



# AFRICAN VOICES

A NEWSLETTER ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

USAID Bureau for Africa, Office of Sustainable Development Vol.7 , No.2 Summer/Fall 1998

## USAID Supports Anticorruption Efforts in Africa *Africans at the Forefront of Anticorruption Activities*

**A**nticorruption efforts in Africa was the topic of a recent hearing before the Subcommittee on Africa of the U.S. House of Representatives' International Relations Committee. The United States and others in the donor community are concerned about governance and the fight against corruption, said Carol Peasley, then acting assistant administrator of the USAID Bureau for Africa, in her testimony. "But even more important, Africans themselves are in the forefront of the effort to improve governance, increase transparency and accountability, and fight corruption. USAID strongly supports these African-led efforts both through our overseas programs and our coordination with the donor community."

"In Africa," Peasley told the committee, "corruption exacts a higher toll than in other regions of the world because the economies of African countries can least afford the economic consequences of corruption. Therefore, corruption in Africa is not only a governance issue, but a developmental one as well." She noted that although there is evidence of corruption throughout Africa, there is also evidence that it is less extensive than in other regions of the world.

### USAID's Approach to Corruption

Over the next two years, USAID will provide more than \$35 million for activities to improve governance in Africa, many of which will contribute to fighting corruption. In addition, USAID is in the process of developing a framework to assist its missions develop strategic responses to corruption worldwide. Corruption is caused by many factors and USAID takes a broad approach to reducing corruption. USAID's programs address corruption in four ways: by strengthening transparency and accountability in government, supporting economic reform programs that reduce governments' direct control over the economy, promoting the rule of law and legal reform, and assisting efforts of civil society to fight corruption.

USAID seeks to strengthen transparency and accountability in government through activities such as training and technical assistance for audit institutions in many countries including Benin, Tanzania, and Madagascar. USAID has helped a commission that investigates corruption in Tanzania and funded extensive work on ethics legislation in South

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## Kenya Promotes Women's Political Participation *Lessons Learned from the 1997 Elections*

by Anne O'Toole Salinas

**W**hen Kenyans went to the polls for general elections on December 27, 1997, they had two female presidential candidates and more than twice as many women parliamentary candidates to choose from than in the 1992 elections. Women demonstrated their political strength by coming out to the polling stations in much greater numbers than in 1992, constituting the majority of Kenyans who cast votes. However, the results were mixed, with fewer

women being elected at the national parliamentary level, although 60 percent more women candidates were victorious at the civic level than in the 1992 elections. While both donors and civil society groups admit that some of the election results were disappointing, much has been learned from the 1997 elections and all groups remain committed to increasing the political participation of women in Kenya.

USAID/Kenya incorporated a focus on women's political participation into their democracy program in 1995. The focus on strengthening civil society's capacity to participate in the political process, including an emphasis on women's participation, supports the overall democracy program goal of creating effective demand for sustainable political, constitutional, and legal reform. Since 1990, USAID has sought to support women's economic empowerment, protect repro-

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## Africans at the Forefront of Anticorruption Activities

### USAID Takes Multipronged Approach to Combat Corruption

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Africa. In addition, USAID has supported training for members of legislatures to help build relationships between representatives and their constituents.

In the area of economic reform, USAID focuses on programs that reduce governments' direct control over the economy and thus reduce the opportunities for corruption, such as the sale of scarce commodities or import permits. USAID has supported deregulation in Ghana, Uganda, Guinea-Bissau, and other African countries. Through the Africa Trade and Investment Policy Program, USAID will work in countries that are seen as the best reformers to encourage further deregulation of the economy and implement uniform rules and standards that will mitigate corrupt practices.

In the area of the rule of law, USAID promotes legal reform to develop legal frameworks for conducting public and private business. For example, many African laws date back to the colonial era and are no longer relevant for emerging democracies. USAID also provides training for judges and court administrators to prevent tampering with records and to reduce delays in hearing cases. In the commercial sector, USAID provides new options, such as alternative dispute resolution, to resolve conflicts and encourage investor confidence.

