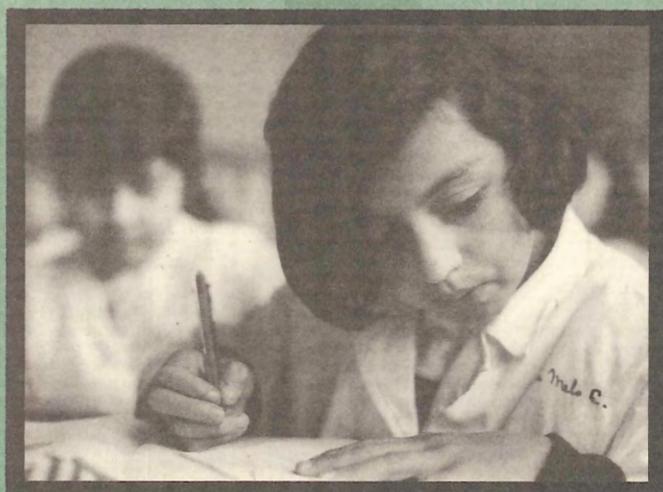
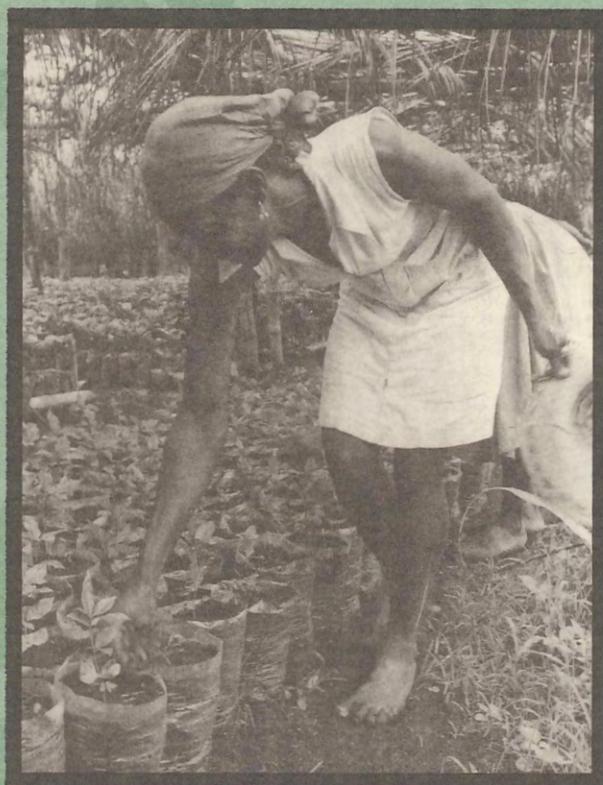
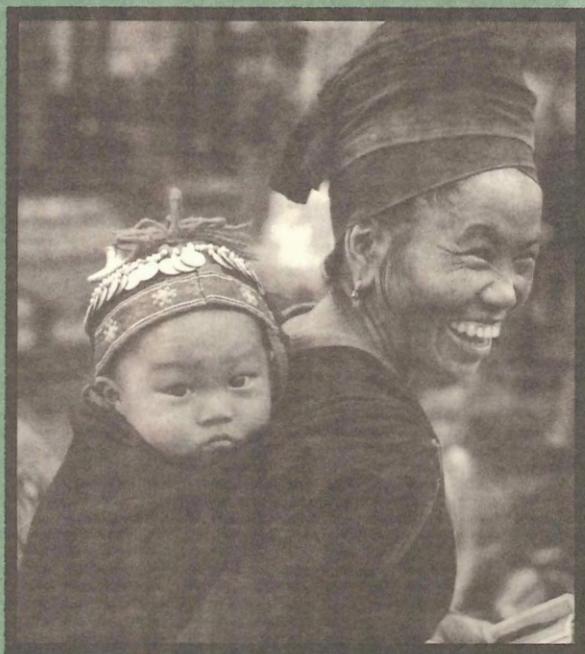
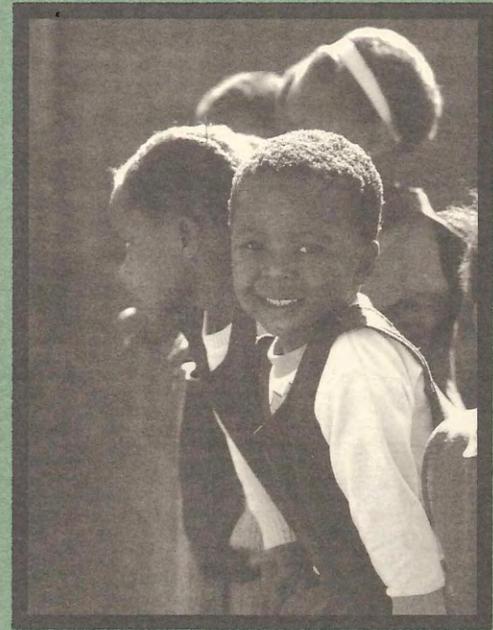


