

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Kazakhstan
Program Title:	Strengthened Democratic Culture
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	115-0211
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$5,500,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$272,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$4,250,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2007

Summary: USAID's democracy efforts build stronger and more sustainable civic organizations; increase the availability of objective information on public policy issues; and reduce trafficking in persons.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$1,441,379 FSA, \$25,000 FSA carryover). USAID will provide funding to increase legal advice available to journalists and media organizations and to expand the availability of objective non-partisan information. To address the restrictive environment for media operations, USAID will provide technical assistance to journalists through a local media support center staffed by attorneys with specialized expertise on international and Kazakh media legislation. USAID will also provide production assistance to independent television stations on the preparation of talk shows, news, and analysis. The best shows will be made available for rebroadcasting via satellite to participating television stations. Principal contractors/grantees: Freedom House (prime), American Bar Association Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (sub), Internews (prime), and to be determined (TBD) (prime).

Reduce Trafficking In Persons (\$680,000 FSA, \$196,848 FSA carryover). To increase information on trafficking and to consolidate the network of victim service providers, USAID will fund telephone hotlines that provide information on trafficking, overseas employment, and available assistance. Funds will also support a crisis center for victims of labor exploitation and two shelters for female trafficking victims. USAID will also provide technical assistance to local NGOs to increase their institutional capacity and identify additional funding sources and training to health care workers on how to meet the special needs of trafficking victims. Principal contractor/grantee: International Organization for Migration (prime).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$2,125,980 FSA, \$50,000 FSA carryover). USAID will begin a new initiative working through an association of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to fund national-level advocacy campaigns on democracy issues. USAID will also provide technical assistance to NGOs to enable them to work with the private sector and national and local government organizations. This next generation of support will focus on a smaller sub-set of NGOs which are interested in promoting improvements in citizen interactions with the government and in institutional reforms leading to a more representative democratic system. Principal contractors/grantees: TBD (prime).

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$396,582 FSA). USAID will provide training and technical assistance on organizational and platform development to all democratic parties. This will include working with both national-level party leadership, as well as with regionally-based party chapters, to strengthen the link between citizens and their representatives. Principal contractors/grantees: National Democratic Institute (prime) and International Republican Institute (prime).

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$856,059 FSA). USAID will provide training and technical assistance to the media and the judiciary to promote fair reporting and information exchange, continue a pilot court recording project, and work with the Judicial Academy to train sitting judges and future judges in areas of ethics and decision writing. USAID will provide technical assistance to the Union of Judges on judicial

independence and self-policing of ethical violations. USAID will also finance a public outreach program to generate public demand for a more fair and transparent judicial system. Principal contractor/grantee: Chemonics (prime).

FY 2007 Program:

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$1,748,455 FSA). USAID will provide legal advice to journalists and media organizations, as well as technical assistance for the production of news and other informational programming. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

Reduce Trafficking In Persons (\$241,545 FSA). USAID will continue to provide funding to local organizations to meet the needs of trafficking victims, and expand technical assistance to these organizations to increase their sustainability. Principal grantee: International Organization for Migration (prime).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$2,260,000 FSA). USAID will provide financing for national-level advocacy and information campaigns led by local NGOs on democracy related issues to increase political debate and access to information. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

Performance and Results: Despite a challenging environment, USAID programs were able to meet expectations over the last year. One of the most notable difficulties was increasing governmental interest in the operation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), especially international NGOs. The Government of Kazakhstan passed restrictive national security amendments that limited political party activities; placed controls on the operation of public and religious associations; and required non-commercial organizations to publish an annual statement on activities, including their sources of funding, assets, and expenditures. Separate laws on the operation of NGOs were found to be unconstitutional, following an active advocacy campaign by more than 200 NGOs, including USAID partners and other international and local NGOs. Over the last year, the environment for media operations and the free flow of information has worsened, with increasing seizures of opposition newspapers, harassment of journalists, and difficulties with licensing and registration. Based on close coordination with the Government and active policy dialogue led by the Embassy, programs to reduce trafficking in persons exceeded expected results. The Government of Kazakhstan began implementation of a National Action Plan to fight trafficking, and aired public service announcements about trafficking on state television. In addition, Parliament passed improved regulations to facilitate the prosecution of traffickers. By program's end, there will be stronger and more sustainable civil society organizations; increased availability of objective information; a more transparent judiciary; and improved services for victims of trafficking.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Kazakhstan

115-0211 Strengthened Democratic Culture	FSA
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	18,938
Expenditures	13,300
Unliquidated	5,638
Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	5,795
Expenditures	0
Through September 30, 2005	
Obligations	24,733
Expenditures	13,300
Unliquidated	11,433
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	272
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	5,500
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006	
Obligations	5,772
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA	
Obligations	4,250
Future Obligations	6,210
Est. Total Cost	40,965