

NEW BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Since February 2005, ACDI/VOCA has been awarded more than \$84.7 million for programs in Bolivia, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Russia, Mozambique, Sudan, Honduras, Tanzania and Afghanistan.

Community Development Continuing in Bolivia

Under a 5-year \$42 million cooperative agreement with USAID, ACDI/VOCA is launching the Integrated Community Development Fund (ICDF) in Bolivia. The goal of the ICDF is to support the joint efforts of the U.S. and Bolivian governments to establish a sustainable licit economy in Bolivia's coca-producing and associated areas by addressing basic human needs, alleviating poverty and improving social and economic conditions and infrastructure. Like its predecessor, the Yungas Community Alternative Development Fund, the new program will implement subgrants for sustainable projects identified by the communities themselves through democratic, participatory and inclusive methodologies.

Increased Incomes for Ethiopian Livestock Producers

ACDI/VOCA has been awarded a \$7.5 million cooperative agreement from USAID to implement the Ethiopia Pastoralists Livelihood Initiative Livestock Marketing Program. The objective of the program is to transform the pastoralist livestock marketing system in Ethiopia through increased sales to export markets.

New Program Expands Economic Opportunities in Lebanon

The \$8.9 million USAID-funded Expanding Economic Opportunities Project in Lebanon will boost incomes and profitability of SMEs by strengthening the capacities of agricultural producers, upgrading the technical and management capacity of small and medium-sized agribusinesses, reinforcing the linkages in the supply chain to address policy constraints, developing joint marketing strategies and fostering collaboration to increase competitiveness, and facilitating the integration of service providers, including input



suppliers, technical assistance providers and financial institutions, into the targeted value chains.

Building the Financial Sector to Boost SME Success

Through a cooperative agreement with USAID, ACDI/VOCA is launching the \$6.8 million Azerbaijan SME Support through Financial Sector Development Project. The program will stimulate the development of SMEs by supporting the development of Azerbaijan's financial sector.

Enabling Enterprise in Iraq

Under a \$4.5 million subcontract from Louis Berger Group, ACDI/VOCA, along with IMCC, will lead the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Initiative, designed to support business capacity to source and secure the financing needed to start or expand micro, small and medium-sized enterprises throughout Iraq.

Support for Rural Enterprises in Russia

Drawing upon existing activities in the region, ACDI/VOCA is launching the \$2.9 million North Caucasus Rural Credit Cooperatives and Agribusiness Development Program. Funded by a grants from USAID, the project will quickly engage rural credit cooperatives and local institutions to provide services and support to rural enterprises.

Enterprise and Association Development in Mozambique

Under the \$2.49 million EMPRENDA Alliance Project, ACDI/VOCA, along with CLUSA and TechnoServe, will work in Mozambique to create and strengthen sustainable, competitive rural enterprises and farmer associations in high-value horticulture, nuts, field crops and animal feeds. Through an integrated and market-driven approach, the alliance will help generate \$6.6 million in sales by associations and \$14.4 million in rural enterprise revenues as well as mobilize \$5.8 million in new finance by 2007. In order to achieve these targets, the alliance will strengthen 540 primary farmer associations and assist 34 rural enterprises—mostly start-ups—in the Nacala and Beira corridors.

Volunteers to Aid in Developing Markets and Organization in Sudan

ACDI/VOCA is a founding member of the Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA), the world's largest consortium of economic growth volunteer organizations, which provides technical expertise



in private sector development. In July, USAID awarded \$11 million to VEGA to assist over five years USAID/Sudan to carry out agricultural market and enterprise development. ACDI/VOCA's \$1.5 million component will support marketing associations and cooperatives, develop a market information system and upgrade fruit and vegetable production.

Specialty Coffee in Honduras

Under a \$1.29 million contract from World Vision, ACDI/VOCA is implementing the USAID-funded Honduras Title II project, which aims to increase

incomes and food security for smallholder coffee and fruit and vegetable farmers in western Honduras. Building on the success of the Farmer Field School approach in Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Ecuador, ACDI/VOCA will train 2,000 coffee farmers in production, post-harvest handling and organic farm management. Coffee producer groups will also receive training in sampling, business management, processing and marketing to aid in the production and export of specialty coffee. Training will also be provided to 600 fruit and vegetable producer groups in the development and implementation of market-oriented production.

Improving Incomes and Preserving the Environment in Tanzania

In Tanzania, ACDI/VOCA has been awarded a \$1.2 million cooperative agreement from USAID to implement the Sound Environmental Management through Mariculture Activities Project (SEMMA). Through a livelihood-driven approach that emphasizes improved management of natural resources, the program will focus on the well-being of rural populations, while retaining biodiversity conservation as the core goal.

Improving Livelihoods in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, ACDI/VOCA has been awarded a \$647,000 subcontract to work with a PADCO-led team in the Badakhshan region of northeast Afghanistan. ACDI/VOCA is supporting the planning, design and implementation of activities to accelerate broad-based, sustainable regional economic development in ways that provide new opportunities for livelihoods in the licit economy.