



Volunteers for Prosperity

This generation of citizens will show the world the energy and idealism of the United States of America—President George W. Bush

ANNUAL REPORT 2004



President George W. Bush
May 21, 2003

“Today, I would like to announce a new USA Freedom Corps initiative called Volunteers for Prosperity, which will give America’s highly skilled professionals new opportunities to serve abroad. The program will enlist American doctors and nurses and teachers and engineers and economists and computer specialists and others to work on specific development initiatives, including those that I have discussed today. These volunteers will serve in the countries of their choice, for however long their project takes. Like generations before us, this generation of citizens will show the world the energy and idealism of the United States of America.”

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An Initiative with Impact

Volunteers for Prosperity promotes the energy and idealism of the United States through support of international voluntary service by highly skilled American professionals to meet the global health and prosperity goals of the U.S. Government.

On May 21, 2003, President George W. Bush announced Volunteers for Prosperity (VfP), an initiative that deploys skilled volunteers in official U.S. foreign assistance programs that advance health and prosperity. On September 25, 2003, the President signed Executive Order 13317 providing direction and organization for the initiative, which forms part of the USA Freedom Corps.

Per the Executive Order, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Departments of State, Commerce, and Health and Human Services were required to set up VfP offices or operating units. USAID serves as the interagency coordinator for the initiative. USAID's VfP Office reports to USA Freedom Corps, an office of the White House that coordinates all federally supported volunteer programs, domestic and international, including AmeriCorps, SeniorCorps, and Peace Corps.

This first annual report describes significant progress. VfP has been encouraging highly skilled volunteer service to advance America's strategic agenda for global health and prosperity by fulfilling the following five objectives:

★ **Matching highly skilled American volunteers with opportunities**

Through a range of activities, VfP is promoting international voluntary service and linking experienced American professionals and U.S.-based organizations with flexible, international volunteer opportunities.

★ **Development of VfP website**

The VfP Office has created a website that is a resource for organizations and individuals interested in, or already involved in, international volunteer service. The website explains the initiative and provides each participating



organization a link to its own website. Recently, VfP's website was upgraded to allow individuals to find appropriate organizations and, in some cases, specific international volunteer opportunities within a few "clicks." The web address is www.volunteersforprosperity.gov.

★ Innovative support

The VfP Office does not directly make grants. However, per the President's Executive Order, organizations that become VfP participants and support the deployment of highly skilled American volunteers are given priority for federal funds in six foreign assistance initiatives: the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, Middle East Partnership Initiative, Digital Freedom Initiative, Water for the Poor Initiative, Trade for African Development and Enterprise, and Millennium Challenge Corporation. To date, VfP participants have been awarded \$13.4 million in grants.

★ Outreach

VfP is supporting a new paradigm of private-public cooperation in foreign assistance. Organizations previously not involved in official foreign assistance—ranging from smaller faith-based and community groups to trade associations to corporations—have joined VfP to help highly skilled American volunteers answer the President's call to service. VfP is building a network of organizations—both nonprofits and businesses—that support international voluntary service. Nonprofits participate either by directly placing and managing skilled volunteers in overseas assignments or by mobilizing volunteers to serve under the direction of other organizations. Businesses participate by encouraging employees to serve as international volunteers.

★ Recognition

Participating organizations—nonprofits and businesses alike—are encouraged to certify their individual volunteers to receive the President's Volunteer Service Award, an initiative of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. Please visit www.presidentialserviceawards.gov.

A Year of Growth

During the past year, the VfP Office has recruited nearly 200 nonprofit and for-profit organizations representing a pool of at least 34,000 skilled American professionals. VfP organizations indicate having deployed nearly 7,000 volunteers. For the next year, these organizations report they plan to deploy approximately 8,000 volunteers. Currently, VfP organizations indicate they have nearly 4,000 available volunteer opportunities.

