

# **USAID/West African Regional Program (WARP)**

## **Annual Report**

**FY 2005**

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## West African Regional Program (WARP)

### Performance:

Background: The ongoing violence in Cote d'Ivoire - the region's former economic bastion that was once responsible for 40% of francophone West Africa's economic output - epitomizes the turbulent and unpredictable character of the region. Today, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria appear on the region's conflict watch lists. West Africa remains one of the poorest regions in the world with about 60 per cent of the population eking out an existence on less than a dollar a day, but continuing instability makes investment by donors and the private sector alike a risky business. It is not coincidental therefore that the mandate of the region's key intergovernmental organization, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), has been expanded to add conflict prevention to its original mandate of economic integration and growth. The region's population of 290 million is destined to grow to some 430 million by 2020 and the vast majority of those people will probably be unemployed youth. It is therefore critical that long-term solutions to the problem of creating a vast number of productive livelihoods be found and implemented; however this will require long-term vision and commitment.

Today, both vision and commitment appear to be on the rise within the region. ECOWAS is demonstrating that it can and will improve its management and implementation capacity. Additionally, a core group of its key member states, Benin, Ghana, Mali, Senegal and Nigeria appear to be firmly established among the region's functioning democracies. The peace agreements in Sierra Leone and Liberia continue to hold and mediation efforts by regional leaders in Cote d'Ivoire are unflagging. The upturn in the region's image and prospects are attested to by the selection of five West African countries as eligible candidates for the President's Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) in FY 2004 in honor of their efforts to rule justly, invest in their human resources, and create a business-friendly economic environment. It also signals the USG's commitment to doing its part to help to create a stable and prosperous region.

U.S. Interests and Goals: U.S. interests in West Africa continue to encompass strategic, economic, and humanitarian concerns. The region's growing importance as a potential source of oil increases its significance as a trading partner for the U.S. while also raising the likelihood of increased conflict and corruption over control of this valuable resource. This is an issue that USAID is seeking to pre-empt in Sao Tome and Principe by working with the government and the private sector to increase transparency in the management of oil revenues. The U.S. Government also funds activities to improve the food security of the region's people, to improve their health, and to deal with the crises that arise from unanticipated shocks to their fragile livelihood systems, such as the one caused by this year's locust invasion. The U.S. goal for the West Africa region is to buttress regional stability by supporting efforts to prevent conflict and promoting economic growth. USAID's West Africa Regional Program (WARP) is designed to support this goal, and those of USAID bilateral missions, by tackling issues and challenges that are inherently regional in nature. Its four program areas therefore deal with 1) regional economic integration and trade; 2) regional agricultural growth, food security, and natural resources management; 3) regional health issues; and 4) conflict prevention and anti-corruption.

Partners and beneficiaries: USAID's strategy for West Africa was originally designed by AID/Washington in collaboration with USAID bilateral missions in the region. WARP's creators remain highly involved with the program and convene annually to discuss WARP's overall progress and future directions at the annual Advisory Board meeting. WARP's technical partners also attend sector-specific annual Technical Advisory Group meetings where they have an opportunity to vet regional projects and plans and to ensure that they benefit from the added value that WARP's programs bring.

WARP is a partner of all of the region's major intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and its key partner

is ECOWAS. WARP currently works with ECOWAS on half a dozen major activities including the West Africa Power Pool, the West Africa Gas Pipeline, the Common External Tariff, establishment of a second currency, the development of a regional agricultural policy and the creation of an effective regional conflict prevention mechanism. The Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) is another long-time partner of USAID. It also recently embraced a profound organizational re-structuring of its headquarters in order to improve its effectiveness. This drastic step was based on the findings of an evaluation funded by USAID and other donors. The re-structuring will increase CILSS's efficiency and flexibility and support its effort to expand its geographic and substantive mandate. In sum, the higher level of commitment and organizational effectiveness of USAID's major intergovernmental partners bodes well for the future of its programs and for the wellbeing of West African citizens who are the ultimate beneficiaries.

