

# FACES BEHIND DCA



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## Kofi Owusu-Boakye Investment Officer – East Africa

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**Q. What do you do for USAID?**

**A.** As a DCA Investment Officer, I'm responsible for helping USAID Missions design, execute, and implement partnerships using the DCA credit guarantee authority. The partnerships foster private sector participation in the Agency's development priorities.

**Q. What part of your job do you find most inspirational?**

**A.** I've had the incredible privilege of having worked in all three DCA functional areas - new business development, project risk assessment, and portfolio monitoring. Each role gave me a unique insight into the incredible and inspirational reality that we have been entrusted with a tool that carries with it the full faith and credit of the United States Government.

**Q. What is your favorite part of the job?**

**A.** I appreciate the narrative of how DCA addresses development with private sector innovation. It's easy to explain what I do to people, since they

can easily relate to the idea of financing as a critical constraint in any private endeavor.

I also like that DCA offers one of the few opportunities in development work where you can get practically real-time feedback on the impact of your engagements. At the end of every year, I know that I have been instrumental in facilitating financing for important development projects that would not have been possible without the guarantee. It's a great feeling to have that kind of positive closure at the end of each fiscal year.

**Q. How did you end up at USAID?**

**A.** I owe my position at USAID to an alumnus of the University of Virginia, who recruited me from the Economics Department. He was the godfather of DCA portfolio management, and I had the great privilege of working with him for two years, helping to manage and establish the operating platform for a fast-growing portfolio of guarantees worldwide. I recently celebrated ten years of service at USAID's Development Credit Authority.