

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	West African Regional Program (WARP)
Program Title:	Regional Economic Integration Strengthened
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	624-004
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$10,206,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$5,956,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2007

Summary: USAID's regional economic integration work is governed by the premise that the national economies in West Africa, aside from Nigeria, are too small to achieve significant levels of economic growth on their own; rather the disparate economies need to spur growth through increased trade and investment. West Africa must therefore reduce obstacles to trade both within the region and with the rest of the world, as well as implement regional policies that foster private sector development. USAID's activities facilitate trade and help West African governments adopt harmonized economic policies.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Increase Participation in Global Trade and Investment (\$4,300,000 DA). In order to continue to increase global trade, and in particular exports to the United States under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), USAID is working with export-ready producers of processed fish, shea butter, processed cashews, hand-woven textiles and handicrafts, and industrially-produced apparel. To accomplish this, USAID is bringing West African entrepreneurs to international trade shows, training over 2,900 people in marketing and exporting these products and will provide stakeholders with market information through USAID sponsored websites at least 500,000 times by the end of the fiscal year. In addition, USAID is connecting customs offices in three countries to a regional network. USAID is funding an advisor from the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to perform four pest risk assessments to remove barriers to agricultural exports to the US. USAID is also collaborating with the regional inter-governmental organizations, namely the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), to encourage policy reform in key areas such as the implementation of a regional customs union, improvement of regional road transport, and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards to increase trade and mitigate corruption. Principal contractors, grantees, and agencies: Carana Corporation, International Fertilizer Development Center, and USDA/APHIS (primes); and Abt Associates, the Geekcorps Division of the International Executive Service Corps, and AMEX (subs); and others to be determined.

Increase Private Sector Growth (\$3,500,000 DA). USAID is starting a project called the Market Information Systems and Traders' Organizations in West Africa (MISTOWA) to improve the use of market information for regional trade in maize, rice, cassava, and fertilizer in Ghana, Burkina Faso, Benin, Nigeria, Mali and Senegal. USAID will enable over 5,000 people (of which at least 20 % will be women) to access improved regional market information systems, leading to a 5% increase in trade in the selected commodities. Principal contractors and grantees: International Fertilizer Development Center (prime); and the Geekcorps Division of the International Executive Service Corps, and AMEX (subs).

Expand and Improve Access to Economic and Social Infrastructure (\$1,906,000 DA). USAID is providing technical assistance to ECOWAS in support of two critical energy infrastructure projects, the West Africa Power Pool and West Africa Gas Pipeline. Both projects contribute to increasing affordable and sustainable sources of energy for the region, and reduced prices for consumers. Construction begins this year on the pipeline that taps flared gas from the Niger Delta and pipes it to thermal electric generating plants in Benin, Ghana, and Togo. For the Power Pool, USAID technical assistance will result in a 4.5% increase in transnational energy over 2004 levels and in the construction of new energy lines. USAID will also design and begin implementation of a regional assistance package to improve the competitiveness

of the telecommunications industry. Principal contractors and grantees: To be determined.

Strengthen Financial Sector's Contribution to Economic Growth (\$500,000 DA). USAID will design and begin a project to facilitate the movement of cross-border regional remittances and payments. Principal contractors and grantees: To be determined.

FY 2006 Program: Increase Participation in Global Trade and Investment (\$2,500,000 DA). USAID will continue to promote West African exports to the US, with emphasis on items eligible for reduced tariffs under AGOA. USAID will provide technical assistance to export-ready producers of processed fish, shea butter, processed cashews, hand-woven textiles and handicrafts, and industrially-produced apparel. USAID will train over 2,600 people in marketing and exporting these products and stakeholders will access market information through USAID sponsored websites at least 660,000 times. In addition, customs offices in ten countries will be connected to a regional customs network. USAID will continue to fund an advisor from USDA/APHIS to help remove the barriers impeding the export of West African produce. USAID will also work with two influential regional inter-governmental organizations (ECOWAS and WAEMU) to encourage policy reform on the key issues of a regional customs union, road transport and SPS standards, which will increase trade and mitigate corruption. Same implementers as FY 2005.

Increase Private Sector Growth (\$2,300,000 DA). USAID will continue to support the MISTOWA project aimed at improving the use of market information to increase regional trade. The project will expand its scope and scale to work with traders' and producers' associations in products promoted in FY 2005 (maize, rice, cassava, and fertilizer in Ghana, Burkina Faso, Benin, Nigeria, Mali and Senegal) as well as shea butter, cattle, tomatoes, onions and cashews in the additional countries of Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger and Togo. USAID will support 15,000 people (of which at least one-third will be women) to use an improved regional market information system, leading to an increase in the trade of these commodities by as much as 5% over the previous year. Same implementers as FY 2005.

Expand and Improve Access to Economic and Social Infrastructure (\$956,000 DA). USAID will continue to fund technical assistance to ECOWAS in support of the West Africa Power Pool and West Africa Gas Pipeline, increasing the intra-regional energy trade and reducing prices for consumers. For the Power Pool, USAID technical assistance will result in transnational energy sales increasing by 4% from 2005 levels. USAID will provide technical assistance to WAEMU in order to implement regional roaming agreements linking cellular providers, expand connectivity, and identify policy strategies to extend access to the sub-Atlantic cable to inland countries. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Strengthen Financial Sector's Contribution to Economic Growth (\$200,000 DA). USAID will assist governments to implement micro-economic policy reforms to facilitate the flow of financial resources throughout the region. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Performance and Results: To date, USAID's program to achieve economic integration in West Africa has achieved notable successes in energy, policy harmonization and trade promotion. USAID's commitment to the West African energy sector has made ECOWAS a stronger regional organization and resulted in the adoption of the regional Energy Protocol by 15 heads of state, with three countries having ratified it. The West African Power Pool is a priority for ECOWAS, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and the World Bank. USAID's recent support to ECOWAS to achieve its ambition of a customs union is nearing fruition. USAID technical assistance has made it possible for the governments of the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone to analyze harmonized tariff policy and commit to the ECOWAS-wide common external tariff in 2005. Finally, since FY 2001 USAID's activities have facilitated over \$119 million of trade between the U.S. and West Africa. By the end of this Strategic Objective, USAID will have helped to create a more economically integrated West Africa by strengthening the region's ability to formulate economic policy and trade goods and services, with a special focus on improving trade in affordable energy.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

West African Regional Program (WARP)

624-004 Regional Economic Integration Strengthened	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	15,966	1,694
Expenditures	4,526	642
Unliquidated	11,440	1,052
Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	10,564	0
Expenditures	5,545	-190
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	26,530	1,694
Expenditures	10,071	452
Unliquidated	16,459	1,242
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	10,206	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	10,206	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	5,956	0
Future Obligations	16,000	0
Est. Total Cost	58,692	1,694