Private Voluntary Cooperation- American Schools & Hospitals Abroad



OFFICE OF PRIVATE VOLUNTARY COOPERATION-AMERICAN SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS ABROAD
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Investing in What Works

Poverty, the global spread of HIV/AIDS, environmental deterioration, violence, ethnic conflicts, refugee crises, and other urgent global challenges threaten lives and pose daunting obstacles to development efforts. At the same time, we as a global society have learned a great deal about how to address such challenges. Central to the work of Private Voluntary Cooperation-American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (PVC-ASHA) is enabling people and organizations around the world to share and apply vital knowledge aimed at enhancing lives and creating opportunities.

Strengthening Local Capacity

The rapid growth of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) around the world offers tremendous hope for implementing local solutions to local challenges. Today's NGOs offer a range of innovative approaches for combating poverty, protecting the environment, expanding employment opportunities, and promoting greater citizen participation. Yet many of these organizations lack the managerial and financial capacity to carry out their work as effectively as possible—and all could benefit from acquiring the advocacy skills needed to foster a more supportive environment for their work. Through investing in these vital institutions, PVC-ASHA maximizes the impact of local NGOs and strengthens their ability to meet critical needs over the long term.

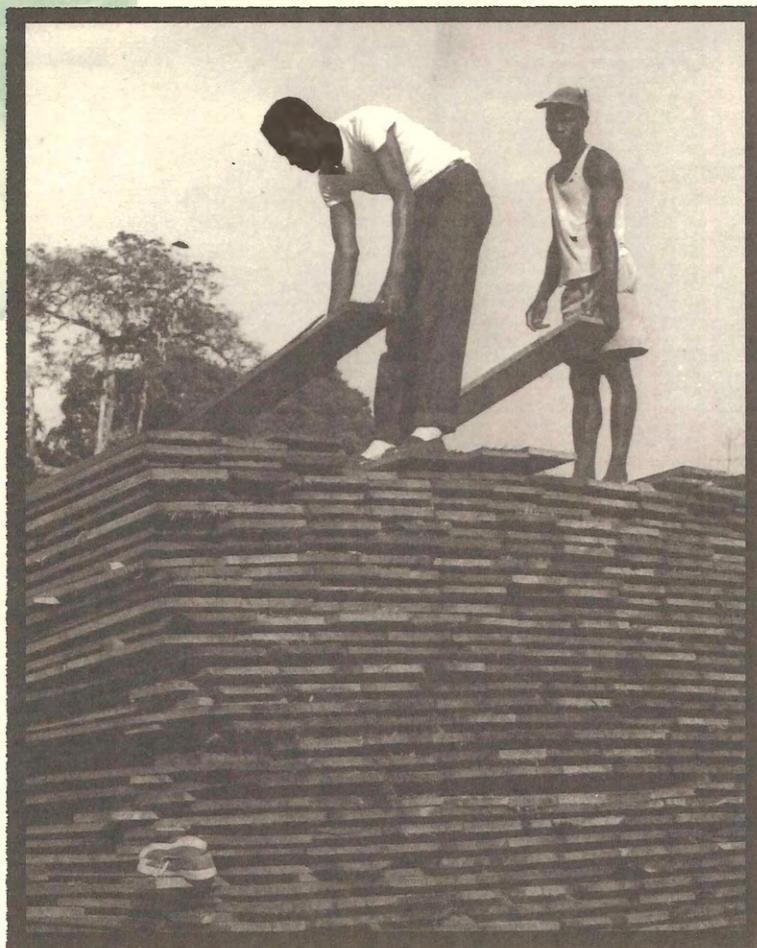
Building Effective Partnerships

PVC-ASHA places a premium on building mutually beneficial partnerships among U.S. private voluntary organizations (PVOs), local NGOs, and the business and public sectors. Such partnerships leverage existing knowledge, resources, and expertise. The net result: effective programs achieve greater scale and financial sustainability. Through this integrated approach, PVC-ASHA builds local ownership and fosters long-term, sustainable solutions.