Other Key Achievements

The VfP Office also achieved the following:

- ★ contributed to the establishment, management, and direction of VfP offices and operating units within USAID and the Departments of State, Health and Human Services, and Commerce
- ★ advised these agencies and departments on the modification of relevant U.S. Government grant procedures in the six Presidential initiatives to support the effective use of highly skilled American volunteers
- ★ monitored grant applications for those eligible under the VfP criteria
- ★ gathered and reviewed baseline data about VfP and its contribution to the six Presidential initiatives
- ★ continuously improved the www.volunteersforprosperity.gov website, a crucial instrument of the initiative
- ★ forged strong working relationships with partners inside and outside the government, including the National Peace Corps Association, and the National Corn Growers Association
- ★ helped plan ceremonies for presenting the President's Volunteer Service Awards
- ★ produced and disseminated a brochure designed to explain VfP to organizations and individuals
- ★ engaged in outreach, including remarks at U.S. government and association conferences



International Voluntary Service

A Powerful American Value

International voluntary service runs deep in the American spirit. In his Farewell Address, President George Washington noted the importance to national security of “magnanimous” and “benevolent” policies toward other nations.

The confluence of efforts of individual American volunteers, voluntary organizations, and the federal government is a distinctly American contribution to global stability and development. American volunteers and the U.S. government joined forces to provide relief for Europe during and after World War I. Following World War II, the Marshall Plan was a triumph of American assistance combined with the promotion of policies of political and economic freedom and openness.

More than 170,000 American volunteers have responded to President John F. Kennedy’s initiative, the Peace Corps, which has become one of

America’s and the world’s best-known and most respected international programs since its founding over 40 years ago. The Peace Corps, requiring a minimum two-year commitment by volunteers, has transformed the lives of aid recipients and of thousands of American volunteers themselves.

In this great tradition of service, and in the aftermath of September 11, President Bush has called on all Americans to dedicate two years or 4,000 hours over the course of their lifetimes to volunteer service. He created VfP as a unique way for America’s highly skilled professionals to answer his call to service. In just one year, the Volunteers for Prosperity initiative has reached out to thousands of highly skilled American professionals who are already linked to or seeking flexible international voluntary service opportunities.



Jeni Hoekstra volunteers with Partners for Christian Development.

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Partners for Christian Development

Partners for Christian Development (PCD), a private voluntary organization based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, became one of the first groups to win a federal grant under the Volunteers for Prosperity Executive Order. The \$200,000 grant from USAID’s Bureau for Africa will help PCD support the objectives of the TRADE Initiative. The grant supports a program to create sustainable jobs for the poor in Kenya by encouraging the growth of micro, small, and medium-sized businesses. PCD, through its “Million Mentor Alliance” initiative, will mobilize business people and professionals to volunteer as mentors with small and medium enterprises in Kenya, providing the customized, caring business support that encourages sustainable business growth and success.

Two longtime PCD volunteers were presented this year with the President’s Call to Service Award for their lifetime achievement of more than 4,000 in volunteer service. Jeni and Dennis Hoekstra, a husband-wife team from Grand Rapids, won this recognition for work in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. “The rewards of seeing the people improve their lives through just the little we’ve been able to do is what keeps us going,” said Jeni.

Answering the President's Call to Service

Global Health and Prosperity Initiatives

The Six Initiatives

Organizations that participate in VfP are given a competitive advantage in the grantmaking process for six initiatives focused on America's international health and prosperity agenda:

- ★ The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
- ★ Digital Freedom Initiative (DFI)
- ★ Water for the Poor Initiative
- ★ Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE)
- ★ The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)
- ★ The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)

Management of the Initiatives

Each of these initiatives is either under the single or shared direction of four federal departments and agencies:

- ★ Department of State (State)
- ★ Department of Commerce (Commerce)
- ★ Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- ★ U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Each of the departments has its own VfP office or operating unit reporting to the USAID VfP Office, which serves as the interagency coordinator of VfP. USAID's VfP Office reports to USA Freedom Corps, an office of the White House.



Desiree T. Sayle meets with Fred Yoder, chairman of the National Corn Growers Association, in the USA Freedom Corps office at the White House Aug. 2, 2004.