Civil society organizations perform a critical watchdog function in the fight against corruption, monitoring the activities of government and publicizing corruption within the government and private sector. USAID has supported the anticorruption campaigns of civil society organizations in Senegal, Niger, and Madagascar.

In addition, since 1994, USAID has supported the work of Transparency International (TI), a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization based in Germany. This year USAID began supporting TI's "integrity" programs in Benin, Ghana, and Mozambique, which

bring together government officials, civil society representatives, journalists, and business leaders to jointly develop strategies to fight corruption. TI aims to counter corruption in international business transactions and at national levels through its national chapters.

***"But even more important, Africans themselves are in the forefront of the effort to improve governance, increase transparency and accountability, and fight corruption."***

***— Carol Peasley, former acting assistant administrator, Bureau for Africa***

Twelve national chapters currently exist in Africa and another seven are under formation.

#### African Initiatives to Combat Corruption

"African governments are well aware of the toll that corruption takes on their political and economic systems," said Peasley. "They are working with each other to address these problems through multinational meetings focusing on governance and corruption, to identify joint strategies and areas of cooperation."

Within the past two years there have been important corruption conferences held in Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Ghana that have provided African leaders with a forum to develop strategies to fight corruption, exchange information, and inform the international community about steps they have taken to reduce corruption.

In Botswana, the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime is a model for anticorruption institutions with over 4,200 cases reported since its

inception in 1994. In one quarter of the reported cases, investigations have been completed, resulting in the prosecution of nearly 200 cases. In Namibia, the government is developing comprehensive ethics and anticorruption legislation and policy. This will result in a national discussion document that will form the basis of a nationwide public consultation process leading to draft legislation targeted for 1999. In Uganda, the Constitution established an Office of the Inspector General, which has a broad mandate and specific powers to address corruption. To target corruption in procurement, Benin, Mali, Malawi, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda have notified the World Bank that all their procurement contracts will carry anticorruption clauses.

By supporting such efforts, African countries become better partners for United States' trade and investment support, said Peasley. And by supporting programs to combat corruption, African governments gain greater legitimacy and are better able to promote political stability and economic development. These countries then become better partners and countries where long-term sustainable development can be achieved.

"While challenges to good governance remain," said Peasley, "we see great opportunities to work with Africans committed to addressing these challenges and to usher in a new era of political and economic development for the continent."

*Dana Ott, a democracy specialist in the Africa Bureau's Office of Sustainable Development, contributed to this article. For more information contact: AFR/SD/DG, USAID, RRB 4.06-055, Washington, DC 20523; e-mail dott@usaid.gov. The full-text of Ms. Peasley's testimony can be found at [http://www.info.usaid.gov/press/spe\\_test/testimony/testimony980520.html](http://www.info.usaid.gov/press/spe_test/testimony/testimony980520.html)*

***— Patricia Mantey***

# Clinton Pledges Help for Democracy in Africa

**D**emocracy does not exist in a void. It is bound to the economy, health, and education, and if it is to succeed and flourish then those components, as well as the social and political fabric of a society, must be healthy and stable. In an effort to make democracy more viable in Africa, President Bill Clinton is supporting several activities in Africa intended to strengthen democratic processes on the continent.

## Clinton's Four Goals for Trip

Before leaving on his 10-day, six-country tour of Africa this past March, Clinton set four goals for the trip—goals to be met while working in partnership with Africans. The first was to support African democracies, both established and newly emerging ones; the second was to increase trade and investment with Africa; the third was to work in partnership with Africa to help prevent armed conflict in their continent; and the fourth was to help preserve Africa's natural resources.

Clinton spoke the most about democracy in his first speech, which was given in Ghana, a constitutional democracy. During his speech at Independence Square in Accra, Clinton applauded Ghana's president, Jerry John Rawlings, and its democratic government, which "lights the way for Africa" where democracy is growing, and for Ghana's ability to maintain peace among its diverse population. President Rawlings was elected in a multiparty election in 1992, then reelected in 1996.

