

## Support for Food Security Activities IQC

The Support for Food Security Activities (SFSA) indefinite quantity contract (IQC) is an innovative regional contracting mechanism that enables USAID regional and bilateral missions to swiftly access specialized services in integrated agricultural development and food security. ACDI/VOCA leads one of three prequalified premier consortia that will implement activities in Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) member states, plus Tanzania. The SFSA contract ceiling is \$500 million, and task orders under the IQC may be awarded up until August 2015.

### Why Choose SFSA IQC?

Activities under SFSA will accelerate agriculture-sector growth, increase access to markets, increase incomes, and result in improved nutrition and food security. Programs implemented through the contract will support the efforts of key African institutions to increase investments in agriculture and promote regional trade and integration, as well as U.S. global hunger and food security programs, including the Feed the Future initiative.

The SFSA IQC can be used to provide the following short- or long-term expert technical assistance and services to USAID missions:

- » **Agricultural Productivity:** Technology development and transfer to farmers; seed and input supply systems; soil and water management; crop and animal management; post-harvest technology and storage; policy; and credit and financial services.
- » **Market Facilitation and Value Chain Development:** Producer and trader association development; business development services; market information delivery through mobile phone, radio and other media channels; storage and warehousing; warehouse receipts programs; financial services; public-private partnerships; and corporate social responsibility.
- » **Trade Facilitation, Regulatory and Policy Reform:** Trade and transit facilitation; trade policy and customs reform; quality and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards; contracts; finance; and intellectual property.
- » **Humanitarian Response:** Food aid management; local and regional procurement of food aid; design and management of voucher and cash transfer relief systems; and nutrition relief and education, and food fortification.
- » **Information and Knowledge Management:** Synthesis of experiences and best practices; development and use of training materials; and cultivation of communities of practice through web-based and other mechanisms.
- » **Short-term Tasks:** Evaluations, analyses, workshops and regional coordination meetings.
- » **Organizational Development:** Capacity building and strengthening of African organizations and private sector associations.
- » **Strategic Planning and Priority Setting:** Working with government and USAID to ensure an appropriate strategic plan, consistent with SADDC; modification and updating of existing plans; and setting priorities within broad plans. Work can be specific to government or to USAID.



### Contact Information

Who Manages the IQC  
at ACDI/VOCA?

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## Benefits of Using SFSA IQC

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### » Prequalified, Tailored Teams

Competition among the three SFSA IQC holders offers a streamlined alternative to full and open competition. The consortia have been selected based on their carefully assembled teams of experienced contractors with diverse skills and experience who can respond to missions' varied needs in addressing all aspects of food security.

### » Rapid, Cost-Effective Procurement

The SFSA IQC saves time and resources because it uses a simplified cost structure. Contractual terms and conditions already have been negotiated with the prime IQC holders.

### » Regional Flexibility for U.S. Funding

Task orders may be written and issued for the implementation of both regional and bilateral mission activities. The IQC will be managed by the regional East Africa Economic Growth office with the office of Food for Peace. As such, missions may use this IQC to undertake market-oriented humanitarian relief activities. Under mission-driven task orders, the procurement process is managed by the local Contracting Officer (CO) and the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) within the mission.

### » Sole-Sourcing

Task orders may be sole-sourced to IQC holders by USAID missions in the following circumstances: justified and urgent government need, access to a unique special skillset offered under the contract or to issue a logical follow-on task order.

## The ACDI/VOCA Consortium

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ACDI/VOCA is a mission-driven, market-oriented nonprofit development organization with 45-plus years of experience in Africa. Our team includes the following:

- **ACDI/VOCA**—the prime contractor, specializes in project management and technical expertise in comprehensive value chain development.
- **Associates for International Resources and Development (AIRD)**—focuses on international trade policy, regional integration and organizational development.
- **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**—specializes in humanitarian relief, agricultural productivity and agro enterprise development, microfinance, voucher systems, and targeted nutrition.
- **Crown Agents**—provides expertise in international trade, procurement and logistics, finance and institutional development.

- **Danya International**—develops innovative communications and outreach, monitoring and evaluation, and information technologies.
- **IFDC**—specializes in soil fertility, input supply systems, input policy analysis and market information.
- **John Mellor Associates (JMA)**—offers expertise in trade policy, regulatory issues, food policy, technology policy, institutions for agricultural finance and strategic planning and priority setting.
- **Kimetrica**—provides market information systems, baseline surveys, and real-time monitoring and evaluation.
- **Ohio State University (OSU)**—focuses on analysis of rural financial markets and services, institutional capacity building, public-private partnerships, and biotechnology.

Collectively, the ACDI/VOCA team has implemented over \$400 million of development and humanitarian interventions, working with over 1 million farmers in SFSA countries. Our team enjoys success in East and Southern Africa due in large part to a strong network of local and regional partners, and our 56 local offices throughout the region. For the IQC, ACDI/VOCA has developed a roster of more than 40 resource partners at the grassroots, national and regional levels.

## How to Access SFSA Services

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1. A USAID mission in an SFSA target country prepares a scope of work (SOW) within the scope of the SFSA IQC and submits it to the USAID SFSA COTR at the East Africa regional mission in Nairobi for review and clearance.
2. The COTR reviews the SOW to ensure that it falls within the SFSA technical areas and sends a response to the mission. After receiving concurrence from the SFSA COTR, the mission CO and COTR determine the procurement timeline and send a request for task order proposal (RFTOP) to the three prime contractors, including ACDI/VOCA.
3. ACDI/VOCA and the other IQC holders submit task order proposals to be evaluated by the mission's evaluation committee. After evaluation, the CO awards a task order contract. Performance is monitored by the task order COTR in the relevant local mission as well as the East Africa regional mission in Nairobi.

**"A** family is considered food secure when its members do not live in hunger or fear of hunger. Food security is defined as having four main components: availability, access, utilization and stability. Families and individuals require a reliable and consistent source of quality food, as well as sufficient resources to purchase it. People must also have the knowledge and basic sanitary conditions to choose, prepare and distribute food in a way that results in good nutrition for all family members. Finally, the ability to access and utilize food must remain stable and sustained over time."

*Feed the Future, 2010*