

## Mali

**The Development Challenge:** Poor rainfall and instability in its main trading partner, Côte d'Ivoire, were the two principal factors retarding economic growth in Mali during 2003. GDP growth is projected to slow to 3.2% compared with 4.4% in 2002. Production of grain and cotton fell 8% and 26% respectively from the previous year and pockets of food insecurity emerged in regions particularly hard hit by drought. An estimated 0.5% - 1% of anticipated GDP growth in 2002 and 2003 was lost due to the on-going conflict that erupted in Côte d'Ivoire in September 2002. Government revenue and economic activity as a whole were negatively affected by the disruption in trade caused by the closing of the borders between the two countries at the peak of the crisis. Absorbing an estimated 200,000 - 250,000 Malians, formerly residing in Côte d'Ivoire, placed further strain on the already weakened economy.

Economic prospects are brighter for 2004 as the country experienced abundant rainfall during the past agricultural season and the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire eased considerably leading to the reopening of Mali's borders with that country. In the past year, significant progress has been made in terms of the restructuring of the cotton, transport and telecommunications sectors. Recent agitation by urban workers for reductions in transportation and utilities costs and for higher wages could be a signal of growing disenchantment with the 18-month old government's ability to deliver on promises of a better life for all Malians.

Despite concerted donor attention and assistance provided over forty years, Mali remains one of the poorest nations. According to the results of the 2003 United Nations Human Development Index, Mali ranked 172 out of 175 countries - down from 164 in 2002. A number of key indicators of social well-being worsened during the period 1996-2001. Among these are: maternal mortality (582 per 100,000 versus 577 per 100,000); fertility (6.8 versus 6.7); and children underweight for age (38% versus 30%). Marginal improvements were noted with respect to the indicators for adult illiteracy, life expectancy, infant mortality and children attending school, which still remain among the worst in the world. The government has committed itself to turning around these dire statistics by directing additional resources to the social sectors.

Mali stands out as a stable democracy in the midst of the troubled West African region. Local elections are scheduled to be held early in 2004 - another important milestone in its far-reaching decentralization plan. Unfortunately the vast open territory in the north of Mali presents potential troubling security threats. Armed gangs have the ability to roam through the porous borders with Algeria, Niger, and Mauritania virtually unchecked. These conditions have the potential to facilitate increased terrorist activities in the north. Mali's commitment to democracy, its openness to economic integration in West Africa and its willingness to contribute peacekeeping forces have played an important role in U.S. and international efforts to bring stability to the region. Moreover, it is a predominantly Muslim country that is allied with the United States in the war on terrorism.

**The USAID Program:** The USAID program is addressing three strategic goals of USAID and the Department of State in Mali: (i) Democracy and Human Rights; (ii) Economic Prosperity and Security; and (iii) Social and Environmental Issues. Specifically, over the next two years, USAID intends to help increase people's incomes and well-being, improve the dismal health and education statistics cited above and give people the tools needed to govern effectively. The following Data Sheets describe the four strategic objectives and one special objective for which USAID plans to use FY 2004 and FY 2005 funds. These objectives will be attained by expanding economic opportunities, particularly for the rural poor; providing high impact health services to improve the health and welfare of women and children, and to prevent an HIV/AIDS epidemic; improving the quality of basic education; working to consolidate democracy through support of decentralization; and accelerating overall development by making information more widely accessible. Special attention will be given to increasing the use of irrigation in order to lessen Mali's economic and food security vulnerability to climatic variations. The objectives were developed in close coordination with the Malian government and other stakeholders, notably donors and the non-governmental sector. USAID's strategy is well integrated into Mali's own strategy to reduce poverty. Key features of this strategy of relevance to USAID are the development of a rural economy

driven by the private sector, strengthened food production systems in the context of responsible natural resources management; expanded access to and improved delivery of health and education services; reinforced capacity for public sector management of decentralization; and greater gender equity.

