Lebanese communities so they can fulfill their ambitions and meet their economic needs.”

David Hale  
U.S. Ambassador  
Lebanon

Kimberly Bell  
Acting Director  
USAID Mission Sri Lanka

“It costs a lot of money to move international experts around the world. Here in Sri Lanka we have worked with companies from agricultural to metal working. If we were to hire all of those experts to come on sight without the use of a VEGA Alliance mechanism there’s no way that we would be able to work with that variety. The flexibility of the VEGA volunteer mechanism allows you to really pinpoint that accurately and get the right people in country to do the work that you need.”

## ABOUT VEGA

Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA) brings together its 27 Member NGOs and their networks of more than **100,000 highly skilled volunteers** to partner with USAID to efficiently and effectively generate **sustainable economic growth** in the developing world. Over the past dozen years as an independent, non-partisan non-profit consortium, VEGA has made a **lasting impact** building **peer-to-peer partnerships** with people around the globe seeking **self-reliance** and opportunities to create more **prosperity**.

## WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY ABOUT VEGA

Christopher J. Policinski, President and CEO, Land O'Lakes, Inc. "VEGA helps USAID to ramp up programs quickly and then implement them cost-effectively. For example, it took only 50 days from receipt of a program description from USAID for VEGA to tender, compete and initiate USAID's Powering African Agriculture program, which is assisting Kenya and other countries along the Rift Valley to tap into their impressive geothermal resources for productive uses. Also, by integrating highly skilled volunteers into each program, VEGA has saved USAID and U.S. taxpayers more than \$28 million since its inception."

"Volunteers are hands-on with host organizations...transferring specific technologies that help farmers improve their agricultural products."

Jane Podolosky  
Senior Program  
Manager  
NCBA CLUSA



Dr. Rajiv Shah, Former USAID Administrator 2010-2015 "We have spent a lot of time listening and learning about how we can do this work better, more effectively. And the number one thing we've learned is we need to be more capable of supporting country- owned efforts and building real capacity through our investments around the world."

## WHAT OUR LOCAL PARTNER SAY ABOUT VEGA

"When we started this business it was very challenging to attract investors or to get banks to finance our business because demand for these polysacks really went down. That's when volunteers came from the US and helped us to properly plan our financial forecast to the bank and succeeding in securing a loan. We are really happy to have a partnership with USAID VEGA BIZ+ because without them the starting of this business would have been impossible. With their support we have succeeded and we have provided 100 plus jobs and are really happy."

Muhammed Sanoon,  
Managing Director  
East Lanka Polysack  
(Pvt) Ltd.

### VEGA By the Numbers

**\$342 million** in funding for **57** programs in **46** countries

USG program funding nearly **doubled** through VEGA cost share and leverage

U.S. Taxpayer savings of more than **\$30 million**

**39,000+** volunteer days

**27** Member NGOs have a combined pool of more than **100,000** volunteer highly skilled experts

Ali Osman, Natabo Farmer Association South Sudan "From the training conducted by AMED, I learned how to carry out proper farm management including costing my expenses and calculating profit and loss. Previously, I used to work randomly but now I am more organized. I have even built a small hut for the farmworkers at the garden so that they can maximize time spent tending the crops."