

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Sri Lanka
Program Title:	Supporting the Benefits of Peace
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	383-006
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$2,750,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$3,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2003
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) program within the Special Objective (SpO) bolsters public support for a negotiated peace settlement through fast, flexible small grant support for community-based activities. These local initiatives deliver visible peace dividends, including small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation and livelihoods development; promote community-level conflict management and peaceful coexistence; and enhance the quality and exchange of peace-related information. Based on these objectives, OTI provides grants that support positive interaction among diverse groups, promote participatory decision making at the community level, improve livelihoods, and facilitate the flow of accurate information from multiple viewpoints.

In an effort to measure the micro- and macro-level impact of its small grants activities, OTI made a commitment to a more comprehensive monitoring and evaluation approach, setting the stage for the arrival in FY 2005 of a full-time monitoring and evaluation specialist. To ensure continued relevance in a fluid political environment, future directions for activities within the SpO are being informed by the midterm program assessment conducted in September 2004. Although USAID's overarching aim remains the same, the program has tightened its geographic focus to emphasize activities aimed at depth versus breadth. OTI will work with local media to amplify activity impact. The primary implementer for the SpO is Development Alternatives, Inc.; the subgrantees are numerous and vary over time. The SpO leverages regular USAID program funds with OTI Transition Initiatives funds to maximize impact at a critical juncture in the peace process. Following OTI's departure in March 2006, USAID/Sri Lanka will continue activities under this SpO.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Support Peace Processes (\$1,250,000 ESF). The SpO will remain focused on strengthening public support for a negotiated settlement to the conflict. Grants for short-term activities will assist local initiatives to mobilize constituencies for peace through media and advocacy campaigns, peace process information dissemination, and enhancing the impact of civil society's peacebuilding potential. The SpO will continue to maximize USAID's overall contribution to peacebuilding efforts by enhancing, extending, or filling gaps in activities under the Mission's Democracy and Governance Peace Support Program, which is implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED). Collaboration among key staff from both programs will be enhanced by a new Mission Program Officer. OTI's primary focus will remain on short-term activities with immediate impact to compliment AED's long-term capacity building efforts.

Illustrative activities include civil society media and advocacy campaigns; information dissemination to demystify key transition issues (through a variety of communication methods and media); mobilization of moderate voices among university faculty and students and other marginalized groups; and creating and enhancing channels of communication between the grassroots and national policymaking levels.

Address Conflict Transitional Issues (\$1,500,000 ESF). The SpO, through its fast and flexible small grants mechanism, will continue to seize critical windows of opportunity to preserve and strengthen democratic institutions and processes and to increase momentum for peaceful resolution of the conflict. In addition, OTI's retargeted strategy will focus on community improvement activities that promote

participation and collaboration among diverse groups at the local level, engage local media to amplify activity impact, and provide a national forum for local voices on key transition issues.

Resources dedicated to the SpO will facilitate broad-based partnerships and collaborative processes within a highly politicized society. Illustrative activities include community self-help projects, such as small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation and livelihoods support, that emphasize a participatory and collaborative approach; community-based dialogues on key transition issues; viewers' circles utilizing thematically appropriate content as a platform for discussion and debate; process-intensive cross-cultural exchanges involving people from politically significant communities; and training civil society groups in communication skills, tools, and platforms for advocacy on key transition issues.

FY 2006 Program: Support Peace Processes (\$1,000,000 ESF). Without a negotiated settlement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, strengthening citizen support for a political solution to the conflict will remain an appropriate goal of the SpO. Under either scenario, small grants for short-term activities, implemented through OTI's in-kind assistance mechanism, will continue to support local initiatives to mobilize constituencies for peace through media and advocacy. These activities will also focus on information dissemination on key transition issues and enhancing the impact of civil society's peacebuilding potential. Illustrative activities include civil society media and advocacy campaigns; information dissemination to demystify key transition issues through a variety of communication methods and media; mobilization of moderate voices among university faculty and students and other marginalized groups; and creating and enhancing channels of communication between the grassroots and national policymaking levels.

Address Conflict Transitional Issues (\$2,000,000 ESF). In the event that a negotiated settlement is in place, this program area would grow in scope to support for the peace process. Under such a scenario, a major new effort would be required to increase awareness, understanding, and support for the political framework that is established. The need for community improvement activities involving participation and collaboration among diverse groups at the local level could increase substantially in the North and East.

Either in the aftermath or in the absence of a negotiated settlement, illustrative activities under this program area could encompass community self-help projects, including small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation and livelihoods support, that emphasize a participatory and collaborative approach. Activities could also include community-based dialogues on key transition issues; viewers' circles utilizing thematically appropriate content as a platform for discussion and debate; process-intensive cross-cultural exchanges involving people from politically significant communities; and training civil society groups in communication skills, tools, and platforms for advocacy on key transition issues.

Performance and Results: With Economic Support Funds alone, USAID supported 94 small grant activities during FY 2004 - representing \$2,234,435 in total assistance. Using Transition Initiatives funds, the program supported an additional 63 activities, representing \$1,482,453. The field presence, relentless pace, and effective outreach of OTI's activities within the SpO have restored the Mission's high profile among bilateral donors in Sri Lanka. The Embassy has both benefited from and contributed to USAID's success, taking advantage of OTI's knowledge of the circumstances on the ground, while contributing to the visibility of OTI's projects by participating in the openings of USAID-funded activities. OTI was able to amplify the impact of programming through consistent publicity, coupling national media coverage generated by the Embassy Public Affairs Office with OTI's strong relationships with reporters at the district level.

USAID's program will help maintain the political space for dialogue required to achieve a durable, negotiated solution to the conflict. In the event of a political settlement before the end of FY 2006, USAID and the SpO will play a significant role in catalyzing the kind of participatory, community-based decision making and resource allocation required for widespread ownership at the local level. In any case, the SpO will have played a vital role in making the Mission program more conflict-sensitive, responsive, and robust.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Sri Lanka

383-006 Supporting the Benefits of Peace	ESF
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	5,429
Expenditures	0
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	5,429
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	5,429
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	2,750
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	2,750
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	3,000
Future Obligations	11,000
Est. Total Cost	22,179