In Cape Town, South Africa, Clinton told the South African Parliament that the United States and South Africa "share the same basic values: a commitment to democracy and peace." He went on to say that the road to democracy is a long one, as 220 years of democracy in the United States have shown. "We know that democracy is always a work still in the making, a march toward what our own founders called a more perfect union," Clinton said.

President Nelson Mandela of South Africa voiced the same need for

democracy. He pointed to those countries in Africa where, he said, there were high standards of living but no vote. "We insist that even in those countries that people must have votes. Even though they may enjoy all the things which the masses of the people in other countries don't enjoy, democratic institutions are still critical," Mandela said.

And in Rwanda, Clinton promised to walk the road to democracy with Africa. "We will join with you to strengthen democratic institutions, to broaden participation, to give all Rwandans a greater voice in their own governance," he said.

## Summit for Peace, Prosperity

On that road to democracy, Clinton and other African leaders took what Clinton called "an important step forward." At the Entebbe Summit for Peace and Prosperity held in Uganda on March 25<sup>th</sup>, eastern and central African regional leaders signed a joint communique that outlined American-African partnerships in the next century.

"We pledged to work together," Clinton said, "to build a future in which the doors of opportunity are open to all and countries move from the marginal to the mainstream of the global economy; to strengthen democracy and respect for human rights in all nations; to banish genocide from the region and this continent so that every African child can grow up in safety and peace."

During his tour of Africa, Clinton highlighted four activities that he hopes will go a long way in helping democracy take root in a continent with a history of political instability and military rule: the Great Lakes Initiative, the Education for Development and Democracy Initiative, Radio Democracy for Africa, and the African Crisis Response Initiative. Both the Great Lakes Initiative and the Education for Development and Democracy Initiative involve USAID activities.



Courtesy of the White House

*South Africa's President Nelson Mandela gives President Clinton a "thumbs-up" approval on the new Africa-centered initiatives.*

## Great Lakes Initiative

The Great Lakes Initiative is a \$30 million plan where the United States will work with the people and governments of the Great Lakes countries to support judicial systems that are impartial, credible, effective, and inclusive. It will strengthen judicial planning bodies and improve the functions of court systems, prosecutors, police, and prison systems with the ultimate goal of ending the violence that has been rife through this region and bringing stability to the area. USAID will focus on the civilian and internal elements of the initiative. The targeted countries are Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda. The United States is spearheading this initiative and is promoting the involvement of other bilateral and multilateral organizations, especially from Europe.

## Education for Development and Democracy Initiative

Clinton spoke about the Education for Development and Democracy Initiative at the community of Kisowersa School in Mukono, Uganda. Over the next two years, \$120 million will be made available for innovative programs to improve education in Africa and link African education systems through modern information technology to models,

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## Lessons Learned from the 1997 Elections

### *Women Faced Resistance, Discrimination, and Lack of Resources*

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ductive rights, and promote family planning, but the current focus on increasing women's political participation reflects an acknowledgment that empowering women is key to developing a vibrant democratic society in Kenya.

### **Civil Society Groups Help Educate, Train Women in Electoral Process**

To achieve its goals, the USAID/Kenya democracy program dispensed small grants to a number of civil society groups for their civic education efforts in the run-up to the 1997 elections. The activities undertaken by the grant recipients included training for women political aspirants and education of women at the grassroots level about the electoral process and the power of their vote. In 1997, over half of all USAID-funded democracy activities in Kenya were in these areas.

Among the groups that benefited from USAID support was the Education Center for Women in Democracy (ECWD), a membership-based organization created in 1993 to further the political empowerment of women in Kenya. ECWD's projects are aimed at building the capacity of women political candidates, educating the public about the need to vote responsibly, and sensitizing the media to the plight of female politicians. In the run-up to the elections, ECWD focused on monitoring the electoral process, educating the public, and training women candidates for parliament.