Building success, from the bottom up . . .

No house or bridge can be built without the proper foundation. Similarly, no organization can fulfill its mission without an equally secure foundation of knowledge, skills, and resources to ensure its continued success.

The Office of Private Voluntary Cooperation-American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (PVC-ASHA) at USAID is dedicated to strengthening nongovernmental organizations, cooperatives, schools, and hospitals worldwide. PVC-ASHA provides such institutions with valuable lessons, tools, and methodologies aimed at enabling them to grow and achieve their goals.



"PVC's support has been invaluable. It is safe to say the partnership with PVC supported the design of our best capacity-building tools and methodologies. Now hundreds of local organizations are more transparent and accountable as a result of Pact's mentoring, and so is Pact!"

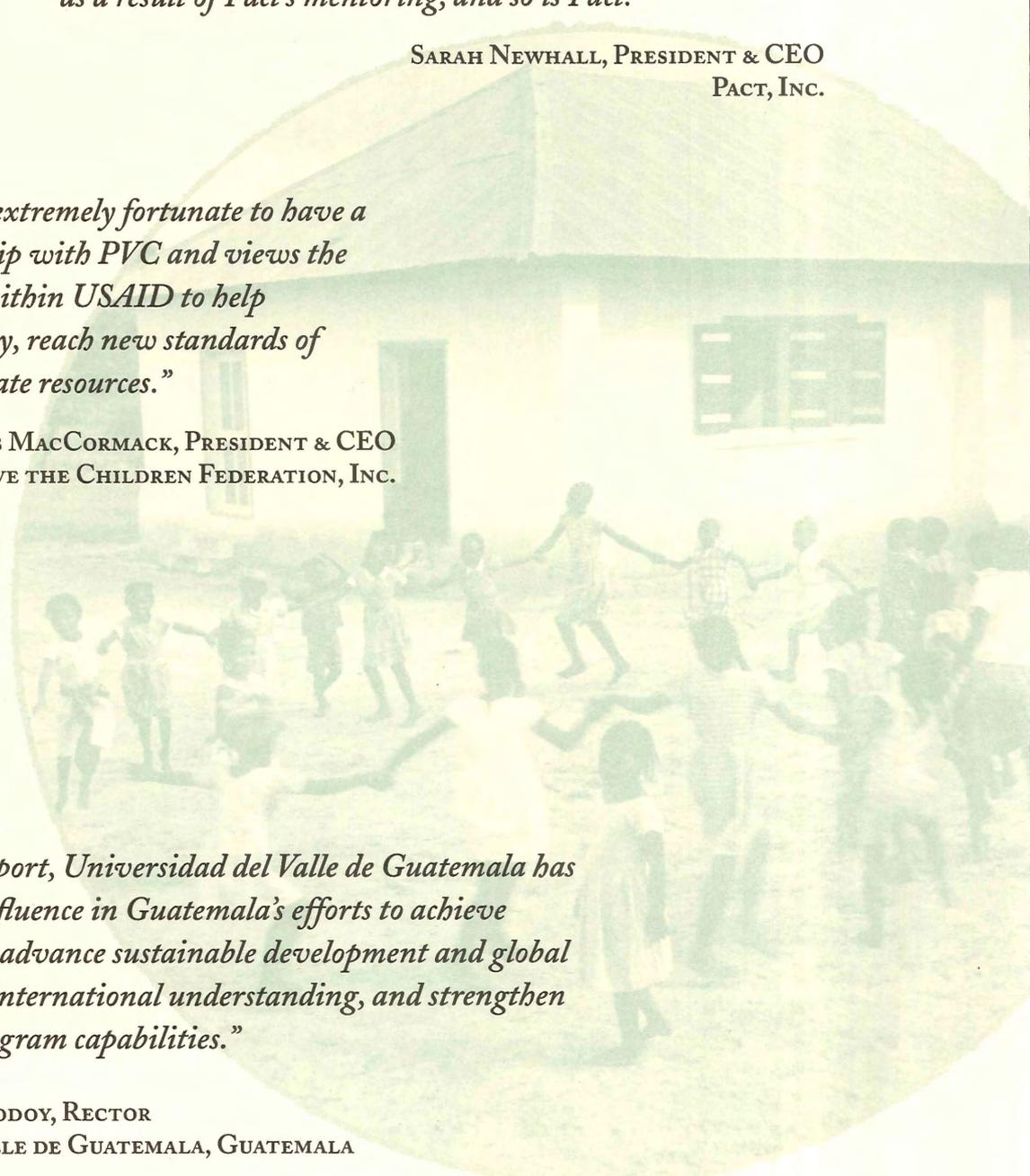
SARAH NEWHALL, PRESIDENT & CEO
PACT, INC.

