

Data Sheet

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| USAID Mission: | Bangladesh |
| Program Title: | Democracy and Governance |
| Pillar: | Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance |
| Strategic Objective: | 388-011 |
| Status: | New in FY 2006 |
| Planned FY 2006 Obligation: | \$4,455,000 DA; \$4,752,000 ESF |
| Prior Year Unobligated: | \$0 |
| Proposed FY 2007 Obligation: | \$3,550,000 DA; \$5,000,000 ESF |
| Year of Initial Obligation: | 2006 |
| Estimated Year of Final Obligation: | 2009 |

Summary: Bangladesh faces problems of widespread corruption; lack of clear representation of citizen interests by elected officials; abuse of human rights, including trafficking of persons; and growing political violence and extremism. In this context, USAID works with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) to strengthen democratic institutions and practices by promoting free and fair elections; increasing transparency in public management; supporting more effective local governance; enhancing anti-corruption policies and initiatives; improving protection and respect for human rights, including programs to eliminate Trafficking In Persons; and strengthening community-based management of natural resources. As this is a new objective, this document constitutes notification of FY 2006 funds.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Improve Sustainable Management Of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation (\$990,000 DA). USAID is promoting the devolution of management responsibilities to community-based organizations and exploring opportunities to scale up protected area comanagement approaches. USAID is also administering income generation activities to protect forest and aquatic resources and enhance livelihoods. Principal Implementers: Winrock International (WI) and International Resources Group (IRG).

Promote And Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$1,752,000 ESF). USAID is strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission, promoting greater freedom of information, prioritizing legal reforms for transparent public management, and developing appropriate financial systems for local governments. Principal Implementer: To Be Determined (TBD).

Promote and Support Credible Elections Processes (\$1,000,000 ESF). USAID is supporting preparations for the national election planned for early 2007. USAID is assisting in the clarification of roles for different GOB actors involved in the elections, assessing and providing recommendations on the management of the electoral registry, and promoting greater inclusion of female candidates. USAID is supporting NGOs in electoral oversight and monitoring through training, technical assistance, and small grants. USAID is also supporting international electoral observation teams. Principal Implementers: International Republican Institute (IRI) and National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Protect Human Rights (\$1,238,000 DA; \$1,000,000 ESF). USAID is funding advocacy campaigns and strengthening local NGOs on the protection and recognition of women's and children's rights. USAID's outreach programs with selected community leaders are promoting greater understanding of human rights. Principal Implementers: Academy for Educational Development and others TBD.

Reduce Trafficking In Persons (\$891,000 DA). USAID is training community watchdog groups and NGOs to conduct anti-trafficking outreach and providing support for the rescue and recovery of victims. In addition to providing shelters and legal assistance, USAID is funding targeted police training to identify and intervene in trafficking operations. Principal Implementer: International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$1,000,000 ESF). USAID is improving internal democratic processes, developing responsive electoral platforms, and promoting increased collaboration among the political leadership through training and technical assistance. Principal Implementers: IRI and NDI.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,336,000 DA). USAID is strengthening local government management and financial accountability systems, training elected local councils in participatory planning and financial resource generation, promoting open budget hearings and access to council meetings, and assisting local government associations to develop coherent decentralization policies. Principal Implementers: Research Triangle Institute (RTI) and RUPANTAR.

FY 2007 Program:

Improve Sustainable Management Of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation (\$1,000,000 DA). USAID plans to strengthen comanagement committees, increase income generating opportunities in protected areas, and promote the establishment of a protected area management and financing system. Principal Implementers: WI, IRG, and others TBD.

Promote And Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$2,000,000 ESF). USAID plans to develop a financial management system for inter-governmental transfers. Through the assistance of the Comptroller General's Office and civil society watchdog groups, USAID plans to provide technical assistance to increase fiscal transparency. Principal Implementer: TBD.

Protect Human Rights (\$1,000,000 ESF). USAID plans to continue outreach efforts to selected community and religious leaders to promote greater respect, tolerance, and understanding of human rights through training and technical assistance. Principal Implementers: American Center for International Labor Solidarity and others TBD.

Reduce Trafficking In Persons (\$1,000,000 DA). USAID will build on prevention programs to provide assistance for more integral victim care services. Legislative and policy reforms may be pursued to strengthen detection and prosecution. Principal Implementers: IOM and others TBD.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$2,000,000 ESF). In the aftermath of the scheduled national elections, USAID will renew internal party reform, strengthen the parliamentary committee system, and define a positive role for the opposition. Principal Implementer: TBD.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,550,000 DA). USAID will strengthen local government management systems and expand participatory planning and public budget hearings. USAID will also promote decentralization of policy reform through local government associations. Principal Implementers: RTI and RUPANTAR.

Performance and Results: Although new, this strategic objective incorporates activities initiated under a previous strategic plan. Through these activities, USAID assisted in the first-ever direct budget allocation successfully managed by local governments; advanced Bangladesh to Tier II on the State Department's Trafficking In Persons list; and strengthened local management of natural resources. By program completion in FY 2009, citizens' demand for and the government's ability to operate more transparently will be improved, corruption will be reduced, and the decentralization of basic services will have been initiated. Political parties and nationally and locally elected leaders will be more responsive to citizens and will abide by democratic practices. Bangladeshis will develop a greater respect for human rights, particularly women's rights, and will expand their efforts to stem human trafficking. Wetland and tropical forest comanagement systems will be incorporated into local planning processes.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

| | DA | ESF |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| 388-011 Democracy and Governance | | |
| Through September 30, 2004 | | |
| Obligations | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditures | 0 | 0 |
| Unliquidated | 0 | 0 |
| Fiscal Year 2005 | | |
| Obligations | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditures | 0 | 0 |
| Through September 30, 2005 | | |
| Obligations | 0 | 0 |
| Expenditures | 0 | 0 |
| Unliquidated | 0 | 0 |
| Prior Year Unobligated Funds | | |
| Obligations | 0 | 0 |
| Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA | | |
| Obligations | 4,455 | 4,752 |
| Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006 | | |
| Obligations | 4,455 | 4,752 |
| Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA | | |
| Obligations | 3,550 | 5,000 |
| Future Obligations | 30,000 | 10,000 |
| Est. Total Cost | 38,005 | 19,752 |