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National Corn Growers Association

Tens of thousands of members of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), headquartered in St. Louis, are learning of opportunities to serve abroad in Volunteers for Prosperity. NCGA's chairman, Fred Yoder, announced NCGA's decision to join Volunteers for Prosperity in a meeting at the White House August 2, 2004, with Desiree Sayle, deputy assistant to President Bush and director of USA Freedom Corps, and Jack Hawkins, director of the Office of Volunteers for Prosperity.

"NCGA looks forward to building a strong relationship with Volunteers for Prosperity," Yoder said. "We will encourage farmers and others involved in NCGA to answer the President's call to service by going abroad to assist growers in developing countries in improving their practices. Reducing global hunger and poverty not only is a moral obligation for those with the capacity to help, but it also helps the donors themselves by promoting international security and the growth of markets and reciprocal trade."

NCGA plans for its members to share the benefits of advancements in agricultural science and biotechnology with the developing world. NCGA will also nominate qualified members to receive the President's Volunteer Service Award.



President George W. Bush and Mrs. Bush and President and Mrs. Museveni applaud the singing of the Watoto Choir at the TASO Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, July 11, 2003.

The Initiatives in Brief

PEPFAR, directed by State and supported by HHS and USAID, is a five-year, \$15 billion initiative to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic by targeting assistance to the 15 most afflicted countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. PEPFAR will offer considerable volunteer opportunities for U.S. medical and paramedical professionals. Specifically, the initiative will work to

- ★ prevent 7 million new infections
- ★ treat 2 million HIV-infected people
- ★ care for 10 million HIV-infected individuals and AIDS orphans

DFI is led by Commerce, with support from USAID and assistance from the Peace Corps. The first men and women to serve overseas as Volunteers for Prosperity were information technology professionals helping small businesses in Senegal through DFI. DFI promotes economic growth by transferring the benefits of U.S. information and communication technology

(ICT) to small businesses in the developing world. The success of DFI in Senegal has already led to expansion of the initiative into Peru, Indonesia, and most recently Jordan. Ultimately, the initiative will reach 20 countries. Elements of this initiative include

- ★ placing volunteers in small businesses in the developing world to share business knowledge and technology expertise
- ★ promoting pro-growth regulatory and legal structures to enhance business competitiveness
- ★ leveraging existing technology and communications infrastructure in new ways

The Water for the Poor Initiative, managed by USAID, seeks to improve the sustainable management of fresh water resources in developing countries. The initiative concentrates on enhancing access to clean water and sanitation services, improving watershed management, and increasing the productivity of water use.

TRADE is a five-year initiative managed by USAID and supported by three regional global competitiveness hubs in Kenya, Ghana, and Botswana. TRADE's goal is to build the capacity of African governments, firms, and organizations to take advantage of incentives provided under preferential trade agreements; increase U.S. trade with Africa; and find ways to promote development through trade relations. TRADE supports

- ★ linking American and African businesses
- ★ strengthening the business environment for African businesses
- ★ developing public services and policies that support trade

MEPI, managed by State, works with Middle East governments and citizens to expand economic, political, and educational opportunities. By the

end of FY 2004, MEPI will have received a total of \$149 million. The initiative encompasses more than \$1 billion in U.S. assistance provided annually to Middle Eastern countries. The initiative

- ★ promotes financial sector reforms
- ★ supports business linkages
- ★ develops entrepreneurship

MCC, initiated by President Bush and established through legislation signed in 2004, seeks to reduce poverty by significantly increasing economic growth through targeted investments in recipient countries. To be eligible for assistance, countries must demonstrate commitment to three standards: ruling justly, investing in their people, and encouraging economic freedom. MCC received \$650 million in FY 2004.



President George W. Bush participates in a tour of the Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub with President Festus Gontebanye Mogae of Botswana, July 10, 2003.

Volunteers for Prosperity and the Federal Grants Process

The President's Executive Order stated that the purpose of VfP's offices and operating units was to "promote, expand, and enhance well-defined volunteer service opportunities for highly skilled U.S. professionals," who wish to work with organizations in support of major U.S. health and prosperity initiatives. Accordingly, within federal agencies subject to the order, "such promotion, expansion, and enhancement would include actively participating in the design and selection processes for grants within their agencies."

