

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Georgia
Program Title:	Good Local Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	114-0230
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$5,375,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$2,051,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$6,000,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	1999
Estimated Completion Date:	2004

Summary: USAID activities under this objective emphasize local and political decision-making in the regions outside of Tbilisi, responding to citizens' needs and priorities for services, and laying the foundation for the parliamentary elections in 2003 and Presidential elections in 2005. Activities are categorized into three main topic areas: 1) more efficient and responsive local governance; 2) civil society strengthening and media development; and 3) political processes.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Local governance reform (\$1,000,000 FSA). USAID's technical assistance in local governance will continue to focus on both local government officials and the stakeholders in the communities they serve. Intensive reforms in pilot cities will continue to emphasize working simultaneously with both the "supply side" (local government services) and "demand side" (citizen needs). USAID aims to help Georgians achieve both an active citizenry and an accountable local government system. Utilizing a system of direct funding support through USAID's implementing partners coupled with cities matching the direct funding with donated labor, materials, and funds, USAID will continue to provide technical assistance for 35 local councils to carry out community services with citizen input and participation. Additional assistance will provide support in the development and submission of additional draft legislation for consideration in the Georgian Parliament in the areas of budget and finance, property transfer from the central government to the local level, and fiscal decentralization. The principal contractor is the Urban Institute (prime).

Civil society and media development (\$2,300,000 FSA). USAID launched a new "Citizens Advocate!" program in August 2002 that will help leading Georgian NGOs establish a firm constituency base, achieve financial sustainability, develop more effective lobbying techniques for citizen interests, and actively address legislative concerns governing the NGO sector. As a result of USAID technical assistance, at least 40 NGOs formed coalitions, targeting citizen concerns through issue-based advocacy campaigns. In the area of media development, USAID launched a new program, "Media Innovations," that seeks to improve journalistic skills, foster management skills that allow media outlets to emerge as profit-seeking businesses, and improve and strengthen the legal and regulatory framework to provide a safeguard for free speech and access to public information. Principal grantees are: Save the Children (prime), IREX (prime), and the Horizonti Foundation (prime).

Political process (\$1,800,000 FSA). In FY 2003, USAID will increase its emphasis on election processes to better enable a peaceful transition of power and help strengthen democratic reformers' ability to effectively compete in the 2003 parliamentary elections, a prelude to the 2005 presidential elections. Through the use of direct technical assistance, USAID will continue to provide non-partisan aid to reform-minded political parties and parliamentary factions in their efforts to form coalitions around reformist agenda items, such as enforcement of the rule of law, safeguarding freedom of the press, the right of NGOs to operate free of government interference, and opposition to human rights violations and religious oppression. USAID also will provide assistance to political parties to encourage youth and women's participation in Georgia's political process. USAID's election assistance in FY 2003 will include direct

technical assistance to the government of Georgia in administering the election and voting process, and will support training to election poll workers, domestic monitoring efforts, voter education, "Get Out the Vote" campaigns, and the development of a computerized voter registration system (conditioned on other international donor organizations sharing the cost). Principal grantees are: the National Democratic Institute (prime) and International Republican Institute (prime).

Program Development and Support (\$275,000 FSA). USAID will utilize these funds for supporting program-funded staff and for other costs related to program design and development.

FY 2004 Program:

Political processes (\$1,450,000 FSA). USAID will continue efforts in election processes with an emphasis on preparing for the early spring 2005 Georgian presidential elections. Additional support will be given to a newly-elected parliament with the aim of assisting in its reorganization as a transparent and open institution that fosters confidence among citizens.

Civil Society and Media Development (\$2,450,000 FSA)

USAID will continue to support civil society and media development programs that were launched in FY 2003.

Local Governance Reform (\$1,700,000 FSA)

USAID is in the process of assessing the impact of the current program and developing a follow-up program that will complement continuing local government reform efforts.

Program Development and Support (\$400,000 FSA)

USAID will utilize these funds for supporting program-funded staff and for other costs related to program design and development in the new Strategic Plan (FY 2004 - FY 2008).

Performance and Results: Through its implementing partners, USAID provided technical assistance to support Georgia's first direct election of mayors in the June 2002 local elections. Although the election was largely deemed chaotic, it nonetheless reflected the will of the people in virtually all cities throughout Georgia. The election represented several steps forward in Georgia toward meeting the goals of a more diverse multi-party democracy that responds to constituent concerns; improved election legislation that helps prevent mass fraud; and increased voter interest in the election process. Official and unofficial accounts of turnout estimated that nearly 60% of voters came to the polls - far higher than the prior estimates of 45%. Increased voter commitment to these elections reflected the public's understanding that they had a real stake in these elections. A new local governance law transferred significant responsibilities to city councils, local governments that are legitimately elected and respond to citizens' needs, and NGOs that can better articulate and lobby for local concerns. All these forces combined to increase voter interest in the elections. Political party and civic outreach targeted at increasing youth and women participation in the election process also produced solid results: five young independent candidates were elected to city councils - their first foray into the political scene; a "Rock the Vote" campaign targeting youth contributed to a 10 percent increase in young people's voting throughout the country, boosting youth turnout by nearly 30 percent in targeted cities; and a Women in Politics campaign also achieved notable success with 26 female candidates in seven cities (nearly 40% of those trained) winning elected office.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Georgia

114-0230 Good Local Governance	FSA
Through September 30, 2001	
Obligations	20,856
Expenditures	9,932
Unliquidated	10,924
Fiscal Year 2002	
Obligations	6,082
Expenditures	11,846
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	26,938
Expenditures	21,778
Unliquidated	5,160
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	2,051
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA	
Obligations	5,375
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	7,426
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	6,000
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	40,364