

West African Regional Program (WARP)

The Development Challenge: Conflict continues to plague this sub-region, undermining investments in its development and further impoverishing the majority of its people. The failure to resolve the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire has disrupted the pattern of intra-regional trade and displaced its people, both within Cote d'Ivoire and neighboring countries. The monumental task of rebuilding Sierra Leone is made all the more difficult by the influx of refugees from the conflict in Liberia while the potential for upheaval in Guinea threatens the stability and prospects for development of all its neighbors.

Development indicators for the region remain abysmal with more than half of West African countries falling within the bottom 25 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index for 2003. Cape Verde aside, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita for 2001 ranged from a low of \$470 for Sierra Leone to a high of \$2,250 for Ghana. The proportion of the population living on a dollar or less a day when measured between 1990 and 2001 ranged from 12% in Cote d'Ivoire to 73% in Mali. Forty per cent of countries experienced negative GDP growth during the same period. It is not surprising that only four countries - Cape Verde, Ghana, The Gambia, and Guinea - are on track with respect to half or more of their Millennium Development Goals. Although agriculture is viewed as the engine that will drive West Africa's economic growth and development, it too is faced with several biophysical constraints, including low soil fertility and low rainfall. In all, only 4% of West Africa's land area has both high soil fertility and sufficient rainfall for an adequate number of growing days. Ironically, these dismal development indicators for West Africa make the region all the more strategically important to the United States. Desperate and widespread poverty combines with porous borders and lax and corrupt bureaucracies to create a lucrative source of funds from illegal trade in the region's high-value natural resource wealth - diamonds, timber, and uranium - that directly or indirectly support terrorist groups.

The USAID Program: The West Africa Regional Program (WARP) deals with those West African development challenges that are most effectively addressed at a regional level. The WARP program works in partnership with USAID bilateral missions, U.S. Embassies, and leading regional intergovernmental organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). The program serves the 18 nations of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote D'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

The data sheets that follow this summary cover the four objectives for which USAID plans to use FY 2004 and FY 2005 funds. These objectives are concerned with: 1) fostering regional economic integration; 2) increasing the adoption of sustainable policies for and approaches to reproductive health, sexually transmitted disease, HIV/AIDS, and child survival; 3) strengthening food security and environmental policies and programs; and 4) supporting the establishment of regional conflict prevention mechanisms. Continued funding from the Presidential Initiative for Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE) will be used to expand trade between the region and the United States, particularly under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act and to bring the region further into compliance with World Trade Organization regulations. Further funding from the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA) will be used to start a program of activities to spread the benefits of biotechnology to farmers and consumers alike, foster the transfer of successful agricultural technologies to producers in the region and support the establishment of a viable sub-regional market information system. Core agriculture and environmental funds will help maintain vital regional food security systems. HIV/AIDS funds will be used to launch an innovative, region-wide program to contain the epidemic with a focus on advocacy and transfer of proven best practices. Child Survival and Health funds will support reproductive health and child survival activities that address the seemingly intractable issues of high fertility and maternal and child mortality in the region. Anti-corruption Initiative funds will be used to develop targeted activities to address the scourge of government corruption.

Other Program Elements: USAID's West Africa Regional Program will continue to collaborate with all USAID bilateral missions in the region and with relevant U.S. Government agencies. The Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and USAID will support each other's work in non-presence countries within the context of the new regional health project and President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. We will also work hand-in hand with agencies that are involved in agriculture and trade including the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service division and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Other Donors: Donor collaboration continues to improve significantly, especially in the context of assistance to the program's chief partner, ECOWAS. A united donor front has encouraged ECOWAS to undertake results-oriented strategic planning that sets clear goals and objectives, specific targets, and realistic budgets. Likewise, donors are working well together in the context of their support to CILSS, the organization that has always been the major player in food security issues, and that now has an increasingly important voice in regional agricultural and poverty reduction matters. Here too, USAID takes a lead role in addressing concerns about CILSS' sustainability. Increasingly donors are showing an interest in ECOWAS' conflict prevention role and USAID is working to coordinate donor inputs in this promising area. More importantly, the principal regional intergovernmental organizations are now beginning to work collaboratively in key areas such as energy, food security, agriculture policy development, and trade. This is a welcome trend.