The Executive Order further directed all VfP offices and operating units "to use their best efforts to use funds available" for the six presidential initiatives "to provide appropriate support to organizations that use highly skilled U.S. volunteers to accomplish the objectives identified in those initiatives." USAID's VfP Office has guided and supported the other offices and operating units and has initiated efforts to actively participate in the design and selection processes for grants. Progress for VfP in the grants process during the first year was significant.

PEPFAR

In its February 2004 report to Congress, the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator indicated that PEPFAR and many of its grantees would participate in VfP. One example of this potential was an announcement by HHS in October 2003 concerning the availability of funds for a cooperative agreement to support a twinning center (TC). To strengthen human and organizational capacity, the TC was to use healthcare volunteers to expand

the pool of trained providers, managers, and allied health staff delivering quality services to HIV-infected pregnant women and HIV-exposed infants. The notice by the Health Resources and Services Administration stated that "the TC will coordinate closely with and have oversight of Volunteers for Prosperity's HIV/AIDS volunteers. The TC will also look at ongoing federal government and nongovernmental organization volunteer programs to learn from their experiences in fielding and using volunteers. We expect that by year two the TC will become a focal point for networks of volunteers who are qualified to serve in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief."

DFI

USAID's Global Development Alliance (GDA), which promotes public-private partnerships, played a significant role in strengthening DFI. Through the GDA's IT Mentoring Alliance, created and implemented in FY 2003, a leading U.S. information technology trade association mentored peer organizations in developing countries. Future activities could follow this model. GDA also encouraged the use of skilled U.S. volunteers and promoted VfP in a Request for Applications (RFA), released in December 2003 for FY 2004, utilizing the following language: "A September 25, 2003 Executive Order established the Volunteers for Prosperity, a new volunteer-based initiative of the USA Freedom Corps, designed to support major U.S. development initiatives overseas using the talents of highly skilled Americans who will work with U.S. organizations in countries around the world. Consistent with this, we encourage



utilization and integration of volunteers as they may be appropriate in your programs. Further information on Volunteers for Prosperity can be found at www.volunteersforprosperity.gov.”

Water for the Poor

USAID’s Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT), responsible for managing Water for the Poor, consulted with the VfP Office to draft Request for Applications (RFA) language that emphasizes the use of skilled U.S. volunteers and supports VfP: “USAID missions and bureaus may have interest in taking advantage of highly skilled U.S. citizens who are interested in volunteering their time for short- to medium-term work opportunities in support of Agency development objectives. This contract will provide a mechanism through which USAID programs can access such individuals, within the framework

of an effective and efficient volunteer matching and support system.”

The following was included in a FY 2004 RFA: “Programs should be reinforced by American volunteerism to the maximum extent practicable. President Bush has made combating global poverty and stimulating prosperity in developing countries a national priority. On May 21, 2003, he expanded his call to volunteer service by issuing a call to Americans trained in professional specialties to serve as volunteers with nonprofit organizations helping to generate prosperity in countries around the world. Applicants are encouraged to read about the Volunteers for Prosperity initiative at www.usafreedomcorps.gov and include in their proposal ways and means to utilize skilled American volunteers strategically in their program.”



New Frontiers Health Force volunteers in Haiti, 2004.

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New Frontiers Health Force

In November, 1998, Dr. Tonya Hawthorne, a family physician in Clearwater, Florida, left her private practice and launched New Frontiers Health Force, now a VfP organization. Since then, this interdenominational faith-based charity has sent physicians, nurses, paramedics, and other professionals on month-long missions to Nigeria, Haiti, Tanzania, and Morocco, among other countries.

Volunteers with New Frontiers raise their own funds to pay their travel expenses. New Frontiers Finance Director Nancy Papatola says, “You can only bring one carry-on bag and have to be able to carry two 70-pound duffel bags full of medical supplies.”

