

FACES BEHIND DCA



Amanda Femal

Asia & Middle East Team Lead

Q. What do you do for USAID?

A. Based at USAID's Washington headquarters, I lead the Development Credit Authority's Asia and Middle East team. I work with a talented team of colleagues to develop credit guarantee solutions that further the development objectives of USAID field offices, or missions. For example, we are developing concepts and transactions to combat global climate change by promoting clean energy production.

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

A. Without question the most inspirational part of my job is the impact credit guarantees have on entrepreneurs. Whether discovering a bank partner has reduced its collateral requirements by 50% or meeting a borrower who was able to access credit for the first time as a result- these are the stories that make even the less glorious aspects of the job worth it.

Q. What is your favorite part of the job?

A. The people. I feel very fortunate to work alongside such a bright, inspiring, and forward thinking group of colleagues who aren't afraid to think outside the box, push boundaries, and explore new ways to do development.

Q. How did you end up at USAID?

A. I landed a position at USAID the way many people in this Agency did- through the Peace Corps and graduate school track. During my Peace Corps service, I worked with a microfinance NGO which allowed me to combine my undergraduate finance degree with international experience. This is where I developed my passion for development and was compelled to continue my studies, obtaining a Master of International Public Affairs. I continued to work in the development sphere with The World Council of Credit Unions, and with The QED Group, LLC prior to joining USAID.