



USAID | UGANDA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

GOVERNING JUSTLY AND DEMOCRATICALLY

OVERVIEW

PROFILE

Date of Independence: 1962
Population: 30.9 million (2007)
Languages: English, Swahili
GDP: \$10.8 billion (yr)
Source: U.S. State Department

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BACKGROUND

Uganda has achieved many political, economic, and social advances in recent years. Strong economic growth has resulted in lower poverty, lower rates of HIV/AIDS, and better education. Regional disparities remain, particularly in the north, which has begun its transition to peace after more than 20 years of conflict. USAID's assistance to Uganda focuses on strengthening the conditions for peaceful development in post-conflict northern Uganda, promoting the institutionalization of multi-party democracy, addressing key health threats such as malaria and HIV/AIDS, and promoting key development issues such as sound agribusiness practices and biodiversity protection.



PROGRAMS

To consolidate Uganda's new multi-party system, USAID supports programs that strengthen issue-based caucuses and accountability committees in Parliament, and promote consensus-building activities among elected representatives, political parties, and civil society. USAID works to strengthen political parties and improve the capacity of civil society to advocate on behalf of their constituents, buttress the Electoral Commission, and support a national civic education program in preparation for elections.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

The reintroduction of multiparty democracy in 2005 provided Uganda an opportunity to create a more accountable and responsive government and an electoral system more capable of enabling a growing number of citizens to participate peacefully in politics. Widespread corruption has negatively impacted the capacity of all government institutions in all sectors to respond to the needs of the people. In response, U.S.-supported activities are aimed at strengthening democratic institutions, enhancing democratic political competition, increasing public participation, and reducing corruption.

POLITICAL COMPETITION AND CONSENSUS BUILDING

The United States works to prevent possible election-related conflict by promoting equitable conditions for political competition and encouraging consensus building. U.S. activities have strengthened the capacity of political parties and have sought to improve the functioning of the Electoral Commission. USAID works effectively with and provides crucial support to all of Uganda's major political parties.

CIVIL SOCIETY

To build a well-governed state that responds to the needs of its people, Uganda must create effective, responsive, and accountable institutions that provide avenues for meaningful public participation and oversight of government activities. USAID activities work to increase linkages among Parliament, local government, political parties, and civil society to promote governance, service delivery, and reconciliation and development in northern Uganda. USAID also support also works to strengthen the capacity of civil

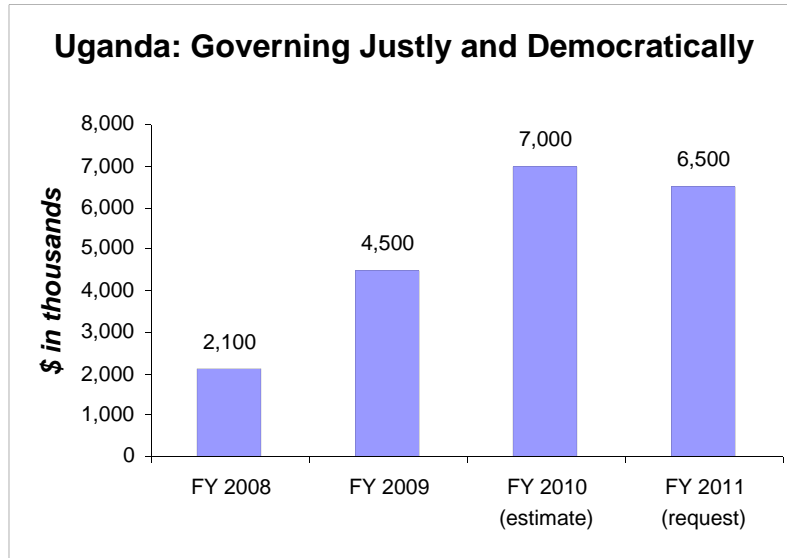


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society organizations to engage Parliament, local governments, and political parties in the development and implementation of policies and programs.

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.