

The Challenge

Cuba, one of the most economically and politically repressed countries in the world, ranks 149th among 155 countries in the Heritage Foundation's 2005 Index of Economic Freedom. Freedom House lists Cuba among the eight most repressive regimes, with failing scores on political rights and civil liberties. Cubans, including those in professional associations and non-governmental organizations, know little about democratic civil societies. Over 330 political prisoners suffer today under humiliating and degrading conditions. Cuban civil society activity increased in FY 2005, despite government attempts to intimidate human rights activists, librarians and journalists. The Economic Intelligence Unit's September 2005 report projects Cuba's economy will grow five percent in 2005-2006, up from four percent in 2004. However, this does not take into account hurricane damage to agricultural production and continuing deterioration of antiquated power and water systems.

Objectives, Sectors and Workforce

Senior Advisor on Cuba: David Mutchler

MCA Status: Not a Candidate

PEPFAR Focus Country: No

Provided or Received Services From Other Missions: N/A

Program Budget (Appropriations by Objective)		FY 2004 (\$000)	FY 2005 (\$000)	FY 2006 (\$000)	FY 2007 (\$000)	Percent Change FY 04-07	2005 SO Performance Score		Direct SO Admin. Cost Ratio
516-001 Civil Society Developed		12,319	8,928	10,890	9,000	-26.9%	0.95	Met	0.00
Transfer to Other US Government Agency		9,050	0	0	0	N/A	N/A		N/A
Country Total		21,369	8,928	10,890	9,000	-57.9%			

Program Budget (Appropriations by Account)		FY 2004 (\$000)	FY 2005 (\$000)	FY 2006 (\$000)	FY 2007 (\$000)	Percent Change FY 04-07
Development Assistance		0	0	1,980	0	N/A
Economic Support Fund		21,369	8,928	8,910	9,000	-57.9%
Total		21,369	8,928	10,890	9,000	-57.9%

Program Budget by Sector and Account			FY 2004 (\$000)	FY 2005 (\$000)	FY 2006 (\$000)	FY 2007 (\$000)	Percent Change FY 04-07
Democracy and Governance	ESF		21,369	8,928	7,650	6,500	-69.6%
Conflict Management / Humanitarian Assistance	DA		0	0	1,980	0	N/A
	ESF		0	0	1,260	2,500	N/A
Total			21,369	8,928	10,890	9,000	-57.9%

Other Major Donors:

Bilateral: Venezuela, China, Spain, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, France, Iran and North Korea.

Multilateral: United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator, UN Development Program, UN World Food Program, UNICEF, Food and Agricultural Organization, World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, International Committee of the Red Cross, and International Foundation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Cuba PROGRAM SUMMARY

(in thousands of dollars)

Accounts	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Current	FY 2007 Request
Development Assistance	0	0	1,980	0
Economic Support Fund	21,369	8,928	8,910	9,000
Total Program Funds	21,369	8,928	10,890	9,000

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SUMMARY

516-001 Civil Society Developed				
DA	0	0	1,980	0
ESF	12,319	8,928	8,910	9,000

TRANSFER				
ESF	9,050	0	0	0

Senior Advisor on Cuba,
David Mutchler

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Cuba
Program Title:	Civil Society Developed
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	516-001
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$1,980,000 DA; \$8,910,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$9,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	1996
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	

Summary: The primary goal of U.S. foreign policy towards Cuba is to hasten the transition to a democratic, market oriented government in Cuba. U.S. national interests in Cuba also include protecting American citizens and controlling U.S. borders by ensuring safe, legal, and orderly migration from Cuba. USAID's program will: increase solidarity with Cuban human rights activists; give greater voice for Cuba's independent journalists; develop and enhance independent Cuban non-governmental organizations; increase provision of direct outreach to the Cuban people; and increase planning efforts for a future political transition.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Strengthen Civil Society (\$8,910,000 ESF and \$1,980,000 DA). ESF funds are focusing on programs that increase solidarity with Cuban human rights activists, increase direct outreach to the Cuban people, and increase planning for a future political transition. ESF funds will also give greater voice for Cuba's independent journalists and enhance development of independent Cuban NGOs. USAID's program is reaching out to the Cuban people by transmitting accurate information on democracy, human rights and free enterprise to Cuban citizens. Information will flow via web pages which publish reports from independent journalists in Cuba, and through newsletters, faxes and e-mails to Cubans on the island. The program continues to work with U.S. universities, U.S. and U.S.-based Cuban NGOs, and independent Cuban citizens, to develop specific plans for assistance to a transition government, and to train prospective Cuban leaders in the functioning of free market economies. In addition, USAID DA funds continue to provide humanitarian support to Cuba's political prisoners, their families and those affected by natural or man-made emergencies on the island. The program will strengthen the capacity of independent Cuban NGOs through exchange visits between Cuba, the United States and other nations. The U.S. Department of State (DOS) is contemplating a transfer of a portion of these funds to the DOS/Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor for implementation.

