

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Namibia
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	673-009
Status:	New in FY 2004
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$775,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$697,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2009

Summary: Given the relative newness of Namibia's democracy, Namibians have yet to fully utilize all the political processes available to them. USAID's program to strengthen democratic institutions and processes includes technical assistance, training, and grants that target institutions to reinforce the nexus between civil society and selected government institutions. Core activities are designed to build the capacity of Parliament (members and staff) and Regional Councils to increase their constituency outreach capabilities and to facilitate broad-based participation of Namibians in democratic processes, and to build the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) to enhance their ability to conduct policy advocacy by linking with elected representatives.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$300,000 DA). To create a better functioning and more accessible constituency outreach system, USAID is training newly-elected Members of Parliament, Regional Councilors, and parliamentary staff in the efficient use of committees, public hearings, and informal meetings. Principal grantee: Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID - prime).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$475,000 DA). USAID is providing technical assistance, training, and grants to civic groups and community-based media organizations to help build their capacity to advocate more vigorously and effectively around issues of local concern by utilizing various means of communication available to them. This will help facilitate optimal use of parliamentary systems to increase the dialogue on key issues between elected representatives and the Namibian citizenry. Principal grantee: Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID - prime).

FY 2006 Program: Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$247,000 DA). USAID will continue to support Parliamentarians and Regional Councilors to conduct constituency outreach activities and to incorporate input from civil society into policy formulation, legislative decision-making, and regional and local planning. Principal grantee: Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID - prime).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$450,000 DA). USAID will provide advocacy skills training and institutional strengthening to civic groups across the country to enable them to participate more effectively in outreach and advocacy activities. Principal grantee: Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID - prime).

Performance and Results: This program builds on the foundations of USAID's democracy and governance program that ended in FY 2004. USAID helped create an interactive website and an interactive radio and television program which provides a forum for elected officials and their constituents to discuss issues housed in Parliament that enabled elected officials to reach their constituents more frequently, and helped civic groups bring their issues to the attention of legislators. Community networks are providing media coverage of legislators and their constituency activities through the production of television and radio programs. Eight television documentaries and 67 radio programs have been produced. CSOs have conducted 94 advocacy campaigns to influence pending legislation, and two-thirds of the 41 bills introduced in Parliament received public comment through hearings at Parliament and outside the capital city of Windhoek.

The Namibian Parliament continued to increase its competency to conduct parliamentary business with confidence. Legislative staff and Members of Parliament increased their capacity to adopt rules and revise procedures on which to base a functioning committee system, and to hold public hearings at the national and regional levels. The parliamentary research center and interactive website that provide information to members and staff in key areas such as reviewing the national budget and analyzing legislation have made the national budget process more transparent, and has promoted more rigorous debate in both houses of Parliament. A USAID-funded political party handbook is now being used by political parties to strengthen their capacity to manage their core functions more effectively (for example, membership recruitment, fund raising, and outreach).

Major outcomes expected by the end of this program include higher levels of substantive public debate and dialogue; an increase in the frequency and quality of input provided by civic groups on policy issues; and an increase in the rate at which public concerns and input are incorporated into the decision-making processes of elected bodies. These outcomes will be achieved through the increased use of constituency outreach mechanisms by elected officials. As a result, there will be greater trust between government and civil society, public ownership of policies, and stronger checks on executive branch powers.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Namibia

673-009 Democracy and Governance	DA
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	794
Expenditures	31
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	794
Expenditures	31
Unliquidated	763
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	775
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	775
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	697
Future Obligations	1,500
Est. Total Cost	3,766