



USAID | SOUTH AFRICA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

GOVERNING JUSTLY AND DEMOCRATICALLY

OVERVIEW

PROFILE

Date of Independence: 1994
Population: 47.9 million (2007)
Languages: English, Zulu, Xhosa, Afrikaans, Northern Sotho, Tswana, Sotho, Tsonga, Swati, Venda, Ndebele
GDP per capita: \$5,900 (2008)
Source: U.S. State Department

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BACKGROUND

Fifteen years after the end of apartheid, the South African Government remains committed to upholding the rights of all citizens and continues to invest heavily in its people. South Africa plays a key economic and political role in Africa, but unemployment, HIV/AIDS, crime, and growing public sector corruption undermine public support for the country's hard-won democracy. The South African Government must ensure that the epic changes made since the country's first democratic elections in 1994 are consolidated and benefit most citizens. USAID focuses on strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises, creating employment, strengthening health systems, and addressing HIV/AIDS. As progress is made, USAID is re-directing or phasing out its long-term programs in education, democracy and governance, and municipal service provision.



PROGRAMS

RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

South Africa has the highest prevalence of rape in the world outside of countries experiencing active conflict. Police statistics indicate a rate of 194 rapes per 100,000 women, but these statistics do not represent the whole picture, since experts estimate that only one in nine victims ever reports sexual violence and abuse to police. USAID implements the Women's Justice and Empowerment Initiative in South Africa, which increases access to justice and integrated support services for rape and sexual assault survivors through expansion of and support to the *Thuthuzela* (to comfort) Care Center (TCC) network, which provides assistance to victims in a secure environment. The TCC model is an inter-sectoral South African Government program that provides comprehensive medical, psychosocial, and legal services and support for rape survivors and seeks to improve criminal justice outcomes in sexual offences cases. Located in public hospital facilities, the TCCs provide a range of essential services from emergency medical care, post-exposure prophylaxis, counseling and court preparation in an integrated and victim-friendly manner. The centers are staffed with victims assistance officers, case managers and site coordinators—all of whom will become permanent employees of South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority Sexual Offenses and Community Affairs Unit.

For over ten years, USAID has supported the South African Government's efforts to effectively deal with crime through a variety of programs in three key areas: (1) strengthening justice sector institutions; (2) improving case processing and court efficiency; and (3) developing crime and violence prevention strategies with a particular focus on preventing violence against women and children. USAID continues to build from previous efforts to support the National Prosecuting Authority and the South African Judiciary

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.



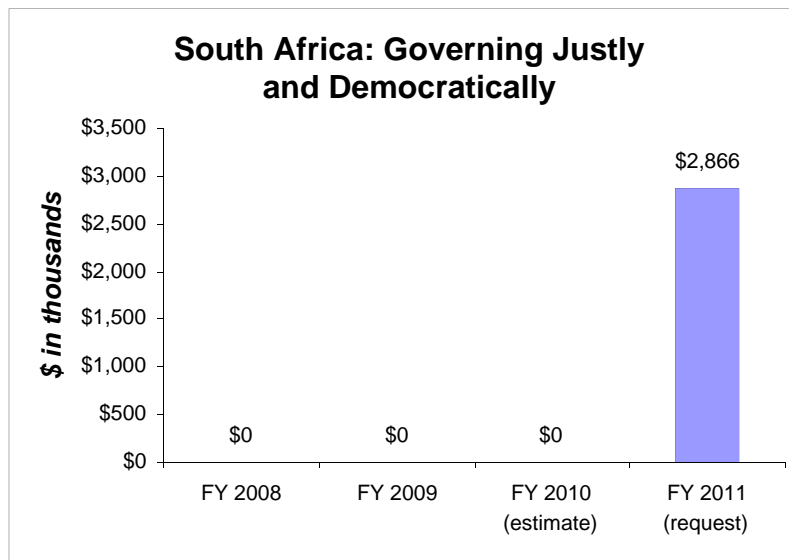
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to improve the prosecution and adjudication of sexual offense cases; and provide targeted technical assistance and institutional support for the newly established Judicial Education Institute.

Starting in 2004, USAID began working to strengthen local government by providing: (1) technical assistance to municipalities in South Africa on revenue enhancement, municipal advisors, and improved service delivery; (2) assistance in developing anti-corruption strategies to municipalities; (3) assistance with the International Relations Division of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs on trilateral decentralization efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and (4) establishment of seven and refurbishment of four rape crisis centers throughout South Africa.

FUNDING



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