FY 2007 Program:

Strengthen Civil Society (\$9,000,000 ESF). USAID will continue building solidarity with Cuba's human rights activists by continuing to support distribution of reports by Cuba's independent journalists and transmitting accurate information on democracy, human rights and free enterprise. The program will continue working with U.S. universities, U.S. and Cuban NGOs, and independent Cuban citizens, and to further transition planning. The program will continue to train prospective Cuban leaders in the functioning of free market economies. In addition, USAID will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to political prisoners, their families and others negatively affected by natural or man-made emergencies. Solidarity with independent human rights and civil society groups will be further strengthened via support of exchange visits of Cuban NGOs between Cuba, the United States and third countries. Exchange visits will enhance the capacity and effectiveness of independent Cuban NGOs and inform Cuban society about the functioning of a democratic society and individual entitlement to basic human rights and freedom of expression.

Performance and Results: In FY 2005, the Cuban democratic opposition initiated more than 1,800 acts of civic resistance. Civil society activities increased in spite of the Cuban government's March 2003

arrest and imprisonment of 75 activists, and despite increasing use of violence by Cuban authorities attempting to intimidate human rights activists, independent librarians, independent journalists, and other independent groups. The USAID program has helped attract increased international support for Cuban activists. Program partners delivered more than 100,700 pounds of food and medicine to families of political prisoners, human rights activists, and other victims of repression throughout Cuba. After Hurricane Dennis hit the island in August 2005, program partners provided food, shelter and other basic needs to Cuban activists who, through their broad on-island networks, helped thousands who had lost their homes and livelihood.

In FY 2005, program partners published via the internet more than 3,000 reports from Cuba's independent journalists. These reports were circulated in hard copy newsletters and by e-mail throughout the island as well as abroad. The program provided journalism training through correspondence courses and teleconferences to more than 100 independent journalists. USAID partners provided thousands of books, newsletters, videos and other informational materials, as well as office equipment to improve the management capacity of Cuban NGOs and their ability to support local community needs. The independent library movement helped established 19 new independent libraries during FY 2005.

In spite of active resistance from the Cuban government, program partners provided more than 5,400 short wave radios to the Cuban people, enabling families and individuals to listen to international programming of their choice. Partners also provided more than 70,000 books, and more than one million newsletters, brochures and other informational materials to the Cuban people during FY 2005. The program distributes approximately 100,000 newsletters to Cuban households every month. The program also supported direct outreach activities of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, including multi-media, and internet access for Cuban citizens and other visitors.

USAID supported the development of plans to assist a post-Castro transition government in Cuba and of a model property claims tribunal to assist future efforts to resolve property disputes resulting from the Castro government's confiscation of private property from U.S. and Cuban citizens over the past 47 years.

Continued successful implementation of the program will further develop Cuban civil society, with citizens increasingly knowledgeable of their civil, legal rights and responsibilities. Program activities will promote understanding of the functions and benefits of a free market enterprise system and will help to alleviate the suffering of political prisoners and their families. In addition, it will strengthen the role and social service delivery capacity of independent Cuban NGOs. The program will encourage discussion of economic, financial, and legal institutions which will be required in a post-Castro democratic and free-market Cuban society.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Cuba

	DA	ESF
516-001 Civil Society Developed		
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	0	33,786
Expenditures	0	25,959
Unliquidated	0	7,827
Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	0	13,351
Expenditures	0	9,799
Through September 30, 2005		
Obligations	0	47,137
Expenditures	0	35,758
Unliquidated	0	11,379
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	1,980	8,910
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006		
Obligations	1,980	8,910
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA		
Obligations	0	9,000
Future Obligations	0	17,777
Est. Total Cost	1,980	82,824