

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Lebanon
Program Title:	Promoting Democracy and Good Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	268-002
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$5,000,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$7,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	1998
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: Strengthening Foundations for Good Governance is a program that empowers and strengthens the Lebanese local government (municipalities), the parliament, the oversight agencies, and civil society. It improves the delivery of local governmental services to citizens and municipalities, thereby enhancing the democratic nature of Lebanon's overall political system. The assistance focuses on enhancing administrative and financial capabilities, expanding social services, encouraging public participation, and increasing accountability, transparency, and effectiveness.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Activities will build on progress made to further institutionalize municipal standards and procedures, increase transparency and accountability in all aspects of municipal operations, expand the municipal revenue base, and strengthen the role of local government in economic development.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$4,000,000 ESF). Through the Strengthening Foundations for Good Governance program, standardized procedures used previously by all municipalities will be sustained and institutionalized. Municipal staff and officials will be trained to provide efficient and effective services. The administrative and financial capabilities of all 22 municipal unions will be strengthened. Further enhancement of revenues will be achieved through signing protocols with some utility companies and the Ministry of Finance. Municipalities can systematically and electronically share and coordinate key taxpayer information.

A Geographic Information System (GIS) will be installed in twenty municipalities in three years, five in 2005. The GIS is designed to expand the taxation, inspection, and auditing capabilities of targeted institutions and identify hidden revenue sources such as unregistered rental contracts, illegal ads and billboards. Support will also be provided to the engineering units of these municipalities to stimulate growth and investment in their regions.

Citizen participation in the decision making process is a core element of democratic values. Municipal town meetings will be held to ensure communication with the public. Municipalities will be encouraged to initiate projects in which women and youth play leading roles. Communication with the public will further be enhanced through "Citizen Reception" offices and interactive municipal websites.

Policy dialogue trips will be organized between Lebanese municipal officials and their U.S. counterparts. This will facilitate the exchange of expertise in areas such as economic development, environment, education, and good governance. Activities will also focus on ensuring that municipal planning, budgeting, and service-delivery create the environment needed to attract investment and long-term economic development projects. Women officials will be encouraged to play a leading role in these exchanges and local governments in Lebanon will be "twined" with cities in the United States.

The Lebanese Parliament and oversight agencies will be trained to work more effectively with municipalities. A thorough review and revision of administrative processes and procedures related to laws comprising the legal framework impacting municipalities will be done. Five municipal laws, decrees, and orders will be issued this year to enhance the role of local government and municipalities. The State University of New York/Albany-Center for Legislative Development (SUNY-CLD) is the implementing agency for these activities.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$900,000 ESF). The Transparency and Accountability Grants (TAG) administered by America-Mideast Educational and Training Services (AMIDEAST), strengthens anti-corruption efforts in all sectors, all over the country. The agreement ends in September 2004. The response to TAG was significant, with diverse civil society organizations from all regions of Lebanon creating innovative programs focusing on increasing transparency and accountability in a variety of sectors. This program expires at the end of September 2005. USAID intends to continue working on strengthening the civil society.

Improve Quality of Workforce (\$100,000 ESF). The Professional Training Program (PTP), which is also administered by AMIDEAST, becomes fully funded in FY 2005. PTP plans for the next year include: training on public interest law for local attorneys; improved marketing for local artisans and crafts; and managing for results as well as follow-up for programs already offered and taking these programs to the next level. Programs geared towards building women's entrepreneurial and leadership skills are some of the priorities of this program. The PTP component compliments USAID's three SOs.

FY 2006 Program: Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$6,000,000 ESF). Foundations for Good Governance program activities will continue to build on the progress made in the previous year. The institutionalization and sustainability of standardized procedures for all municipalities will continue, whereby, an additional 500 municipalities will be issuing annual financial statements. Five thousand municipal staff and officials will be trained to provide efficient and effective services while the administrative and financial capabilities of all 22 municipal unions will be strengthened.

Geographic Information System's (GIS) will be installed in an additional 10 municipalities. Support will continue to engineering units of these municipalities to stimulate growth and investment in their regions. Communication with the public will further be enhanced through "Citizen Reception" offices and interactive websites. Citizen surveys will be conducted to confirm satisfaction with the municipal services received. The twining of cities and policy dialogue trips will be organized between Lebanese municipal officials and their U.S. counterparts.

Based upon a thorough review of municipal laws and procedures, ten municipal laws, decrees, and orders will be issued/amended to enhance the role of local government and municipalities. These activities will continue to be implemented by the State University of New York/Albany-Center for Legislative Development.

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$900,000 ESF). Through the Transparency and Accountability Grant project (TAG, the Mission intends to continue working on strengthening the civil society. USAID will fund activities that empower local civic associations to play a constructive role in advocating change and enhanced transparency, accountability, and good governance in Lebanon.

Improve Quality of Workforce (\$100,000 ESF). The Professional Training Program will continue to provide appropriate, efficient, and effective training to relevant participants from all sectors of Lebanese society.

Performance and Results: The municipal reform program achieved significant results in the past year by increasing municipal revenues and forming more transparent and accountable government institutions that became compliant with all legal requirements. The revenues of most municipalities increased by 200%. Results for assessed rental taxes for the 11 months ending November 30, 2004, reached \$3.6 million in Zahle Municipality-Bekaa compared to \$2.9 million in 2003. An additional 237 municipalities were technically assisted in 2004 bringing the total to over 800. The number of official rental value taxpayer lists- a necessary step to legally collect taxes- published annually increased from 135 in 2001 to 461 in November 2004. This year USAID grants supported activities and advocacy organizations in such diverse sectors as human rights, government transactions, consumer protection, and youth awareness in all regions of Lebanon. Out of the 13 grants funded in FY2004, 10 had nationwide beneficiaries with approximately 180,000 persons benefiting in total.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Lebanon

268-002 Promoting Democracy and Good Governance	ESF
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	20,965
Expenditures	13,155
Unliquidated	7,810
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	4,000
Expenditures	6,243
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	24,965
Expenditures	19,398
Unliquidated	5,567
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	5,000
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	5,000
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	7,000
Future Obligations	5,000
Est. Total Cost	41,965