The World Bank (WB), European Union (EU), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) through the Global Environment Facility and to a lesser extent, the Department for International Development (DFID), fund programs addressing environmental and biodiversity issues by taking a transboundary approach. Regional programs in agriculture are funded by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, UNDP, the German Development Agency, and DFID, which is also promoting genetically engineered nematode-resistant rice varieties. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) supports the fight against HIV/AIDS in West Africa and general epidemiological surveillance while the WB is funding the new five-country Abidjan-Lagos Transport Corridor HIV/AIDS project, modeled on USAID's HIV/AIDS transport corridor project. The German government gave funds for ECOWAS initiatives to help ensure regional peace and security, and the Canada Fund for Africa supports a West Africa Peace and Security Initiative. The WB is involved in the West African Gas Pipeline Project and a regional payment systems project, both of which also receive significant USAID support, and a West Africa capital markets project.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	West African Regional Program (WARP)
Program Title:	Regional Economic Integration Strengthened
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	624-004
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$6,390,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$19,000 DA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$6,456,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2008

Summary: USAID's program to promote economic growth through regional integration furnishes training and technical assistance to: 1) improve the environment for intra-regional trade; 2) foster extra-regional trade by linking the West African private sector to the global market; and 3) increase trade in energy by supporting the development of the West African Power Pool (WAPP).

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Improve intra-regional trade (\$3,500,000 DA). USAID will help create a more favorable environment for intra-regional trade by working with regional inter-governmental organizations, such as the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS), and the private sector. The ECOTrade activity will continue to build capacity within West African governments to assess the impact of adopting the ECOWAS-wide Common External Tariff (CET), implementation of which is a milestone toward an eventual Customs Union and full economic integration. The transparency and quality of customs and clearance procedures will be improved through the provision of computer equipment and associated training to upgrade and integrate these services across the region. Technical assistance and training to the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) will result in the production of standardized macroeconomic statistics and eventually a currency unification policy and improved central bank operations. The design of a region-wide Market Information System (MIS) project will be complete by mid-FY 2004. Its subsequent implementation will facilitate trade in agricultural inputs and commodities. The West African Trade Hub (WATH) will provide technical advice to policy drafters in ECOWAS and the eight-country West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) to harmonize sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) legislation. Region-wide agreement on the legislation will avoid charges of protectionism while regulating food, health and safety standards. Principal contractors and grantees: International Business Initiatives, Inc. (prime), IBM Business Consulting Services (prime), and Associates in Resources and Development (ARD) (sub).

Foster extra-regional trade (\$2,000,000 DA). Support to the West African International Business Linkages (WAIBL) program will continue with sector-specific trade missions and seminars, expanded outreach to U.S. companies on African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) linkages, and quarterly meetings with West African ambassadors scheduled for FY 2004. An advisor from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), working with the WATH, will accelerate the approval process for gaining entry to the U.S. market for between 6 and 10 agriculture products each year. The WATH will continue to increase exports of West African textiles under AGOA by training producers and exporters on the demands of the U.S. market and facilitating relationships with U.S. buyers. WATH will also assist the West African public sector in working with the U.S. Customs Service to receive textile visas and Category 9 certifications, both prerequisites to benefiting from AGOA. Principal contractors, grantees and agencies: Corporate Council on Africa (prime), USDA (prime), Carana Corporation (prime), and Abt Associates (sub).

Increase trade in energy (\$890,000 DA). USAID will fund technical assistance and training to promote development of the regional power sector. Technical advisors will help ECOWAS develop the WAPP's legal and regulatory framework; and establish regional regulatory capacity, a power pool institution, and an energy observatory. They will also help WAPP collect data, prepare regional grid codes, and secure financing for priority transmission projects. Training to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of energy utilities is also scheduled. Technical assistance will also be provided to prepare the gas market development plan. Principal contractors and grantees: Associates for International Resources and Development (prime), Purdue University (sub) and U.S. Energy Association (prime).

FY 2005 Program:

Improve intra-regional trade (\$3,500,000 DA). Continued funding under the TRADE and IEHA Initiatives will help develop and link national market information systems to the regional MIS. USAID will also support the joint ECOWAS-WAEMU plan to improve the condition of priority road transport corridors. Technical assistance to support the expansion of the CET will continue, and the need for follow-on work in customs facilitation will be reviewed. Support to WAMI will continue through mid-FY 2005, when the second currency is slated for introduction. Principal contractors and grantees: IBM Business Consulting Services (prime), others to be determined.

Foster extra-regional trade (\$2,000,000 DA). TRADE Initiative funds will be used to provide assistance to the private sector through WATH to promote exports globally and under AGOA. The WAIBL program will be supported through to its conclusion at the end of FY 2005. A training program that will ensure buy-in to the regional SPS legislation will be conducted. Principal contractors and grantees: Corporate Council on Africa (prime), others to be determined.