The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), a smaller

membership-based organization founded in 1992, also received USAID support for their efforts to increase women's political power, sensitize Kenyans to gender issues, and change discriminatory laws that perpetuate the subordinate status of women. NCSW used its USAID grant to conduct civic education in four provinces using a "training of trainers" approach. The civic education programs covered many areas including gender, legal and human rights, electoral laws and procedures, political and democratic freedoms, and increased political participation. NCSW also provided confidence building training for candidates competing for positions in the local government in the conflict-prone rural areas of the Central Province of Kenya.

### **Mixed Results**

The results of the work of these and other organizations aimed at increasing women's political participation in the 1997 elections were mixed. Although there were more female candidates for parliament, only four were elected (compared to six in 1992). Conversely, despite fewer women competing for office at the civic level, a significantly larger percent were elected than in 1992. Women had hoped to win 30 percent of civic and parliamentary seats in the 1997 elections, but secured fewer of the seats at both the parliamentary and civic levels. In order to better understand the poorer than expected performance of women candidates in the last elections, USAID/Kenya asked a team from the Center for Democracy

and Governance in the agency's Global Bureau to examine these results as part of an overall assessment of the mission's democracy and governance program.

After conducting interviews and reviewing relevant materials, the assessment team concluded that "there is no causal link between civic education geared towards women on the one hand, and women candidates' electoral performance on the other. The experience of 1997 shows that women candidates continue to face structural barriers within political parties (not just within KANU, the Kenya African National Union) and government institutions, reinforced by cultural norms that exclude women from decision-making processes." The most significant obstacles that women candidates encountered in the 1997 elections were resistance within their parties to nominate females, lack of resources as a result of economic discrimination, and intimidation, harassment, and verbal abuse throughout their campaigns. Women's groups seeking to train potential female candidates and to conduct civic education seminars became targets of repression by the Kenyan authorities and were at times prevented from conducting planned educational sessions.

Many of these barriers, the assessment team concluded, are related to the Kenyan government's policy of undermining strong civil society movements and organizations, many of which have advocated for increased women's political participation. This pattern is demonstrated at the national level in the Kenyan government's failure to implement the recommendations it adopted following the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995. More recently, Kenyan political parties did not abide by legislation passed by parliament in November 1997 that upheld the need to consider gender equality when nominating members of parliament (MPs). The Kenyan Women's Political Caucus notes that "neither the political parties nor the Electoral Commission took pains to abide by that principle in the process of nominating MPs."

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## ACCORD Fosters a Climate of Negotiation in Africa

### *Group Offers African Solutions to African Challenges*

**B**y 1992, negotiations were already underway in South Africa for the transition from apartheid to democratic governance. There was an urgent need for South Africans to be better informed about the negotiation process and to be trained in strategies for negotiation at local levels, as well as to popularize negotiation as a way to deal with disputes. The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, ACCORD, was established to provide a mechanism to deal with conflict arising from transition negotiations and to assist with the process of shifting the paradigm from protest to negotiation.

The organization was founded as an educational trust in association with South Africa's five historically black universities: Western Cape, Fort Hare, Transkei, The North, and Durban-Westville. Programs range from high-level political mediation and capacity building and training in conflict resolution skills to research into ongoing and emerging conflicts in Africa. The goal of ACCORD, said Vasu Gounden, the center's executive director, "is to train as many people as possible in the skills of negotiation and mediation and give them a broad understanding of conflict management." ACCORD receives funding from a wide range of organizations, including USAID.

From 1992 to 1994, ACCORD provided training in conflict resolution to more than 600 leaders of the African National Congress with the idea that many of them would hold key positions in the new provincial and national governments and transfer their skills to others. By 1995, according to Gounden, there was a mind shift in South Africa and on the continent of Africa in terms of beginning to appreciate why managing conflict through mediation and negotiation might be an alternative way to deal with conflict.

