

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Tajikistan
Program Title:	Democratic Culture and Institutions
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	119-0211
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$3,495,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,439,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$5,645,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Completion Date:	2005

Summary: USAID is helping to create stronger and sustainable civic organizations and accountable public institutions; increasing availability of information on civic rights and domestic public issues; and increasing opportunities for citizen participation in governance. Prior year unobligated funds include \$1,300,000 of FY 2002 Supplemental - FSA/NIS.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Political process (\$1,382,000 FSA). USAID will train lawyers in human rights laws, establish a central source of legal information in Dushanbe for lawyers and judges, and disseminate legal information to rural areas through mini resource centers. Moot court competitions will improve law students' advocacy skills. USAID will provide training and technical assistance on modern municipal management techniques, greater transparency, and citizen participation in two pilot municipalities. Parliamentary assistance will improve information management and research capabilities so that lawmakers are better informed. USAID will not continue funding political party assistance after program completion this year so as not to duplicate similar efforts funded by the National Endowment for Democracy. Principal implementing partners are: the American Bar Association's Central and East European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI), ARD Checchi, Urban Institute, Soros, and others to be determined through competition.

Civil society (\$1,090,000 FSA). USAID will train 1,100 Tajik NGOs to increase sustainability through advocacy and strategic planning. Training, grants, and technical assistance will strengthen at least five civil society support centers which provide training, technical support, information, networking, and professional services to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations. At least 35 grants will support community advocacy and national-level NGOs. Principal implementing partners are: Counterpart (grantee) and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) (sub-grantee), and others to be determined through competition.

Media & information (\$1,023,000 FSA). To address the problem of trafficking in persons, USAID's anti-trafficking activity will focus on prevention and protection of victims. A pilot civics education course for ten secondary schools will be initiated in four regions, reaching 600 students, accompanied by teacher training courses and a teacher's manual. USAID will develop more democratic teaching methods in schools, increase the involvement of parents in the education process, and seek to increase student activism. Approximately 20 classes will be involved in year one of the program. USAID will continue training for media professionals to enable them to create an independent and economically viable press that serves the information needs of its readers. Training seminars in basic journalism, TV and radio production, media management, legal issues, marketing, and ad sales will be held. A production fund will allow local stations to produce original programming. Lawyers will draft and analyze proposed legislation, publish commentary on legal issues facing media, advise legislators, and provide legal consultation to media and journalists. The production of Nabzeh Zindagi (The Pulse of Life), the only Tajik-language program to bring together information among all the regions of the country, will continue with 18

participating stations and a potential audience of one million. Principal implementing partners are: Internews (grantee), the International Center for Journalists (sub-grantee), Soros Foundation, and others to be determined through competition.

FY 2004 Program:

Political process (\$2,090,000 FSA). Local government training/techniques developed in pilot cities will spread to other regions. If the national policy and legal environment continue to improve, USAID may support a broader range of technical assistance to cities and other decentralization efforts. Training of lawyers, judges, and law students; clinical education programs at local law institutes; and the adoption and enforcement of a code of ethics for legal professionals will continue.

Civil society (\$1,862,000 FSA). The civil society program will continue creating strong, sustainable non-governmental organizations by localizing civil society support centers throughout Tajikistan. USAID may place greater emphasis on supporting community and national advocacy campaigns.

Media & information (\$1,693,000 FSA). USAID may pilot a second volume of the civic education textbook and will continue the early childhood education program. After year two, the program will be implemented in over 80 classrooms throughout the country, serving over 2,200 children. The media program will continue journalists' skills development, a production fund, and legal assistance.

Performance and Results: With supplemental funds, USAID increased resources for political party building and media programs, and a new local government initiative was launched. USAID introduced a new democratic education activity and reinforced ongoing civic education programs with additional resources. These funds also reinforced the judicial and legal reform program, building on successes of the commercial law program. USAID helped Asia-Plus become the first independent radio station broadcasting in the Tajik capital. Following multiple instances of government refusal to grant Asia-Plus a license, USAID provided the station with technical and legal assistance and widely publicized the matter to win international and domestic support. USAID-funded media law experts helped draft a media law currently being considered by the government. Three hundred copies of six Tajik-language texts were distributed on television management, reporting, ethics, and national minorities. Universities and journalists around the country used USAID-published textbooks on newspaper design and television management. Tajik NGOs improved in all categories (the NGO legal environment, organizational capacity, financial viability, advocacy skills, service provision, NGO support services, and public image) over the past year. This can be attributed to an increased presence by USAID and other donors in Tajikistan (facilitated by the improved security situation); renewed interest in engaging Tajik NGOs in reconstruction and reconciliation work; and the maturation of "first generation" Tajik NGOs. The most important change for civil society was the government's recognition of the NGO sector. The main catalyst for this change was Tajik President's participation in a USAID-sponsored NGO Conference on Social Partnerships in June 2002, which brought together several hundred NGO activists, international organizations, and a government delegation led by the president. Part I of a civics textbook for 9th graders and teachers' manual were successfully tested with focus groups of teachers and students. The Ministry of Education approved the piloting of the civic education course for secondary schools. This year, more than 400 students participated in extra-curricular civic activities such as student local government days, democracy summer camps, and student action committees and are now more engaged in political and social issues affecting their country.

By program's end, there will be stronger and more sustainable civic organizations, increased availability of information on civic rights and domestic public issues, enhanced opportunities for citizen participation in governance, and more effective and accountable public institutions.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Tajikistan

119-0211 Democratic Culture and Institutions	FSA
Through September 30, 2001	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Fiscal Year 2002*	
Obligations	3,750
Expenditures	627
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	3,750
Expenditures	627
Unliquidated	3,123
Prior Year Unobligated Funds**	
Obligations	1,439
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA	
Obligations	3,495
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	4,934
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	5,645
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	14,329

*Fiscal Year 2002 includes \$700,000 of FY 2002 Supplemental - FSA/NIS.

**Prior Year Unobligated Funds includes \$1.3m of FY 2002 Supplemental - FSA/NIS.