

Support to the Public Protector of South Africa

Program Description

USAID support was designed in collaboration with GIZ, the Department of Justice, and the Public Protector of South Africa (PPSA), to provide technical assistance to specific areas of the PPSA's five-year strategic plan, and, through it, assistance to the African Ombudsman and Mediator's Association (AOMA).

The assistance was designed to build the capacity of the PPSA to use its own resources more effectively as it faces the challenges associated with an increase in the number and complexity of complaints investigated by the office. It supports the PPSA with training needs for investigators, specifically in investigation skills, anticorruption and fraud, alternative dispute resolution and report writing, all of which will increase their effectiveness and help to standardize practices across the PPSA.

The PPSA has also highlighted a need for training in human resources, and also, assistance with outreach activities to reach rural and marginalized people will be supported to enhance accessibility. Assistance to the AOMA would be beneficial to the stature and respect accorded to the office and will contribute to strengthening good governance and democratic principles around the continent.

Donor-to-Donor Agreement with GIZ

In 2015, USAID identified \$500,000 in reprogrammed funding to commit to democracy and governance programming in South Africa. USAID approached the Department of Treasury and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJ&CD), about contributing to GIZ's current program with the PPSA.

The funding was committed through the current USAID - South African Government assistance agreement to ensure transparency and South African Government oversight of program activities. This approach was agreed upon by the National Treasury as well as the South African DOJ&CD, as the DOJ&CD has oversight of the PPSA budget.

Implementing Mechanism

This program is being implemented through a donor-to-donor grant with the German Government and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). A donor to donor grant aligns with USAID's commitment to aid effectiveness principles.

This mechanism was chosen at the request of Treasury and the PPSA to ease administration of the program and to ensure the program fell under the management of the project's Steering Committee.

The project steering committee is made up of South African Government and GIZ officials responsible for the implementation of the program. USAID is not a part of this committee.

The initial agreement with GIZ only programs \$250,000. The rest will be programmed in a second agreement with GIZ in mid-2017 when the German government has renegotiated a new assistance agreement with the South African government.

The initial \$250,000 donor-to-donor agreement was signed on August 19, 2016 after several months of program design involving all project stakeholders.