

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Croatia
Program Title:	Mitigation of Adverse Social Conditions & Trends
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	160-0340
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$535,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$195,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY2004

Summary: USAID Croatia's Social Transition program addresses the social ills and political disaffection originating from decades of socialism and post-independence economic contraction. It includes training and technical assistance to: enhance public understanding and support for social sector reforms including the pension system, and support stakeholder negotiations on vital social reforms such as labor and family laws.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Technical support to the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (\$168,000 AEEB, \$185,000 AEEB carryover). USAID will provide Croatia's Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare with technical assistance that strengthens their education capacity and supports their Pillar III (401k-like) pension reform campaign. USAID will play a vital role in assisting the Government of Croatia (GOC) with its pension reform effort through a comprehensive public education campaign, regulatory and oversight training, and other technical assistance, including GOC unemployment programs. Contractor: Carana (Prime)

Strengthen Croatian trade unions' leadership capacity and constituent outreach mechanisms (\$367,000 AEEB). In its final year of funding, USAID will support: trade unions' constituent outreach initiatives, democratization of union leadership and management, and training to improve negotiation skills to help unions function as credible partners in social dialogue. Grantee: American Center for International Labor Solidarity (Prime).

Increase public awareness to combat trafficking in persons (\$10,000 AEEB carryover). USAID's support to combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) focuses on raising awareness among the public, media, law enforcement officials, and policy-makers through targeted public education campaigns. Training opportunities and gathering baseline data will continue. Principal contractor/grantee to be determined.

FY 2005 Program:

This strategic objective closes out in FY2004.

Performance and Results: USAID Croatia's social transition program has realized significant accomplishments in FY 2003. USAID's continued successful support to Croatia's Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MOL) for the Pension Reform Public Education Activity enabled the GOC to garner critical political will and popular support for reform in this sector. Pension Reform has been highlighted as one of the Government's most successful transition activities and is considered a model for Southeast Europe. USAID's anti-trafficking program saw improved results in public knowledge on trafficking issues. For example, the percentage of Croatians aware of trafficking rose from 45.5% to 80.3% by the end of the activity. Also, calls to the SOS line promoted by this program rose significantly (more than 200%) from a mere seven calls to over 1,500 during USAID's public outreach campaign. Through USAID's HIV/AIDS outreach initiatives, some 19,000 educational brochures were disseminated to at-risk youth. Since its founding in late FY 2003, the HIV/AIDS hotline supported by USAID received 145 calls, and 212 new

clients have requested testing and counseling from the USAID-supported NGO. Despite a lack of GOC support, the Tripartite Social Dialogue (TSD) program realized achievements in FY 2003. TSD supported the introduction of new and more efficient operational procedures and lines of communication within the National Economic and Social Councils (GSVs) in 18 of Croatia's 21 counties. In particular, the 17 labor mediators trained through this activity are utilizing their skills more effectively and are arbitrating an average of 10 cases per month, with a resolution rate of 75%.

Upon completion of the program in FY 2004, activities implemented under the TSD will have significantly contributed to the capacity and sustainability of the Office of Social Partnership. As one of the crucial elements for the democratic development of Croatia, USAID anticipates that national awareness and demand for the social partnership will increase. Active and successful mediators, fully functioning local GSVs and positive social dialogue will be the project's legacy. Croatia's pension reform will be well underway with their first two pillars established and the third pillar, a 401k-like program, ready to roll out to the public. The Croatian public will have a strong understanding of each of the pension funds which will allow them to make informed decisions on their future. Projects regarding the protection of the vulnerable groups, trafficking in persons, and HIV/AIDS will have raised awareness among the Croatian public, resulting in a decrease of the vulnerability and stigmatization of affected persons.