The scope of ACCORD's work has grown and the organization now aims to influence political developments

across the continent by bringing conflict to the forefront as an alternative to violence and protracted disputes. Through its programs ACCORD seeks to build and transform leadership for the present and future.

Africa's transition from colonialism to democratic governance continues to be marked by a proliferation of conflicts. When historic group differences and rivalries are exploited for the purpose of control, the result has been widespread conflict characterized by ethnic strife and religious intolerance. As a conflict resolution organization, the challenge now facing ACCORD is to create a stable environment to facilitate the process toward democratic governance in Africa and to empower civil society and government to exercise power through nonviolent means.

ACCORD's success has been rooted in two principles: their ability to translate lessons learned in one context to another, and their success in transferring skills and insights that have had far-reaching impact. The center takes two broad approaches to its work: The first deals with psychological change and involves building a culture for the peaceful settlement of disputes. The second approach deals with structural change and involves the establishment of structures and systems, and building capacity by empowering and training people to use these structures and systems to mediate and negotiate conflict.

In 1993, for example, ACCORD became involved with the community of Mpumalanga to support a fragile peace process in this formerly very violent part of the province of KwaZulu-Natal. One of the ways in which this was accomplished was to internationalize the activities there and add momentum to the process. Leaders from Mpumalanga were invited to Burundi to share their successes and failures

with grassroots activists and leaders. Many of these lessons were also transferred to the Somalia context when ACCORD was invited to broker a peace initiative between Somali clan leaders Ali Mahdi Mohamed and General Mohamed Farah Aidid. This intervention was also the by-product of another successful ACCORD program. In 1995,



*President Joaquim Chissano accepts ACCORD's Africa Peace Award on behalf of the people of Mozambique.*

ACCORD began a relationship with a group of Somali women who were trained in conflict resolution. Some of these women started an NGO specializing in conflict resolution and they have discovered their power to impact the lives of others in their country by training NGO and clan leaders in conflict resolution skills and practices.

ACCORD's biennial Africa Peace Award serves to draw attention to and celebrate the many positive steps being taken for peace across Africa and to motivate others to follow. The award focuses on the recognition of communities or nations who actively promote respect for human rights, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and good governance of public affairs. The 1997 award was given to the nation of Mozambique for their tremendous strides in rebuilding their country since the end of the

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## Groups Offers African Solutions to African Challenges

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war there in 1994. Past recipients include the community of Mpumalanga and President Nelson Mandela.

During its first five years, ACCORD focused on popularizing conflict resolution and building a new culture of conflict mediation and negotiation. But political changes in Africa have changed popular sentiment to the point that alternatives to violent confrontation are now being actively sought throughout the world. In response, ACCORD's focus for the years 1997 to 2001 is on institutionalizing conflict resolution and building capacity, structures, and systems.

In order to achieve this new mission, ACCORD has developed a Comprehensive Peace Model aimed at institutionalizing conflict resolution through intervention, education and training, research, and communication, which has

been officially recognized by the United Nations as an appropriate model for the continent. Another important part of ACCORD's vision for the future is the establishment of the first Conflict Prevention Centre on the continent, which will be located in Durban, South Africa. It will provide a comprehensive range of services and facilities to accommodate high-level conflict interventions, continuous training and research, and a venue for policymakers, academics, and practitioners to meet on a regular basis to discuss conflicts and to formulate policy and evolve practical responses to conflicts in Africa.

Other new activities include ACCNET, a comprehensive database of information about conflicts across the continent, which will be available on the Internet to contribute to a continentwide early warning system for

conflict. In September of this year, ACCORD will begin publishing *Conflict Trends*, a newsletter focusing on trends in conflict in Africa, and in 1999, ACCORD will launch the *Africa Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

ACCORD is committed to playing an active role in ushering in this new era of change and transformation. They believe that Africa has much to offer the rest of the world and they pride themselves on offering African solutions to African challenges in the field of conflict resolution.

