

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Azerbaijan
Program Title:	Civil Society
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	112-0210
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$6,000,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$842,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$6,000,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	1996
Estimated Completion Date:	2005

Summary: The Civil Society Better Organized and Represented SO is made up of the following main components implemented through seven U.S. organizations: 1) civic education for selected municipalities and their citizens; 2) information, organizational training, and activity support for advocacy-oriented civic and political groups; 3) professional development opportunities for judges, lawyers, election officials, political parties, journalists and municipal leaders; 4) promotion of an independent media; and 5) legislative commentary and drafting assistance.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Legal system enhancement (\$3,600,000 FSA). USAID will support two new rule of law programs with some 6,000 expected beneficiaries. Building upon current rule of law activities, the program will improve the knowledge and skills of legal professionals; enable better representation, prosecution, and defense; and strengthen the ability of civil society to protest corruption and pursue legal rights. The program will address administrative, curriculum, and teaching methodology reforms at Azerbaijani law schools; broaden public knowledge and national debate on legal framework reforms, human rights, and anti-corruption issues; provide considerable continuing legal training for legal professionals; and assist the Ministry of Justice with training, legal system information access/dissemination and court management systems. Principal contractors and grantees are to be determined by competition.

Strengthened electoral process (\$1,500,000 FSA). The program will promote the implementation of impartial electoral frameworks through public education and continued technical support for the drafting of a Unified Election Code (UEC) and its implementation. Other elements of the program include training for the Election Commission officials and observers; improvements in the voter registration system; public opinion polling; and support for national dialogue on electoral reforms and civic rights. This program is particularly important in view of the planned October 2003 Presidential and October 2005 Parliamentary elections. The principal contractor and grantee is International Foundation for Election Systems (prime).

Public outreach and advocacy (\$900,000 FSA). This activity will supplement the current civil society capacity-building activity that promotes public interest advocacy. It will improve the ability of civic and community organizations to effectively represent the interests of well-defined constituencies. The principal contractor and grantee is Catholic Relief Services (prime).

FY 2004 Program:

A viable multi-party system (\$3,500,000 FSA). Two new awards are planned in support of political and civic groups working to develop a viable multi-party system. Planned activities include message and platform development; voter contact and constituency relations; management and strategic planning; and candidate nomination procedures.

Empowerment and mobilization of the media (\$1,200,000 FSA). USAID plans to continue the media activity. Access to unbiased and reliable information will be increased through promotion of professionally skilled, financially-viable, and legally-protected print and broadcast media.

Improved capacity for public outreach and advocacy (\$1,300,000 FSA). These two planned activities will continue to improve public interest advocacy and promote public understanding of the role of civil society in Azerbaijan.

Performance and Results: USAID civil society activities resulted in substantially enhanced dialogue between government officials and civil society representatives. The technical ability of legal and media professionals to support civil society rights and interests was strengthened. Further, annual statistics gathered by USAID partners reflects a slow but steady rise in the citizen awareness of civic associations, advocacy groups, and the role of such organizations in the democratic process. Some 4,560 females participated in FY 2002 programs, more than doubling the previous year's total. Despite progress in increasing the number of women participants, societal restrictions on women in Azerbaijani society continue to represent a challenge to including females in USAID-supported activities

In FY 2002, 226 organizations were assisted; 5,929 individuals were provided with advocacy, outreach, ethics, and management skills; 355 advocacy events were organized; 13,807 individuals accessed legal information and resources; 141 media professionals received new skills; and 47 regional media exchanges occurred.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Azerbaijan

112-0210 Civil Society	FSA
Through September 30, 2001	
Obligations	14,772
Expenditures	9,616
Unliquidated	5,156
Fiscal Year 2002	
Obligations	7,270
Expenditures	4,107
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	22,042
Expenditures	13,723
Unliquidated	8,319
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	842
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA	
Obligations	6,000
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	6,842
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	6,000
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	34,884