**Other Program Elements:** In addition to the bilateral assistance to the Government of Mali, USAID has other on-going programs in Mali directly funded and/or managed by USAID's Washington-based pillar bureaus, the Africa regional bureau and the West African Regional Program (WARP). The Famine Early Warning System focuses on improving the quality and effectiveness of information/response planning systems that contribute directly to drought preparedness and the adoption of response plans. Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs) focus on a number of crops such as peanuts, sorghum, millet, beans, and cowpeas as well as on soil, pests and natural resources. The West Africa InterCRSP Natural Resource Management Project aims to increase the availability of and access to knowledge, techniques and technologies to improve performance and people-level impact of natural resources management efforts in West Africa. International Agriculture Research Centers develop and disseminate improved varieties and technologies for crops such as rice, corn, sorghum and millet. Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs) are supported through grants addressing rural poverty and food insecurity, empowerment of women in rural areas, micro-enterprise, maternal and child health, and cooperative development. The Malaria Research and Training Center established in Bamako in 1990 contributes to the improvement of the Malian National Malaria Control Program by updating staff skills in technical and operational aspects of malaria control. Food for Peace P.L. 480 Title II resources are monetized in Chad to generate local currency that is used for development activities in the harsh environmental conditions of northern Mali and in Chad itself under a regional food security program. WARP funding supports the work of a number of public and private sector regional organizations addressing region-wide issues of economic integration, population, health and nutrition, food security, the environment, natural resources management and conflict prevention.

**Other Donors:** Donor coordination is facilitated through a monthly meeting among Mali's leading bilateral and multi-lateral development partners and regular meetings between the donor community and the government. Leadership of the donor coordination group is shared on a semi-annual rotating basis with USAID having been selected to lead the group during the first six months of FY 2004. Within Mali USAID is also at the forefront (as chief facilitator) of a multilateral technical assistance program initiated by the World Bank to develop an Integrated Framework for expanding Mali's international trade. The United States ranks third among Mali's bilateral partners, and provides approximately 10% of overall assistance, which totals roughly \$380 million per year, excluding debt relief. France and the Netherlands are the leading bilateral donors. Other key bilateral donors include Canada, Germany, Japan, Switzerland and Belgium. Bilateral assistance to Mali covers a wide range of development areas including national budget support (Netherlands, France, Canada, Germany, Switzerland), infrastructure construction (France), decentralization (France, Germany), the cotton sector (France, Switzerland), education (France, Germany, Japan, Belgium), health (Germany, Canada, Switzerland, Belgium), judiciary (Canada, France), microfinance (Canada), the Niger River (France), and energy (France, Germany, Canada). Multilateral donors present in Mali include the World Bank, which is involved in a wide range of development activities including rural development (with a particular focus on the cotton sector), budget support, health, education and democratic governance. The European Union, the African Development Bank and the West African Development Bank are engaged in road construction, rural development and budget support. The UN agencies are active in health, education and governance, and the World Food Program works in the areas of education, health, nutrition and food security.

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Mali
<b>Program Title:</b>	High Impact Health Services
<b>Pillar:</b>	Global Health
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	688-006
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$13,650,000 CSH
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$13,274,000 CSH
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2002
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2012

**Summary:** USAID's health program will increase access to and use of key health services in three areas: child survival; family planning/reproductive health; and HIV/AIDS. Funding will be used to expand access to HIV/AIDS prevention and testing services, further consolidate HIV/AIDS surveillance activities, expand malaria prevention and treatment programs, reduce vitamin A and iron deficiency, increase immunization coverage, prevent and treat diarrheal diseases, and expand access to family planning and reproductive health services.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Improve child survival and maternal health (\$4,550,000 CSH). To address child mortality, USAID will target malaria, diarrheal disease, vaccine preventable deaths and nutrition. USAID will continue to support the national social marketing campaign for the promotion of insecticide treated bednets and the distribution of subsidized nets to vulnerable populations (e.g., pregnant women and children). It is anticipated that USAID's intervention in malaria will result in a drastic reduction in malaria illness and deaths. USAID will launch a nation-wide campaign to promote Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) to counter the dehydrating effects of diarrhea and will improve diarrhea treatment at the clinic and community level. Support will again be provided to national level vitamin A distribution aimed to reach 80% of Malian children with 2 doses yearly. USAID expects to reduce countrywide infant mortality by up to 20% through this intervention. To increase immunization rates to 80%, USAID will provide technical assistance and training to the Malian National Immunization Program and increase access to services through outreach activities. Targeted technical assistance will be directed to national programs covering planning, program management and policy development in the areas of immunization, nutrition and malaria. In 12 target zones, USAID will provide intensive on-the-ground assistance to increase outreach, improve facility-based services, improve household health behaviors, and encourage interaction and complementary efforts between the government and civil society. Principal contractors and grantees: Abt Associates, CARE, Population Services International (primes); and IntrahHealth, Action Against Hunger, JHU/CCP (subs).