"Save the Children has been extremely fortunate to have a close, collaborative relationship with PVC and views the office as a singular resource within USAID to help PVOs/NGOs develop capacity, reach new standards of excellence, and mobilize private resources."

CHARLES MACCORMACK, PRESIDENT & CEO
SAVE THE CHILDREN FEDERATION, INC.

"With ASHA's support, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala has become a crucial influence in Guatemala's efforts to achieve peace and security, advance sustainable development and global interests, promote international understanding, and strengthen diplomatic and program capabilities."

ROBERTO MORENO GODOY, RECTOR
UNIVERSIDAD DEL VALLE DE GUATEMALA, GUATEMALA



Private Voluntary Cooperation at USAID



Whether supporting Zambian children orphaned by AIDS or developing village banking systems in El Salvador, USAID's program for Private Voluntary Cooperation (PVC) ensures that private voluntary organizations (PVOs) and their developing country nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners have the appropriate knowledge and skills to deliver services to populations in need.

For more than 30 years, PVC has helped U.S. PVOs expand their organizational and technical capacities while serving as a resource for their increased involvement in USAID programs. USAID relies on PVOs such as World Wildlife Fund, Project Concern, and Plan International as key partners in development. They bring decades of community-building experience to their work and are acknowledged leaders in mobilizing public and private resources for international development.

In collaboration with these frontline institutions, PVC works within developing countries and those nations emerging from conflict to strengthen NGOs and networks, while fostering innovative partnerships among local NGOs, businesses, and the public sector. Its goal: to promote the growth of a stronger, more independent and self-reliant NGO sector capable of providing effective, sustainable services to those in need.

Recognizing that many of today's NGOs lack the organizational knowledge and skills to carry out

their work as effectively as possible, PVC support is directed at equipping these vital organizations with state-of-the-art techniques in such areas as strategic planning, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy. To maximize the impact and sustainability of the NGO sector as a whole, PVC:

- ✿ Strengthens NGOs and NGO networks to enhance their problem-solving ability, aggregate their interests, and magnify their impact;
- ✿ Works with NGOs to advocate for policy reforms aimed at creating a more supportive environment for their work;
- ✿ Promotes organizational effectiveness through the exchange of valuable knowledge and lessons learned; and
- ✿ Encourages collaboration among PVOs, NGOs, and the business community to promote financial sustainability and the scaling up of successful programs and approaches.

Through this comprehensive, multi-sector approach, PVC programs not only ensure that NGOs become powerful catalysts for change, they also lay the groundwork for greater stability and self-sufficiency for years to come.



ASHA: Improving Schools and Hospitals



Established before USAID itself, American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) helps strengthen American schools, libraries, and medical centers abroad. Its goal: to spread American ideas, practices, and values worldwide. For nearly 50 years, the program has assisted some 200 institutions in more than 60 countries around the world. Its current portfolio includes more than 100 grants.

ASHA provides grants to competitively selected U.S. private nonprofit schools, universities, libraries, and medical centers overseas to:

- ✿ Build a local technology base for integrated research and care in critical areas of medical science;
- ✿ Create a more efficient basis for transfer of information between the United States and other countries;
- ✿ Train independent thinkers in problem-solving abilities; and
- ✿ Increase understanding between the people of the United States and those abroad.