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## Clinton Pledges Help for Democracy in Africa

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experiences, and technologies of successful education programs. This initiative brings together resources and expertise from a number of U.S. government agencies and domestic organizations including USAID.

"We want to widen the circle of educational opportunity as is already happening here in Uganda. We want to make investments in primary education for those who will educate boys and girls because that is critical to improving health, reducing poverty, raising the status of women, and spurring economic growth," Clinton said.

The initiative will target three broad groups: universities, school-based community learning centers, and policy and democracy networks throughout Africa. Democracy networks and education reform networks especially will be targeted and strengthened through training, exchange programs, study tours, electronic connectivity, and technical support. One of the results of this initiative is expected to be the strengthening of 25 democracy networks where journal-

ists, nongovernmental organizations, women's advocacy groups, parliamentarians, and civic leaders can jointly build expertise and capacity.

### African Crisis Response Initiative

During his visit to Senegal, Clinton met with Senegalese troops trained as part of the African Crisis Response Initiative (ACRI). The purpose of this five-year, multinational, capacity-building training initiative is to work with African nations and international partners to enhance African peacekeeping and humanitarian relief capacity. ACRI creates highly effective, rapidly deployable peacekeeping units that can operate jointly in the event of humanitarian crisis or traditional peacekeeping operations. The initiative was launched in 1996 in response to the 1994 Rwandan genocide when close to one million Tutsis were massacred by Hutus in only 90 days. More than 2,000 African troops from Senegal, Uganda, Malawi, and Mali have already been trained in the program by U.S. forces, and the training of troops from Ghana and Ethiopia will take place this year.

At the meeting in Senegal, Clinton also announced that "with our African partners we will also establish a center for security studies ... to provide programs for civilian and military leaders on defense policy planning and the role of militaries in democratic societies."

### Radio Democracy for Africa

In his speech in Gaborone, Botswana, Clinton announced the establishment of a new radio broadcasting service for Africa. Some \$4.8 million will go toward Radio Democracy for Africa, a division of the U.S. Information Agency's Voice of America, which will broadcast additional programs focused primarily on the promotion of democracy and human rights throughout the continent.

One of the outcomes will be that African nations will have the opportunity to hear politicians and political leaders of various orientations, something that many cannot now do since state-run media are the norm in much of Africa. Radio Democracy for Africa will also focus on the promotion of conflict resolution by covering reconciliation efforts and events.

— *Jacqueline Z. Rodriguez*

## Women Candidates Faced Resistance, Discrimination, and Lack of Resources

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While these barriers primarily accounted for the poor performance of women candidates, the assessment team drew some lessons from the pre-election civic education efforts by Kenyan nongovernmental organizations. The team found that poor coordination among various groups' civic education activities resulted in redundancy and confusion among some participants who heard conflicting messages in different workshops or seminars. Some participants felt that they were "talked down to" by urban women who cannot relate to their day-to-day lives, while others pointed out that poor urban women had been overlooked in these efforts. On the positive side, the team found that USAID-funded activities laid a foundation for improved future efforts and had a positive impact by indirectly fostering the creation of effective women's networks and successful lobbying efforts to increase women's political participation at the local level.

### Programs Impact Women's Political Participation

In addition to civic education, the USAID/Kenya program supported other efforts that had a demonstrable and positive impact on women's political participation. General support for election monitoring by indigenous groups, for example, served to enhance women candidates' ability to participate and document discriminatory practices. Numerous legal and constitutional reforms, including an amendment to include sexism within the constitutional definition of discrimination, came about largely as a result of the input of women's groups and the advocacy efforts of the National Council Executive Committee (NCEC), a USAID-supported umbrella group of civil society actors.

