

TITLE Human Rights Fund for Africa		FUNDS Selected Development Activities	PROPOSED OBLIGATION (In thousands of dollars)		
NUMBER Various	NEW <input type="checkbox"/>	PRIOR REFERENCE None	FY 81 100	LIFE OF PROJECT Continuing	
GRANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LOAN <input type="checkbox"/>		INITIAL OBLIGATION FY 1979	ESTIMATED FINAL OBLIGATION FY Continuing	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE OF PROJECT FY Continuing

**Purpose:** The project purpose is to promote observance of civil and political rights. Civil and political rights are identified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Among the civil/political rights are those involving freedom from torture or cruel or inhuman or degrading treatment; freedom of expression, association, religion, and the press; the right to follow one's cultural traditions; and freedom of movement and residence.

**Background and Progress to Date:** The program was initiated in FY 79 and funded projects in 12 African countries, including those funds provided under the Sahel Development Program. The average grant was for \$10,000, but an exception was made for the Dakar Institute for Human Rights Education. That grant was treated as a regional grant, because the Institute, Africa's first for the promotion of human rights, serves the entire Francophone community of Africa. The grant provided the Secretariat which materials to enable it to begin operating, and also funded the first seminars organized by the Institute.

Additional projects in FY 79 were providing Human Rights materials to a new law school for civil servants in Guinea-Bissau and a three-month law graduate course on cooperative human rights problems, at the University of Togo.

The Human Rights Fund enables the U.S. Ambassadors to fund projects quickly to respond to host country initiatives for promoting civil and political rights. By beginning with relatively small grants, AID can fund "seed money" projects which will encourage host countries to develop and build upon already established activities.

**Host Country and Other Donors:** All African countries eligible for U.S. bilateral development assistance can participate. An important component is the self-help element, either financed

or in kind, in order to demonstrate local support, either government or private, for the activity. We hope as a result of these demonstration projects, it will encourage local financing.

**FY 81 Program:** In FY 81 \$300,000 is planned for human rights activities in approximately 30 African countries. Approved projects will establish dynamic, continuing activities for promoting civil and political rights.

**Major Outputs:** The overall output is the promotion of civil and political rights in the countries participating. The overall specific outputs are: increasing contact among those who are interested in human rights and development, increasing knowledge and information on human rights; developing interest in human rights, furthering advocacy, especially of minorities and disadvantaged groups; obtaining or maintaining human rights under development programs. Some specific examples of activities to be funded are seminars, conferences, and educational programs, local research or scholarship, training of those who want to encourage better human rights, assistance to local organizations which encourage better human rights observance, and ombudsman programs.

**A.I.D. Financed Inputs:** (\$ thousands)  
 Other Costs: FY 81  
 100

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U.S. FINANCING (In thousands of dollars)

PRINCIPAL CONTRACTORS OR AGENCIES

	Obligations	Expenditures	Unliquidated	
Through September 30, 1979	86	-	86	N/A
Estimated Fiscal Year 1980	300	150		
Estimated through September 30, 1980	386	150	236	
		Future Year Obligations	Estimated Total Cost	
Proposed Fiscal Year 1981	100	Continuing	Continuing	

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pressing pre-occupations of the Government. With such a high proportion of the able-bodied workers temporarily absent at any one time, there is a shortage of qualified workers for many projects in Lesotho. The fact remains, however, that by working in the RSA, Basotho workers not only gain financially, they contribute to Lesotho's economy. Their earnings are larger than the nation's Gross Domestic Product.

Lesotho has one of the highest literacy rates in Africa (53 percent) and is one of the few African nations with ethnic, linguistic and religious homogeneity. There are more females than males in the higher grades in schools. This is because the males tend to work at an early age as herd boys and later migrate to the mines in the RSA. This pattern tends to leave farming to women, older men and children. On-farm income is low; in 1976 it was estimated 75 percent of the rural households were below the poverty datum line of R96.00 per month for an average family of six persons. Income in the rural areas is remarkably even in its distribution. Countrywide, the lowest 20 percent receive 16 percent of the income while the highest 20 percent receive 30 percent.

D. Human Rights: Lesotho's human rights record is not altogether positive. The present government has been in power since annulling an election in 1970, which would have resulted in opposition victory. Nevertheless, freedom of speech is an accepted right, the judiciary is well known in southern Africa for its objectivity, and some members of the opposition have been invited into the government. Lesotho has assisted a growing number of refugees who have fled South Africa in recent years. GOL development policy demonstrates an acceptable, though not ideal, level of concern for basic human needs. All AID projects are focused on assisting the poor majority and AID resources have successfully encouraged increased GOL-financed support for programs in agriculture, health/nutrition/population and education.

E. Defense Expenditures: Lesotho has no defense force and relies on its police force to meet internal security requirements. There is no indication that the GOL has allocated unreasonable levels of resources to its police units and no indication that government budget funds have been diverted from development programs to finance security programs.

## 2. GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO GOALS AND STRATEGY

The Government of Lesotho is seeking through its plans for development to provide for economic growth, social justice and increased employment. It also sees greater "economic independence" as an integral part of development. To this end, it wishes to expand domestic production and employment opportunities and basic transportation infrastructure so that it is less dependent on the Republic of South Africa