Improve family planning and reproductive health (\$5,250,000 CSH). According to the 2001 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), modern contraceptive prevalence is 5.7%. Without intervention, based on an annual population growth rate of 2.7%, Mali's current population of 12 million would increase to 23.2 million by 2025, placing enormous demands on public services such as health and education. USAID will expand access to family planning and integrated reproductive health through social marketing of contraceptives; expanding community-based services; improving training of health workers; providing information and education; and promoting key policies, such as a strategy for ensuring the supply of contraceptives over the long-term. In addition, over the life of the activity, 200 health facilities (covering approximately 30% of the Malian population) will receive staff training and supplies to promote family planning services. This network of community-based agents will be crucial to increasing contraceptive prevalence rates. Principal contractors and grantees: Abt Associates, CARE, Population Services International, The Futures Group, John Snow Inc. (primes); and JHU/CCP, IntrahHealth (subs).

Control HIV/AIDS (\$3,850,000 CSH). Despite low rates of HIV infection in the general population (1.7%), according to the Demographic Health Survey 2001, higher prevalence in high risk groups (ranging from 8% to 50%) highlight the need to be vigilant. To prevent the HIV/AIDS epidemic from escalating, USAID will support interventions targeted at populations that engage in high-risk behaviors and will continue surveillance activities in order to monitor HIV trends and allow timely warning of any changes in prevalence. USAID will provide targeted behavior change messages and programs to all high risk groups in Mali including prostitutes, truck drivers, other transport workers, street vendors, miners and seasonal cotton plantation workers. Behavior change messages will target specific groups and are expected to result in a reduction of sexual partners, increased use of condoms with non-regular partners and ultimately a reduction in HIV/AIDS prevalence in high risk groups. USAID will continue to support voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) services in three sites and will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health to finalize the national VCT policy. The condom social marketing program will be "relaunched" with an updated package design, logo, and advertising campaign. Principal grantees: Centers for Disease Control, Population Services International, Futures Group (primes).

**FY 2005 Program:**

Improve child survival and maternal health (\$4,650,000 CSH). USAID intends to pursue activities initiated in the previous year, continuing with service delivery scale-up activities in 12 selected intervention zones and central level technical assistance to the Ministry of Health for the improvement of national service coverage. Same implementers as FY 2004.

Improve family planning and reproductive health (\$4,824,000 CSH). USAID intends to pursue activities initiated in the previous year, continuing with service delivery scale-up activities in 12 selected intervention zones and central level technical assistance to the Ministry of Health for the improvement of national service coverage. Same implementers as FY 2004.

Control HIV/AIDS (\$4,000,000 CSH). USAID plans to continue to focus on prevention in high risk groups and surveillance. Same implementers as FY 2004.

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

**Performance and Results:** During FY 2003, the social marketing campaign for bednet promotion resulted in retail sales of 60,000 bednets and the distribution of another 27,000 to vulnerable populations. During the peak October to December malaria period a further 43,000 nets were given to vulnerable groups and 10,131 were sold, meaning that more than 140,000 nets were made available in 2003. USAID supported a nationwide vitamin A supplement campaign that achieved 80% coverage. The first Maximizing Access and Quality Exchange conference was held in Mali to strategize on key steps to improve family planning access and quality. Sentinel HIV surveillance was carried out in 12 sites, and the second round of the Integrated HIV/Sexually Transmitted Infections Surveillance Survey was carried out among high risk groups. This survey is conducted every three years.

By 2007, USAID anticipates reaching 80% of Mali's children with vitamin A supplements and sustaining this coverage level through the end of the strategy in 2012. USAID will also increase immunization rates to 80%. To reduce the burden of malaria, by 2007, USAID will increase the percentage of women and children sleeping under insecticide treated bednets in target zones. HIV/AIDS prevention services will cover all high risk groups in Mali and behaviors within high risk groups will be safer. Women will have increased access to family planning and reproductive health services and use of modern contraceptives will increase.

