

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	West African Regional Program (WARP)
Program Title:	Conflict Prevention
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	624-007
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$866,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$849,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY2001
Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: The Special Objective aims at enhancing West African regional capacity to detect and respond to conflict by 1) supporting the establishment of an early detection and response mechanism for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to help prevent regional conflicts; 2) strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations to participate in conflict detection and response; and 3) sharing lessons learned and best practices to avoid, mitigate, or transition from conflict to democratic governance.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Establish an ECOWAS early detection and response mechanism (\$400,000 DA). USAID will continue to support the operationalization of the ECOWAS Conflict Early Warning System by providing training and technical assistance. This will result in closer collaboration between the national civil society networks that have been established as a result of USAID assistance and the ECOWAS Observation and Monitoring Centers. These centers will implement the ECOWAS Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-keeping and Security within West Africa. Based in Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, and Liberia, the centers are mandated to detect incipient conflicts and recommend effective and proactive responses to ECOWAS. USAID will also play an important role in multi-donor efforts to a) complete a training needs assessment, b) design a coherent plan for ECOWAS' early warning activities, and c) strengthen ECOWAS' capacity to respond to donors' mounting interest in conflict prevention. USAID will also assist with the design of activities to strengthen the role of ECOWAS as the main actor in the mediation of disputes under existing peace accords and as the main liaison with civil society groups working on conflict prevention and peace building. Principal contractors and grantees: Catholic Relief Services (prime), West Africa Network for Peace building (sub), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (prime), and others to be determined.

Strengthen civil society capacity for conflict prevention (\$466,000 DA). USAID will continue to support national networks of civil society organizations in their efforts to play a bigger role in conflict prevention and peace-building and to liaise with the UNDP-funded Civil Society Liaison Officer stationed at ECOWAS headquarters. In addition, USAID will continue to support existing grants to non-governmental organizations to foster economic stability and social cohesion through reconstruction, peace-building and conflict activities in Guinea-Bissau and The Gambia. A consortium of grantees located in northeast Sierra Leone will continue to provide post-trauma counseling and referral services to men, women, and children in the aftermath of the civil wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia, while also increasing public and institutional awareness of gender-based violence. In collaboration with USAID/Mali, Population Media Center (PMC) will develop and broadcast a radio serial drama in local languages to disseminate messages about reproductive health and the struggle against trafficking in persons and HIV/AIDS. The series will reach populations in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, and Mali. Principal contractors and grantees: Catholic Relief Services (prime), West Africa Network for Peace building (sub), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) (prime), Concern Universal (CU) (prime); International Rescue Committee (IRC) (prime),

Search for Common Ground (sub), Center for Victims of Torture (sub), Population Media Center (PMC) (prime).

FY 2005 Program:

Establish an ECOWAS early detection and response mechanism (\$400,000 DA). In anticipation of a fully functional ECOWAS conflict mechanism, USAID will continue to provide technical assistance to ECOWAS to link the system to other resources, thus maximizing its effectiveness and reinforcing its role as chief mediator. USAID will also broaden the aforementioned multi-donor efforts. Same implementers as FY 2004.

Strengthen civil society capacity for conflict prevention (\$449,000 DA). USAID will pursue its assistance to civil society organizations to a) develop local, national, and regional capacity for conflict monitoring, early warning and preventive interventions, conflict mediation and arbitration and b) develop local and national networks to feed into regional and international systems to prevent conflicts and minimize the proliferation of arms. USAID will also assess the impact of the existing national civil society networks that have been established to prevent conflict. The media activity will continue and the work of the IRC Consortium may be extended to further focus on the provision of services to Liberian refugees. Same implementers as FY 2004.

Performance and Results: In FY 2003 USAID met with key Agency and State Department decision-makers to analyze on-going regional conflicts, prioritize areas for conflict intervention in the region, and agree on effective interventions. A joint request for conflict funds was successfully submitted to the Agency. The West Africa Network for Peace building (WANEP), a regional non-governmental organization, established national network offices in 11 ECOWAS member countries and placed a liaison officer in the Conflict Office at ECOWAS headquarters to bridge the gap between civil society and government interests. As donors' interest in supporting ECOWAS' conflict prevention efforts grows, USAID's partners, ECOWAS, and UNDP have formed a committee aimed at harmonizing efforts to operationalize the Conflict Prevention Mechanism. A USAID grant to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) revived national interest in the ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons and in pursuing its implementation. USAID pursued a number of cross-border activities in collaboration with the relevant U.S. Embassies. More than 700 men, women, and children in Sierra Leone received post-war trauma counseling and more than 150 government officials (122 men), including local chiefs, were sensitized about gender-based violence and trained on how to provide a better response. The bilateral missions in Africa jointly designed a flexible contracting mechanism that permits quick access to conflict funds.

At the end of this program, USAID will have helped to improve the capacity of the ECOWAS conflict prevention mechanism and strengthened civil society's ability to effectively detect and address conflict, thereby promoting stability within the region. Timely access to information is critical for the effective functioning of the conflict early warning system and to this end, USAID assistance will support the development of a database to routinely track country-level indicators and a list serve for the dissemination of conflict-related information.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

West African Regional Program (WARP)

	DA	ESF
624-007 Conflict Prevention		
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	3,105	650
Expenditures	147	0
Unliquidated	2,958	650
Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	3,004	0
Expenditures	1,384	261
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	6,109	650
Expenditures	1,531	261
Unliquidated	4,578	389
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	866	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	866	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	849	0
Future Obligations	5,000	0
Est. Total Cost	12,824	650