

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Kazakhstan
Program Title:	Strengthened Democratic Culture
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	115-0211
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$5,283,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$860,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$5,450,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID's democracy activities in Kazakhstan strengthen democratic culture among citizens and target institutions by: creating stronger civic organizations; increasing the availability of information on civic rights and domestic public issues; enhancing opportunities for citizen participation in governance; and helping public institutions become more responsive and accountable.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Civic Organizations (\$1,561,421 FSA, \$574,452 FSA carryover). USAID will develop civil society organizations in Kazakhstan through its support to a national NGO resource center network. The network will provide training and legal consultations to NGOs, and distribute grants to local communities to support advocacy. The network will also provide social enterprise grants to help NGOs diversify their income. In the area of human rights, USAID will support a training program in Kazakhstan that will increase human rights defenders' knowledge and understanding of international human rights mechanisms for monitoring and reporting abuses. In FY 2004, USAID will continue to support efforts to reduce human trafficking by working with local NGOs to increase the public's understanding of the issue, improve anti-trafficking legislation, and develop initiatives aimed at protecting returned trafficking victims. Principal contractors/grantees: Counterpart (prime), the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (sub), Social Impact (sub), the International Organization for Migration(sub), and others to be determined through competition.

Citizen Participation (\$1,117,178 FSA). USAID's political process efforts will be increased in FY 2004 since there are indications that the government may improve the election law and its implementation for the parliamentary elections next fall. Personalized political party training will be important to ensure that opposition and moderate parties are competitive in the fall elections. Civic advocacy work will also focus on the parliamentary elections. Following the elections, USAID will evaluate its civic advocacy program and design an activity for a follow up program aimed at increasing the range of NGOs in the country that are involved in direct advocacy. Principal contractors/grantees: the National Democratic Institute (prime), the International Republican Institute (prime), and others to be determined through competition.

Media and Information (\$1,455,087 FSA, \$285,944 FSA carryover). USAID will support actions to influence the content of the new draft law on media aimed at improving the law to provide for a more independent media. USAID will bolster its media advocacy work through local NGOs and associations. USAID will procure a new media initiative, to increase public discussion of social issues and freedom of speech, as well as to provide on-going assistance to all types of independent media outlets. USAID's civic education activity will continue, with the goal to introduce a new civic education textbook to an additional 100 schools. USAID will support the Kazakhstan Reading Association and Debate Clubs to develop students' critical thinking skills. In 2004, the Reading Association program will be refocused in order to build synergies between it and USAID's civic education program. Principal contractors/grantees: the Soros Foundation (prime), the International Foundation for Election Systems (prime), and others to be determined through competition.

Accountable Public Institutions (\$1,149,314 FSA). USAID's judicial reform program will begin in January 2004. The program will provide continuing legal education to sitting judges and will increase transparency of the judiciary by disseminating judicial decisions and by piloting a court recording program. USAID will solicit proposals for a newly designed legal reform program, which focuses primarily on improving legal education. In its final year, USAID's local government program will provide support to small cities on economic development issues, with a focus on public-private partnerships through community-based economic development committees. Principal contractors/grantees: the Urban Institute (prime), Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector (prime), and others to be determined through competition.

FY 2005 Program:

Civic Organizations (\$1,876,018 FSA). USAID will assist NGOs to improve their advocacy skills by concentrating assistance to advocacy-oriented NGOs. Continued assistance will be given to the network of NGO resource centers, so that the network can be a sustainable, independent entity. Training and services will be provided to indigenous organizations through this network. USAID's human rights initiative will provide technical assistance, training, and information resources to local human rights organizations. Combating human trafficking will continue to be an important priority for USAID. Principal contractors/grantees: same as above.

Citizen Participation (\$938,374 FSA). Following the fall 2004 parliamentary elections, USAID will evaluate its political party program and design a follow-on effort. USAID's civic advocacy program will focus on increasing the number of NGOs around the country that are involved in national-level campaigns. Principal contractors/grantees: same as above.

Media and Information (\$1,697,234 FSA). In FY 2005, USAID's media efforts will seek to improve Kazakhstan citizens' access to diverse sources of information, assist independent television stations in becoming more sustainable, and improve independent television and radio stations' capability to generate revenues. USAID will seek to introduce its civic education course to additional schools, and lobby the government to get the civic education course to be a part of the core curriculum. Principal contractors/grantees: same as above.

Accountable Public Institutions (\$938,374 FSA). USAID will continue its efforts to reform the mechanisms used to determine how judges are trained on substantive and procedural legal topics. Legal education will continue to be a top priority under our legal reform effort. Principal contractors/grantees: same as above.

Performance and Results: The greatest success under this strategic objective this year was President Nazarbaev's announcement of the government's withdrawal of a restrictive NGO law. This action came about after heavy lobbying by the NGO community. Unfortunately, Kazakhstan's scores on the USAID NGO Sustainability Index went down slightly this year, except for the score for "advocacy" which improved slightly. After a turbulent year in 2002, the media sector remained at a standstill this past year. International organizations and local media outlets continue to monitor the government's efforts to implement a new media law. On the elections front, the new Political Parties law was implemented, and re-registration requirements resulted in the narrowing of the political spectrum. Local elections held in September revealed significant weaknesses in the election law, which is being revised for next year's parliamentary elections. In spite of the difficult environment, USAID had considerable success in its civic education program, increasing the number of students participating by 12,000, to almost 36,000. Finally, significant cooperation between the government, USAID and the U.S. Embassy resulted in Kazakhstan moving from Tier III to Tier II on the State Department's Annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, thereby avoiding sanctions.

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, responsive, and accountable public institutions.