

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Sierra Leone
Program Title:	Strengthening Democracy
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	636-002
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,842,000 DA; \$2,692,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$1,476,000 DA; \$2,500,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: USAID's Democratic Governance program in Sierra Leone provides technical assistance in: broadening community-based political participation; promoting civic dialogue and informed participation in public affairs; and strengthening the ability of the Government of Sierra Leone (GOSL) and local communities to manage the diamond mining sector. This program equips local communities, including traditionally disenfranchised groups such as women and youth, with the information and skills they need to participate in decision making, tackle corruption, and contain human rights abuses. At the national level, the program hones in on issues of governance, particularly in the diamond sector (diamonds having been one of the principal sources of conflict during Sierra Leone's civil war) by developing a more transparent, equitable, and legal diamond industry.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,842,000 DA; \$1,232,000 ESF). This program seeks to broaden community-based political participation through a variety of mutually reinforcing activities. USAID funding will enhance the effectiveness and responsiveness of newly formed local government councils and civil society by promoting open debate, strengthening the capacity of local government councils, providing effective advocacy skills, and informing citizens of their rights and responsibilities. Training and mentoring programs for Paramount Chiefs, Members of Parliament and newly-elected local leaders will encourage informed dialogue, transparency, and the level of active community participation required to make decentralized programs successful. Additional activities utilizing ESF funds will strengthen the engagement of civil society in the electoral process at all levels. Through the use of mass media, a parallel effort will promote civic dialogue and informed participation in public affairs. Specific activities will include the development of radio programming and other media materials designed to support the newly created local councils and address national issues related to good governance. USAID will provide assistance to advance the establishment of community radio stations and effective media networks. Principal contractors and grantees: Management Systems International (MSI), Search for Common Ground (SCG) (primes); World Vision International (WVI) (sub), and others to be determined.

Promote and Support Anti-corruption Reforms (\$1,460,000 ESF). This activity addresses corruption, primarily in Sierra Leone's mining sector, by strengthening the ability of the GOSL and local communities to manage diamond resources. USAID will continue to support the Kimberley Process, a voluntary agreement between industry and national governments to encourage legitimate and transparent trade in diamonds. Alternative marketing outlets (sales) are also being created by involving more international players. USAID will also facilitate the involvement of commercial banks to eliminate the role of untraceable cash in the purchase of diamonds. In addition, a new program will be launched to expand anti-corruption activities beyond the diamond sector. This initiative will build upon previous USAID efforts to increase citizen's access to justice, strengthen the rule of law, and address key human rights issues, corruption, and mismanagement in local and district governance processes. Principal contractors and grantees: MSI (prime); others to be determined.

FY 2006 Program: Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,476,000 DA; \$1,000,000 ESF). The program will continue activities which provide good governance, civic training and advocacy skills for local councils, community leaders, civil society organizations and community participants to create responsive

governance, transparency and accountability at all levels of government in Sierra Leone. Additional activities will utilize ESF funds to engage and support civil society in the electoral process. Support will continue for political party strengthening and development; targeted local and national electoral reforms; and electoral processes and related logistical support. USAID will continue its nationwide multimedia civic education and public information campaign to promote informed participation in local governance. USSAID will provide technical assistance and materials to promote community radio. Additional efforts to promote good governance, peace and stability through community-based public events will continue.

Promote and Support Anti-corruption Reforms (\$1,500,000 ESF). Anti-corruption efforts will continue to encourage communities and governments to make positive changes in the way the diamond sector is managed in Sierra Leone. USAID will also consolidate the advances made in development of private sector alliances involving international diamond buyers, local mining cooperatives, local NGOs, and international human rights watch groups and organizations. Activities to increase transparency, reporting, and management oversight of diamond tax revenues by local government authorities will continue. Additional anti-corruption activities (beyond the diamond sector) will continue with the aim to increase citizen's access to justice, strengthen the rule of law, and to address key human rights issues, corruption, and mismanagement in local and district governance processes.

Same implementers as FY 2005, plus others to be determined.

Performance and Results: Significant advances have been made in stimulating citizen's collective awareness of specific human rights and corruption issues while strengthening the capacity of local and national civil society organizations to seek redress. USAID has worked with local communities and the National Forum for Human Rights to launch a campaign to secure legal rights for citizens to access key information about government processes and decision-making. In addition, USAID has developed a community paralegal training manual and provided training to 117 paralegals in targeted districts. One third of the participants were women; youth groups and associations were also well represented. Paralegals developed sample work plans to monitor cases of human rights abuses. They are now able to replicate basic human rights training in their communities; provide advice on and/or settle disputes at the local level; network with other paralegals; and engage with traditional authorities on issues of litigation.

USAID activities have increased the proportion of legally traded diamonds and reduced the role of conflict diamonds as a source of domestic and regional instability. USAID has improved governance in the mining sector by working through a High Level Steering Committee to leverage political support at the international level. USAID continues to be a key player in implementing the Kimberly Process and artisanal diamond management. Within Sierra Leone, national laws have been strengthened and enacted to combat illegal mining, smuggling and unlawful possession of diamonds. At the local level, diamond-mining communities have received direct financial benefits in proportion to the legal mining and marketing taking place within their chiefdoms. The net effect is clearly demonstrated in increased licenses and legal export figures. USAID-funded activities contributed substantially to legal mining activities in FY 2004, during which legal diamond mining netted about \$120 million, a 76% increase over \$68 million in FY 2003. In addition, cash allocations to diamond-producing communities rose from \$500,000 in FY 2003 to over \$815,000 in FY 2004. These are significant sums to communities, which have received virtually nothing from central governments in the past.

By program completion, Sierra Leoneans in targeted areas will be more knowledgeable of their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and will be equipped to be stronger advocates for better democratic performance from the GOSL and its institutions. Local councils as instruments of democratic governance will be more effective and responsive to community needs, and rural and traditionally disenfranchised groups like women and youth will become key players in improved democratic governance. The mining sector, as an example of a key industry requiring democratic reform, will become increasingly transparent and responsive to the needs of local communities. The net effect will be the eventual reduction in reasons to resort to violence and hence promote peace, security and stability in Sierra Leone.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Sierra Leone

636-002 Strengthening Democracy	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	4,997	2,318
Expenditures	2,641	1,281
Unliquidated	2,356	1,037
Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	1,817	5,178
Expenditures	1,767	226
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	6,814	7,496
Expenditures	4,408	1,507
Unliquidated	2,406	5,989
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	1,842	2,692
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	1,842	2,692
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	1,476	2,500
Future Obligations	1,342	1,342
Est. Total Cost	11,474	14,030