



# USAID | WEST AFRICA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## REGIONAL PROFILE

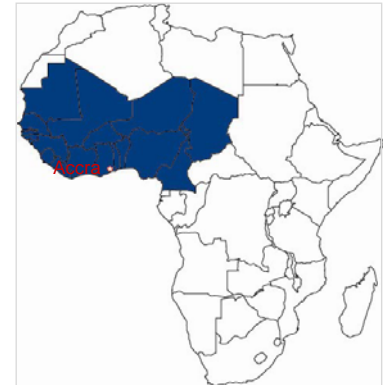


J. SHADID, USAID

*HIV activists wearing garlands of red HIV-awareness ribbons as part of a USAID-supported caravan crossing the Sahel region to spread HIV-prevention messages.*

### OVERVIEW

Political instability, poor governance, corruption, lack of institutional management and technical capacity, natural disasters, high prevalence of infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS, and lack of private sector investment opportunities are some of the major constraints to development work in West Africa. To address these enormous challenges, USAID's West Africa Regional Program (WARP), located in Accra, Ghana, works with local, regional, and other partners to support regional development through programs in four key areas: competitive market economies; regional health issues, including the HIV/AIDS pandemic; agriculture for trade and food security; and conflict prevention and peace-building mechanisms and tackling corruption.



### PROGRAMS

#### INCREASING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL GROWTH

Increasing agricultural growth and ensuring food security are critical to West Africa's economic development and the health of its people. At a regional level, USAID can best achieve this by working with and strengthening African institutions. USAID's programs are designed to promote greater agricultural productivity, strengthen early warning and response systems, and improve livelihoods. The President's Initiative to End Hunger in Africa is helping a new regional market information system to supply timely agricultural pricing information to farmers and traders. USAID also promotes the development of biotechnology policies and regulations to raise agricultural productivity and rural incomes.

#### IMPROVING HEALTH AND FIGHTING HIV/AIDS

To effectively respond to shared health problems in the region, USAID is assisting West African countries to develop networks of competent non-governmental organizations and public sector organizations to coordinate national and regional response programs against common problems such as malaria and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. USAID launched a new partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria to provide technical support to the many recipient governments in the region in managing and implementing Fund activities. This has the potential to ensure more effective use of the almost \$1 billion that the Fund currently provides throughout West Africa to combat the three diseases. In addition, USAID is

### WEST AFRICA SNAPSHOT

Eighteen Countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

Population: 278.9 million (2004)

Income per person: \$404 (yr)

Source: World Bank Development Indicators

### USAID IN WEST AFRICA

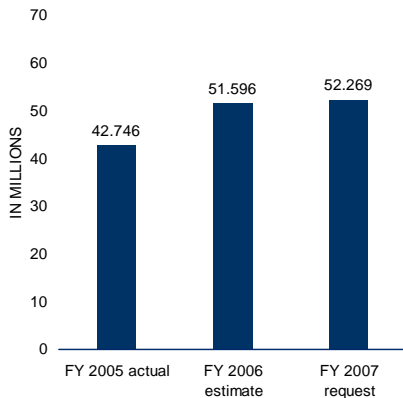
[www.usaid.gov/missions/warp/](http://www.usaid.gov/missions/warp/)



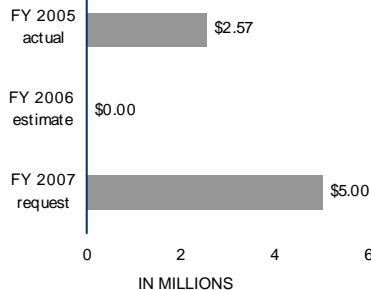
# USAID | WEST AFRICA

## REGIONAL PROFILE CONTINUED

### USAID PROGRAM ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA



### USAID FOOD AID TO WEST AFRICA



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

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supporting efforts to coordinate national responses to the Avian Influenza crisis in the region.

#### PROMOTING BETTER REOURCES MANAGEMENT

While West Africa possesses a rich natural resource base, weak institutions, poor management, and some of the world's highest levels of corruption consistently undermine efforts to put its resources to work for the good of its people. West Africa's energy resources, if managed properly, are a potential source of economic development and can contribute to global energy markets. USAID's programs promote the sound management and viable utilization of the region's natural resources to reduce poverty and promote stability. The Agency accomplishes these goals by enhancing regional environmental policy and planning, increasing the quality of and accessibility to critical baseline information and best practices, and improving the transparency, governance, and productivity of natural resources in strategically important areas.

#### FOSTERING ECONOMIC GROWTH

If economies in West Africa are to grow fast enough to reduce poverty, then they must be able to compete and trade. USAID focuses on trade competitiveness in global markets as a way to foster a more productive population and to increase the effectiveness of African institutions in promoting a vibrant private sector. USAID Trade Hubs in Ghana and Senegal, which support President Bush's African Global and Competitiveness Initiative, continue to work directly with firms, especially those that process or manufacture products with strong growth potential and a favorable impact on historically disadvantaged groups such as women. The Hubs play a central role in increasing exports of new types of products to the United States under the Africa Growth and Opportunities Act. For example, with the assistance of the Trade Hub in Accra, two companies from Ghana have exported shipments of carved wood candle stands, terracotta bowls, and African-style figurines, the last shipment worth \$220,000, to U.S.-based Target stores.

#### REDUCING CONFLICT AND INSTABILITY

Conflict and instability are enormous impediments to development in the region. USAID's programs are working to enhance regional capacity of civil society and regional organizations to address conflict; ameliorate some of the causes and consequences of conflict; and further strategic cross-border priorities, such as combating extremism, corruption, and trafficking.