



USAID | MOZAMBIQUE

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

GOVERNING JUSTLY AND DEMOCRATICALLY

OVERVIEW

PROFILE

Date of Independence: 1975
Population: 20.2 million (2008)
Languages: Portuguese,
Swahili, Makhuwa, Sena
GDP per capita: \$465 (2008)
Source: U.S. State Department

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BACKGROUND

In 2009, Mozambique held its fourth presidential and parliamentary elections; its third municipal elections were held in 2008. Mozambique serves as an essential link between landlocked neighbors and global markets. Its economy is tied to the industrial heartland of South Africa. These linkages underscore the fact that the country's economic, political, and social progress is vital to the interests of the region.

U.S. assistance highlights democracy and governance programming as the United States' highest priority and is critical to Mozambique's long-term development. Support for improved governance can help to address negative trends and build the necessary foundation for work in other priority areas. Stronger democratic institutions, increased transparency and improved accountability will support progress and solidify achievements toward other goals, including slowing the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, spurring economic growth, and combating trafficking in illegal goods.



PROGRAMS

Since 2005, USAID has worked to increase transparency and accountability in local governments in order to improve their capacity to deliver quality public services to all Mozambicans. USAID supports a capacity-building program that benefits members of the Attorney General's Central Office to Combat Corruption, as well as prosecutors and investigators from all 11 provinces. Improving democracy and governance is a top priority for USAID, and activities are being developed that focus on ensuring accountability, reducing corruption, and building civil society capacity.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW

Increasing government transparency and reducing corruption are priorities that cut across all USAID program activities in Mozambique. USAID's anti-corruption program focuses on improving the criminal justice system at the local and national level. Through this program, USAID has helped train prosecutors in the Attorney General's office to improve their case management and investigation skills in fighting corruption.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

USAID supports improving governance of health care systems. Recently, USAID implemented an electronic tracking and management health logistics program from central to provincial warehouses to improve communications, checks and balances, and the availability of prescription drugs. From 2003 to 2009, USAID trained municipal government officials fiscal planning and financial management. As a result, municipalities were better equipped to operate more efficiently and transparently and generated higher revenues to provide better services to their communities.



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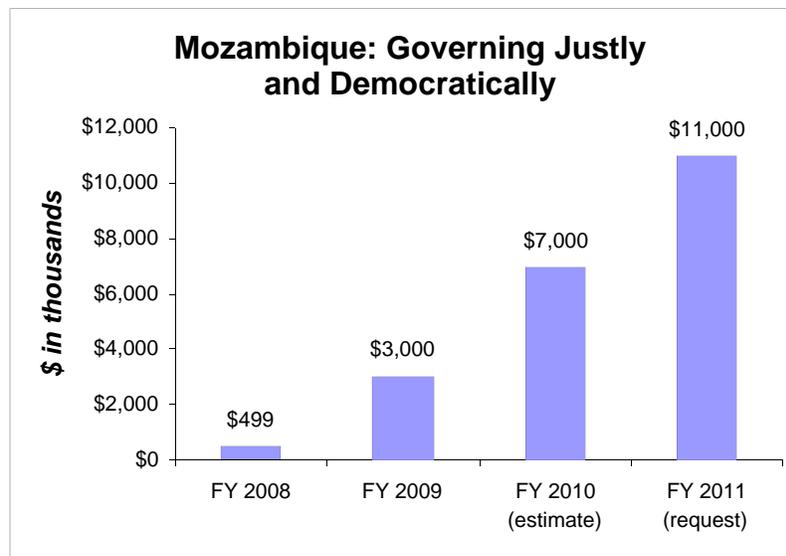
POLITICAL COMPETITION AND CONSENSUS-BUILDING

Weak management of elections processes and high absenteeism rates can damage the legitimacy of elected governments and weaken the confidence of citizens in their democracy. Support for increased political space and democratic competition can strengthen institutions and faith in government. USAID has supported strengthening open forums, debates, and local observation of the 2008 municipal elections and 2009 national elections. Unfortunately, the run-up to the 2009 elections was riddled with irregularities and demonstrated that Mozambique still has significant work ahead before it can become a fully open and competitive democracy. In response, USAID continues to work toward strengthening the fairness of the elections process and increasing the level of peaceful political competition in Mozambique to support a more representative political process. Supporting a revision of the elections process is important in terms of establishing an effective electoral foundation for future municipal and national elections. USAID's elections work is also complemented by its civil society programs that support increased debate and discussion and improve citizens' knowledge of political processes.

CIVIL SOCIETY

One of the United States' top priorities is to encourage greater public debate and participation to the public to more effectively express its interests. USAID is helping Mozambique civil society to develop a stronger voice, increase demand for accountability, and provide information about and oversight over government activities. USAID focuses on media and civil society as the means to promoting oversight and debate about government actions. Strengthening independent media and credible civil society organizations will lead to a more informed population and a greater demand for better services and good governance.

FUNDING



On behalf of the American people, the U.S. government has provided humanitarian assistance and economic development to those in need around the world since the Marshall Plan.