

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Eurasia Regional
Program Title:	Social Sector Reform
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	110-0340
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$570,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$390,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$580,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2008

Summary: Continued stagnation and deterioration in key areas of human capital and social services threaten to undermine the sustainability of economic and democratic transition in Eurasia. Therefore, USAID is placing increased attention on social sector issues in Eurasia through ongoing analytical work, technical assistance, and dissemination of best practices. These are intended to promote programs to protect vulnerable groups, especially through youth and anti-trafficking activities; improve labor market functioning, encourage education system reform, especially at the primary and secondary levels; and inform strategic approaches taken by missions to mitigate adverse social conditions and trends.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Strategic analysis, support, and coordination (500,000 FSA). The primary emphasis of the FY 2004 program will be to identify those social sector problems which are so acute that the transition may be thwarted or even reversed. USAID will work in collaboration with U.S. and regional experts to more deeply analyze problems initially identified by a social sector hotspots analysis conducted several months ago. The output of this analysis will be recommendations regarding critical USAID investment in the social sector as well as specific program ideas for countries to implement. Contractor/grantees to be determined.

Strengthen networks of youth organizations in Eurasia (\$200,00 FSA carryover). Few resources have been directed to sustain and improve civil society organizations that specifically advocate for and service youth needs, such as rising drug use, unemployment, disease, criminality, inter-ethnic conflict and disenfranchisement from civic participation. USAID will support a two-year regional effort called "Youth Empowerment Solutions" (YES) to network the most innovative youth organizations in Eurasia to share best practice approaches, fundraising strategies and social capital resources. Contractor/grantees to be determined.

Strengthen anti-trafficking measures (\$100,000 FSA carryover). Trafficking in persons (TIP) has become a major social, economic, and moral problem in the region. President Bush has made a major commitment to reduce TIP. A regional program to build a network of governmental and non-governmental agencies, organizations, and leaders who will work across borders to reduce the conditions leading to TIP, provide assistance to those who have been trafficked, and get better information on alternatives and help to those most vulnerable will be supported. Contractor/grantee to be determined.

Program Support (\$70,000 FSA, \$90,000 FSA carryover). Program-funded staff and related support will be funded to provide expertise for work on the social transition.

FY 2005 Program:

Strategic analysis, support and coordination (\$245,000 FSA). Analytic work on the social sector in the region will continue and will provide strategic guidance and technical assistance to mitigate social sector problems.

Strengthen networks of youth organizations in Eurasia (\$100,000 FSA). This is the second of a two-year effort to bring together communities of practice of civil society organizations that specifically advocate for and service youth needs. USAID support of “Youth Empowerment Solutions” (YES) will bridge information networks across the Eurasia region. Contractor/grantees to be determined.

Program Support (\$235,000 FSA). Program-funded staff and related support will be funded to provide expertise for work on the social transition.

Performance and Results: The results achieved under this objective will improve sustainability of USAID’s assistance in Eurasia by helping to halt and eventually reverse the declines in social welfare experienced by citizens in the transition countries. In addition to reducing human suffering and deprivation, strategic assistance in the social sectors increases public support for reform among citizens who had been accustomed to receiving relatively comprehensive social services.

Representatives from nine Eurasia missions (Armenia, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, and the five Central Asia republics (CAR)) attended the second social transition workshop and contributed to discussions and presentations of best practices, strengthening the basis for comparison of social indices across the region. An in depth social sector hotspots analysis of the status of the education, labor, and health sectors was conducted. The status of vulnerable and strategic groups in the region was also ascertained. An in depth analysis of the education sector of Armenia was completed which provided the USAID Mission with a proposed education strategy. Field research was conducted on the causes of corruption in education in CAR and recommendations made to the CAR Mission regarding how to address some of these causes and reduce the corruption in the system. An analysis of the status of social welfare services in the region was also initiated and final plans were made to initiate a labor market study.