

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Bangladesh
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	388-009
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$600,000 CSH; \$4,477,000 DA; \$1,500,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$4,612,000 DA; \$2,550,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2000
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2007

Summary: The USAID democracy and governance program promotes transparent local governance; anticorruption policies and initiatives; greater responsiveness by political parties to citizen priorities; free and fair elections; and improved protection and respect for human rights, especially those of women and children. To attain these objectives, USAID works with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government institutions to fight rampant corruption through improved public administration; strengthen elected local bodies; reduce violence against women; stem trafficking in persons; and reduce child labor. USAID's activities also strengthen local council and municipal associations, protect worker rights, and reform political processes.

The following program components specifically target the Mission's top governance priorities and are based on FY 2005 funding request levels. It should be noted that to the extent actual FY 2005 funding levels differ from requested levels, the Mission will be significantly constrained in meeting all of its democracy and governance program objectives. Of particular concern is the Mission's ability to support a planned new activity for anticorruption.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Promote and Support Free and Fair Elections (\$200,000 DA, \$500,000 ESF). USAID supports the Government of Bangladesh's (GOB) preparations for national elections scheduled for the end of 2006 or early 2007. Free and equitable electoral management is a concern. Areas to be addressed include the use and management of the electoral registry and the inclusion of female candidates. USAID will strengthen local NGOs' electoral monitoring capacity. Grantees and contractors: International Republican Institute (IRI) and National Democratic Institute (NDI).

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$800,000 DA, \$500,000 ESF). USAID will provide training and technical assistance to political parties to improve internal governance, encourage greater responsiveness to citizens' needs, and promote increased tolerance amongst the political leadership. Through the parties, USAID will also promote parliamentary operations, strengthen the committee system, and increase citizen access to legislative processes. Grantees and contractors: IRI and NDI.

Protect Human Rights and Equal Access to Justice (\$1,500,000 DA). USAID will support institutional strengthening for local NGOs and increase the recognition of women's and children's rights. Activities to combat domestic violence will be underscored, and training in investigative reporting will be supported. Oversight of labor practices will be promoted, especially the reduction of child labor, compliance with minimum labor standards, and elimination of other human rights abuses. Grantees and contractors: Academy for Educational Development (AED), the American Center for International Labor Solidarity, and local NGOs.

Reduce Trafficking in Persons (\$300,000 DA, \$600,000 CSH). USAID will raise awareness and reduce trafficking through grants and training for local NGOs, religious leaders, and law enforcement officials. These groups will implement outreach events in the most vulnerable communities, promote radio and television anti-trafficking messages, and provide support for the rescue and recovery of victims. Grantees and contractors: AED and local NGOs.

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$500,000 DA, \$500,000 ESF). USAID will support implementation of the GOB's national integrity strategy and strengthen the new Anticorruption Commission. Technical assistance will take advantage of opportunities to promote targeted legal reforms that increase transparent public management. Grantees and contractors: AED and others to be determined (TBD).

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,177,000 DA). USAID will strengthen transparent public management and increase citizen participation at the local level by training targeted local authorities in participatory planning techniques, resource generation, and management. USAID will also promote open budget hearings and strengthen incipient local government associations as policy advocates for decentralization and other subnational government issues. Grantees and contractors: Associates in Rural Development, Rupantar, local NGOs, and others TBD.

FY 2006 Program: Promote and Support Free and Fair Elections (\$300,000 DA, \$500,000 ESF). USAID will support preparations for national elections, including technical assistance to local NGOs for electoral oversight and monitoring. Support for international electoral observation teams is planned. Same implementers as above and subgrantees TBD.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$300,000 DA, \$500,000 ESF). USAID expects to continue training and technical assistance to foster greater responsiveness of political parties to citizens' priorities. Same implementers as above.

Protect Human Rights and Equal Access to Justice (\$1,650,000 DA, \$250,000 ESF). USAID plans to promote women's and children's rights and advocate for the elimination of human rights abuses through follow-on technical assistance and/or grants to local NGOs. Respect of minimum labor standards, increasing workers' understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities, and efforts to reduce child labor will continue. Grantees and contractors: American Center for International Labor Solidarity, local NGOs, and others TBD.

Reduce Trafficking in Persons (\$500,000 DA). USAID will continue awareness-raising and prevention efforts and will pursue consolidation of government and NGO sector anti-trafficking approaches. Support and training may be provided to strengthen investigation and prosecution of traffickers. Grantees and contractors: local NGOs and others TBD.

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$112,000 DA, \$1,300,000 ESF). USAID plans to continue providing technical assistance and training that supports the implementation of the GOB national integrity strategy. Grantees and contractors: TBD.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,750,000 DA). Training and technical assistance to local government officials is expected to continue, deepening transparency and sound public management at the local level. Decentralization will be promoted through policy dialogue. Grantees and contractors: local NGOs, Rupantar, and others TBD.

Performance and Results: In 2004, targeted USAID assistance led to important progress in several governance areas. Support to local government associations led to direct budget allocations from the central government for the first time ever, and local revenue generation increased by 25% in target areas. Human rights groups successfully engaged with the government on a variety of issues, including the drafting of a nationally adopted Police Code of Conduct. With USAID support, the GOB made significant inroads to deal with human trafficking, removing Bangladesh from prospective Tier III sanctions. A Monitoring Cell at the Police Headquarters was established to collect and compile national data on trafficking. The GOB also established an independent Anticorruption Commission with investigative oversight powers on public spending. USAID funded a series of training sessions for midlevel political party leaders in which 160 political leaders participated, including 32 women. One of the major aims of these trainings was to build internal democratic practices within the political parties.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

388-009 Democracy and Governance	CSH	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2003			
Obligations	1,500	14,860	2,580
Expenditures	1,443	5,493	2,347
Unliquidated	57	9,367	233
Fiscal Year 2004			
Obligations	100	4,309	1,067
Expenditures	0	5,631	530
Through September 30, 2004			
Obligations	1,600	19,169	3,647
Expenditures	1,443	11,124	2,877
Unliquidated	157	8,045	770
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA			
Obligations	600	4,477	1,500
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005			
Obligations	600	4,477	1,500
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA			
Obligations	0	4,612	2,550
Future Obligations	0	7,000	2,000
Est. Total Cost	2,200	35,258	9,697