Increase trade in energy (\$956,000 DA). USAID will continue its long-term program of technical assistance and training to the WAPP. Technical advisors to national utility companies and ECOWAS will help further its development. USAID envisages technical assistance and training programs for legal and regulatory implementation, establishment of a regional regulator, institutionalization of the power pool organization, and assistance with developing regional finance for infrastructure investments. Training to improve the performance of utility companies will also likely continue. Same implementers as FY 2004.

Performance and Results: In FY 2003, USAID's trade promotion and regional economic integration activities benefited both public and private sector players, as best exemplified by the region's ministries of trade involved in the ECOTRADE project, ministries of energy as a result of the Power Pool program, hand-loomed textile producers working with the West African Trade Hub, in addition to West African and American entrepreneurs profiting from the WAIBL program. Heads of state of 15 countries signed the ECOWAS Energy Protocol. This protocol establishes a secure legal basis for facilitating trade and investment in the regional energy sector, potentially reducing one of the major barriers to business development in West Africa. Business linkage activities facilitated transactions totaling \$51.5 million between West African and U.S. businesses. Following a series of conferences in Mali and Washington, D.C., that attracted over 200 West African producers and U.S. buyers, over 90 tons of shea butter has been shipped from West Africa directly to the U.S. market.

By the end of this Strategic Objective, USAID will have helped create a more economically integrated West Africa by strengthening the region's ability to trade goods and services, with a special focus on improving trade in affordable energy. A largely "Balkanized" energy system comprising government-owned utility corporations will be transformed into a much more integrated and competitive regional industry through the construction of a backbone transmission line linking nine countries. The amount of energy traded across borders will have increased by over 60 % from the baseline.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	West African Regional Program (WARP)
Program Title:	Family Health and AIDS Prevention
Pillar:	Global Health
Strategic Objective:	624-005
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$19,300,000 CSH
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$2,000 CSH; \$1,240,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$21,464,000 CSH
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2008

Summary: USAID's program in the areas of reproductive health (RH), child survival (CS), and sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS (STI/HIV/AIDS) will expand regional coverage from four to 18 countries. At the same time, a strategic shift will reorient the approach from increasing West Africans' use of health products and services to one that promotes wider adoption of state-of-the-art practices by national governments, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations; increases regional stakeholder advocacy for policy change; increases the capacity of regional institutions and networks; and promotes health sector reform. The program will support activities in 12 non-presence countries as well as undertake joint activities with the USAID bilateral health programs in the region.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Improve program approaches in RH, STI/HIV/AIDS and CS (\$6,562,000 CSH; \$1,240,000 prior year ESF). The program will identify, analyze, and disseminate best practices in these three areas across the region. Significant levels of funding from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and the World Bank for HIV/AIDS require that USAID collaborate closely to address the issue of the recipients' absorptive capacity and ensure effective use of these funds. USAID will strengthen and expand its cross-border interventions, particularly along key transport routes, and support networks of regional organizations that help people living with HIV/AIDS to combat public denial and stigma. The Ambassadors' Fund, which awards small grants for HIV/AIDS activities in non-presence countries, will receive continued support. Technical assistance will be given to Exxon, Coca-Cola, and other businesses to establish HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs for workers. USAID will use the \$1,240,000 in prior year ESF funding to procure additional contraceptive commodities to support the phase-out plans in Togo and Cameroon. Principal contractors and grantees: Family Health International (FHI) and EngenderHealth (primes), Abt Associates, Academy for Educational Development (AED), and Management Sciences for Health (MSH) (subs).

Increase regional stakeholder advocacy for policy change (\$3,088,000 CSH). USAID will review country policies and the availability and use of advocacy tools. An action plan advocating for priority issues and targeting local opinion leaders will be developed. USAID partners will also monitor the status of international health treaties and support their implementation. Principal contractors and grantees: FHI and EngenderHealth (primes), Abt Associates, AED, MSH, the Futures Group (POLICY), West African Health Organization (WAHO), and Center for Population Research and Development (CERPOD) (subs).

Increase capacity of regional institutions and networks (\$6,176,000 CSH). Key regional institutions will receive training and technical assistance to strengthen their technical competence; sharpen the focus on family planning, maternal health, and child survival, together with HIV/AIDS; foster their long-term sustainability; and cultivate regional recognition and increased donor support. A regional expert consultant database is the initial output. Principal contractors and grantees: FHI and EngenderHealth (primes), Abt Associates, AED, MSH, the Futures Group (POLICY), WAHO and CERPOD (subs).

