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U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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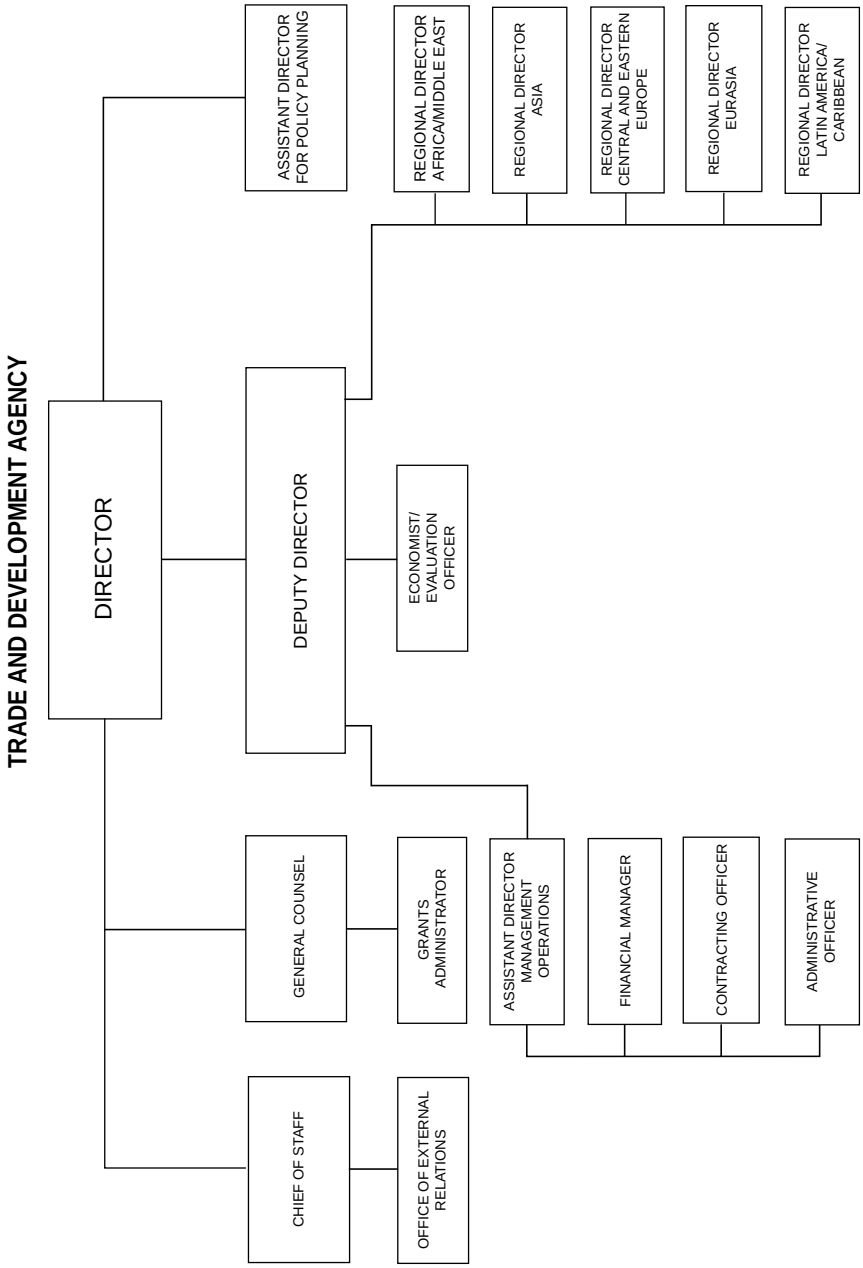
The Trade and Development Agency's mission is to advance economic development and U.S. commercial interest in developing and middle-income countries in the following regions of the world: Africa/Middle East, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eurasia.

The Trade and Development Program was established on July 1, 1980, as a component organization of the International Development Cooperation Agency. Section 2204 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (22 U.S.C. 2421) made it a separate component agency. The organization was renamed the U.S. Trade and Development Agency and made an independent agency within the executive branch of the Federal Government on October 28, 1992, by the Jobs Through Exports Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 2421).

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment, and sustainable economic development.

Working through the U.S. private sector to implement its programs, USTDA brings best practices and U.S.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technology to bear in delivering specific, results-oriented development assistance. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods, and services.

USTDA works with other U.S. Government agencies to bring their particular expertise and resources to a development objective. These agencies include the Departments of State, Treasury, Commerce, Transportation, Energy, Agriculture, and Homeland Security, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Activities

USTDA funds various forms of technical assistance, feasibility studies, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. Working closely with a foreign project sponsor, USTDA makes its funds available on the condition that the foreign entity contract with a U.S. firm to perform the activity funded. This affords American firms market entry, exposure, and information, thus helping them to establish a position in markets that are otherwise difficult to penetrate. USTDA is involved in many sectors, including aviation, energy, telecommunications, environment, health care, mining and minerals development, biotech, and agriculture.

USTDA funded studies evaluate the technical, economic, and financial aspects of a development project. They also advise the host nation about the availability of U.S. goods and services and can be used by financial institutions in assessing the creditworthiness of an undertaking. Grants are based on an official request for assistance made by the sponsoring government or private sector organization of a developing or middle-income nation, and costs for a study typically are shared between USTDA and the U.S. firm developing the project.

The Agency makes decisions on funding requests for feasibility studies based on the recommendations contained in the definitional mission or desk study report, the advice of the U.S. Embassy, and its internal analysis.

Sources of Information

Requests for proposals (RFP's) to conduct feasibility studies funded by USTDA are listed in the Federal Business Opportunities *(FedBizOpps)*. Information on definitional mission (DM) opportunities, which involve reviewing projects under consideration for support by USTDA, can be obtained by calling the DM hotline at 703–875–7447. Small and minority U.S. firms that wish to be included in the USTDA's consultant database and considered for future solicitations should register with the Online Consultant database through the Internet at www.tda.gov.

In an effort to provide timely information on Agency-supported projects, USTDA publishes the *Pipeline* and a calendar of events on a bi-weekly basis. For a paper subscription, call CIB Publications at 703–516–4801. For an E-mail subscription, and to be added to our mailing list, visit the guest book at www.tda.gov. A quarterly publication, *USTDA Update,* contains current items of interest on a variety of program activities. Region- or sector-specific fact sheets and case studies also are available. An annual report summarizes the Agency's activities.

Agency news, reports, and lists of upcoming conferences, orientation visits and business briefings are available through the Internet at www.tda.gov.

Regional program inquiries should be directed to the assigned Country Manager. Phone, 703–875–4357. Fax, 703–875–4009. E-mail, info@tda.gov.

USTDA's library maintains final reports on all Agency activities. These are available for public review Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Copies of completed feasibility studies must be purchased through the Department of Commerce's National Technical Information Service (NTIS).

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[For the Agency for International Development statement of organization, see the *Federal Register* of Aug. 26, 1987, 52 FR 32174]

The U.S. Agency for International Development administers U.S. foreign economic and humanitarian assistance programs worldwide in the developing world, Central and Eastern Europe, and Eurasia.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent Federal agency established by 22 U.S.C. 6563. Its principal statutory authority is the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2151 *et seq.*). USAID serves as the focal point within the Government for economic matters affecting U.S. relations with developing countries. USAID administers international economic and humanitarian assistance programs. The Administrator is under the direct