



REGIONAL PROFILE



USAID supports Southern African farmers to produce and market high value nontraditional export crops, such as the honeybush for tea that this woman is harvesting. The market for honeybush is expanding by 20 percent per year as consumer interest in natural herb products has grown worldwide.

SOUTHERN AFRICA SNAPSHOT

Eleven Countries: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Population: 157 million (2004)
Income per person: \$1,497 (yr)

USAID IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

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OVERVIEW

The United States has four main interests in Southern Africa: increasing trade and strengthening economic ties with the region, mitigating the region's HIV/AIDS crisis and its recurrent food insecurity, and strengthening democracy to reduce the risk of conflict in the region. USAID/Southern Africa, located in Gaborone, Botswana, implements regional development activities and provides a range of services to USAID missions in the region to assist with country-level development programs.



PROGRAMS

EXPANDING TRADE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

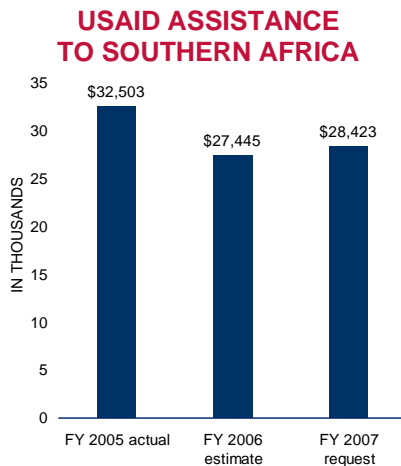
Southern African countries recognize that increased trade and open markets are the drivers of economic growth and poverty reduction. However, because of policies and regulations that constrain trade and increase costs, the region is not competitive in world markets. In addition, the private sector needs help to produce goods and services that meet the standards of global markets. USAID established the Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub (the "Trade Hub") in Gaborone, Botswana, in June 2002. The Hub builds regional capacity for negotiation and implementation of trade agreements and supports USAID's African Global Competitiveness Initiative. An Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) advisor at the Trade Hub facilitates U.S.-Southern Africa business links and advises on national AGOA export strategies. In the priority sectors of agribusiness, textiles and apparel, and tourism, the Trade Hub identifies bottlenecks to market growth and promotes international business links.

DIVERSIFYING RURAL LIVELIHOODS

The persistence of chronic hunger, malnutrition, and threat of famine in Southern Africa is unacceptable and its cost is enormous, particularly in a region reeling from the effects of HIV/AIDS. People in rural areas depend directly on agriculture and agriculture-related activities for their food and income. USAID's regional program focuses on production support services, market support services, and famine and disaster early warning and mitigation. USAID is helping small-scale fruit and vegetable farmers to become more competitive in local and regional markets. USAID also seeks to diversify the agricultural production of farmers in order to increase their



REGIONAL PROFILE CONTINUED



For more information, see the
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

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resilience to economic and climatic crises. In addition, USAID supports the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) across the countries in Southern Africa that are most affected by drought.

IMPROVING MANAGEMENT OF SHARED RIVER BASINS

Water scarcity in Southern Africa is a growing concern. Population growth and demands for domestic, farm, and industrial consumption are increasing stress on finite water resources. Seventy percent of the region's watersheds are shared between two or more countries. USAID focuses on improving the management of shared river basins, starting with the Okavango River Basin. USAID is strengthening the Okavango River Basin Commission to help it manage the river and its resources in a fair and sustainable manner.

COMBATting HIV/AIDS

Southern Africa remains the region of the world most severely affected by HIV/AIDS. The burden of the epidemic in the region is staggering. In at least six countries in the region, more than a fifth of the population is infected with HIV/AIDS, and in Botswana and Swaziland nearly two out of three adults may be HIV-infected. Working with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, USAID strengthens U.S. Government efforts to provide AIDS treatment and support prevention and education activities in the region. In addition, USAID seeks ways to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS through its activities in all sectors.

STRENGTHENED REGIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

In Southern Africa, multi-party democracy has received more popular support and endorsement than any other form of governance. However, governance systems are characterized by the phenomena of overbearing executive arms of governments and dominant single parties that rule in perpetuity. As a result, democratic values and practices remain shallowly-rooted, and progress towards democratic consolidation is slow with evidence of regression in some countries. The regional democracy and governance program strengthens non-executive institutions of governance by building the advocacy capacity of selected regional civil society organizations.

SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

USAID/Southern Africa serves as a regional platform to support four key U.S. Presidential and Agency initiatives: the African Global Competitiveness Initiative, the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa, the Anti-Corruption Initiative, and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.