Grants awarded through ASHA are generally used to support infrastructure development, such as the construction of academic buildings and medical facilities, and the procurement of medical and educational equipment.

However, the impact of ASHA's assistance often reaches far beyond the local community served by a school or hospital. The strength of the program lies in its emphasis on educational exchange and mutual understanding, creating a

cadre of doctors, teachers, and other professionals who have experienced Americans' generosity and innovation firsthand.

Examples of this impact include:

- ✿ The Pan American School of Agriculture in Honduras, which has graduated nearly 5,000 students from 25 countries—31 of whom have gone on to serve as Ministers of Agriculture, Natural Resources, or Finance of their respective countries.
- ✿ The American University of Beirut, one of the most prestigious institutions of higher education in the Middle East, which has awarded more than 40,000 degrees since its founding in 1863. Today, it enrolls more than 5,000 students from 59 countries, 94 percent of whom are Arabic speaking. U.S. textbooks and teaching techniques are used throughout the university's five faculties.
- ✿ ASHA grantee Vellore Christian Medical College and Hospital in Vellore, India, was founded by an American missionary as a one-bed clinic in 1900. The hospital now houses 1,600 beds and treats more than 4,000 patients per month. In recent evaluations of medical colleges in India, Vellore ranked second among 160 medical institutions.

For information on ASHA grant opportunities, visit www.usaid.gov, Keyword: ASHA.



NGO Sector Strengthening Program



Through its Nongovernmental Organization Sector Strengthening Program (NGOSSP), USAID's Office of Private Voluntary Cooperation-American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (PVC-ASHA) improves the organizational, financial, and advocacy capabilities of local NGOs to deliver services to communities in need. The program also strengthens the broader NGO sector through support to NGO networks and other organizations that link local NGOs to an array of partners.

Launched in 2003, NGOSSP draws on the Agency's long experience building the skills of private voluntary organizations (PVOs) worldwide. NGOSSP cooperative agreements are awarded to PVOs based on their ability to develop these skills with their local NGO partners.

The program's current round of five-year awards supports cross-sectoral activities in 11 countries, many of which are recovering from conflict. For example, in East Timor, Planning Assistance is helping NGOs rebuild their nation's civil society by strengthening community-based organizations and fostering linkages among NGOs and between them and government.

Africare works in Burundi on HIV/AIDS by improving the managerial, financial, and advocacy skills of local NGOs, while the Pan American Development Foundation assists local organizations in improving the social and political environment for cross-border cooperation between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The program is expected to lead to increased public and private investment in this critical border region.

In addition to strengthening the NGO sector in developing countries, NGOSSP promotes:

- ✿ Wide dissemination of innovations, best practices, lessons learned, and standards related to NGO strengthening;
- ✿ Broad use of program models that lead to greater self-sufficiency of NGOs and NGO networks;
- ✿ Adoption of key policy and program recommendations; and
- ✿ Increased ability of NGOs to mitigate or recover from civil conflict.

**For more information, visit www.usaid.gov,
Keyword: NGO.**



Capable Partners Program



Local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) play an increasingly vital role in meeting the social and economic needs of their societies; yet often they lack critical knowledge and skills that would enable them to carry out their work more effectively. Launched in 2003 by the Office of Private Voluntary Cooperation-American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (PVC-ASHA), the Capable Partners Program (CAP) is dedicated to improving the organizational capacity and sustainability of local NGOs and NGO networks around the globe.

Working collaboratively with USAID missions in the field, CAP provides technical assistance to enhance the capacity of local NGO networks and intermediate service organizations so they may better serve their NGO members. Over the long term, CAP seeks to promote improved advocacy and monitoring and evaluation skills, as well as greater links between these local organizations and businesses, local governments, and international bodies.

CAP's focus on building strong organizational skills helps to ensure the long-term sustainability of local NGOs. NGO networks nominated by USAID missions worldwide participate in 18-month training programs covering advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, and public-private partnership development. Missions may also request individualized CAP assistance.

CAP's innovative web portal—www.ngoconnect.org—is a key resource for NGOs and NGO networks, USAID missions, and development professionals interested in NGO strengthening in both developing countries and those emerging from conflict. The portal promises to become a virtual learning center for exchanging ideas, sharing best practices, and building linkages in this field.