Teresa Muraya, the USAID/Kenya staff member overseeing the women's empowerment program, said that "[Kenyan] women are currently looking for and testing strategies to form networks, movements, or other fora around issues of common interest, such as women's involvement in the consti-

tutional reform process." Acknowledging this trend and the need to impact on the social, cultural, and political barriers, the assessment team's recommendations for USAID/Kenya's democracy program include supporting the devel-

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***"Efforts to increase women's political participation cannot be successful unless complemented by advocacy for reforms that aim to tear down the structural barriers women face."***

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opment of a women's political agenda and the participation of women in the constitutional reform process. To support these objectives, the team recommended giving special attention to strengthening the capacity of organizations and supporting the creation of networks of women's organizations. The team also advised that when determining which groups to fund, priority be given to those that aim to facilitate the participation of women in the constitutional reform process, have a demographically diverse constituency and outlook, and seek to develop coalitions. In addition, the team suggested looking to community-based programs to increase women's political participation in local and national governance.

The assessment report, which is awaiting the mission's approval, will form the basis for revising the mission's democracy and governance strategy. It is expected that the program will continue to have an emphasis on women's empowerment with a focus on providing support for advocacy efforts around the participation of women in the constitutional review process. It will also continue to support civic education efforts, particularly in the rural areas. Reflecting on the past year's civic education efforts, Muraya noted that,

"cultural barriers must be considered and strategies appropriately employed. These may include involving men in awareness raising and explaining the basis for the need to empower women."

### Lessons Learned

The 1997 elections provided a snapshot of the progress made to date and revealed valuable lessons for the future development of the USAID/Kenya program and other USAID efforts to increase women's political participation. Perhaps the most important of these lessons is that efforts to increase women's political participation cannot be successful unless complemented by advocacy for reforms that aim to tear down the structural barriers women face. These advocacy efforts are most effective when women's organizations unite to create and promote a comprehensive women's political agenda. The development and evaluation of program strategies should also incorporate an analysis of the political climate and the identification of areas where women have demonstrated success in obtaining political power. For example, in Kenya, the observation that many successful women candidates in the 1997 local elections had previous public service experience in their communities will serve to inform and shape future activities. The lessons learned in Kenya should continue to advise the important work of USAID, in Kenya and elsewhere, that supports efforts to ensure that the process of democratization is strengthened through the substantive participation of women.

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## Media Resources

### Conflict and its Resolution Across the Continent



The 13-part television and radio series, *Africa: Search for Common Ground*, was coproduced by Common Ground Productions and Ubuntu TV and Film in Cape Town, South Africa. Each program explores a different conflict situation and how it is being resolved. Viewers experience conflicts ranging from a village *kgotla* (council of elders) mediating a land dispute in the former Zaire, to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in postapartheid South Africa. In each program a story is told by local players in the conflict, but their narratives shed light on issues of concern to the entire continent: young soldiers returning to village life; the struggle of generations of women for greater equality; the integration of farmers of different cultures; and reconciling the need for land conservation with community needs.

The series was produced in English, French, and Portuguese. For more in-

formation contact: Common Ground Productions, 1601 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20009; telephone 202-265-4300; fax 202-232-6718; e-mail [cgp@sfcg.org](mailto:cgp@sfcg.org).

### Library of African Cinema

California Newsreel's 1998 Library of African Cinema collection contains 40 titles from over 15 countries and includes 12 new releases. The collection features films from Southern Africa, recent francophone releases, and films on gender in Africa. The films presented in this collection attempt to unify audiences around a variety of civic agendas—grassroots economic development, social tolerance, government transparency, and personal freedom. A new compilation of television programming from postapartheid South Africa looks at the challenge South African television faces in designing a more democratic, inclusive, and public spirited media.

For more information contact: California Newsreel, 149 Ninth Street, San Francisco, California 94103; telephone 415-621-6196; fax 415-621-6522; web site <http://www.newsreel.org>.

*African Voices* is published quarterly by the Africa Bureau Information Center, operated by the Academy for Educational Development under contract to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and is part of the Research and Reference Services project of USAID's Center for Development Information and Evaluation.

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