

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Cambodia
Program Title:	Democracy and Human Rights
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	442-010
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$16,900,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$190,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$17,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2002
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2005

Summary: USAID's Democracy and Governance program in Cambodia promotes equitable treatment for Cambodian citizens to compete for their demands through: creating political processes and strengthening political parties to meet international standards; increasing transparency and accountability on key economic and political issues; enforcing human rights norms through monitoring and investigation; engaging local officials on key development issues; and increasing the capacity of future leaders to develop policies and effect change.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Increase participation of political parties, NGOs and private sector in demand for reforms (\$12,900,000 ESF). USAID will continue strengthening democratic pluralism to ensure that there are competing centers of power and expanding opportunities for involvement of local elected officials and citizens. Developing professional party organizations, expanding youth participation in politics and enhancing the capacity of the elected commune councils, including a female caucus, will be supported through collaboration with 19 local NGOs. Cambodia's invitation to join the WTO has provided an opportunity to support local NGOs working on governmental transparency and accountability, as well as alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the matters of commerce and trade. Local NGOs working to protect national forests and preserve wildlife and protected areas will also receive assistance. Principal grantees include the Asia Foundation, the National Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute, Community Forestry International, Global Witness, and WildAid.

Increase enforcement of human rights norms, with a particular focus on investigation and defense of human rights violations (\$3,725,000 ESF; \$190,000 prior year unobligated ESF). Local NGOs taking on precedent setting human rights cases that have the potential to influence government policy and public opinion will be the primary recipients of USAID resources. Five technical advisors will strengthen the skills of organizations in monitoring, investigation and follow-up of human rights cases. USAID-sponsored assistance will include legal capacity training in human rights cases, such as land encroachment, trafficking in persons, and corruption cases. Legal aid organizations focusing on producing tangible results for underserved and disadvantaged groups will receive assistance as well. Technical assistance will continue for the development and strengthening of unions - a key factor in retaining garment manufacturing in Cambodia once the Bilateral Textile Agreement expires in January 2005. Principal grantees include East West Management Institute, the Asia Foundation, and the American Center for International Labor Solidarity.

Strengthen the effort to document evidence for the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (\$275,000 ESF). The program to document the atrocities committed by the Khmer Rouge will collect, analyze and document evidence for the Khmer Rouge Tribunal. Principal grantee is the Documentation Center of Cambodia.

FY 2005 Program:

Increase participation of political parties, NGOs and private sector in demand for reforms (\$15,000,000 ESF). Dependent on the success of the anti-corruption programs and consultations with Congress, USAID may expand this program by focusing on legal reform and transparency in government. USAID will continue to help political parties to develop more effective and democratic procedures as well as to improve their organizational capabilities, leadership and message development, including party platforms, down to the village level. This area of intervention is particularly important between elections for continuing development of democratic parties toward transparent and accountable processes that meet international standards. Principal grantees are the same as above.

Increase enforcement of human rights norms, with a particular focus on investigation and defense of human rights violations (\$1,700,000 ESF). USAID will focus particularly on supporting unions and the arbitration council, as this will be the first year that garment unions do not have the protection of the Bilateral Textile Agreement. USAID will also continue to promote improvement of human rights by helping people, organizations, lawyers and communities through a legal clinic, high-impact legal cases, advocacy assistance, grant making, technical assistance and legal training. Principal grantees are the same as above.

Strengthen the effort to document evidence for the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (\$300,000 ESF). Depending on whether and when the Khmer Rouge Tribunal occurs, this program may be expanded. Principal grantee is the same as above.

Performance and Results: During the national elections in 2003, USAID showed that it was possible for political parties in Cambodia to exchange ideas and debate the future of the country without violence and intimidation. Through the work of a partner organization, USAID was able to level the playing field by organizing 20 multi-party all-candidates debates across Cambodia, of which 12 were broadcast on television and radio - a first for a country with no tradition of peaceful and constructive political debate. Improvements of regulatory frameworks, though still restrictive, enabled USAID-funded NGOs to air their election programs on local television and radio stations, notably the airing of candidate debates, public policy dialogue, and the Voice of Democracy radio program (focusing on youth and women). With USAID support to civil society, each phase of the election was carried out on schedule and was relatively smooth with high voter turnout, decreased violence and intimidation over previous years,, and an enhanced integrity of the election process. However, the overall process remained flawed and further reforms are needed.

Human rights NGOs have become more courageous in bringing high level land dispute, anti-trafficking, and labor rights cases to court with USAID support. By increasing the capacity of legal and human rights professionals and providing legal services or grants to pursue important cases, USAID is increasing its pressure on the Cambodian judiciary to conform to international norms. In order to build on these early victories it is crucial for USAID to continue its support to these brave lawyers and the organizations that support them as they continue to fight the culture of impunity.

In conjunction with State/DRL, USAID funded initial fieldwork for an eventual multi-disciplinary forensic analysis of mass grave sites. The goal was to analyze and document the cause of death of those who died under the Khmer Rouge regime as part of the chain of evidence. This activity resulted in the collection, analysis, and preservation of a representative sample of traumatized human skeletal remains, and the identification of future sites for full-scale exhumation. Collection of other evidence for the trial continued.

By program completion, Cambodians will be more knowledgeable about all political parties and their platforms; democratic political parties and civic groups will use public opinion research to strengthen their communications strategies and to develop initiatives that effectively address public concerns; elected commune council members will have gained the skills necessary to carry out their responsibilities in a professional, transparent, and democratic manner; serious human rights cases will decline due to a fear of prosecution; and evidence against the Khmer Rouge will be preserved for the Khmer Rouge Tribunal.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Cambodia

442-010 Democracy and Human Rights	ESF
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	10,573
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	10,573
Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	11,218
Expenditures	9,312
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	21,791
Expenditures	9,312
Unliquidated	12,479
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	190
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	16,900
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	17,090
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	17,000
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	55,881