

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Office of Democracy and Governance
Program Title:	Civil Society Program
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	932-003
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$3,366,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$3,500,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	1997
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2009

Summary: The Office of Democracy and Governance (DG) is implementing programs which focus on three areas: strengthening the medium through which citizens can freely organize and communicate with their government and with each other; mobilizing constituencies to advocate for political reform and good governance; and strengthening a democratic political culture which values human rights and civic responsibility. Activities in these three areas include support for a free media, adult and school-based civic education, strengthening the legal enabling environment to support a strong and vibrant civil society, enhancing the capacities of mass membership organizations, such as labor, as a major advocate for reform, and engaging the youth population in constructive civic action.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program: Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom Of Information: The media activities will include the expansion throughout the Middle East and parts of Africa of a media sustainability index to measure annual progress in the growth of free and viable media organizations. A separate activity will be to conduct a pilot project involving the use of community radio to help citizens identify and discuss solutions to their most pressing local challenges, particularly under fragile state conditions. The DG Office will also produce a Guide to Media in Fragile States. (\$866,000 DA)

Strengthen Civil Society: School-based civic education will continue to be a major focus of activity, with a new emphasis on developing a broader civic education curricula and working with host-country universities to establish pre-service training for elementary and high school teachers in civic education. This effort will be undertaken in cooperation with the USAID Office of Human Capacity Development and the Department of State Middle East Partnership Initiative.

A new initiative on the role of youth in democracy will be undertaken to identify and pilot more innovative ways to engage youth in positive political change.

The grant to fund the American Center for International Labor Solidarity will be continued in order to enhance the role of labor in democratic transitions.

An activity will focus on how civil society can be a constructive actor in strengthening democratic participation and institutions in fragile states.

An activity will be undertaken to analyze lesson learned on the role of civil society in enhancing citizen/community empowerment in relation to local governments in decentralization programs.

There will be continued engagement in exploring prospects for co-funding programs aimed at making host-country legal and regulatory frameworks more favorable to civil society organizations.

An activity will be initiated to expand the role of information communication technology in democracy and governance programs. (\$2,500,000 DA)

FY 2007 Program: Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom Of Information: Support for the media sustainability index will continue in order to measure progress in building an independent media

sector in the Middle East and Africa. Increased levels of co-funding for the activity will be achieved. The pilot project on the use of radio to facilitate citizen/community empowerment will also continue. (\$750,000 DA)

Strengthen Civil Society: The activity to support the development of a comprehensive curriculum for school-based civic education will continue along with the introduction of civic education courses in teacher training universities for pre-service training of elementary and secondary school teachers. The youth and democracy initiative will also continue. (\$2,750,000 DA)

Performance and Results: Achievements from grants managed by DG's Civil Society staff were notable this past year. The grant with the American Center for International Labor Solidarity included the adoption by the Nigerian government of a national HIV/AIDS workplace policy, the institutionalization of stronger measures to implement anti-trafficking laws in the Philippines, and progress in Central America in establishing minimum protections for sub-contracted and outsourced workers. The work in liberalizing the legal environment to support the NGO sector in Mexico led to the adoption of a law, for the first time in the history of the country, that makes human rights organizations eligible to receive tax deductible contributions, and in South Africa the project is contributing to similar advances in NGO law reform. These reforms will allow citizens to more effectively advocate their interests on public policies.

The work on supporting the introduction of school-based civic education curricula in the Near East region has rapidly advanced, with some countries now moving beyond the pilot stage to expand on a national scale. This initiative will equip more students with the skills, values, and behaviors that support civic activism. Similarly, a grant was made to measure progress on an annual basis of the growth and independence of the media sector in the Near East region. This instrument will be used to identify priority issues and opportunities to enhance the capacity of media as forum for free public discourse.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Office of Democracy and Governance

	DA	ESF
932-003 Civil Society Program		
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	109,588	1,857
Expenditures	77,852	0
Unliquidated	31,736	1,857
Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	3,350	0
Expenditures	0	0
Through September 30, 2005		
Obligations	112,938	1,857
Expenditures	77,852	0
Unliquidated	35,086	1,857
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	3,366	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006		
Obligations	3,366	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA		
Obligations	3,500	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	119,804	1,857