**For more information, visit www.usaid.gov,
Keyword: Capable Partners.**



Cooperative Development Grants



USAID's 40-year partnership with the U.S. cooperative and credit union movement has helped cooperative development organizations promote member-owned businesses in agriculture, agribusiness, utilities, housing, and financial services in more than 60 countries.

With USAID support, more than 40 million Bangladeshis and Filipinos are now served by rural electric cooperatives; and thousands of farmers in countries like Ethiopia, El Salvador, Malawi, and East Timor have increased their incomes through the processing, sale, and export of cash crops.

USAID recognizes that cooperatives play a significant role in contributing to income, employment opportunities, and quality of life for the citizens of developing and transitional countries. Their innovative approaches have been adopted by other groups engaged in international development and have influenced government policies ranging from rural telecommunications policy in Nigeria to cooperative law and regulation in Bulgaria.

Through its Cooperative Development Program, Private Voluntary Cooperation-American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (PVC-ASHA) addresses some of the obstacles to cooperative development success. Grants support partnerships between longstanding U.S. cooperative organizations, their

members and volunteers, and overseas cooperatives, aimed at:

- ✦ Improving laws and regulations to give cooperatives a level playing field with other enterprises;
- ✦ Ensuring that governance of cooperatives is democratic, fair, and transparent, with boards focused on policy, not management;
- ✦ Helping cooperatives develop strong management and financial systems; and
- ✦ Encouraging self-reliance and reducing dependency on donors.

Currently, eight U.S. organizations receive PVC-ASHA funding to assist developing and transitional economy cooperatives engaged in financial services, housing, infrastructure, and agribusiness. Individual projects have helped Malian livestock cooperatives export cattle to markets in neighboring countries; assisted Central American credit unions to provide local families with access to savings accounts, loans, mortgages, and remittances from the United States; and developed niche markets for Indonesian and Timorese coffee and spices.

For eligibility requirements and detailed program information, visit www.usaid.gov, Keyword: Cooperatives.



Humanitarian Supplies Shipment



USAID's Office of Private Voluntary Cooperation-American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (PVC-ASHA) helps U.S. private voluntary organizations (PVOs) send humanitarian donations and supplies to countries in need through two signature initiatives: the Ocean Freight Reimbursement (OFR) and Denton programs.

Ocean Freight Reimbursement Program

From 2001 to 2002, World Emergency Relief used PVC-ASHA's Ocean Freight Reimbursement Program to upgrade two hospitals, deliver emergency food, and fully equip five medical teams serving rural clinics in Guatemala. Goods shipped through OFR also equipped the country's only not-for-profit orthopedic clinic treating land mine victims.

World Emergency Relief is one of about 50 PVO grantees to benefit from OFR annually, a program that allows recipients to ship a variety of goods overseas for use in privately funded development and humanitarian assistance programs. Funds cover the transport cost of commodities, including medical supplies, agricultural equipment, educational supplies, and building equipment.

OFR leverages resources many times the level of USAID funding, with an overall private-public match of 50 to 1. The FY 2002 budget of \$2.7 million mobilized more than \$136 million in private resources, consisting mainly of donated or purchased goods.

For more information on applying for an OFR grant, visit www.usaid.gov, Keyword: Ocean Freight.

Denton Program

The Denton Program—jointly administered by USAID, the Department of Defense, and the Department of State—allows private U.S. citizens and organizations to use space available on U.S. military cargo planes to send humanitarian aid to developing countries. Since the program's inception in 1985, more than 45 million pounds of humanitarian goods—including medical supplies, educational materials, clothing, food, vehicles, and agricultural supplies—have been transported.

Nongovernmental organizations such as Assist International, the Afghan American Foundation, and Medisend International have used the program to send school supplies to Afghanistan and medical supplies to Iraq.

The Denton Program is noncompetitive, though applicants must meet basic program criteria. Because space on cargo planes is granted as it becomes available, no guarantees can be made regarding timing or completion of a shipment.

For more information on shipping goods through the Denton Program, visit www.usaid.gov, Keyword: Denton.



