



USAID | ANGOLA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

GOVERNING JUSTLY AND DEMOCRATICALLY

OVERVIEW

PROFILE

Date of Independence: 1975
Population: 17 million (2008)
Languages: Portuguese, Kongo, Chokwe, South Mbundu, North Mbundu
GDP per capita: \$4,941 (2008)
Source: U.S. State Department

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BACKGROUND

Angola's low level of human development is at odds with its potential for economic prosperity. Much of this paradox is explained by the social disruption and physical destruction generated by 27 years of civil war. Angola is continuing the transition toward national reconciliation and peace that began in earnest in 2002 and was significantly advanced in September 2008 by successful National Assembly elections. As a potential powerhouse for regional trade and investment, Angola—the second largest producer of oil in sub-Saharan Africa and the United States' sixth largest global source of imported oil—has tremendous agricultural resources and the potential to make an important contribution to regional growth and stability. To help Angola realize this potential, USAID focuses on strengthening good governance, increasing economic opportunity, and improving the delivery of social services. USAID leverages several public-private partnerships to co-fund its activities.



PROGRAMS

In early 2010 Angola adopted a new constitution, paving the way for presidential and parliamentary elections in 2012. However, Angola continues to face challenges in its prospects for democratic development. Good governance is the linchpin of USAID's entire development portfolio in Angola and USAID is strengthening the vertical linkages between different levels of government; enhancing system reform at the national level; boosting key social services and economic inputs at the community level; improving budgeting and planning, supervision, information, procurement, and other intra-governmental systems that might improve service delivery; increasing economic opportunity; and improving transparency, accountability, and participation.

RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

USAID is supporting citizens' access to justice through technical advice and training to Angolan legal organizations and through the creation of a legal clinic that provides legal advisory services. The recent adoption of new constitutional rights provides an opening for Angolan lawyers, law faculty and students, the bar association, and other civil society organizations to advise and otherwise educate citizens on their rights. USAID is also supporting local organizations to promote respect for the rule of law and human rights.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

USAID supports building and strengthening community organization, local government capacity, municipal government accountability, small-scale infrastructure improvements, and broad community participation in decision-making and oversight of local public investments. These public investments



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increase access to essential services, support economic opportunities, and improve environmental conditions. USAID also provides small grants (ranging from about \$2,000 to \$40,000) that municipalities may use for specific development activities identified in municipal development plans and produced with civil society and community participation. The Ministry of Territorial Administration also uses the municipalities where the program is being implemented as pilot areas for local fiscal decentralization.

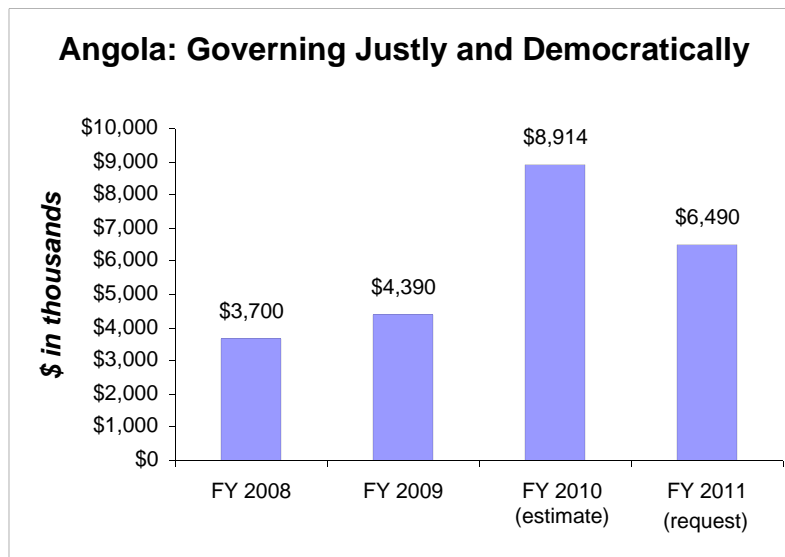
POLITICAL COMPETITION AND CONSENSUS BUILDING

The program continues to support and encourage local civil society organization engagement in the political process and bringing together elected officials with their constituents, while helping other organizations build consensus with the government in its reform agenda. Information dissemination activities aimed at improving citizens' knowledge of democratic issues such as the new constitution and the role of the national assembly is done through radio programs and debates.

CIVIL SOCIETY

USAID seeks to improve the effectiveness and viability of Angolan civil society organizations and their ability to interact with government productively. The program is helping to strengthen the institutional capacity of civil society organizations through training and technical support to improve the ability of selected civil society organizations to organize and communicate within their communities and/or constituencies, to plan and manage internal operations (boards, budgets, financial management, personnel, systems) and programs, to foster productive external relationships (with government, donors, private sector, and other civil society organizations), and to carry out other responsibilities essential to effective operations. Institutional strengthening activities may include central and local government partners, particularly, but not exclusively, with regard to how to interact productively with civil society. USAID also provides small grants that support developmental and charity activities; activities that bring civil society and government together to achieve a common objective; advocacy activities; and other issues.

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.