

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Belarus
<b>Program Title:</b>	Citizen Participation in Democratic Practices
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	113-0210
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$7,984,000 FSA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$966,000 FSA
<b>Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:</b>	\$7,172,000 FSA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	1999
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2006

**Summary:** The USAID program aims to increase citizen participation in civil society, strengthen democratic political processes, develop independent media, and support civil initiatives addressing the broader social needs of Belarusians.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2006 Program:

Address Other Health Vulnerabilities (\$500,000 FSA). USAID will address the needs of orphans and vulnerable children by reducing the number of children dependent on state-administered orphanages and boarding schools for services. Chernobyl Rehabilitation CORE Program will assist Belarusians in the most affected areas in fighting the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. The focus will be on independent information and education on radiation levels, environment, and health. Implementers: Christian Children's Fund and United Nations Development Program (both prime).

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$1,604,000 FSA, \$396,000 FSA carryover). Assistance focuses on strengthening media capacity to provide Belarusian citizens with objective, unbiased information. Implementer: Contractor: International Research and Exchanges Board.

Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment (\$1,550,000 FSA). USAID will provide unbiased economic information and accounting training, and foster development of small and medium businesses through business education, entrepreneurship training, policy dialogue, and access to market and finance. It will also expand micro and small enterprise lending operations through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Implementer: Development Alternatives Inc. (prime) and TBD.

Prevent and Control Infectious Diseases of Major Importance (\$500,000 FSA). Funds will be used to develop a project to improve diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis (TB). Implementer: TBD.

Program Support (\$395,000 FSA, \$73,359 FSA carryover, \$3,977 FSA prior year recoveries). Funds will support program administration and development, including strategy design, needs and sector assessments in selected sectors.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$2,605,000 FSA, \$172,260 FSA carryover supplemental). USAID will advance civil society development by providing technical and financial support to local civil society, media and human rights non-government organizations (NGOs). USAID will promote rule of law by training local lawyers, activists, and NGOs. It will work with faculty-based legal clinics at local universities to build the capacity of clinical programs at law schools. The Community Connections program will provide Belarusian entrepreneurs, professionals, and NGO leaders with valuable exchange opportunities to break the increasing self-isolation of the country, and promote mutual understanding through exposure to U.S. society. The European Humanities University International (EHUI) will receive assistance for the education of university students in Belarus. Currently, EHUI is operating "in exile" in Vilnius, primarily through distance learning, due to the Belarus government's closure of the university campus in Belarus. Implementers: American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI), Eurasia Foundation (EF), PACT, German Marshall Fund, World Learning, and EHU (all prime).

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$830,000 FSA, \$320,000 FSA carryover). Support will be provided to develop political party-building, campaign planning and management, media relations and coalition building skills. Implementers: International Republican Institute (IRI) and National Democratic Institute (NDI) - both prime.

**FY 2007 Program:**

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$1,000,000 FSA). Assistance will focus on strengthening media capacity to provide Belarusian citizens with objective unbiased information. Implementer: Contractor/grantee: International Research and Exchanges Board

Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment (\$1,100,000 FSA). USAID will support the sustainability and competitiveness of the private sector through business education, entrepreneurship training, improvement of the regulatory framework, and access to market and finance and will expand micro and small enterprise lending operations. Private business activities will be supported through grant-making. Implementer: EBRD, EF (both prime) and TBD.

Program Support (\$317,740 FSA). Program support will fund program administration and development costs, including sector assessments and project evaluations.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$3,954,260 FSA). USAID will expand the civil society program through NGO development and provide basic support to independent media through professional training for non-state media managers, publishers, and journalists. A Community Connections program tailored to Belarusian professional or business interests will contribute to Belarusian economic and democratic reform. Implementers: PACT and World Learning (both prime).

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$800,000 FSA). USAID will work with pro-democracy political parties and groups. USAID will continue a long-term capacity-building program for pro-democracy parties, with a focus on internal governance, party-building, and membership recruitment. Implementers: IRI and NDI (both prime).

**Performance and Results:** Eleven local grant projects were successfully implemented despite the Government of Belarus refusal to re-register USAID's implementing organization for the Civil Society Strengthening Project, and the closure of its representative office. The project worked with 18 local communities (total population of about 1,270,000 people) and 30 civil society organizations (approximately 3,500 active members). USAID developed a web site for NGOs, a valuable resource on current NGO legal regulations. USAID assisted in conducting a roundtable for 70 NGO lawyers on rendering legal aid in a new working environment. The EF awarded over \$180,000 for civil society and private enterprise development, and public administration. The Belarus Economic Education Project provided unbiased economic information and trained several groups of professionals, predominantly representing the private sector, in accounting, financial, managerial accounting, tax, and law. In total, 105 examinees took part in the first exams on financial accounting and managerial accounting.

In 2005, the government persisted with its policy of controlling alternative viewpoints and information sources, imposing fines and limiting the distribution system of independent publications. Despite the worsening environment, USAID was successful in keeping independent newspapers running through the provision of emergency grants and technical assistance. The program provided such widely used technical resources for journalists as the PhotoService, News Archives and the Press Dossier. Due to the independent media's increased professionalism in providing objective and quality information, the level of public trust to the independent media continues to be high.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Belarus

113-0210 Citizen Participation in Democratic Practices	ESF	FSA
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>		
Obligations	464	34,000
Expenditures	396	31,671
Unliquidated	68	2,329
<b>Fiscal Year 2005</b>		
Obligations	0	9,511
Expenditures	59	2,877
<b>Through September 30, 2005</b>		
Obligations	464	43,511
Expenditures	455	34,548
Unliquidated	9	8,963
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	966
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	7,984
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006</b>		
Obligations	0	8,950
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	7,172
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	464	59,633