

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Croatia
Program Title:	Return & Reintegration of War-Affected Populations
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	160-0310
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$968,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$771,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY2004

Summary: USAID's program to increase the return of war-affected peoples and help ensure their sustainable reintegration emphasizes a community-based approach that includes training and technical assistance in: infrastructure reconstruction and economic revitalization, community building, legal aid, and housing solutions to partner communities.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Increase economic and social viability in partnership municipalities (\$968,000 AEEB, \$771,000 AEEB carryover). USAID's Economic and Community Revitalization Activity (ECRA) will: 1) create jobs and boost economic activity through community-based economic programs; 2) support community reintegration in return areas; 3) increase the rate of cross-border returns through information exchange and direct contacts; 4) improve the housing situation for returnees, displaced persons and settlers; and 5) support sustainability of local partners through participant training and capacity-building programs. Specific ECRA activities in the USAID partnership municipalities include: micro-credit and business development services, training of entrepreneurs, cooperatives and individual farmers, legal assistance to returnees, computer training for youth and women, and support for the development of community-based organizations such as community initiative groups, elected village boards, and community committees.

Additional technical support and training will focus on strengthening the linkages between local government officials, business leaders, and NGOs in ten war-affected municipalities, enabling them to work more effectively in prioritizing the needs of their individual communities. These partnership municipalities will be at the center of the future economic and democracy activities that plan to utilize the acquired knowledge and to build and expand on the existing relationships. This will be a crucial element as the Mission's mainstream economic and democracy programs begin to expand their efforts in these war-affected regions following the completion of the ECRA program. Principal Contractors/Grantees: Mercy Corps (Prime); Urban Institute; International Catholic Migration Commission; Catholic Relief Services; Center for Civil Initiatives; Serb Democratic Forum; International Rescue Committee; Firm Level Assistance Group; Center for Education and Counseling of Women; Steps of Hope; MICROPLUS; Local Economic Development Agency; Economic Development Agency WESTERN SLAVONIA; Independent Association of Agricultural Cooperatives and Farmers; Net for Peace; Dalmatian Solidarity Committee; Organization for Civil Initiatives; and the Center for Peace, Non-Violence and Human Rights (Subs).

FY 2005 Program:

Closeout of the Accelerated Return and Sustainable Reintegration of War-Affected Populations Strategic Objective is planned for the end of FY 2004. USAID's current efforts to create jobs in war-affected areas of Croatia will be incorporated into the Economic Development team's more comprehensive approach to private sector-led employment growth and will benefit from national and regional linkages.

Performance and Results: Although overall refugee returns to Croatia in CY 2003 decreased 60% from CY 2002, the 1,900 returnees to USAID partnership municipalities are a slight increase over the previous

year. Fifty-six percent of those returning to USAID partnership municipalities in CY 2003 were in the economically-active age group of 18 to 50. This is a significant increase over the 2001 baseline. In FY 2003, USAID Croatia achieved multiple results through its various activities under this Strategic Objective. Approximately 100 infrastructure projects funded through the Community Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program (CIRP) were completed by the end of FY 2003. Through CIRP, 55,000 people (about 18,000 families) in 144 communities benefited from eight community centers, 19 schools, a health clinic and two roads that have been repaired and rehabilitated. Two thousand five hundred families are now able to drink clean and safe water as a result of new or restored connections to public utilities. ECRA's representative community committees are now functioning in all 10 of the USAID partner municipalities. In FY 2003, ECRA activities created employment for 716 people, generated 163 new contracts worth almost \$1,000,000 for assisted enterprises and leveraged close to \$500,000 of funding from other sources. Nearly 10,500 people of all ethnic groups have participated in ECRA-assisted community activities, and over 8,000 people received legal assistance, with 45% of the cases being resolved. Through the NHS program, 24 families occupying homes belonging to returnees were successfully relocated to permanent housing. And through the DCA program, 189 loans totaling \$1,158,278 (representing more than 15% of the first apportionment) were approved by the end of FY 2003, and 98 families (out of 100 planned) of the Housing Reconstruction program were housed in newly-reconstructed homes.

By the conclusion of this program, USAID will have accomplished multiple goals under this strategic objective. USAID will have raised the standard of living in critical war-affected regions by providing electricity and water to numerous residents and families. USAID programs will have built real capacity, established linkages (including cross-border networks) and raised the level of optimism among local populations, governments, entrepreneurs, and NGOs within supported regions. The programs have given the stakeholders within these strategic regions the tools, know-how, and motivation to address current and emerging concerns as they prepare for EU accession.