**Integrated Programming:** USAID/WARP systematically integrates gender considerations into all of its programs. This is most clearly observed in the health and conflict-prevention sectors where women and men are well represented in the populations that are being served and where programs focus on the different needs of both genders and on the potential differences in anticipated outcomes for men and women. WARP also targets women in programs that traditionally cater to men. This is the case in our food security and agriculture programs where special efforts have been made to work with civil society organizations that represent the interests of both genders and to incorporate their concerns into WARP's programs.

WARP is implementing three major initiatives. The Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE) is a multi-year trade capacity building initiative, seeking to help African businesses take advantage of increased trading opportunities provided through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and global markets. Through the provision of technical assistance, training and other support, WARP is increasing the competitiveness of exports to the United States and helping regional intergovernmental organizations harmonize economic policies. The Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA) aims to raise rural incomes through increasing agricultural productivity and to expand opportunities for trade in agricultural commodities. USAID/WARP is working to increase agricultural productivity by introducing new technologies, including biotechnology, and investing in agricultural research. Additionally, it is expanding trade in agricultural commodities in the region through the provision of timely and accurate market information.

**Donor Relations:** WARP's on-going efforts to improve donor coordination with respect to regional IGOs have paid off handsomely this year. Donors have come together to provide both moral and financial support for ECOWAS and CILSS. ECOWAS has received overtures from over 30 donors based on (1) its success in conflict mediation and peacekeeping, (2) its effective management of a number of multi-donor infrastructure projects, (3) dynamic leadership, (4) and the impact of much needed management reform. The EU and the World Bank are now ECOWAS's major donor (in terms of funding) and more recently, the multi-donor Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC), named ECOWAS as its major partner and is supporting the organization in long-term visioning and strategic planning. In the case of CILSS, USAID and Canada jointly funded an audit of all of CILSS's sources of financing that resulted in a clean bill of that organization and demonstrated the success of USAID's earlier investment in building CILSS's management capacity.

**Challenges:** The major challenge surmounted by WARP this reporting period was completing the changes in its programs' Results Frameworks and finalizing its Performance Management Plans (PMP) to incorporate the three initiatives (TRADE, IEHA and Anti-Corruption) into its economic integration, food security and conflict prevention program areas, respectively. Next year will see improved indicator-based reporting on the many accomplishments that were not captured by the old PMPs. The second major challenge was that of staffing. In FY 2004 WARP recruited 11 new staffers members. Absorbing 11 newcomers into a 29 person staff has been a major management challenge this year, above all because the majority of the new arrivals have had no prior experience working for USAID. The absence of a Program Officer has also been an enormous strain for the Mission, although one is programmed to arrive in mid-FY2005.

**Key Achievements:** The following summarizes the Mission's key achievements.

**Regional Economic Integration:** This program is based on the hypothesis that regional economic integration through increased trade will spur economic growth. Achievements include the following: (1) facilitating regional exports (\$29.2 million) and imports (\$29.5 million) to and from the U.S. under the West African Business Linkages Project; (2) working through WARP's West Africa Trade Hub to help governments prepare Textile Visa applications and coordinating the first two exports of AGOA Category 9 merchandise from West Africa in FY 2004; (3) assisting ECOWAS to establish an region-wide Common External Tariff (CET) including bringing The Gambia, Guinea, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone on-board for an early 2005 implementation; and (4) for the West Africa Power Pool, creating an information and coordination center in Benin, completing the stability study and master plan for regional energy sector development, and finalizing interconnections for electricity trading between seven countries.

**Food Security and Agriculture Productivity:** WARP achieved the following results in this area: (1) Supported CILSS to permit it to develop a new five-year operational plan, complete crop production assessments in all nine member states as well as emergency assessments of the impact of the locust assessment; (2) under a joint program between the U.S. Geological Survey and CILSS's Agrhymet Regional Center (ARC), furnished ARC with a comprehensive archive of satellite image data on the region's land resources over the last forty year covering 17 countries in the region; (3) trained over 600 individuals, created 106 new information products (e.g., crop bulletins and biotech brochures), developed 93 new technologies and disseminated 23 of these technologies to agricultural services in the region; and (4) collaborated with other U.S.G. Agencies to launch work in the area of biotechnology and biosafety in the region.

