



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## Diaspora Engagement Seminars

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# Diaspora Volunteerism

## Diaspora Engagement Seminar #4

**September 28, 2011**

### Speakers

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# Diaspora Volunteerism

- **1** million Americans volunteer abroad each year
- Four clusters of diaspora programs
  1. High-skilled expatriates
  2. Diaspora youth for service projects
  3. Multi-purpose diaspora volunteer programs
  4. “De facto” Volunteer Programs

# Diaspora Volunteerism

- USAID's support for Diaspora volunteerism
  - DiasporaCorps (International diaspora Engagement Alliance)
- Examples of great initiatives



# CUSO-VSO: Who We Are

- 50 years of volunteer-sending experience
- North American Member of VSO International
- Programs in 40 countries
- Programmatic approach - focus on capacity building
- Volunteer Profile: 42 years & placed for 2 years
- Evolving models of volunteering

# Diaspora Motivations for Volunteering

- Who are Diaspora?
- Multiple Motivations
  - Heterogeneous Communities
  - Varies by generation/context of leaving
- Benefits to CUSO-VSO
  - Community Driven
  - Promotes Inclusion
  - Contributes to our development approach
  - Unique Skills & Experience

# CUSO-VSO & VSO UK: Two Approaches to DVP

- VSO UK
  - Large amount of funding
  - Large # of Diaspora partners in the UK
  - Capacity building/funder relationship
  - Focus on building volunteer management skills
- CUSO-VSO
  - Smaller funding pot
  - Approach to work in partnership with organizations
  - Responsive/flexible model
  - Driven by in-country programs, staff, partners
  - Long-term relationship building

# CUSO-VSO DVP Partnership Model



*CUSO-VSO Diaspora  
Volunteering  
Partnership Model*

# CUSO-VSO DVP Today

- Ethiopia
  - Health & Education placements
- Rwanda
  - Volunteer to be placed with the Directorate General of Diaspora, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation
- Guyana
  - Education placements
- Feasibility studies:
  - Burmese, Salvadoran, Jamaican Diaspora
  - Interest in Nigeria and Cameroon
- Targeted Outreach/Research – Canada & the U.S.



# Diaspora Volunteer Solomon Belay



# CUSO-VSO: Lessons Learned

- Relationship Building
- Diaspora Youth
- Adaptation of 'volunteer journey'
- Flexibility in programming and placement length
- E-Volunteering models
- Managing expectations
- Opportunities in the U.S. & Kenya

# IESC and Volunteerism

- IESC was founded in 1964 by David Rockefeller and other distinguished Americans as a private, not-for-profit economic development organization.
- We design, manage and evaluate complex programs across every economic sector.
- IESC has an extensive track record of success implementing competitiveness strategies around the world.
- We help increase host country capabilities to capitalize on market based opportunities, stimulate job creation, reduce poverty, to ultimately lead to sustainable development and economic prosperity.
- During its 47-year history, IESC has delivered more than 25,000 technical assistance assignments in 130 countries.
- IESC has a database of about 8,500 experts of which over 7,300 are volunteers (about 85%)
- In almost every country in which we have worked, we have deployed Diaspora volunteers who were born in that country.

# Diaspora Volunteerism

## What are the pros for using Diaspora volunteers?

- Country knowledge
- Cultural and linguistic familiarity
- Willingness to donate and/or invest in country of origin more than non-Diaspora volunteers
- Continuity and sustainability of assistance (“Adopt a company” model)
- Provide a sense of personal satisfaction, fulfillment, well-being, and belonging to persons who volunteer

## What are the cons for using Diaspora volunteers?

- Often not being perceived as “real” experts
- Potential previous negative relationships in country of origin

# Reversed “Brain Drain”

- Great way for the countries of origin to benefit from the expertise of their own people who are living abroad
- Emigrated experts will have accumulated knowledge, education and skills that they did not have previously
- Diaspora volunteers not only impart this expertise to their communities of origin, they also tend to bring direct investments in a much higher rate than regular investors.

# *Indicorps fellowship*



*my story*  
*knotts fun*



# *indicorps background*





*project development*



*fellowship support*



# *orientation & workshops*



*philosophy & values*

be the  
change  
you wish  
to see in  
the  
world...  
-gandhi

*contact us*

**“Let no one be discouraged by the belief that there is nothing one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world’s ills...few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.”**

**~Robert Kennedy**

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**THANK YOU!**

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