

1. SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIONAL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Southern Africa Regional Program exists in order to provide a means of responding to the political and economic dynamics affecting the stability of Africa's most troubled region. U.S. interests are furthered only by the peaceful resolution of on-going conflicts and the avoidance of instability and further conflict. Nine of the ten independent countries making up the region are experiencing economic difficulties of varying severity. The other country, South Africa - the most developed of all African states - is faced with the internal challenge of apartheid which threatens not only its own peace but that of its neighbors. The Southern Africa region contains the last remaining 'colony' on the continent, Namibia, whose independence has become a focus of world attention and a key objective of U.S. foreign policy in Africa.

The strategy for a regional development assistance program begins with the premise that there was a need to be flexible in order to respond to the potential changes in the region and to be in a position to assist as the Southern Africans plan their development under the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), a body composed of the nine developing countries in the region, which designs strategies and programs for cooperative development. These nine countries are: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. A further consideration in the strategy is to utilize assistance modes which minimizes the management and administrative burden of the program and are complementary to on-going bilateral assistance programs in the region.

The sectors emphasized in the regional program are transportation, communications, agriculture, manpower, trade and technology transfer. These sectors were selected on the basis that they represent key constraint areas for the region's economies and are supportable through multi-donor assistance projects where coordination of efforts is necessary. AID's program of assistance in these key sectors is, as follows:

Transportation:

Under the Regional Transport and Storage Project funds have been provided for the rehabilitation of portions of the road linking Lusaka with Harare, constituting a major trade route in the region. Within the next month our regional engineer will be reviewing options with RDO Pfeiffer for other regional transport priorities. High on the list of priorities is the Malawi/Tazara rail link which would give Malawi an alternative to its currently undependable routes.

Agriculture:

We are currently reviewing the possibility of funding a Regional Sorghum and Millet Research Program developed by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISATT) upon the request of SADCC. A similar regional program for legume research is planned to start in FY-85. In addition, we have already provided funding to Zimbabwe to carry out on behalf of SADCC responsibility for planning for regional food security.

Communications:

The high frequency radio link required to improve management of the Beira/Maputo to Bulawayo rail links is a SADCC priority which we would be ready to fund if not impeded by the question of assistance to Mozambique.

Manpower Development:

To help Swaziland meet its SADCC responsibilities in this area we have funded a study of Comparability of Education Levels in the anglophone countries of SADCC. Portugal has funded a similar study in the Lusophone countries and the two studies will be combined for SADCC consideration of development of cost-effective educational systems within the region.

Technology Transfer:

AID has assisted the African Bibliographic Center in the development of a Southern African Information System (SADIS) for development planning. We are now developing a project (at PP stage in Harare) for the transfer of responsibility for that system from Washington to Harare.

Certain AID interests complement the SADCC priority development sectors. Consistent with the goal of strengthening the potential contribution of the private sector to regional development, AID is considering an intra-regional trade development project which would promote the expansion of business and commerce through increased trade among Southern African countries. This project is programmed to start in FY-1984 with an estimated life of project cost of \$30 million.

FY-1983 to FY-1985

(\$ Thousand)

	<u>FY-1983</u>	<u>FY-1984</u>	<u>FY-1985</u>
South Africa* programs	9,550	7,000	8,000
Regional design, self-help and Human Rights Projects	<u>2,217</u>	<u>3,800</u>	<u>3,800</u>
Subtotal	11,767	10,800	11,800

USAID/RDO MISSION MANAGED PROJECTS

	<u>FY-1983</u>	<u>FY-1984</u>	<u>FY-1985</u>
Southern Africa Regional Program	5,414	32,200	31,200

\*Includes Development Assistance (DA) funds programmed for project activities in the Republic of South Africa.

2. MAJOR PROJECT SECTORS AND ISSUES

The Southern Africa Regional Program has to maintain a very low mortgage in order to permit reprogramming on short notice to provide, at least partially, for new programs resulting from major political changes, e.g., the independence of Namibia.

Existing Congressional restrictions preclude development assistance to Mozambique. Emergency food assistance is allowed on a bilateral program basis at the present time. In addition, regional programs may benefit Mozambique under certain limited conditions. However, the single most significant step possible to improve the macro-economic position of the land-locked countries of the region would be removal of the impediments disrupting international transport. For all, except Lesotho, this would involve improvement in Mozambiquan ports and connecting rail and road transportation systems.

3. USAID/RDO STAFFING

The USAID Mission Director also has executive responsibilities for the Southern Africa Regional Program. Under his guidance the Regional Development Officer is responsible for the planning, management and implementation of the program. AFR recognizes that the development and implementation of projects under this program have been hampered by inadequate field staff. In addition to the Regional Development Officer posted in Harare the Africa Bureau is considering an interim solution involving obtaining the services of an economist and an agricultural development/project officer under personal services contract. Another measure to be taken will be for each USAID Mission to assign responsibility to a member of its staff to serve as SADCC and Southern Africa Regional Program liaison. The Regional Development Support Office (REDSO - East Africa) in Kenya will continue to assist the Regional Development Program in project design, implementation, and evaluation of its activities.

4. PRINCIPAL SADCC OFFICIALS

The Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) Organization came into being in 1979. After about two years of concerted efforts to work out operational procedures with the nine member states, the Council of Ministers of SADCC approved the nomination of Ambassador Arthur Blumeris, Zimbabwe's first Ambassador to Brussels and to the EEC, to become the first Executive of the SADCC entity in July 1982.

The SADCC Secretariat is located in Botswana and serves as coordinator for development responsibilities which were delegated to member states along the following lines:

Transport and Communications - Mozambique

Food Security - Zimbabwe

Soil Conservation and Land Utilization - Lesotho

Crop Research and Animal Disease Control - Botswana

Manpower Development - Swaziland

Industrial Development - Tanzania

Southern Africa Development Fund and Mining - Zambia

Fisheries, Wildlife and Forestry - Malawi

5. KEY QUESTIONS

For USAID and Embassy:

What is current status of Zimbabwe Government's restrictions on additional direct hire staff assigned to Harare?

For USAID:

What are the obligation problems of FY-1983 funds? Is there anything AID/W can do to help Mission/RDO accelerate obligations?

For USAID:

Has SADCC/Zimbabwe selected a site for the ICRASAT/INTSORMIL project proposal? Are there other donor/SADCC resources pledged to this proposed research project?

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