

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Zimbabwe
Program Title:	Participation
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	613-008
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$735,000 DA; \$1,984,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$2,982,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$735,000 DA; \$2,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2000
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: USAID's program to enhance citizen participation in economic and political decision making includes training, technical assistance, and grants to U.S. and local organizations to: 1) enhance advocacy activities to Parliament and local authorities; 2) build a more effective and accessible Parliament; and 3) support local authorities to be more capable and open to local citizen input. This program was designed to strengthen civil society organizations' (CSOs) demand for more access and openness on legislative matters, and selected national institutions' ability to be more receptive to these demands.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,969,000 ESF; \$2,982,000 prior year ESF). USAID is supporting organizations and institutions that advocate for greater inclusiveness in national-level decision-making through their engagement with Parliament. Partners are receiving training, technical assistance, and institutional support to strengthen their organizational structures and policies. In FY 2005, participating partners are working on a variety of issues to assist marginalized groups such as women, children, the rural poor, and the physically and mentally disabled. At the local authority level, local institutions are articulating their constituents' concerns to improve service delivery, budgeting, and transparency. Principal contractors and grantees: To be determined.

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$485,000 DA, \$15,000 ESF). USAID is continuing to strengthen Parliament's capacity to better address the concerns of citizens and citizens' groups in parliamentary business. USAID is working with selected committees to increase participation in the legislative process and to assist Parliament in exercising legislative oversight of selected ministries. Specific activities include support for public hearings, finalizing technical inputs into Parliament's standing orders, reviewing petition procedures, and developing more in-depth guidelines to review budgets. Parliamentary staff also are receiving ongoing training in terms of public hearing guidelines and legislative analysis. With the March 2005 Parliamentary elections, USAID anticipates supporting a new member induction program and, as the current parliamentary session closes, USAID will support an assessment of the work undertaken by the 5th Parliament. Principal contractor: State University of New York (prime).

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$250,000 DA). USAID is concentrating technical assistance and training on urban and rural local authorities committed to enhancing citizen input and improving service delivery. USAID is training elected mayors and councilors in modern management practices, good governance, and effective participation with civil society. The program specifically is working to improve performance management to increase accountability, consensus building, and improved service delivery within the constraints of a contracting economy. Principal contractor: the Urban Institute (prime).

FY 2006 Program: Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,985,000 ESF). USAID will use FY 2006 ESF funds to continue its support for advocacy efforts to Parliament. Both Parliament's NGO Bill, if enacted into law (which would restrict foreign funding for NGOs in the democracy and governance sectors), and the Parliamentary elections in March 2005, will influence the implementation of the program. Nonetheless, USAID anticipates continuing a robust advocacy program in order to increase public debate across a

wide spectrum of issues. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$485,000 DA, \$15,000 ESF). Parliament remains one of the few avenues through which robust political debate takes place in Zimbabwe. USAID will continue to provide technical input and encourage public hearings, civic participation, and improved outreach to the media. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$250,000 DA). USAID will consolidate its assistance to local authorities in order to support mayors and councilors in effectively managing the affairs of local government in a participatory and effective manner. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Performance and Results: Despite the difficult political environment, the long-term process of increasing democratization in Zimbabwe continued to move forward, although more slowly than originally anticipated. Although there were setbacks in FY 2004, the program made progress in building the foundations of accountability. USAID-supported organizations provided direct input into every major piece of legislation in FY 2004, and the number of Committee meetings in which they provided substantial input into the legislative process nearly doubled. These contributions had a significant positive impact on legislation affecting NGOs, media, electoral reforms, anti-corruption, and the national budget. A survey of key Parliamentary staff and Members of Parliament found the quality of legislative and budgetary input from civil society organizations to be extremely useful and relevant.

USAID also encouraged increased and better-organized public hearings, with the number of hearings in the most recent legislative session twice that of the previous reporting period. The clearest demonstration of the impact of this increased public scrutiny was the attendance of over 350 participants at a public hearing to discuss the proposed NGO Bill. The quality of policy and legislative debate significantly improved due to USAID's support for technical input and more frequent public debate. USAID's support to the Parliamentary Legal Committee, which examines the constitutionality of all legislation, resulted in landmark opinions declaring several pieces of legislation unconstitutional, including the NGO and Electoral Commission Bills.

USAID grants to local civil society organizations led to improvements in transparency and accountability by local authorities, particularly in the production of budgets and strategic plans. The program also assisted local authorities in implementing modern municipal management practices, and provided management technical training to 235 mayors and councilors, a 41% increase over the previous year.

By the end of the program in 2006, citizen participation in decision-making will be enhanced, and Parliament and local authorities will be more accountable and more accessible to the constituencies they represent.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Zimbabwe

613-008 Participation	DA	DFA	ESF
Through September 30, 2003			
Obligations	18,957	100	10,048
Expenditures	11,962	0	4,253
Unliquidated	6,995	100	5,795
Fiscal Year 2004			
Obligations	1,817	0	110
Expenditures	2,779	92	3,091
Through September 30, 2004			
Obligations	20,774	100	10,158
Expenditures	14,741	92	7,344
Unliquidated	6,033	8	2,814
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	2,982
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA			
Obligations	735	0	1,984
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005			
Obligations	735	0	4,966
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA			
Obligations	735	0	2,000
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	22,244	100	17,124