



USAID | SOUTH AFRICA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COUNTRY PROFILE



R. ZURBA, USAID/SOUTH AFRICA

A new government office building was constructed by historically disadvantaged small business contractors in a public-private partnership coordinated by USAID. This partnership ultimately generated a savings of over \$200 million compared to what the project would have cost if constructed by the government.

OVERVIEW

South Africa is celebrating 12 years of liberation from apartheid. The government is committed to all forms of freedom and invests heavily in its people. South Africa plays a key economic and political role in Africa. However, high unemployment, HIV/AIDS, crime, and public sector corruption drain public support for South Africa's hard won democracy. The nation's greatest challenges are to ensure that the epic changes made since 1994 are consolidated and benefit most South Africans.



Government needs to further increase economic growth, job creation and further reduce the number of people living in poverty. USAID programs in South Africa focus on education, economic growth and creating employment, HIV/AIDS and health, democracy and governance, and housing and municipal services.

PROGRAMS

INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

Prior to 1994, most black teachers and students received inadequate education. South Africa has developed new school curricula to replace apartheid era teaching methods. USAID activities help boost students' abilities in math and science and support Department of Education and other partners to train teachers at 102 disadvantaged high schools in these crucial disciplines. USAID supported short-term study tours to the United States for over 100 education leaders from disadvantaged communities so they could acquire new teaching skills. USAID's Ambassador's Girls' Scholarship Program enables 1,500 vulnerable girls to go to school. Finally, USAID strengthens the capacity of disadvantaged institutions' capacities to participate in the restructuring of higher education.

REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY

Despite impressive economic growth, unemployment remains high—between 26.5 and 40 percent in 2005. Deep economic and social fissures from the apartheid era persist. USAID provides technical assistance and training to help small- and medium-sized firms identify new markets, build production and management capacity, and secure financing to expand and create sustainable private sector employment. In FY 2005, USAID's employment creation program generated over 4,100 jobs and more than \$268 million in sales in businesses and agribusinesses. USAID-funded technical

SOUTH AFRICA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1994
Population: 45.6 million (2004)
Income per person: \$3,630 (yr)
Source: World Bank Development Indicators

USAID IN SOUTH AFRICA

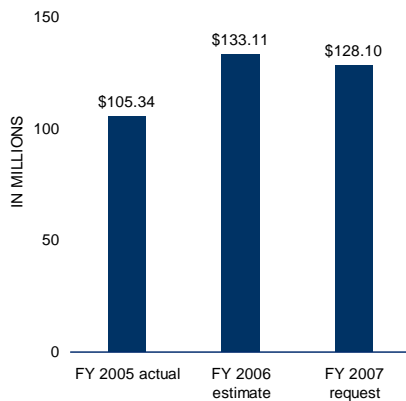
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USAID | SOUTH AFRICA

COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA



For more information, see the
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

assistance was particularly important in encouraging the development of policies and smaller banks, giving thousands of lower-income customers access to banking services.

ACCESS TO HIV/AIDS AND HEALTH SERVICES

South Africa has more HIV-positive people than any other country, and has at least 1.1 million orphaned children. Every USAID program in South Africa addresses AIDS. USAID provides care for over 200,000 people and helps build management and technical abilities to deal with AIDS. The Agency assists South Africa's government and businesses to establish workplace policies and provide treatment so employees affected by AIDS continue to work productively. Programs allow nongovernmental and faith-based groups to train local residents and support hospices to help people with AIDS at or near their homes, providing much-needed compassionate support from local neighborhood caregivers. USAID's prevention efforts give medication to pregnant women to prevent passing the virus to their unborn babies, and encourage youth to practice safe behavior.

PROMOTING SOUND DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Official statistics show that crime rates are stabilizing, but crime remains a central concern because it has a direct impact on people's lives and undermines public confidence and investment. After helping to increase court management efficiencies and reduce case backlogs by 11 percent over the past five years, USAID's program now enables prosecutors to take more cases to trial. USAID is also supporting South Africa's government and nongovernmental organizations to assist victims of violence, especially rape. USAID's anti-corruption program helped 17 municipalities draft policies to ensure transparency and accountability in the allocation of houses, the awarding of contracts, and the hiring of personnel.

INCREASING ACCESS TO HOUSING AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Almost 10 million historically disadvantaged South Africans still live in urban slums that lack basic shelter, drinking water, sanitation, solid waste disposal, and electricity, and which are hot spots for HIV/AIDS transmission and conflict. USAID programs increase access to safe, decent housing and municipal services, and support policies that lead to improved urban management and sustainable human settlements. Over the last six years, the program has reached 3.4 million poor households with improved or first-time housing, water, sanitation, and electricity. USAID/South Africa also implements President Bush's Water for the Poor, Clean Energy, and Global Climate Change Initiatives.

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