

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Malawi
Program Title:	Increased Constitutionalism and Advocacy
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	612-007
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$755,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$550,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2007

Summary: USAID's Democracy and Governance objective in Malawi aims to increase civic involvement in the rule of law for poor Malawian citizens, with particular emphasis on increasing their access to paralegal services, improving the ability of civil society organizations (CSOs) to engage in meaningful discourse with government, and strengthening the ability of the national Parliament to respond to citizen concerns. USAID will provide training, technical assistance, and modest operating expenses to Malawian CSOs to promote advocacy, civic participation, and community resolution of problems through paralegal services to the poor, as well as technical assistance to Parliament and civil society networks to strengthen the parliamentary committee oversight function. Prior to Malawi's May 2004 national elections, USAID will provide financial and technical assistance to key government and CSO actors to assure widespread and accurate registration of voters, political party strengthening, and civic/voter education and monitoring. To complement USAID resources for these activities, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) has agreed to provide \$8.5 million to USAID for common democracy and governance objectives in Malawi over the FY 2004-2007 period.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Access to justice (\$355,000 DA). Augmented by a \$185,000 funding transfer from DFID, USAID will provide training materials and operating costs for a Malawian legal aid organization to provide legal services in 11 of Malawi's 29 districts. Approximately 700 volunteer community-based educators (30% women) will work with 14 paralegals (4 women), trained citizens, and traditional leaders to help citizens resolve a projected 1,600 cases at the community level through mediation and advice. Principal contractors/grantees: Malawi Centre for Advice, Research and Education on Rights.

Advocacy. Previously obligated funds will be fully disbursed for training and public awareness activities of three local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Two of the NGOs are faith-based organizations with significant grass-roots outreach, and the third is a radio drama group that broadcasts a weekly USAID-sponsored radio soap opera, reaching approximately 80% of Malawi's population. These activities will promote a greater flow of information on constitutional rights and responsibilities, with a focus on the practical application of rights by individuals and communities. Principal contractors/grantees: Public Affairs Committee, Story Workshop Educational Trust, Church and Society Program of the Livingstonia Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian.

National Assembly strengthening (\$200,000 DA). USAID will provide technical assistance, training, and commodities to seven parliamentary committees; train committee clerks; and provide a computer network for the National Assembly. In addition, key civil society networks will receive training in advocacy and budget monitoring. Principal contractors/grantees: National Democratic Institute; local NGOs.

Free and fair elections May 2004 (\$200,000 DA). Elections support will combine DA, prior year ESF, and a transfer of \$2,350,000 from DFID to focus on three discrete activities: provision of materials for voter registration in January 2004; technical assistance and training to strengthen political parties; and technical

assistance, training, and materials for civic and voter education and election monitoring activities carried out by local groups. These three activities will contribute to high levels of voter turnout, as well as a free and fair electoral process. Principal contractors/grantees: United Nations Development Program, International Republican Institute, Management Systems International.

FY 2005 Program:

Access to justice (\$200,000 DA). Significantly augmented by a \$1,000,000 transfer from DFID, USAID plans to provide training, technical assistance, equipment and materials, and operating costs for Malawian NGOs to increase the options for legal aid and alternative dispute resolution outside of Malawi's formal court system. Coverage is expected to expand to most districts in the country, and will include new conflict resolution approaches. A prime contractor/grantee to manage funding to Malawian organizations will be selected in mid-FY 2004.

Advocacy (\$350,000 DA). With these funds, in conjunction with a transfer of \$1,500,000 from DFID, USAID plans to provide technical assistance, training, and equipment and materials to selected Malawian NGOs to increase citizens' access to information about rights, responsibilities, institutions and processes, as well as to strengthen the capacity of local groups and citizens to stand up for their rights. The new Access to Justice prime contractor/grantee will also implement this activity.

Performance and Results: USAID helped Malawians participate more actively in civic life. Surveys undertaken in FY 2003 found that 35.8% of citizens in districts where USAID activities had taken place reported taking some civic action in the last year, such as attending a meeting, raising an issue, or attending a demonstration in order to solve problems, compared with 12% nationally. In 11 districts, USAID increased the legal aid services available to Malawians to resolve their problems at a community level, with the number of resolved-cases significantly exceeding the target (1,952 versus 1,200). At the national level, USAID-financed technical assistance, training, and limited commodity assistance (computers and peripherals) to Malawi's National Assembly yielded impressive results. In 2001, at the beginning of the strategy, Malawi's parliament rated 52.23 out of 100 on the Quality of Legislative Committees Index. In 2003, the rating for Malawi's parliament improved significantly to 62.35.

By the program completion date, Malawians will be more knowledgeable about their rights and responsibilities. An estimated total of 50% of citizens in targeted districts and 30% nationally are expected to report having taken some civic action in the previous year, such as attending a meeting or raising an issue in order to solve problems. In addition, rural, traditionally disenfranchised groups will have access to an expanded legal aid network that is expected to cover at least 60% of Malawi's districts. This network will include alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, thus reducing the burden on the formal court system and increasing access to justice for the poor.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Malawi

	DA	ESF
612-007 Increased Constitutionalism and Advocacy		
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	1,955	500
Expenditures	111	0
Unliquidated	1,844	500
Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	933	400
Expenditures	1,382	500
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	2,888	900
Expenditures	1,493	500
Unliquidated	1,395	400
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	755	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	755	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	550	0
Future Obligations	4,200	0
Est. Total Cost	8,393	900