



USAID | MALAWI

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

GOVERNING JUSTLY AND DEMOCRATICALLY

OVERVIEW

PROFILE

Date of Independence: 1964
Population: 13.1 million (2008)
Languages: English, Chichewa
GDP per capita: \$884 (2008)
Source: U.S. State Department

MISSION DIRECTOR

Curt Reintsma
P.O. Box 30455
Lilongwe 3, Malawi
Tel: 265-1-772-455

MALAWI DESK OFFICER

Rosalind Best
Tel: 1-202-712-0839
Email: rbest@usaid.gov
Web: www.usaid.gov/mw

BACKGROUND

Malawi is one of the world's 20 poorest countries. Over 40 percent of the population lives on less than a dollar a day, and the life expectancy is 50 years due to HIV/AIDS, malaria, and malnutrition.

USAID has provided assistance to Malawi since the early 1960s. Today, USAID primarily focuses on promoting Malawi's political and economic development, improving the delivery of and access to health and education services, strengthening food security through agricultural investments, decreasing the country's dependence on humanitarian assistance, increasing its ability to make positive contributions to security in the region, and participating in the global community more broadly.



PROGRAMS

Malawi has seen steady economic growth in recent years, ranging from 5-9 percent since 2005, which has complemented its slow but steady democratic progress. However, Malawi is still a low-capacity, high-poverty country where political and economic gains can be easily reversed. The issue of presidential succession will increasingly dominate the political agenda, given presidential and legislative elections which are slated to occur in 2014. A number of governance systems initiated under the recently ended Millennium Challenge Corporation Threshold Country Program, including Parliamentary budget oversight, auditing, public financial management systems and reformed procurement procedures, need continued support to consolidate gains in public transparency and fighting corruption.

RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

USAID works to build demand for services of the judiciary by strengthening its ability to handle criminal, civil, and commercial cases. In addition, access to justice for poor Malawians may be increased, especially among women and girls whose rights to property and personhood are not respected. Strengthening rule of law in Malawi will have a multiplier effect on other development sectors in the country. USAID continues to provide training and technical assistance to improve court procedures and administration, case tracking and documentation management.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Malawi is a maturing democracy where governance is challenged by lack of full transparency and accountability. USAID has worked to strengthen the institutional capacity of Parliamentary Committees to effectively meet its objectives and provides broad support for a variety of institutions involved in anti-corruption and fiscal management, including the Ministry of Finance Budget Office, the Malawi Revenue Authority, the Reserve Bank, the Office of Public Procurement, Malawi Police Service and prosecutors, the media and civil society, and the National Audit Office.



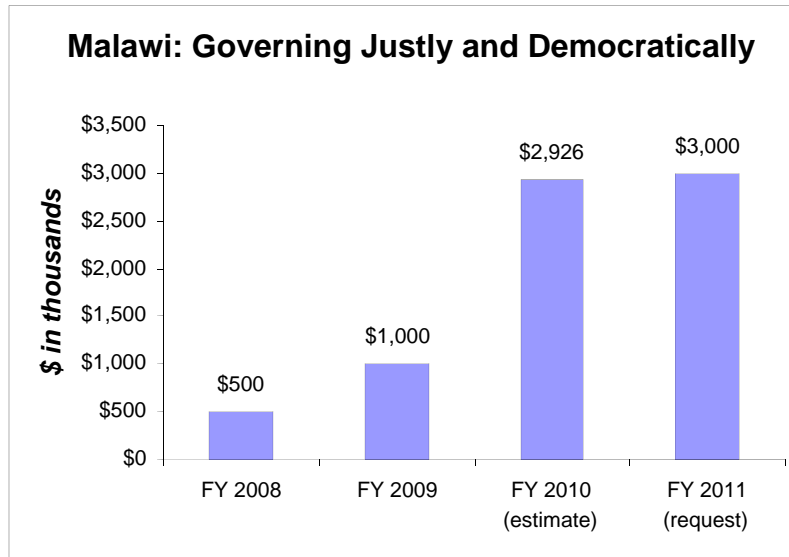
USAID | MALAWI

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

POLITICAL COMPETITION AND CONSENSUS BUILDING

USAID supported for Malawi's May 2009 general elections by placing funds in the United Nations Development Program Elections Trust Fund, which managed donor support to the Malawi Election Commission. These funds were dedicated to training over 150 election officials and implementing voter and civic education programs that provided more than 500,000 people with a better understanding of voting rights and responsibilities.

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.