Matching Grant Program



For more than 25 years, USAID's program for Private Voluntary Cooperation (PVC) has offered a Matching Grant Program to help U.S. private voluntary organizations (PVOs) improve the effectiveness of their overseas programs by building in-house technical, managerial, and operational skills. The program has covered a range of sectors, including microenterprise development, child survival/health, agriculture, democracy and governance, environment, and economic growth.

By matching PVO resources dollar-for-dollar, the program allows PVOs to expand their programs to new places, initiate new projects, or try new projects that offer potential for learning and replication.

Working in partnership with local organizations, PVOs participating in the Matching Grant Program made significant improvements in delivering services to populations in need. Examples include:

✿ With support from PVC and Starbucks Coffee Company, Conservation International helped Mexican cooperatives cultivate coffee while conserving biodiversity. As a result, more than 30 square kilometers of coffee fields are using "best practices" for conservation coffee. The number of participating farmers rose from 300 to more than 1,000 in two years. Over the last five consecutive years, Starbucks has bought more than 4 million pounds of coffee directly from cooperatives in the program.

✿ World Relief helped its local Rwandan partner, URWEGO, become the largest microfinance institution in the country, increasing its client population from 306 in 1998 to 12,619 in 2003. Together, USAID and World Relief helped establish the Rwanda Microfinance Forum—a 42-member network of international PVOs and local NGOs.

✿ Winrock International worked with farmers and village associations in Senegal, Mali, Guinea, and Indonesia to increase their economic productivity and improve agricultural practices such as seed multiplication and conservation tillage. By the end of the five-year grant, more than 200,000 farm households were using improved inputs and agronomic techniques, and more than 100,000 farmers—mostly women—had gained access to credit services.

The Matching Grant Program will be phased out by FY 2007 and *is no longer issuing Requests for Applications.*

**For more information, visit www.usaid.gov,
Keyword: Matching Grant.**



Small Project Assistance/ Peace Corps



The Small Project Assistance Program (SPA) is a joint collaboration between USAID and the Peace Corps aimed at building the capacity of local communities and organizations. The program uses the human and technical resources of Peace Corps, along with the financial resources of USAID, to encourage sustainable, effective development projects in sectors ranging from health to agriculture to small enterprise development.

SPA is a grassroots program that allows Peace Corps volunteers to design and carry out their own projects. SPA consists of two complementary components: grants and technical assistance. Together, the two help communities implement small, self-help activities such as improving access to clean, potable water while gaining critical training in building latrines, maintaining water systems, and reducing the spread of waterborne diseases.

In keeping with the mission of the Office of Private Voluntary Cooperation-American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (PVC-ASHA), SPA-sponsored projects focus on developing local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Volunteers help to establish new NGOs, strengthen existing NGOs, and improve services provided to surrounding communities. Participants learn key development skills, including integrated planning, program design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

PVC-ASHA plays a leadership role in managing SPA by encouraging USAID missions and offices to participate in the program. Peace Corps volunteers bid for funds allocated by USAID through a proposal process. Most countries in which Peace Corps operates are eligible to initiate and participate in a SPA program.

**For more information, visit www.usaid.gov,
Keyword: PVC or SPA.**



PVO Registration



The Office of Private Voluntary Cooperation-American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (PVC-ASHA) registers U.S. and international private voluntary organizations (PVOs) interested in becoming eligible for USAID assistance. Registration provides PVOs with access to a range of funding opportunities within USAID and helps the Agency identify qualified partners in development and humanitarian aid.

Interested U.S. PVOs must meet a number of conditions for USAID registration, including, but not limited to, the following:

- ✿ Applicant must be a private, nongovernmental organization that maintains its principal place of business in the United States.
- ✿ Applicant must be a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, but not a college or university, private foundation, research or scientific organization, or an organization engaged exclusively in religious activities.
- ✿ Applicant must receive voluntary contributions of money, staff time, or in-kind support from the general public.
- ✿ Applicant must be engaged, or anticipate becoming engaged in, voluntary charitable or development assistance operations abroad.
- ✿ Applicant must have a sound financial position as evidenced by audited financial statements and preparation of an annual budget.
- ✿ Applicant must have a board of directors that meets at least annually, composed of members who serve without compensation.

As of mid-2004, more than 500 PVOs were registered with USAID. Local PVOs are not required to register with USAID headquarters, but may be required to register with the appropriate USAID mission.

