

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Cyprus
Program Title:	Cyprus Bicomunal Program
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	233-0410
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$13,420,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$6,749,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$13,500,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1975
Year of Final Obligation:	Indefinite

Summary: USAID's program to reduce tensions and improve collaboration between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots support a variety of bicomunal activities in a wide range of areas. USAID's program includes support for economic development, civil society empowerment, good governance, education, and social and cultural exchange, especially among youth. USAID assistance supporting reconciliation includes technical assistance for sector-specific activities and implementing partners; related training and workshops; sub-grants to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and commodities including materials, equipment, and supplies.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Bicomunal Development Program (\$8,540,000 ESF, \$6,749,000 ESF carryover). Since 1998 this program has been implemented through a multi-year grant to UNDP. UNDP was engaged when the UN High Commissioner for Refugees concluded its role as implementer after 20 years in Cyprus. The original grant provided for a three-year, \$30 million program, which in 2001, was extended through December 2004 with an increase in funding that amounted to a total life-of-project level of \$60 million. At the end of the current grant, USAID intends to re-engage UNDP in a similar arrangement through which it will continue to fund discrete activities in civil society/NGO strengthening, agriculture, education (e.g. TV programs for children in both communities), communication, information technology, and telecommunications. Other activities will involve public infrastructure, environmental management, public health, urban renewal, and historic restoration and preservation. Principal grantee: UNDP.

Interagency transfers to the U.S. Department of State (\$4,880,000 ESF). These funds support an environment for reconciliation, and are utilized for separate grant and contract instruments to provide scholarships and short-term training (Cyprus-America Scholarship Program), as well as for the implementation of short-term, politically sensitive technical and training support for meetings and workshops (Bicomunal Support Program).

FY 2005 Program:

Bicomunal Development Program (\$8,600,000 ESF). The Bicomunal Development Program will continue activities similar to ongoing activities. If a political settlement is reached, programming will likely shift towards activities that encourage support for and implementation of the political settlement. United Nations Development Programme will remain as grantee. The current BDP grant expires in December 2004. USAID will use an independent, comprehensive evaluation of the BDP program to inform the design of a follow-on grant program to UNDP, which will commence sometime in early-mid FY 2004. FY 2005 funds are intended to continue bicomunal activities, based on emergent needs as well as new opportunities ushered through a potential political settlement, generally utilizing the existing grant/contract mechanisms. Principal grantee: UNDP.

Transfers to the Department of State (\$4,900,000 ESF). These funds will support an environment for reconciliation, and are expected to continue ongoing activities through the existing grant/contract mechanisms. Activities may change to accommodate political settlement.

Performance and Results: BDP, BSP and CASP each offer unique advantages; together, they represent a strong, varied and complementary array of resources to enable the U.S. to address the ongoing Cyprus Problem. Overall, the bicomunal program has fostered cooperation on activities of mutual interest and for island-wide benefit and has increased mutual understanding between Greek and Turkish Cypriots in multiple sectors through more than 110 different activities.

Principal near-term results for UNDP's Bicomunal Development Program include: direct support to the UN's good offices mission for facilities repair, technical support and translation services; support and facilitation of public debate on settlement and the Annan Plan; continued development of bicomunal contacts and cooperation on activities such as the expansion and repair of the Nicosia sewerage and water systems shared by both the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots; the repair and restoration of historical and culturally significant sites such as the Hala Sultan Tekke Mosque, Apostolos Andreas Monastery, the Venetian Wall around Nicosia, the orphaned churches of Lapithos village, the church and mosque of Pentakomo village; a comprehensive survey of the infrastructure in the UN-patrolled Buffer Zone; a comparative survey of political and national attitudes and perceptions; seminars and workshops on a range of specific topics; the first on-line daily translation of newspaper articles from Greek to Turkish and Turkish to Greek; and the production and broadcast of educational programs, including documentaries, an adult comedy series, and an eight-episode children's educational television program.

Hundreds of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots also came together for training/workshops on politically sensitive topics including education and disaster management. The State Department's Bicomunal Support Program has supported: 1) a six-week leadership and volunteerism program for Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot youth leaders at American University; 2) several joint musical collaborations and sports events; 3) joint training of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriot medical professionals in different areas; 4) joint training in the area of disabilities awareness and advocacy; and 5) a youth camp focused on team building. The Cyprus America Scholarship Program continued to provide scholarships, short-term training and workshops and seminars to participants from both communities.

The overall impact achieved is ongoing contact and a growing network of Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot organizations, institutions, and individuals collaborating on developmental initiatives to benefit the island as a whole. Such functional and cooperative relationships will help set the stage for the island-wide reconciliation following political settlement. The program is designed to be open to targets of opportunity that support a political settlement. In the event of such an agreement, program priorities will be adjusted and dedicated to support the successful implementation of a viable, UN-brokered and sanctioned peace plan.