

International economic development that fosters broad-based economic growth, raises living standards and creates vibrant communities.

A nonprofit that means business.

ACDI/VOCA retains a grassroots orientation from its beginnings in cooperative development. While we still work people-to-people to increase household income and food security, we also design and implement multidisciplinary economic development projects of significant scale and complexity. We advise decisionmakers as they navigate toward a market-based economy, and we enable local organizations, whether enterprises, financial institutions, cooperatives or associations, to manage and finance themselves.

ACDI/VOCA is an industry leader in value chain-oriented poverty alleviation. We have hard-won experience in conflict-affected and fragile states, and proficiency at managing the transition from relief to development. Our innovative approaches to food aid and financial services leverage significant amounts of money and meet the test of the market. Our approaches vary, but we always provide knowledge, opportunities and choices that enable people to live better lives.

“ACDI/VOCA is the premier agricultural development NGO in the world.”

—Andrew Natsios, former USAID Administrator



At a glance

- » Founded 1963
- » 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
- » \$168 million in total revenue
- » 90 active projects in 40 countries
- » 1,500+ employees
U.S. – 170
Overseas – 1,400
- » 300-400 short-term technical consulting assignments per year



What distinguishes ACDI/VOCA?

Commitment: dedication to our beneficiaries as true partners

Knowledge & Capacity: sound development and business practices adapted to diverse cultures

Sustainability: emphasis on lasting solutions through local ownership and attention to the bottom line

Alliances: leveraging public funding and creating synergies to ingrain capacity and maximize results

Readiness & Resilience: quick response in emergencies, experience in troubled areas and linkages to long-term economic development

Accessibility & Scale: experience managing large, interactive global projects, including streamlined and convenient LWAs and IQCs

Co-op Roots: fifty-year history of helping rural groups organize for their own success

“There isn’t anything more important to American foreign policy than what you have done.”

—Former U.S. Representative Lee Hamilton speaking at an ACDI/VOCA event



Enterprise Development

We apply a market systems approach to accelerate economic growth and reduce poverty, particularly among small and medium-sized enterprises and smallholder farmers. We use market-focused tools to gain a thorough understanding of opportunities as well as legal, social, resource and other constraints. We then work at strategic points to encourage innovation, spur private sector investment and build relationships among industry participants. We are leaders in research on creating wealth in poor communities and promoting growth by linking small firms into profitable markets. Moreover, we inform about and learn from this research as we partner with local entities and private firms to design competitiveness strategies that include vulnerable groups, including women, youth and the very poor.

Agribusiness

In the majority of countries where we work, agriculture drives the economy. We promote agribusiness systems that improve production and link farmers



to national, regional and international markets to create economic opportunities and enable rural families to thrive. We also build the capacity of farmers and agribusinesses in business development, input supply, cultivation techniques, post-harvest handling, storage, processing, transportation and marketing. We help farmers use scarce resources responsibly, introducing drought-resistant seeds, careful use of agrochemicals, and effective irrigation, water management and agroforestry techniques. Through industry partnerships, we leverage the resources of private sector stakeholders in commodities like maize and rice, value-added products and specialty crops such as coffee and cocoa.

Financial Services

Agricultural finance for smallholders and for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises is a key economic driver, but often a missing link, in rural and conflict-affected environments. To address this gap, we work to create mechanisms and build upon relationships that promote delivery of financial products and services within rural value chains. We also build the capacity of commercial financial institutions to meet the needs of the underserved and link producers to markets. By creating an understanding that the rural poor can become creditworthy, we expand economic opportunity.

Community Development

We implement community-driven and community-based programs that foster stability and set the stage for long-term development in environments that have been disrupted by natural disasters, conflict or social tensions. We work with citizens and local governments to encourage democracy and good governance, and design initiatives that build human and institutional capacity, improve access to public services, create jobs and enhance stewardship of natural resources. Under challenging circumstances, we help communities work together to prioritize and address their needs. We promote investments in the next generation of leaders, particularly in high-unemployment countries with significant youth bulges, providing hope to youth by building their skills and linking them to local job markets.

Food Security

We empower households and communities to participate in the global marketplace while concurrently improving the health and nutrition of vulnerable individuals. We help them move beyond governmental or foreign assistance and strengthen their ability to cope during times of shock. Our activities improve crop production and post-harvest handling, ensure resiliency through diversification of income sources and promotion of savings, encourage collective operations and adoption of advanced farming methods, and improve household- and community-level health and nutrition. We also strengthen communities through natural resource management, education and skills development, and food aid to vulnerable populations or survivors of emergencies.