

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Malawi
Program Title:	Increased Constitutionalism and Advocacy
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	612-007
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$550,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$200,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$595,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2007

Summary: USAID's Democracy and Governance program supports civic involvement in the rule of law for poor Malawian citizens. In particular, the program is building the numbers, skills, and reach of paralegal services and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The program works closely with Malawian civil society as it engages the Government of Malawi (GOM) on human rights and responsibilities and democratic institutions and processes. USAID will provide training, technical assistance, and some operating expenses to Malawian civil society organizations (CSOs), including faith-based organizations (FBOs), to promote advocacy, civic participation, and community resolution of problems through community education and paralegal services to the poor. Prior to Malawi's May 2005 local elections, USAID will provide technical assistance to key government and CSO actors to ensure widespread, accurate registration of voters and civic/voter education and monitoring.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Protect Human Rights and Equal Access to Justice (\$250,000 DA; \$200,000 prior year ESF). USAID provides technical assistance, training, and operating costs for Malawian nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), including FBOs. These NGOs provide legal services through innovative community-based alternative dispute resolution approaches in 40% of Malawi's districts, delivered by trained paralegals and community-based volunteers. The estimated 2,600 cases are expected to focus on labor disputes; marriage- and divorce-related property settlements; and child custody, support, and inheritance rights of the increasing number of orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS. Principal contractors and grantees: World Learning, Inc. (prime). Malawi President Mutharika's zero-tolerance policy on corruption is a strong step towards realizing a more transparent government and rebuilding the economy. ESF funds may be used to support programs to enhance the professional capabilities of law enforcement entities to carry out investigative and forensic functions conducted under judicial or prosecutorial control.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$250,000 DA). USAID provides subgrants to a wide range of Malawian NGOs and FBOs to undertake significant grassroots outreach and media campaigns covering about 80% of Malawi's population, in order to increase information on citizens' rights and responsibilities. Media campaigns include the continuation of popular soap operas that have proven effective at transmitting information. The program also includes significant expansion of radio listener clubs to reinforce learning from the broadcasts. Principal grantee: World Learning, Inc. (prime).

Promote and Support Free and Fair Elections (\$50,000 DA). USAID provides technical assistance and training that complements other donor funding in order to increase the effectiveness of NGO "get out the vote" and voter education campaigns prior to the FY 2005 local elections. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

FY 2006 Program: Protect Human Rights and Equal Access to Justice (\$300,000 DA). USAID resources will provide training, technical assistance, equipment and materials, and operating costs for Malawian NGOs in order to increase the options for legal aid and alternative dispute resolution outside Malawi's formal court system. Coverage is expected to expand to 42% of the country's districts, and will include new conflict resolution approaches. Principal grantee: World Learning, Inc. (prime).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$295,000 DA). USAID plans to provide technical assistance, training, and equipment and materials to existing and new Malawian NGO partners to increase citizens' access to information about rights, responsibilities, institutions and processes, as well as to strengthen the capacity of local groups and citizens to represent and take action for their rights. Principal grantee: World Learning, Inc. (prime).

Performance and Results: USAID has helped Malawians to participate more actively in civic life. Surveys undertaken in FY 2004 found that 54% of the citizens in USAID target areas increased their engagement in democratic processes; for example, they reported taking a civic action such as attending a meeting, raising an issue in a public forum, or approaching a local leader, compared with 36% in FY 2003. USAID provided support to the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) for the registration process, and to civil society organizations (CSOs) to conduct voter education, monitor the media, and monitor polling and counting stations on election day. A low turnout of 56.35% contrasted with 93.76% in 1999, underscored a lack of voter interest and/or confidence in the process.

By 2008, Malawians will be more knowledgeable about their rights and responsibilities. An estimated 66% of citizens in USAID-affected areas are expected to report having taken some civic action in the previous year, such as attending a meeting or raising an issue in order to solve problems, compared with 26% in 2001. In addition, rural, traditionally disenfranchised groups will have access to an expanded legal aid network that is expected to cover at least 60% of Malawi's districts and to handle an estimated 3,000 cases per year. This network will include community-based alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, thus reducing the burden on the formal court system and increasing access to justice for the poor.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Malawi

	DA	ESF
612-007 Increased Constitutionalism and Advocacy		
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	2,888	900
Expenditures	1,493	500
Unliquidated	1,395	400
Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	753	0
Expenditures	1,314	400
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	3,641	900
Expenditures	2,807	900
Unliquidated	834	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	200
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	550	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	550	200
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	595	0
Future Obligations	3,206	0
Est. Total Cost	7,992	1,100