

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	ANE Regional
Program Title:	Middle East Regional Democracy Fund
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	498-012
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$5,000,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,525,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	1998
Estimated Completion Date:	2003

Summary: The development of a democratic culture in the Near East, based on representative government, strong civil society institutions, and respect for individual human rights, directly supports the U.S. goal of fostering democracy worldwide and enhances U.S. interests in peace and stability in the region. More democratic countries in the region that respect the rule of law and embrace civil society are likely to transfer power peacefully, resist the spread of extremism, promote investment by increasing confidence in the business sectors, and enhance the stability of the Near East region as a whole.

The countries of the Middle East often are characterized by autocratic rule, the absence of political and civil rights, cumbersome bureaucracies, corruption, and failure to deliver basic services. These factors, combined with fundamentalist Islam, pose serious challenges to the region's democratic development. However, some positive democratic momentum in the Middle East has been generated in recent years. Public participation in political life in many states is increasing through the growth of active non-governmental organizations and the expanded role of elected legislatures/advisory councils. Morocco and Yemen have demonstrated a willingness to implement judicial reforms, as well as provide additional degrees of freedom to civil society organizations. While still nascent, potential openings for civil society, court reform, and legislative strengthening exist in Oman and Algeria.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

This activity has defined a core program that directs resources to Morocco, Yemen, Oman and Algeria in areas that have been identified as most likely to generate results over a short period of time. In FY 2003 the program will expand to include activities in the Gulf. The program will support activities focused on (but not limited to):

- Algeria: parliamentary and civil society training;
- Morocco: civil society advocacy, human rights monitoring, anticorruption and ethics programs, women's rights advocacy, pre-election political party training
- Oman: judicial reform
- Yemen: political party and parliamentary training, electoral assistance, judicial reform

A Persian Gulf Regional Democratization Project will begin in 2003. The program will support: establishment of a regional "democracy center" devoted to civic education; the development of a parliamentary training center to educate current and future legislators; and a series of targeted international visits and exchanges

This activity also supports a small grants program administered by the Department of State.

Approximately \$1,500,000 FY 2002 ESF Supplemental will support the activities described above for FY 2003.

FY 2004 Program:

In FY 2004, this program will be subsumed under the broader Middle East Partnership Initiative.

Performance and Results: In FY 2002, the program supported activities that:

- strengthened civil society organizations and political parties in Algeria, Oman and Yemen.
- assisted the Government of Morocco develop an anti-corruption program.
- provided technical assistance to the Government of Morocco on decentralization and to strengthen women's rights advocacy.
- supported judicial reforms and training in court administration and constitutional law in Oman.
- supported judicial and human rights reforms in Algeria.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

ANE Regional

498-012 Middle East Regional Democracy Fund	ESF
Through September 30, 2001	
Obligations	5,180
Expenditures	2,895
Unliquidated	2,285
Fiscal Year 2002	
Obligations	3,051
Expenditures	2,407
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	8,231
Expenditures	5,302
Unliquidated	2,929
Prior Year Unobligated Funds*	
Obligations	1,525
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA	
Obligations	5,000
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	6,525
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	0
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	14,756

* Prior Year Unobligated Funds includes \$1.5M of the FY 2002 Supplemental Funds - ESF- for the Middle East Partnership Initiative, the balance of \$18.5M is shown under State Department programs.