For the most current set of eligibility requirements for both U.S. and international PVOs, or to receive a PVO registration packet, go to www.usaid.gov, Keyword: PVO Registration.

Programmatic, financial, and contact information for all registered PVOs is published annually in *Voluntary Foreign Aid Programs: Report of Voluntary Agencies Engaged in Overseas Relief and Development*, also known as the *VolAg Report*. The 2004 *VolAg Report* is available at www.usaid.gov, Keyword: PVC Publications.

An online version of USAID's PVO Registry is updated daily and can be accessed at www.usaid.gov, Keyword: PVO Registry.



PVC-ASHA Publications/ Online Resources



The Office of Private Voluntary Cooperation-American Schools and Hospitals Abroad's (PVC-ASHA) commitment to nongovernmental organization (NGO) strengthening includes ongoing research and the publication of tools and resources useful to the international development community. Publications are available at www.usaid.gov, Keyword: PVC Publications.

Publications

Voluntary Foreign Aid Programs: Report of Voluntary Agencies Engaged in Overseas Relief and Development (VolAg Report)

This annual report serves as a directory of all private voluntary organizations (PVOs) registered with USAID. It provides activity descriptions and financial and contact information for each PVO.

PVC-ASHA Portfolio

This annual report lists all active grant agreements and contracts between PVC-ASHA and partner organizations. It provides a brief description of each cooperative agreement or contract's activities, annual funding levels, and the countries in which the grantee is working.

PVC-ASHA Country Report

This annual report provides summaries of all PVC-ASHA grants and cooperative agreements, indexed by country and region. The report is also available as a searchable online database at www.pvo.net/cr.

Online Resources

PVC-ASHA Web site

Visit www.usaid.gov, Keyword: PVC or ASHA, for the latest information on PVC-ASHA program activities, events, publications, and grant opportunities.

NGO Connect Web site

The Capable Partners Program manages this web site as a forum for discussion and exchange on local NGO strengthening. Visit www.ngoconnect.net.

PVC-ASHA E-News Bulletin

This e-mail newsletter is disseminated periodically as major PVC-ASHA announcements, publications, events, requests for applications/requests for proposals, and web postings occur. To subscribe to the E-News Bulletin, visit www.usaid.gov, Keyword: PVC.

PVO Registry

The registry is an online, searchable database of U.S. and international PVOs registered with USAID, updated daily. Visit www.usaid.gov, Keyword: PVO Registry.

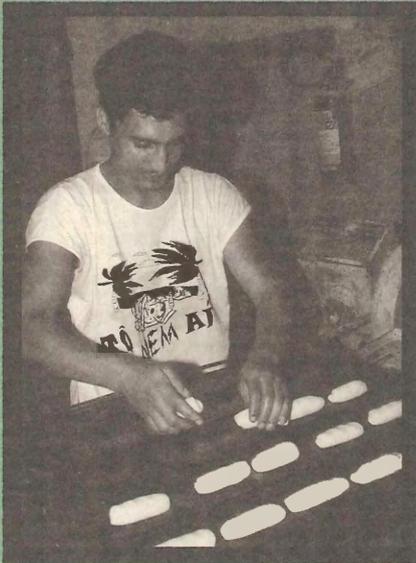
USAID PVO Registration Brochure

This brochure explains registration guidelines and eligibility requirements for U.S. and international PVOs that wish to become eligible for USAID funding. It also provides a glossary of terms frequently used in the USAID grant application process.



"PVC's support has advanced real innovation in Freedom from Hunger's work with local NGOs. As a result, our programs are more effective, more sustainable, and serve more people."

CHRISTOPHER DUNFORD, PH.D.
PRESIDENT, FREEDOM FROM HUNGER



"Support from PVC has allowed us to learn from our own experiences and to profit more from the experiences of others. By incorporating these lessons into our work, the cooperatives we assist in the developing world have become more entrepreneurial and are making better business decisions. That means both the cooperatives and their member-owners will be more profitable in the long run."

PAUL HAZEN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
NATIONAL COOPERATIVE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

"PVC provided Mercy Corps with critical assistance as we developed and tested our civil society framework that eventually became our overarching theory of change. PVC's support provided essential space for thinking, testing, and reflection, which are too often scarce commodities in our world."

NANCY LINDBORG, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
MERCY CORPS