**Health:** WARP successfully launched its major new health program Action for West Africa Region (AWARE). During the first year, the project set up offices in the region, hired a new bi-lingual staff, and established a new implementation and monitoring and evaluation system, including a new PMP. The project was also able to (1) identify a series of promising and best practices (PBS) in various areas key health areas (e.g., HIV/AIDS prevention, malaria management, community case management of acute respiratory infections, immunization programs, birth preparedness, etc.); (2) start to disseminate the practices throughout the region in five learning sites in four countries; (3) finance 19 grants in ten non-presence countries under the West Africa Ambassador's Fund to strengthen the ability of Ambassadors to promote more effective HIV/AIDS policies with host country officials; and (4) establish an effective working relationship with two major regional health organizations: ECOWAS's West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) and CILSS's Center for Population and Development Studies and Research (CERPOD). These two organizations will spearhead the development and promulgation of region-wide policies and legislation in health.

**Conflict Prevention and Anti-Corruption:** WARP's major achievement in this area involves strengthening the institutional linkages between our two major collaborators: ECOWAS's Department of Political Affairs, Defense and Security (PADS) and the West Africa Network for Peace Building (WANEP) as testified to by an MOU signed in February 2004. WANEP now has a permanent liaison officer at ECOWAS headquarters. The two organizations have carried out joint training activities, including training in early warning data analyses for staff at PADS and at ECOWAS's four zonal bureaus. WARP's conflict mitigation projects in Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, all of which are managed jointly with USAID bilateral missions met their planned targets in the areas of reconciling post-conflict communities, addressing gender-based violence and trafficking in persons.

For more information please go to the following web address: [www.usaid.gov/missions/warp](http://www.usaid.gov/missions/warp)  
<<http://www.usaid.gov/missions/warp>>

## Results Framework

**624-001 Increase Use of Selected, Regional Reproductive Health, HIV/STI, and Child Survival Services and/or Products in the WCA Region**

**624-004 Regional Economic Integration Strengthened in West Africa**

**SO Level Indicator(s):**

- Level of West African global trade
- Transnational energy sales increased
- Value of AGOA exports
- Value of trade of selected products in selected countries

**624-004-4.1** Barriers to trade reduced

**624-004-4.2** Improved regional policy reform process

**624-005 Increased Adoption of Sustainable Family Planning/Reproductive Health, STI/HIV/AIDS and Child Survival Policies and Approaches in West Africa**

**SO Level Indicator(s):**

Number of countries that are implementing at least one AWARE-selected promising and best practice in FP/RH, STI/HIV/AIDS, CS and ID

Number of countries that are participating in cross-border integrated FP/RH, STI/HIV/AIDS interventions

Number of newly-adopted policies at regional and national levels in FP/RH, STI/HIV/AIDS, CS and ID

**624-005-5.1** Increased access to quality reproductive health, Improved approaches to FP/RH, STI/HIV/AIDS, and CS and ID services disseminated regionwide

**624-005-5.2** Increased regional stakeholder advocacy for policy change

**624-005-5.3** Increased capacity of regional institutions and networks

**624-005-5.4** Health sector reform models developed and disseminated regionwide

**624-006 Enhanced Capacity to Achieve Regional Food Security, Improved Natural Resources Management, and Agricultural growth in West Africa**

**SO Level Indicator(s):**

Assisted institutions service delivery (customer satisfaction) score

Number of agricultural, food security and natural resource management policies adopted at regional and/or national level

Number of formal partnerships to achieve food security, natural resources management, and agricultural growth objectives

**624-006-6.1** Regional organizations strengthened

**624-006-6.2** Improved regional availability of information, technology, and practices

**624-006-6.3** Improved policy environment

**624-007 Improved Enabling Conditions for Peace in West Africa**

**SO Level Indicator(s):**

ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Mechanism functioning

**624-007-7.1** Enhanced regional capacity of organizations to address conflict

**624-007-7.2** Some causes and consequences of conflict ameliorated

**624-007-7.3** Strategic cross-border US Government priorities furthered

**625-001 Assist Governments, Regional Institutions and Private Sector Associations to Identity, Clarify, and Implement Policy Options which Promote Trade and I**

**625-002 Regional Dialogue Increased on the Role of Civil Society and Communal, Local and National Governments in Achieving Improved Management of Natural Reso**

**625-003 Decision Makers Have Ready Access to Relevant Information on Food Security, Population and the Environment**