Health sector reform (\$3,474,000 CSH). USAID will support a multi-donor feasibility study for the development of a regional security plan for the commodities used in RH, HIV/AIDS, and CS programs. Best practices related to mutual health organizations (MHO) will be shared. USAID and WHO will also provide technical assistance to national governments on national health accounts (NHA) that comprehensively analyze health sector expenditures. Building on a workshop on NHA in FY 2003, and with additional support from the World Bank and the World Health Organization, USAID will sponsor a follow-on workshop to institutionalize the nascent francophone NHA network that was established and to enable participants to share best practices. Principal contractors and grantees: EngenderHealth (prime), Partners for Health Reform (PHRplus), John Snow, Inc. (DELIVER), and the Futures Group (POLICY) (subs).

FY 2005 Program:

Improve program approaches in RH, STI/HIV/AIDS and CS (\$7,329,760 CSH). Based on FY 2004 assessments of demonstrated program approaches, USAID support will initiate small-scale activities that have potential for region-wide replication. Support for cross-border HIV/AIDS prevention interventions will continue. Principal contractors and grantees: FHI and Engenderhealth (primes).

Increase regional stakeholder advocacy for policy change: (\$3,402,240 CSH). Targeting the gaps identified in the FY 2004 policy inventory, USAID will support regional and country specific advocacy efforts and policy development. Principal contractors and grantees: FHI and Engenderhealth (primes), POLICY and AED (subs).

Increase capacity of regional institutions and networks: (\$6,904,480 CSH). USAID will provide technical assistance to selected regional institutions to improve strategy development and service delivery. USAID will also provide training to strengthen managerial and technical skills. Principal contractors and grantees: FHI and Engenderhealth (primes) and MSH, AED, and Abt Associates (subs).

Health sector reform (\$3,827,520 CSH). Technical assistance will be provided to strengthen implementation capacity and to better integrate programs within overall planning and budgeting processes. The commodity security plan will be implemented. Principal contractors and grantees: Engenderhealth (prime), Abt Associates (sub).

All family planning assistance agreements will incorporate clauses that implement the President's directive restoring the Mexico City policy.

Performance and Results: In FY 2003 USAID wrapped up activities under its eight-year Family Health and AIDS (FHA) Project, transitioned to a new regional health program, and awarded two major cooperative agreements and two institutional strengthening grants to partners.

At the end of this Strategic Objective it is expected that capacity of regional organizations and the ability of national ministries to cooperate on a variety of common technical issues that impact program management and resource leveraging for implementation of RH, STI/HIV/AIDS and, CS programs will be significantly enhanced, helping to reduce high rates of fertility, infant and maternal mortality, and HIV/AIDS.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	West African Regional Program (WARP)
Program Title:	Food Security and Natural Resource Management
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	624-006
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$7,590,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$7,100,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2008

Summary: USAID's program reduces vulnerability to poverty in West Africa by 1) strengthening regional systems for monitoring food security and the environment and mitigating disasters, and 2) promoting agricultural growth in several ways - by increasing access to productivity-enhancing information, technology and practices; improving the policy environment for agricultural trade and development; and strengthening regional alliances in agriculture.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Strengthen regional food security monitoring and disaster mitigation systems (\$2,500,000 DA). In order to increase food security and prevent famine, USAID will strengthen regional capacity to monitor crop production and respond to potential food crises by reinforcing national and regional early warning systems. Specific activities include financing crop evaluation field missions, periodic early warning meetings, and data collection and analysis that will result in the production and dissemination of 10 crop status reports in FY 2004. Capacity in early warning systems will be developed by training environmental professionals from 15 countries in food security monitoring and updating computer and software for satellite image analysis. USAID will finance expansion of the regional crop-monitoring system to the three coastal states of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, and Togo. Tools to estimate livestock production will be tested in Mauritania and Mali, while the World Food Program (WFP) will implement a new tool to assess vulnerable populations in three pilot countries. With the assistance of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) will continue to monitor key regional environmental trends such as land use, land degradation, and desertification with a view to influencing key decision-makers on regional and national environmental and land use policies. Principal contractors, grantees, and agencies: CILSS, USGS, and WFP (primes), and others to be determined.

