



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

RUSSIA

BIOGRAPHY

Leon S. Waskin

Mission Director



“For over 15 years, USAID has been working in partnership with Russian non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, government agencies, and private companies.

Our experience has repeatedly shown that when we combine Russian and American knowledge and skills, we have a powerful impact on improving people’s lives.”

Since January 2008, Leon S. Waskin has served as the Mission Director for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Russia, where he has helped focus that mission on moving from providing assistance to working in partnership with Russia and on building strategic alliances with non-traditional partners.

A Senior Foreign Service Officer, Waskin has served with USAID for over twenty years in ten overseas posts and in Washington, DC.

Most recently, Waskin served as the USAID Mission Director to Afghanistan from 2006-2007 and as the USAID Representative to Mongolia from 2004-2006. He also served as Acting Mission Director of the Regional Mission/Asia in Bangkok, Thailand from 2003-2004, where he oversaw programs in Burma, China, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam.

As the Director of the Asia and Near East Bureau's Office of Strategic Planning and Operations from 2002-2003, Waskin led the bureau's strategic planning and budgeting processes. And he was responsible for revising the Agency's basic programming policies and streamlining its performance reporting and Congressional Budget Justification processes as Director of the Office of Program Coordination (PPC) from 2000-2002.

Waskin's extensive career with USAID also includes service as Assistant Mission Director in Madagascar from 1998-2000; Office of Development Finance Director for the USAID mission in Honduras from 1993-1997; Project Development Officer for the USAID mission in Nicaragua from 1990-1993; and an International Development Intern in the Regional Economic Development Services Office for East and Southern Africa from 1988-1990. Waskin originally joined USAID as a Capital Projects Officer in Zaire from 1981-1983 and 1985-1987.

Originally from Lansing, Michigan, Waskin served as a legislative assistant for the Office of State Senator Jack Faxon in Michigan in 1984. He obtained a bachelor's degree in political science from Kalamazoo College and a master's degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. Waskin is fluent in Spanish and French.