

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Program Title:	Peace Building, Democracy and Good Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	660-003
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,009,000 DA; \$4,000,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$84,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$1,380,000 DA; \$4,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: USAID is providing technical assistance, training and material support for the establishment of a sound legal foundation for democratic governance, and solid institutional capacity for the conduct of elections. Activities are directed to key governmental institutions, political parties, and constituencies for change through civil society. USAID will also help strengthen community conflict resolution and local governance initiatives.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Promote and Support Free and Fair Elections (\$3,000,000 ESF; \$84,000 prior year ESF). USAID is supporting the development, debate, promulgation, and implementation of key legislation in support of political transition and an impartial electoral framework. This includes the electoral, national, and decentralization laws and a new constitution. Assistance is provided to the National Assembly, and human rights and other civic advocacy groups. Similarly, technical assistance, training and logistics support is provided to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) for credible administration of planned elections. A national referendum on a new constitution and local, legislative and presidential elections is planned for mid-2005. USAID is supporting resource centers, workshops, public forums and radio programming for information dissemination and active citizen participation in the political process. Domestic monitoring of the elections and quick-count exit polls will be supported. Principal contractors and grantees: the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$1,000,000 ESF). Technical assistance, training and logistics support to political parties will improve organizational structures for decentralization and democratization, as well as political platform development, citizen representation and constituency development. Efforts will be concentrated on the larger of the political parties in each of the eleven provinces. More than 200 parties are registered. Principal contractors and grantees: NDI.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,009,000 DA). USAID will continue to promote pluralism, public dialogue, advocacy, and conflict resolution and management. USAID sponsorship of public interest radio programming, workshops for civic activists, and training sessions for community organizers will increase understanding of rights and responsibilities in a pluralistic society. Skills gained through these workshops and training sessions are used to address issues of criminal impunity related to human rights abuses and economic crimes. Community groups will be assisted with organizational support and training for conflict resolution. These skills will improve the management capacity of communities that are facilitating the reintegration of ex-combatants. Principal contractors and grantees: to be identified.

FY 2006 Program: Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$1,000,000 ESF). USAID will coordinate with the European Union to improve the way laws and institutions work to uphold democratic processes. USAID plans to engage civil society organizations in building public demand for justice, while challenging an entrenched culture of impunity. Activities to protect human rights and to promote anti-corruption reforms will be supported. Principal contractors and grantees: to be identified.

Promote and Support Free and Fair Elections (\$2,000,000 ESF). Whenever elections occur, the political

transition itself will likely continue well into 2006. USAID plans to continue to build the institutional integrity of the IEC and assist in the administration of elections. USAID also plans to inform and motivate voters about the elections and important issues, and foster the participation of women and historically disenfranchised groups. Principal contractors and grantees: to be identified.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$1,000,000 DA). USAID plans to continue to build the capacity of political parties to participate effectively in the elections and to govern responsibly in elected positions in national, provincial and local-level government. Principal contractors and grantees: to be identified.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$500,000 ESF). Addressing issues of criminal impunity related to human rights abuses and economic crimes will continue as USAID's focus of support to civil society organizations. USAID plans also to continue to assist community groups with conflict resolution and management of community activities which facilitate reintegration of ex-combatants. Principal contractors and grantees: to be identified.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$500,000 ESF). USAID plans to assist community efforts for improved governance at local level. The aim is to create local government that operates in a more responsive, participatory, accountable, and increasingly effective, more democratic fashion. Partnerships among local governments, civil society organizations, the private sector and other groups will be promoted. Principal contractors and grantees: to be identified.

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$380,000 DA). Complementing investment in justice sector reform, USAID plans to support efforts to better inform citizens on the costs and causes of corruption so as to stimulate demand for change. Public relations campaigns, investigative journalism, and civic advocacy will be supported. Principal contractors and grantees: to be identified.

Performance and Results: Political transition is occurring, albeit slowly. Three laws passed by the transitional government (the establishment of an IEC, one on political parties, and one on voter registration), have been particularly important in the build-up to elections. With USAID assistance, the IEC has become an increasingly viable entity, but it remains vulnerable to de-legitimization efforts. A continuing lack of progress on other key elements of the legislative agenda is problematic.

Political parties have been found to be numerous and enthusiastic, but weak in terms of skills and capacity. They have limited understanding of their role in the transition process and there has been little party involvement in crafting and debating new legislation.

The electorate, estimated at 28 million, has high expectations for a presidential election in June 2005. They remain, however, ill-informed on other aspects of the transition, including a new constitution and the opportunity to elect local and legislative leaders. If public expectations are not carefully managed through an education campaign, the now inevitable postponement of elections until at least late 2005 could lead to large-scale social unrest. USAID's voter and civic education programs will foster greater political participation, dialogue and debate.

By 2008, USAID hopes to have successfully supported transitional government institutions in conducting a credible and participatory election process leading to the peaceful transfer of power to elected authorities; the installation of the post-transitional government; and the application of the new constitution drafted during the transition period. USAID hopes to continue support at the grassroots level for the fight against impunity, anti-corruption, and reintegration activities for demobilized combatants. These activities will be transformed into local governance activities.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Democratic Republic of the Congo

660-003 Peace Building, Democracy and Good Governance	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	0	0
Expenditures	0	0
Unliquidated	0	0
Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	4,579	3,915
Expenditures	337	0
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	4,579	3,915
Expenditures	337	0
Unliquidated	4,242	3,915
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	84
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	1,009	4,000
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	1,009	4,084
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	1,380	4,000
Future Obligations	15,000	15,000
Est. Total Cost	21,968	26,999