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Mali
<b>Program Title:</b>	Improving Quality of Basic Education
<b>Pillar:</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	688-007
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$4,980,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$4,301,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2002
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2012

**Summary:** USAID's program to improve the quality of basic education includes technical assistance and training to: provide teacher training and learning opportunities; develop an improved national curriculum for grades three through six; mobilize communities to manage and advocate more effectively for public schools, community schools and Islamic schools; and train decision makers at the decentralized levels of the Ministry of Education in data analysis to link resource and budgetary allocations to desired results.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Improve school-based teacher education (\$2,550,000 DA). USAID will expand its school-based teacher training program from 400 to 800 schools. The training assists teachers in creating "communities of learning" that decrease teacher isolation. They allow approximately 3,200 teachers to learn from each other, solve pedagogical problems particular to their own context and bring experts to the school on an as needed basis. A special effort to reach out to medrasas (Islamic religious primary schools) will be made to incorporate them in teacher training activities. School supervisors will also be trained to foster learning communities among teachers and create supportive learning environments. Funds from the African Education Initiative (AEI) will be used to provide teacher training via radio that will give practical activities and solutions to challenges in teaching the new curriculum. This training may be expanded beyond the target group of 800 schools to a nation wide program. In response to Mali's current teacher shortage, AEI funds will also be used to train 6,000 new teachers through an accelerated summer program. Principal contractors: World Education (prime); World Learning, Stewart International and DevTech Systems (subs), and others to be determined.

Assist establishment and implementation of new curriculum for grades three and four (\$650,000 DA). USAID will continue to provide expertise to the Ministry of Education in mathematics, science and life skills, with attention to the special learning needs of girls, for development of a more relevant curriculum for grades three and four. The curriculum encourages more active, student-centered teaching and draws on the Malian context for material whereas the old, out-dated curriculum relied on rote memorization and was unrelated to everyday Malian life. Use of the new curriculum will give students a better chance to succeed in learning how to read and use mathematics. In addition, learning materials will be developed in line with the new curricular approaches and an achievement test will be set up allowing the government to track system-wide progress in reading and mathematics. The curriculum will be tested through this fiscal year with plans to implement it nationally in FY 2005. Principal contractors: World Education (prime); World Learning, Stewart International and DevTech Systems (subs).

Increase community and parent participation in schools (\$1,100,000 DA). USAID will focus on teaching parents and communities to advocate to local education officials and elected government officials for services and increased resources for their public, community and medrasa schools. Communities will also be taught how to raise and manage funds for school improvement programs, as well as how to monitor teacher performance in classrooms. In addition, USAID will expand its adult literacy program to include 200 adult literacy centers offering courses that address gender, health and environment (both urban and

rural) issues, and HIV/AIDS. These programs will not only create a base of literate adults in villages, but will also pass on practical information that can lead to behavior change; for example, health problems associated with waste and waste management in the urban environment or reducing the risk of infant mortality through vitamin A supplements. Principal contractors: World Education (prime); Stewart International and DevTech Systems (subs).

Improve ministry decision-making at the decentralized level (\$680,000 DA). USAID will continue to improve education planning at the regional level. Training will be given to set priorities in terms of textbook and materials purchase, hiring new teachers or constructing new schools given the realities of a resource poor environment. Training and follow-up will focus on using regional statistical analysis as a basis of decision-making and how to monitor educational progress and the impact of investments. Education officials will come together to compare results and share best practices for solving education problems such as the low enrollment rate of girls or the lack of available teachers in a given region. Implementer to be determined.

**FY 2005 Program:**

Improve school-based teacher education (\$2,395,000 DA). USAID plans to intensify its teacher training assistance, assuring that teachers meet established criteria for quality performance and school directors play a leadership role in improving teacher performance. The use of radio education for teachers may be implemented. Same implementers as FY 2004.

Improve ministry decision-making at the decentralized level (\$1,906,000 DA). USAID may expand its training beyond regional education offices to local teacher training centers for improved planning and monitoring/evaluation of results based on data analysis. Same implementers as FY 2004.

**Performance and Results:** Three major results were achieved in 2003 that will assist the education ministry attain its ten-year education reform goal: 1) 4,600 teachers were trained in bilingual education (important in a country where French, the official language, is not the language most students use at home), active, child-centered teaching methods, and making the classroom more conducive to girls' learning; 2) a curriculum more relevant to Malian children and based on key learning outcomes for grades one and two was piloted; and 3) over 130,000 textbooks were given to students.

By mid-strategy, 2007, USAID anticipates over 2,400 teachers will have received on-going, systematic teacher training and support, and a radio teacher education program will reach 85% of Malian teachers. As a result, USAID expects over 70% of sixth grade children going to USAID-supported schools to pass their seventh grade entrance exam. In addition, all 15 of the Ministry of Education's regional offices will be using education data to set goals and targets and will make financial decisions accordingly.

