

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Sierra Leone
Program Title:	Strengthening Democracy
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	636-002
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$1,817,000 DA; \$2,971,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$5,200,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,342,000 DA; \$1,740,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID's Strengthening Democracy Program in Sierra Leone equips local people, including women and youth, with the information and skills they need to participate in decision-making, tackle corruption and contain human rights abuses with a view of ending the cycle of violence and ensuring security and stability. The rationale for this program is that as reintegration advances and communities become more economically and socially viable, the continuing and planned activities help institutionalize the practice of democracy governing community life and build the capacity of communities to make appropriate, transparent and inclusive political decisions that foster a climate of peace, security and stability. At the national level the program hones in on issues of governance in the diamond sector and sensitizes all Sierra Leoneans to the fundamental causes of the conflict and the inequality in their society. Through technical assistance to democratize the mining sector and formation of local committees to oversee the implementation of mining activities within their communities, USAID promotes effective government control of the country's diamond resources and increases benefits from diamonds to communities engaged in mining.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Broadening community-based political participation (\$1,317,000 DA, \$1,000,000 ESF; \$2,665,000 prior year ESF). USAID funding, through a number of PVOs working at the grassroots level, will enhance the effectiveness and increase the participation of civil society in local governance. Activities will promote open debate between civil society organizations and civil authority leaders to mitigate conflicts; provide effective advocacy skills to community organizations; stimulate citizens' awareness of their rights and responsibilities and broaden their participation in civic issues of concern to them; facilitate an atmosphere of informed dialogue, transparency and trust between Members of Parliament (MPs) and their constituents; and advance targeted human rights issues and increase access to justice. The program will effectively replace and build on gains of current and past programs such as Education for Peace, Nation Building, Civic Forum and the Access to Justice and Anti-Corruption initiative funded by USAID. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Promoting civic dialogue and informed participation in public affairs (\$500,000 DA, \$500,000 ESF; \$1,485,000 prior year ESF). USAID funding will develop, promote, and implement innovative ways of disseminating information to encourage peace, reconciliation, and informed public participation on public affairs. Specific activities will include the development of radio/media programming materials on related concerns of public affairs of national interest; provision of training, technical assistance and materials to advance the establishment of private radio stations and networks; development and organization of community-led peace fairs, concerts, and related public events to foster public dialogue and discourse on relevant public affairs of national interest. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Strengthening the efficiency of Government and local communities to manage the diamond sector (\$1,471,000 ESF; \$1,050,000 prior year ESF). USAID's work in the diamond sector will build on past and present efforts. The program will bring online a credit facility to help local miners break the debt-bondage

arrangements under which they currently work. Other interventions will include the creation of alternative marketing (sales) by involving larger international players, and facilitation of the involvement of commercial banks with a view to eliminating the role of untraceable cash in the purchase of diamonds. Technical assistance to the Ministry of Mineral Resources (MMR) will be part of the program. Principal contractors and grantees: Management Systems International (MSI).

FY 2005 Program:

Broadening community-based political participation (\$1,342,000 DA; \$500,000 ESF). The activity will continue to provide good governance, civic training and advocacy skills for leaders and community participants. Constituency outreach programs for parliamentarians and key public officials will also be strengthened. This activity will be implemented with a view to creating a responsive cadre of citizens and leaders and promoting the principles of transparent and accountable government at all levels in Sierra Leone.

Promoting civic dialogue and informed participation in public affairs (\$500,000 ESF). USAID will expand funding of the nation-wide mass media effort in civic education and public information as a means to promote informed participation in local governance. Technical assistance and materials will be provided in the promotion of private radio development. Additional efforts to encourage and promote peace and reconciliation through community-based public events will continue.

Strengthening the efficiency of Government and local communities to effectively manage the diamond sector (\$740,000 ESF). This program will build upon the only institutional strengthening program currently being implemented. This activity will continue to deepen management by and incentives for communities and government to continue to make positive changes in the way alluvial diamonds are mined in Sierra Leone. It will also consolidate the advances made in development of private sector Alliances contributing to the success of this high-visibility program.

Performance and Results: By increasing the opportunities for citizens to participate in agenda setting, decision-making, and public debate, USAID contributed immensely toward increasing participation of target populations in local democratic governance. A total of 122 citizens' networks and over 1,200 public meetings addressed various issues of public concern. Local diamond mining communities received direct financial benefits in proportion to the extent that legal mining and marketing takes place within their chiefdoms. In FY 2003, legal mining netted a 33% increase in revenues, due substantially to USAID-funded activities. In addition, cash allocations to diamond-producing communities, for the same period rose from US\$ 337,500 in FY2002 to over \$ 500,000 in the current year. The Kono Peace Diamond Alliance - a Public/ Private Alliance initiative - is addressing smuggling and exploitation by providing market information, piloting financial alternatives to debt-bondage financing, and by connecting miners with internationally recognized buyers. The Alliance established an information hub in Kono, the major diamond district in Sierra Leone, which offers training to help miners assess the true value of rough diamonds. Communities have also been sensitized to take active roles in promoting justice and combating corruption and human rights abuses.

By program completion, Sierra Leoneans in targeted areas will be more knowledgeable of their rights and responsibilities as citizens and encouraged to participate in efficient methods of harnessing and sharing benefits of the country's natural resources. Rural and traditionally disenfranchised groups, like women and youth, will become a key factor in improved democratic governance. The mining sector, as an example of a national institution, will become more and more transparent and responsive to the needs of local communities. The net effect will be the eventual reduction in reasons to resort to violence and hence promote peace, security and stability in Sierra Leone.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Sierra Leone

636-002 Strengthening Democracy	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	4,897	1,725
Expenditures	402	48
Unliquidated	4,495	1,677
Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	100	593
Expenditures	2,239	1,233
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	4,997	2,318
Expenditures	2,641	1,281
Unliquidated	2,356	1,037
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	5,200
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	1,817	2,971
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	1,817	8,171
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	1,342	1,740
Future Obligations	1,342	1,342
Est. Total Cost	9,498	13,571