Promote agricultural growth (\$5,090,000 DA). Under the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa, USAID will focus on increasing farmer access to income-enhancing information and technology. It will accomplish this by supporting research and technology dissemination networks for the staple crops of the region - rice, millet, sorghum and maize. The status of research and technology dissemination will be evaluated and subsequent technical and financial assistance to select regional organizations, such as the West and Central African Council for Research and Development (CORAF) and CILSS, will help establish science and technology priorities in the region and improve scientific coordination. USAID will provide technical assistance and training through major agricultural research centers, non-governmental organizations, national research institutes, and other partners to promote crop diversification, disseminate technology, and instill good agricultural practices for greater crop productivity. Three key regional economic and political organizations - CILSS, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the West African Monetary Union (WAEMU) - will receive training and technical assistance to develop a regional agricultural policy that will advance agricultural trade, investment, and private sector participation. USAID will finance a biotechnology information and education campaign and will give technical assistance to help partners establish biotechnology and bio-safety policies. Three regional private sector organizations representing farmers, women, and small business will provide training courses and set up

regional electronic information and communication networks to reach their constituencies. Principal contractors and grantees: West African Rice Development Association (WARDA), International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), and Cornell University (all primes); and West African Farmers Network (ROPPA), West African Women's Association (REFESA), and West African Business Association (INTERFACE) (all subs); and others to be determined.

FY 2005 Program:

Strengthen regional food security monitoring and disaster mitigation systems (\$2,200,000 DA). USAID will improve the reliability and validity of the CILSS-led regional monitoring system by upgrading famine and food production monitoring systems at the national level. Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, and Togo will be included in the famine early warning system. USAID will continue to roll out implementation of the harmonized framework for vulnerability assessment, increasing the number of countries that apply the new framework. Same implementers as FY 2004.

Promote regional agricultural growth (\$4,900,000 DA). Once regional science and technology needs and priorities have been identified and agreed on, USAID will scale up its support for technology research, development and transfer by supporting CORAF and the Sahel Institute (INSAH), which operate regional research programs. USAID will also provide support for alliances among the major regional technology developers - the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), Cooperative Research Support Programs (CRSPs), IITA, ICRISAT, and WARDA--and players that apply these technologies, such as national agricultural research services, NGOs, and the private sector. These alliances will help to ensure that appropriate technologies and productivity-enhancing information reaches farmers. Technical assistance will focus on implementing biotechnology and bio-safety policies. USAID envisages continued assistance to CILSS, ECOWAS, and WAEMU to carry out policies that support regional agricultural development and trade, as well as biotechnology policies, while expanding support to those regional civil society organizations that are lobbying governments for farmer and business-friendly policies. Same implementers as FY 2004.

Performance and Results: USAID's major achievement of FY 2003 was to secure collaboration among key players to further common goals. This included obtaining the agreement of major regional institutions to collaborate on the development of a regional agricultural policy; obtaining agreement from CILSS and WAEMU to expand the region's food-security early warning system to three additional countries; and achieving consensus on a new, harmonized vulnerability assessment mechanism that will better anticipate food security crises. USAID and its partners also expanded environmental monitoring activities from nine to 15 countries, thereby enhancing comprehension of major trends in the region's environment.

At the end of this program, USAID will have created a more food-secure and independent West Africa by building alliances in the agricultural sector that improve agricultural research and the dissemination and use of income-enhancing technologies, and by strengthening the region's ability to monitor and respond to food crises. Concretely, farmer incomes and food security will be improved by the development and dissemination of improved staple crop seed varieties in 18 countries following demonstration at 250 test sites. The number of countries with an operational crop monitoring system will increase from nine to twelve.

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.

**West African Regional Program (WARP)
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

(in thousands of dollars)

Accounts	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Current	FY 2005 Request
Child Survival and Health Programs Fund	19,473	19,461	19,300	21,464
Development Assistance	10,773	18,232	14,846	14,405
Economic Support Fund	1,550	1,240	0	0
PL 480 Title II	1,043	1,141	2,053	1,720
Total Program Funds	32,839	40,074	36,199	37,589

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SUMMARY				
624-004 Regional Economic Integration Strengthened				
DA	4,875	7,426	6,390	6,456
ESF	1,000	0	0	0
624-005 Family Health and AIDS Prevention				
CSH	19,473	19,461	19,300	21,464
ESF	0	1,240	0	0
624-006 Food Security and Natural Resource Management				
DA	3,366	7,802	7,590	7,100
ESF	250	0	0	0
624-007 Conflict Prevention				
DA	2,532	3,004	866	849
ESF	300	0	0	0

Mission Director,
Carlene Dei