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Mali
<b>Program Title:</b>	Shared Governance Through Decentralization
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	688-008
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$300,000 CSH; \$3,966,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$300,000 CSH; \$4,631,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2002
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2012

**Summary:** The purpose of USAID's new Democracy and Governance program in Mali is to help the Malian people establish a system of democratic governance at the local level whereby all actors - state, civil society and private sector - come together as partners to find solutions to local development problems. This program provides assistance to: promote the participation of various groups in the democratic process and create viable links among them; provide local communities with the skills to administer their own financial systems; develop policies that support the success of decentralized government; and increase women's role in decision making.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Increase participation and partnership in local communities (\$864,000 DA; \$150,000 CSH). USAID will provide training and technical advice to a minimum of 500 additional key local actors. Subjects to be covered include participatory strategic planning; monitoring and evaluation of development programs; resource mobilization; conflict resolution; citizens' rights and responsibilities; sharing of best practices among local governments using the Internet at USAID-financed community learning centers; and providing basic services such as sanitation and waste management. As a result of this activity, local governments will be able to mobilize more internal and external development resources and form partnerships with other local actors to improve the political, social, economic and environmental well-being of their communities. Principal contractors: Management Systems International (prime); CARE, Save the Children and International Resources Group (subs).

Improve local government financial management systems and the policy environment (\$2,136,000 DA; \$150,000 CSH). USAID will assist 250 local governments to develop sound financial management systems, monitor budget performance, and produce periodic financial reports through training and exchange visits. As a result of this activity, local governments will be able to manage their scarce resources in a more efficient and transparent manner. With respect to the enabling environment for the consolidation of decentralization, USAID will build the capacity of key institutional actors (High Council of Collectives, the National Assembly's Finance Committee, and the Association of Malian Municipalities) and facilitate dialogue among these actors to address issues of transfer of authority and resources to local governments. As a result of this activity, the institutional actors with a stake in the decentralization reform will be better prepared to lobby the central government to revise existing legislation or enact new laws as needed. Principal contractors: Management Systems International (prime); CARE, Save the Children and International Resources Group (subs).

Increase women's influence over community decision-making (\$966,000 DA). USAID will provide training and guidance to 240 prominent women in selected communities in the four regions targeted under the program. Activities to be carried out include: development of viable income generating activities for women's groups; training of at least 20 women's groups in leadership, public speaking, advocacy, conflict resolution, negotiation techniques, marketing and business skills; civic education campaigns via community radio stations; and promotion of women candidates in communal elections. As a result of this

activity, more women will participate in local political life and compete for leadership positions. Principal contractors: Development and Training Services (prime); and Winrock International (sub).

**FY 2005 Program:**

Increase participation and partnership in local communities (\$1,530,000 DA; 150,000 CSH). USAID intends to continue supporting key local actors. The training program will include the following additional subjects: codes of ethical conduct; formation of strategic alliances with civil society organizations and private sector institutions vis-à-vis the central government; mechanisms for public participation in planning and budgeting; and civic education. Same implementers as FY 2004.

Improve local government financial management systems and the policy environment (\$2,410,000 DA; \$150,000 CSH). USAID intends to support an on-going program aimed at strengthening financial management and control systems at the local level. Once the management and control systems are established and functional, USAID plans to focus its efforts on helping local governments to mobilize internal resources through activities such as training in simplified and efficient tax collection systems; provision of equipment; anti-corruption awareness campaigns; awareness campaigns to encourage people to pay taxes; and experimentation with municipal bonds and public-private partnerships to finance capital investments. USAID also plans to offer competitively awarded small grants to selected communes. Same implementers as FY 2004.

Increase women's influence over community decision-making (\$691,000 DA). USAID will continue to implement a program to promote women's participation in decision-making at the local level. After assisting at least 20 women's associations to launch viable income generating activities and achieve economic and political empowerment, the next step will be to provide them with the necessary tools and skills to play an active public role. In that regard, training will be provided in leadership skills, public speaking, advocacy and lobbying, conflict resolution, negotiation techniques and alliance building with professional women's organizations at the national level. Same implementers as FY 2004.

**Performance and Results:** As part of its transition to its new strategy, USAID trained 1,329 elected and civil society leaders by providing them with the practical tools needed for financial management, transparency and accountability. The Association of Malian Municipalities was trained in democratic self-governance, effective management and advocacy, and is now able to build linkages and share best practices with other associations using Internet connectivity provided by USAID.

