



Expanding Opportunities Worldwide

ACDI/VOCA Volunteers: People-to-People International Development

ACDI/VOCA Volunteers by the Numbers

- » ACDI/VOCA draws on its database of 12,000 experts in agriculture, business, finance, cooperative and association development, community development, enterprise development and food security.
- » The typical ACDI/VOCA volunteer has over 15 years of experience in his or her field.
- » The approximately 200 ACDI/VOCA volunteers who serve each year represent \$3.2 million in technical assistance value.
- » ACDI/VOCA has implemented over 11,000 volunteer assignments in 138 countries since 1971.



ACDI/VOCA volunteer advisors are an efficient and low-cost method of bringing specialized short-term talent and long-term impact to a development program.

WHO ARE THEY?

ACDI/VOCA volunteers represent many professional, technical and managerial specialties. They can, therefore, meet the needs of a broad range of private enterprises, as well as governmental and nongovernmental business support organizations and institutions essential to a successful market economy.

WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF SERVICE?

Though they may serve only two to four weeks, volunteer advisors are an integral component of longer-term, systemic projects. Many serve on teams or in repeat assignments to magnify and sustain their impact. ACDI/VOCA covers all expenses.

HOW DO THEY CONTRIBUTE?

In all developing and transitional nations, small- and medium-scale enterprises drive economic growth but need technical and managerial assistance, appropriate equipment and technology, new markets and partners, transaction facilitation, financing, strong local business support organizations and an enabling legal and regulatory environment.

To meet these needs, ACDI/VOCA volunteers may teach *Farming as a Business* to smallholder producers and producer groups, help form associations and cooperatives, assist in drafting business plans, advise on food processing technologies, train bankers or work with farmers on best agronomic practices.

Volunteers add an important people-to-people element, building relationships with individuals and businesses from small farms to financial institutions, large processing companies and business service providers. These relationships are not fleeting; they often result in long-term business linkages and cultural exchanges.

From Albania to Zimbabwe, ACDI/VOCA volunteers have donated their time and talent to assist those in need. Volunteers are ambassadors of our democratic and market-based systems and sow the seeds of global cooperation.

In addition, they bring back cultural understanding to fellow Americans, and help develop an appreciation of U.S. international engagement.



FARMER-TO-FARMER (FTF)

ACDI/VOCA is one of the leading implementers of this program, which enlists U.S. farmers, extension service personnel and agribusiness experts to share their expertise with counterparts overseas. Funded through the Farm Bill and managed by USAID, FtF has sponsored 10,000 volunteer assignments over the years. ACDI/VOCA has worked continuously since FtF's inception in 1985 to improve beneficiaries' incomes, purchasing power and quality of life. FtF volunteers work in animal health and nutrition, field crops, fruit and vegetable cultivation, agricultural extension, farm credit, marketing, farm inputs and natural resource management. Beneficiaries include private farmers, agribusinesses, cooperatives, financial institutions, business support providers, professional associations, educational institutions and national and local government agencies. Currently, ACDI/VOCA implements FtF projects in West Africa and the Middle East. ACDI/VOCA has also implemented the FtF program in Russia, the Caucasus, East Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

VEGA

The Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA) is a USAID-initiated consortium of 15 international development NGOs that taps a 39,000-strong corps of professional, technical and managerial experts to serve in emerging economies. They apply best business practices, establish mutually beneficial private sector links between the U.S. and foreign markets and support sustainable business development services. Working

with USAID missions as well as private and public sector partners, VEGA provides a wide range of business-oriented resources and services at the firm level, across business sectors and geographical regions, at the policy level, and within nonprofit and other organizations that constitute the extended business environment. As a founding member of the Alliance, ACDI/VOCA arranges model volunteer-based development activities with worldwide USAID missions.

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The USAID-funded Cooperative Development Program (CDP) is a five-year initiative to increase overseas farmers' and entrepreneurs' incomes through participation in the global economy. Under CDP, ACDI/VOCA provides technical assistance and fosters local, national and international partnerships to help a wide variety of cooperatives move up the value chain and become sustainable in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay and Russia. For example, our CDP/Paraguay project is designed to enhance agricultural cooperative and producer association development. It matches highly qualified volunteer consultants with Paraguayan cooperatives to benefit some of Paraguay's poorest citizens and the larger economy.

CONTACT US

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"The best thing a volunteer can do is to offer people a vision of a better way of doing things."

— John Ropes,
former vice president,
Ocean Spray
Cranberries, Inc.

