



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AZERBAIJAN

BIOGRAPHY

Keith Simmons Acting Country Coordinator



AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- MANAGEMENT/LEADERSHIP
- DIPLOMACY
- NEGOTIATIONS/PROBLEM SOLVING
- HOST-COUNTRY RELATIONS

Keith E. Simmons served as Mission Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Serbia and Montenegro from 2004 to 2007, as Mission Director for USAID Armenia from 2001 through 2004, and as Mission Director from 1999 to 2001 in Angola. As Mission Director, he managed large, complex and sensitive programs. He also led the development of new strategic frameworks designed to assist in achieving democratic and economic reform transitions and Euro-Atlantic integration in Serbia and Montenegro; and economic and democracy transition reforms in Armenia. In Angola, Simmons designed a strategy that recognized that the relief to development continuum is not linear and addressed both humanitarian needs and development. Simmons signed the first partnership between USAID and a major Oil Company in 2000.

As a Minister-Counselor in the Foreign Service, Simmons has served as Acting Deputy Chief of Mission in Armenia and Serbia, and as Chargé d' Affaires in Serbia. Simmons has served for over twenty-two years in eight countries and Washington DC. Simmons retired from USAID in October of 2007 and received the Distinguished Career Achievement Award from the Administrator of USAID in 2008.

Simmons has also served with USAID as Program Officer in Angola from 1998 to 1999; Senior Advisor in the Europe and Eurasia Bureau from 1996-1998; Chief of the Project Development Office for the USAID Mission in Niger from 1993-1996; Project Officer in the Sahel West Africa Office in Washington DC from 1984-1985; and Project Manager for the USAID Mission in Gambia from 1981-1984.

Simmons was the Executive Vice-President for RDA International, an international consulting firm, from 1985-1993. He began his career in international development as a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia from 1965 to 1967. He served as the Peace Corps Country Director in Bahrain from 1976-1978, and in Yemen from 1978 to 1980. Simmons developed the first joint Peace Corps-USAID project in 1979. He has working fluency in French, Spanish, and Portuguese; and has basic Arabic and Serbian.

Simmons has taught international business as an adjunct professor for the MBA program at National University in Sacramento, California, and taught finance at Sacramento City College in California.

He worked as a Social Worker for the County of Sacramento and as Chief of Community Services for the Sacramento City-County Housing and Redevelopment Agency from 1969 to 1976.

He has an MSW from Wayne State University and an MBA from National University.