Overall, it is anticipated that at the end of its new strategy (FY 2012), 188 local governments will be able to: design their development plans and budgets; mobilize more local resources and manage them efficiently; form alliances with the private sector and civil society groups to carry out joint development interventions; and establish mechanisms to resolve local conflicts peacefully in a participatory manner. It is also anticipated that local elections will be open, fair and transparent; and that the number of women holding and retaining offices in local governments and civil society organizations will increase appreciably.



## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Mali
<b>Program Title:</b>	Accelerated Economic Growth
<b>Pillar:</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	688-009
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$14,300,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$11,000 DA
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$11,361,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2002
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2012

**Summary:** USAID will focus on the agricultural sector by targeting commodities for which Mali has a comparative advantage. The program will work to reinforce the Malian private sector and take advantage of Malian government commitment to private enterprise. Targeted interventions in the production, processing and trade of the selected commodities will increase farmers' incomes. USAID will also improve the management of agribusinesses and microfinance institutions, and the stewardship of natural resources. Negotiation of beneficial regional and world trade agreements will be reinforced through USAID's activities. The program supports the objectives of and participates in the President's Initiative to End Hunger in Africa and the Global Climate Change Initiative.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Sustainable production of selected agricultural products in targeted areas increased (\$8,100,000 DA). This activity aims to increase the production of rice, horticultural crops (e.g., potatoes, shallots) and animal products (meat) in order to increase farmers' incomes and foster economic growth. It will be the main focus of the resources made available through the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa. USAID will fund activities to: expand the land area under irrigation, thereby reducing the production risks associated with rainfall fluctuations; create private animal feed enterprises to produce high quality low-cost animal feed; spur development of a legal framework for biotechnology applications and train researchers in biotechnology techniques; and help communities to better manage their natural resources. Farmers' groups and agribusinesses will receive basic business management training and lobbying skills to enable them to advocate for sound policy reforms. It is expected that the production of rice will increase by as much as 20,000 metric tons per annum through the development and/or improvement of irrigation on more than 5,000 hectares of land. Animal productivity as measured by the weight gain per unit of feed will be doubled. Implementers to be determined.

Trade of selected agriculture products increased (\$3,400,000 DA). USAID will fund activities to: enhance the competitiveness of Malian agricultural commodities; promote international business linkages; attract investment to trade-related infrastructure; improve the policy and institutional environment for trade; and integrate small farmers, including women, into mainstream export activities. Initially, the program will focus on five key products: mangoes, potatoes, shea butter, rice and red meat. USAID will support marketing operations using more competitive shipping routes and better market information systems. Training in management and export operations will be provided to exporters and business associations. Information will be disseminated on regulatory and policy issues such as import/export tax codes and illicit taxes affecting trade. It is expected that these activities will help reduce transaction costs, improve the competitiveness of Malian enterprises and increase the export of the selected products by 10% to 25% in 2004-2005. Principal contractors are: Chemonics International (prime); Associates for International Resources and Development, International Business Initiatives, CARE and The Mitchell Group (subs).

Access to finance increased (\$2,800,000 DA). USAID's activities will focus primarily on: making financial services more available to small- and medium-sized businesses; enhancing the investment promotion

skills of Mali's National Center for Investment Promotion, the Chamber of Commerce and other partners; and expanding the breadth and quality of service of the microfinance sector to foster greater access to credit for residents of rural areas and underserved towns. USAID will pursue a two-pronged approach for making credit available to more Malians regardless of income. With respect to the banking sector, it will form partnerships with key financial institutions to assist in preparing a network of service providers that can ensure adequate outreach to producers and producer associations. In the microfinance area, USAID will work with local banks to develop new, easy-to-access financial products adapted to the needs of the rural and urban poor, especially women. By the end of the program's first year, USAID anticipates an increase of 5% in the number of agribusinesses receiving loans from banks, four new medium- and long-term investment promotion plans will be funded, and the number of income-generating activities in the microfinance sector will increase by at least 5%. Principal contractors are: Chemonics International (prime); Weidemann Associates, Making Cents, Bankworld and Enterprising Solutions (subs).

