

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Regional Center for Southern Africa
Program Title:	Improved Electoral Competition in Southern Africa
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	690-016
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$1,382,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$852,000 DA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,101,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2004
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2010

Summary: USAID's regional program to improve electoral processes and political competition in southern Africa includes technical assistance and training to increase transparency and decrease corruption in national elections and to incorporate regional norms and standards into electoral processes.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Increased accountability and transparency in election processes (\$652,000 DA; \$601,000 prior year DA). Corruption in political processes creates an uneven playing field and impairs the performance of public institutions, undermining people's faith in their elected governments. USAID will work to increase transparency and public knowledge of political processes by strengthening the oversight capacity of civil society networks and other regional coalitions that advocate accountable and transparent political competition. Since a strong press is crucial to increased public knowledge and understanding of events, USAID will support training for journalists in investigative journalism. USAID will also hire under contract an anti-corruption advisor to orchestrate research and information-sharing in the region and to assist other USAID missions and embassies to develop and implement cross-sectoral approaches to fighting corruption. Principal contractor or grantee: Transparency International.

Improved electoral processes (\$730,000 DA; \$250,000 prior year DA). Moving away from high levels of corruption, the eventual objective is to achieve electoral processes in which individual and group rights are respected and the elections are conducted according to acceptable international norms and standards. In 2001, the Southern African Development Community's Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) developed a set of electoral norms and standards that it has used to evaluate elections in Lesotho, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA), in collaboration with the Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC countries (ECF) recently launched "Principles for Election Management, Monitoring and Observation in the SADC Region." With up to eight upcoming elections in 2004 and 2005, USAID will finance election monitoring and assessments using the SADC PF electoral norms and standards. More importantly, USAID will encourage national legislatures to adopt and internalize these norms and standards. In the process, USAID will encourage collaboration between SADC PF and EISA/ECF as well as promote broad based support and application of the norms and standards of both organizations. USAID will also support activities that strengthen conflict handling capacities by regional organizations and coalitions, as these are currently weak, as well as support efforts that develop conflict early warning mechanisms. Finally, USAID will continue supporting the Victims of Torture (VoT) activity that builds the capacity of national chapters of the Southern African Human Rights Network to monitor, advocate, and lobby against torture. Principal contractors or grantees: Southern African Human Rights Network, SADC Parliamentary Forum.

FY 2005 Program:

Increased accountability and transparency in election processes (\$401,000 DA). USAID expects to continue interventions begun in the previous year, e.g., developing oversight capacity of civil service networks, training journalists in investigative journalism, and supporting the development of cross-sectoral

approaches to fighting corruption in different USAID programs. An additional area of support may be nonpartisan capacity building for political parties in the region to provide oversight of election-related corruption at the national level. Principal contractor or grantee: To be determined.

Improved electoral processes (\$700,000 DA). In addition to work tied directly to ongoing elections, the regional program plans to address the human rights aspect of political processes. This includes efforts to promote the participation of women and other marginalized groups in politics and decision-making. Possible interventions could include activities to build capacity of regional organizations to investigate, monitor, and document human rights abuses that stem from electoral processes, as well as work with civil society organizations that support voter registration and the political participation of disenfranchised groups. USAID also expects to continue funding activities that support the adoption of international norms and standards by national legislatures. Principal contractor or grantee: SADC Parliamentary Forum.

Performance and Results: Since this program is just now beginning under the new RCSA strategy, there are no results to discuss. However, by the end of the strategy expected results include that most SADC countries will have adopted international electoral norms and standards, and a number of national elections will have been assessed against these. More than two-thirds of SADC citizens will, when asked, express trust and confidence in their electoral competition institutions. The perceived level of corruption will have fallen, and the record on civil liberties and political rights for men and women will have improved. Civil society networks and other regional coalitions will actively promote fair elections, protection of human rights, and increased transparency of political and government processes.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Regional Center for Southern Africa

690-016 Improved Electoral Competition in Southern Africa	DA
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	852
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	1,382
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	2,234
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	1,101
Future Obligations	12,525
Est. Total Cost	15,860