Erik Hotmire, special assistant to President Bush and communications director of the White House Office of USA Freedom Corps, traveled to Florida on September 14, 2004, to present Dr. Hawthorne with the President’s Call to Service Award—the highest level of the President’s Volunteer Service Awards. Dr. Hawthorne was recognized for donating more than 4,000 hours of time—the equivalent of two years of full-time employment. “I am simply amazed,” said Dr. Hawthorne, “to be given an award for doing something that I am passionate about and love with all my heart.”

Organizations participating in Volunteers for Prosperity are encouraged to certify their volunteers to receive the President’s Volunteer Service Award. There are four award levels, beginning with recognition for a minimum of 100 hours of service. For information, visit www.presidentialserviceawards.gov.



TRADE

Managed by USAID's Bureau for Africa, TRADE supports the use of skilled U.S. volunteers through Volunteers in Economic Growth Assistance (VEGA), a USAID consortium of a number of leading private voluntary organizations. Developed within the EGAT bureau, VEGA was formalized on February 23, 2004. The consortium was designed to serve as a procurement mechanism for any USAID mission.

MEPI

In early 2004, State's MEPI office issued a standing program announcement seeking requests for grants and cooperative agreement proposals that support economic, political, and educational reform efforts in the Middle East and increase opportunities for all people of the region, especially women and youth. In consultation with the

VfP Office, the following language was included in the announcement: "In keeping with the President's Volunteers for Prosperity initiative, proposals that use highly skilled American volunteers are encouraged. The proposal should explain clearly how the volunteers will be used and, if this is not applicable, an explanation of why this is not the case."

MCC

While only established during the past year, MCC may prove to be an excellent application of the VfP initiative. Skilled U.S. volunteers may play significant roles assisting MCC in the evaluation of proposals submitted by candidate countries. In effect, volunteers may serve as MCC technical staff.

Implementing Volunteers for Prosperity

A Year of Impact on America's Global Health and Prosperity Agenda

VfP has had a significant impact in both answering President Bush's call to service and advancing America's strategic global health and prosperity agenda. The VfP Office has accomplished this both programmatically and through the grants process for the six global health and prosperity initiatives. This impact is summarized below.

PEPFAR

Under the leadership of State's Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (GAC), PEPFAR has been responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic through a multi-track strategy targeting a number of critical areas, including behavior modification, by encouraging abstinence and faithfulness; care for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children; care and antiretroviral therapy for HIV-infected persons; and the rapid expansion of existing prevention, care, and treatment for mothers and children.

To meet objectives for some of these areas in the months ahead, GAC has expressed interest in engaging the volunteer efforts of highly skilled American health and other professionals. For example, GAC has announced its intention to collaborate with the Institute of Medicine to formally study short- and long-term options for mobilizing, training, deploying, managing, and supporting these volunteers in each PEPFAR country.

Additionally, GAC has been reviewing proposals from organizations seeking to establish "twinning centers" as a means to rapidly expand the pool of in-country-trained providers, managers, and

allied health staff delivering HIV/AIDS services in PEPFAR countries. The associated request for cooperative agreement proposals specified that resulting twinning centers must closely coordinate with the VfP Office and actively participate in networks of health professionals qualified to volunteer under PEPFAR.

DFI

Ultimately, the DFI initiative will encompass 20 countries. DFI currently exists in four countries and relies greatly upon the efforts of American volunteers with backgrounds in information and communications technology and business management. With the help of the volunteers and participating organizations and companies, the first DFI country program, Senegal, achieved the following during the past year: improved financial services delivery and credit access for small businesses; improved operating performance and market access; and effectively promoted a more pro-growth policy and regulatory environment for information and communications technology.

Although established some months later, DFI-Peru and DFI-Indonesia also showed progress. By leveraging available U.S. expertise, DFI-Peru identified opportunities in distance learning, telemedicine, and e-government. Existing ICT capabilities also supported an expansion of programs for entrepreneurs. Following an initial assessment, DFI-Indonesia took measures to place experienced U.S. volunteers in small and medium-sized enterprises to share ICT expertise.





In the summer of 2004, Jordan was chosen as the fourth DFI program country. While an implementation plan is expected to be completed by December 2004, this program will contain elements similar to those of Senegal, Peru, and Indonesia.