**FY 2005 Program:**

Sustainable production of selected agricultural products in targeted areas increased. (\$6,591,000 DA). USAID intends to expand its efforts in those areas showing strong results by relying heavily on funds from the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa. Increased production of rice will require greater access to inputs and production equipment as well as some post-harvest technologies. The expansion of irrigation infrastructure should be an area of major investment in order to increase production capacity following progress in privatization and land tenure policy change. Water and land resources in inland valleys are also targeted to receive emphasis through expanded watershed management activities. USAID plans to build on progress made to mainstream biotechnology research and product availability. Same implementers as FY 2004

Trade of selected agriculture products increased (\$2,650,000 DA). USAID plans to expand market opportunities for targeted commodities, promote free trade practices and enhance the attractiveness and availability of Malian agricultural exports. USAID intends to continue its focus on increasing the ability of the business service industry and the public sector to provide relevant and effective services to exporters. Exports of products selected during the first year are expected to increase an additional 10% in the second year. Same implementers as FY 2004.

Access to finance increased (\$2,120,000 DA). It is USAID's intention to increase the emphasis placed on practical education and advisory services provided to the credit officers of financial institutions. In addition, expanding the use of loan guarantees such as the Development Credit Authority and other credit guarantees or funds may be of special focus in order to encourage a wider range of longer-term financing of agricultural investments. USAID expects that the number of loans to small- and medium-sized agribusinesses could increase by more than 10%, while the number of income-generating activities funded by microfinance institutions may be double that of the previous year. Same implementers as FY 2004.

**Performance and Results:** USAID, the Government of Mali and the U.S. multinational, Schaffer and Associates, successfully launched a Global Development Alliance partnership to perform sugar cane research trials that is helping to attract multi-million dollar agribusiness investment to Mali, a venture which is expected to result in the eventual creation of more than 5,000 new jobs.

By the end of the 2003-2012 program, Mali will have markedly increased its export of food products, expanded the production of selected agricultural commodities and reduced its vulnerability to climatic variability. Significantly more agribusinesses will be accessing and using trade facilitation services. There will be greater integration of Mali's national market information into regional market information services. More farmers will be using improved natural resource management practices, leading to an increase in the use of environmentally safe technologies for crop production and processing. At least 50% of Malian small farmers will have incomes significantly above the poverty level.

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Mali
<b>Program Title:</b>	Communications for Development
<b>Pillar:</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	688-010
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$350,000 CSH; \$1,050,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$400,000 CSH; \$500,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2002
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2007

**Summary:** This special objective is designed to make it easier for Malians to get access to information that will enable them to improve the quality of their lives. The program will be accomplished by improving the quality of information available on development-related topics; by promoting alliances and partnerships between Malian institutions and information technology firms; and by reducing regulatory and policy constraints on information access. It is a follow-on to the Information and Communications Special Objective. While the former program focused on the technologies, the new one will take advantage of these technologies by emphasizing the development of content that will directly benefit students, teachers, entrepreneurs, farmers, families, health workers and government employees (especially those outside of the capital city). The new program will also provide community radio stations with Internet access, thereby making information from the worldwide web available to the vast listening audience in Mali.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Enhance the quality and quantity of development information (\$800,000 DA, \$350,000 CSH). To take full advantage of Mali's progress in the development of its community radio network (which now includes 148 private FM radio stations, the largest number of any African nation), USAID will fund over 250 radio programs on a wide range of development-related topics, and will train at least 100 radio producers in the design and production of radio messages. In addition, USAID support will enable the creation and exchange of development information using other media, including the Internet and other communications technologies, and through 13 pilot Community Learning and Information Centers, which will offer access to the Internet, email, CD-ROMs, video programming and general computer use to over 450,000 Malians in local communities. USAID funding will help to broker partnerships between information technology organizations and corporations in the developed world and Mali by identifying and facilitating appropriate in-kind donations. Principal grantees: Academy for Educational Development, Helen Keller International, and Geekcorps Division of the International Executive Service Corps.

Improve the well-being of children (\$150,000 DA). This activity will produce and broadcast a weekly 30-minute radio program in local languages (in the form of a soap opera) devoted to child trafficking and child welfare issues such as nutrition, immunization, malaria prevention, family planning, HIV/AIDS and other related topics. It is anticipated that this activity, which will reach over 8 million Malians, will result in a reduction of child trafficking between Mali and neighboring Côte d'Ivoire, and will result in an overall increased awareness and knowledge of children's health and welfare issues. Principal grantee: Population Media Center.

