

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Armenia
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	111-0210
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$6,757,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$4,010,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$6,100,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1999
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2004

Summary: USAID/Armenia's democracy program seeks to achieve more transparent, accountable, and democratic governance by focusing on the following program areas: citizen participation, civil society/non-governmental organization strengthening, non-State media, local governance, legislative strengthening, rule of law, and anti-corruption.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Increasing civic participation (\$3,643,000 FSA). In order to address public cynicism, USAID will promote increased citizen participation in the decision-making process through grassroots outreach. Working with the Government of Armenia, USAID will develop additional teaching materials for civic education courses in secondary schools, expand extra-curricular civic activities, and incorporate civic education into the curriculum of the pedagogical institutes. USAID will continue technical assistance to strengthen non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and expects to award grants to 77 NGOs, including watchdog NGOs implementing anti-corruption programming. USAID will develop voter education materials, train journalists on election coverage and judges in electoral adjudication, organize candidate debates, and increase transparency of election administration. USAID will continue supporting discussion groups, initiative groups, civic action groups, and town hall meetings that bring together citizens and government officials to solve community problems. Principal contractors/grantees are: World Learning, the International Foundation for Election Systems, the National Democratic Institute, and Junior Achievement International (primes).

Strengthening non-state media (\$1,356,000 FSA). Enhancing the professionalism and financial viability of Armenia's independent media outlets will continue to be an area of focus. Some 300 journalists, editors, and managers will be trained through programs in business management, fact-based journalism, and investigative journalism. USAID will also support technical assistance for reforms to create a more enabling legal framework for the media sector. Principal contractors/grantees are: Internews and International Research and Exchanges (primes).

Rule of law/governance (\$1,758,000 FSA). Local government strengthening will continue with an emphasis on legal and regulatory reform, capacity fortification, and increased responsiveness to and interaction with citizens. USAID will expand the number of pilot cities receiving assistance and intensify technical assistance to pilot cities that show progress. Under the new Armenian Legislative Strengthening Program, USAID will continue providing technical assistance to 1) strengthen the internal capacity of the National Assembly to support legislative processes, 2) enhance constituency relations and outreach, and 3) increase public and media access to information about the National Assembly. In rule of law, USAID will work with law schools, bar associations, the judges' association, and the courts to strengthen existing codes of ethics; and it will provide training in substantive areas of law to enhance professional skills and standards. Principal contractors/grantees are: Urban Institute, Development Associates, Inc., the American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (primes), and Development Alternatives, Inc. (sub).

FY 2004 Program:

Increasing civic participation (\$2,298,000 FSA). USAID intends to continue promoting grassroots outreach, the strengthening of NGOs, and civic education to increase citizen participation. The focus of the work with NGOs will be technical assistance and grants to the more advanced and those that are advocacy-oriented.

Non-state media (\$940,000 FSA). USAID plans to consolidate technical assistance to non-State television and radio stations, newspapers, and news outlets.

Rule of law/governance (\$2,862,000 FSA). USAID plans to continue efforts to promote the rule of law and combat corruption. Based on the success of legislative-strengthening and local government capacity-building programs, USAID will determine how to proceed with further assistance in these areas.

Performance and Results: USAID activities succeeded in enhancing citizens' understanding of their rights and responsibilities by engaging nearly 30,000 citizens in FY 2002 in dialogue and action groups on issues of concern to citizens, including the legal system, community needs, human rights, tax legislation, and the means with which to engage local government officials. USAID also supported programs that enhanced the understanding of the rights and responsibilities of youth. Over 1,400 additional teachers were trained to teach courses in human rights, civic education, the responsibilities of the State, and the law. As a result, all secondary schools in Armenia now have trained teachers teaching civic education courses. USAID support for NGOs resulted in increased institutional capacity and more effective government engagement in policy dialogue; e.g., NGO advocacy resulted in changes to various legislation and policies. Support for print and broadcast media enhanced independent media outlets' professionalism and improved their prospects for financial viability. Over 350 journalists, editors, and managers were trained. The impact of this training is evident. Specifically, during 2002, news quantity (hours of news time) and financial viability of non-governmental television stations increased by 53% and 17% respectively. As a direct result of USAID training, 20% of stations started new programs, such as talk shows, public educational programs, and regional news exchanges; 15% of TV and radio stations reorganized their newsrooms; and 25% of trainees were promoted to positions with more responsibility and editorial control.

To strengthen local government and make it more responsive to citizens, USAID's local government activity is facilitating fiscal and administrative decentralization and more responsive local governance. USAID comments on the draft Law on Apartment Building Management were incorporated into the law. Through increased numbers of town hall meetings, local government officials are becoming more responsive to their citizens. In order to make governance at the national level more transparent and effective, USAID's assistance to the National Assembly helped to establish a non-partisan Research and Analysis Working Group that will 1) coordinate all research and analysis provided to the parliament, 2) consider budgetary implications of draft legislation, and 3) ensure the harmonization of draft legislation with existing laws. For the judiciary, in FY 2002, through training for legal professionals, judges, and court administrators, USAID strengthened the substantive legal skills of professionals, familiarized judges with the legal implications of Armenia's accession to the Council of Europe, and improved the efficiency and transparency of court management. In a significant step toward increasing transparency, USAID, in conjunction with the judiciary, published all decisions of the Court of Cassation and selected decisions of the Economic Court of Armenia. The decisions are also being posted on the Internet. Through legal resource centers, USAID has made legal information more widely accessible and, through legal aid centers, has helped make legal services available to the most vulnerable. USAID also facilitated outreach to citizens on the constitutional amendment process.

With the completion of this program, USAID expects 1) enhanced citizen participation in policy development, 2) increased oversight of government through NGOs, 3) greater community involvement and advocacy, 4) better availability and quality of news through improved print, television, and radio media outlets, 5) more responsive and effective local governments and the parliament, and 6) a more transparent, dependable, and effective legal system.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Armenia

111-0210 Democracy and Governance	FSA
Through September 30, 2001	
Obligations	41,660
Expenditures	31,679
Unliquidated	9,981
Fiscal Year 2002	
Obligations	8,857
Expenditures	8,056
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	50,517
Expenditures	39,735
Unliquidated	10,782
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	4,010
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA	
Obligations	6,757
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	10,767
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	6,100
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	67,384