Sixty-five U.S. organizations, including businesses, nonprofits, and academic institutions, currently participate in DFI. During the first months of the initiative, these groups deployed 16 experienced U.S. volunteers for DFI. The number of volunteers is expected to grow significantly in the coming year.

Water for the Poor

Volunteers have been and will continue to be used to support efforts critical to the initiative's success. The United States-Asia Environmental Partnership, managed by USAID's Bureau for Asia and the Near East, recruited and deployed skilled volunteers through the American Water Works Association. These experts conducted training programs on water supply and sanitation in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. They also drafted a standard operating procedure man-

ual for drinking water production, distribution, and water quality monitoring for three Indonesian localities.

Grant proposals for activities that highlighted utilization of highly experienced U.S. professionals were solicited and reviewed during the year. The awards will be announced in early FY 2005.

TRADE

During the past year, progress with the TRADE initiative was supported by activities involving USAID's Volunteers in Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA) program, a consortium of leading U.S. private voluntary organizations. The program was officially announced on February 23, 2004, and represents an approach that allows USAID missions to request technical assistance from experienced U.S. professionals on a variety of economic growth matters.

Additionally, the TRADE initiative gained momentum from USAID's management of activities involving three regional competitiveness hubs located in Kenya, Ghana, and Botswana.

Each hub has been working to implement a strategy for achieving three important objectives: building linkages between U.S. companies and African exporters of textiles and apparel; identifying export opportunities for agricultural commodities; and developing public-private sector linkages to reduce transportation barriers to trade.

Multi-year grants totaling \$1.2 million were awarded to VfP participating organizations in FY 2004. The volunteer component of the TRADE initiative is being developed, based upon this funding and expected future awards.

MEPI

Over the past year, MEPI has developed and implemented a number of successful programs addressing the Middle East's economic, political, and educational needs. To meet economic needs, MEPI supported regional programs relating to free trade in agriculture, accelerated job growth, and soundness in financial systems. MEPI also sponsored training programs to benefit the

region's entrepreneurs. Another MEPI program helped Bahrain prepare for a free trade agreement with the United States by strengthening intellectual property rights.

In the area of promoting good governance and civil society development, the initiative hosted the region's first "campaign school" to benefit future candidates for public office, as well as a conference on transparency and accountability in grantmaking.

Programs focusing on capacity building within the region's libraries and schools, as well as an initiative for Jordan, enabled MEPI to respond to important educational needs.

Apart from addressing general economic, political, and educational needs, MEPI also supported activities promoting the empowerment of the region's women. These activities included the production of videos on the lives of successful Arab women, capacity building within Jordanian women's NGOs to facilitate more effective interaction with local government authorities, and devel-





opment of a region-wide network of women's advocacy organizations.

Given the range of pursuits involving this initiative, it is expected that there will be an ever-increasing need for highly skilled American volunteers. During FY 2004, nearly \$12.2 million in multi-year grants were awarded to VFP participating organizations in support of MEPI.

MCC

In May 2004, 16 countries were identified by MCC to be eligible to apply for Millennium

Challenge Account (MCA) assistance. In making its determination, the MCC board considered both the past and current policy performance of each country in terms of governing justly, investing in their people, and promoting economic freedom. In July 2004, the MCC Board identified 70 countries as "candidate countries" for FY 2005. Status as a candidate is the first step toward becoming eligible to apply for MCA assistance. As noted earlier, skilled U.S. volunteers may be utilized to serve as MCC technical staff in the evaluation of proposals submitted by eligible countries in the coming year.