Support telecommunications regulatory and policy reform (\$100,000 DA). This activity will provide technical guidance and training to the newly-created Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Mali. Mali has recently experienced an exponential increase in the use of telecommunications technology. While impressive, this proliferation of technology has not always been accompanied by appropriate policy and regulatory measures that ensure proper utilization of the technologies and make effective use of the

frequency spectrum. To respond to the growing need to address these and other concerns, USAID will provide technical advice and training to this recently created policy and regulatory authority in order to enable it to accomplish its mandate. Implementer to be determined.

**FY 2005 Program:**

Enhance the quality and quantity of development information (\$400,000 DA, \$400,000 CSH). USAID intends to use funding to continue developing information content and materials, and reinforcing linkages between radio stations and the Internet. Radio messages on health, education, democratic governance, and economic growth issues will be broadcast, and their impact will be measured through surveys. USAID plans to connect selected radio stations to the Internet, allowing them to include information taken from the worldwide web in their programs (and thus providing access to this information for people who would not otherwise have access). USAID intends to develop more programming on women's issues. Same implementers as FY 2004.

Improve the well-being of children (\$100,000 DA). USAID plans for the radio soap opera to continue to address child trafficking and child welfare issues, but to be adjusted based on listener reactions, and to include interactive segments and audience participation. With additional funding from USAID's West Africa Regional Program, the activity may be expanded to include Ghana, Togo, Benin, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Same implementer as FY 2004.

**Performance and Results:** A successful "bridging" activity (funded under the previous Special Objective) was an HIV/AIDS radio campaign, targeting high-risk groups and including 60 radio stations. Another bridging activity in the radio sector was made possible via a small grant to the association of private radio stations in Mali that jumpstarted training of radio staff in the production of radio messages on a wide range of development topics. The sites and partner organizations for 13 Community Learning and Information Centers have been identified with construction underway at six locations. Fruitful inter-agency collaboration between USAID and the Peace Corps resulted in volunteers working on USAID-financed information technology activities (Community Learning and Information Centers, the University of Bamako Internet project, and the regional Cisco Academy).

By 2007, over 1,000 radio programs and campaigns will have been broadcast, on topics concerning health, child trafficking, education, democratic governance, microfinance and trade opportunities, sound environmental practices, women's issues, and a host of other topics. At least 400 radio producers will be trained in the production of radio programs on development-related topics. At least 20% of Mali's private radio stations will have access to the Internet. A minimum of 20 Community Learning and Information Centers (13 funded by USAID, 7 others funded by the Dutch and Swiss) will be providing a wealth of information to over 750,000 people, and will be generating sufficient revenue to cover all of their operating and administrative costs. Over 800 people throughout Mali's eight regions will have been trained in how to use the Internet, and Internet access points will be available in most Malian cities and towns with a population of over 5,000 people. Mali's telecommunications policy environment will be favorable to private-sector investments and consumer friendly, allowing full and open access to information to continue in a regulated but non-restrictive manner. This will allow new radio stations and Internet service providers to proliferate without governmental constraints.

## Mali 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	14,488	13,821	14,300	13,974
Development Assistance	21,688	26,581	24,296	20,793
Economic Support Fund	0	410	0	0
PL 480 Title II	1,355	0	0	0
<b>Total Program Funds</b>	<b>37,531</b>	<b>40,812</b>	<b>38,596</b>	<b>34,767</b>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SUMMARY				
688-001 Youth				
CSH	6,000	0	0	0
DA	3,550	0	0	0
688-002 Sustainable Economic Growth				
DA	3,330	0	0	0
688-003 Democratic Governance				
DA	2,300	0	0	0
688-004 Information and Communication				
DA	450	0	0	0
688-005 Development in the North				
DA	810	0	0	0
688-006 High Impact Health Services				
CSH	8,488	13,771	13,650	13,274
DA	0	200	0	0
688-007 Improving Quality of Basic Education				
DA	3,540	7,150	4,980	4,301
ESF	0	50	0	0
688-008 Shared Governance Through Decentralization				
CSH	0	0	300	300
DA	1,636	4,692	3,966	4,631
ESF	0	300	0	0
688-009 Accelerated Economic Growth				
DA	5,222	13,289	14,300	11,361
ESF	0	60	0	0
688-010 Communications for Development				
CSH	0	50	350	400
DA	850	1,250	1,050	500

Mission Director,  
Pam White