Virtual Promotion of Volunteers for Prosperity

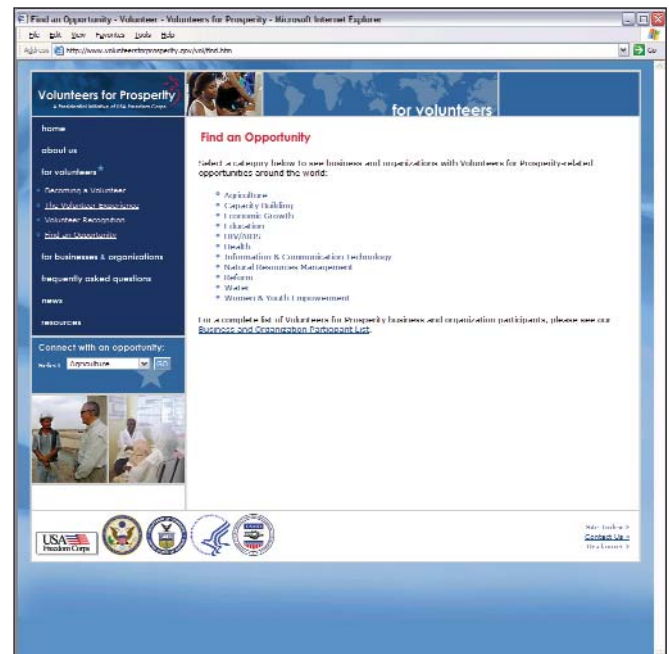
A New Portal for International Voluntary Service

VfP Website

A website that is informative, intuitive, and easily navigable is critical to VfP's success. VfP's website, www.volunteersforprosperity.gov, has undergone a series of important refinements over the past year, reflecting the need to keep pace with the rapidly evolving nature of the initiative.

Following the President's creation of Volunteers for Prosperity in September 2003, a basic website was developed that provided general informa-

tion about VfP, the six Presidential initiatives supported by VfP, and profiles of the early participating organizations. The site also featured a basic platform for engaging interested U.S. professionals and directing them to these organizations. In March 2004, the website was redesigned, enhanced, and relaunched. In September 2004, VfP's website was upgraded to allow individuals to find appropriate organizations and, in some cases, specific international volunteer opportunities within a few clicks.



VfP's website, www.volunteersforprosperity.gov

Reaching Out to Organizations and Volunteers

VfP was designed to be flexible and inclusive. The initiative welcomes the participation of a variety of U.S.-based organizations, including corporations that mobilize employees to answer the President's call to voluntary service. VfP also has been open to participation from both nonprofit organizations that receive federal government grants and those receiving no government funds. The initiative was designed to leverage government spending for foreign assistance with the largest possible contributions of private philanthropy and skilled volunteer service.

Selection Criteria

For the past year, VfP has encouraged an increasing number of organizations to promote highly skilled voluntary service abroad. USAID's VfP

Office has been actively identifying and recruiting organizations that meet the following criteria:

- ★ be organized under the laws of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any other territory of the United States, and have its headquarters in the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any other territory of the United States
- ★ conduct or anticipate conducting overseas activities consistent with the general purposes of federally supported initiatives upon which VfP focuses
- ★ sponsor or indicate its willingness to sponsor highly skilled U.S. professionals who wish to work on specific U.S. development initiatives upon which VfP focuses



Growing Numbers

The rapid growth in the number of participating organizations during the past year demonstrates the initiative's significance. When the President announced the creation of the initiative on May 21, 2003, 14 organizations had been recruited as founding participants. During the summer of 2003, and leading up to the signing of the Executive Order on September 25, 2003, several dozen more organizations had been identified and recruited as VfP participants.

Today, as a result of aggressive outreach efforts, the number of VfP participating organizations is nearing 200 nonprofit groups and companies. A continually updated list of participating organizations is available at www.volunteersforprosperity.gov. While the participating organizations are impressive in both quantity and quality, the initiative's greatest assets are the volunteers themselves.



- ★ To date, VfP has, through the participating organizations, been able to recruit a pool of highly skilled American professionals that exceeds 34,000.
- ★ Over the past year, VfP organizations indicated having deployed nearly 7,000 volunteers.
- ★ For the next year, VfP organizations report they will deploy nearly 8,000 volunteers.
- ★ Significantly, VfP organizations have also indicated they now have nearly 4,000 new volunteer opportunities available.

The Volunteers for Prosperity Initiative is an interagency effort of USA Freedom Corps, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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For more information, please visit www.volunteersforprosperity.gov.

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