

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Office of Democracy and Governance
Program Title:	Elections and Political Processes Program
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	932-002
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$2,095,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$2,150,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	1997
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2007

Summary: The DG Office elections and political processes (EPP) program provides technical assistance and support to USAID missions worldwide. The program strengthens USAID programming and reinforces country-based efforts, mainly by:

- Assisting countries to administer their elections in a credible, impartial and professional manner;
- Training local organizations to monitor elections and educate voters about their rights and responsibilities;
- Helping political parties to become better able to represent citizens, compete effectively, and govern in the public interest;
- Encouraging the political participation of women and historically disenfranchised groups; and
- Training newly elected legislators and local officials to govern effectively.

Lessons from different countries and regions are compiled and shared by the DG Office, new approaches to election and party assistance are developed and tested, and contracts and grants are made available for field missions to carry out programs.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Regional and country programs will continue to be implemented through the grants and contracts managed by the DG Office. Countries with national elections scheduled for 2005 and 2006 that are candidates for DG election assistance include Afghanistan, Angola, Albania, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, East Timor, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru, Senegal, Somalia, Tajikistan, Uganda, Venezuela, West Bank and Gaza, and Zimbabwe. Demand for political party development advice and support is expected from Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia, Sri Lanka, and Sudan. Support to political parties will continue in Algeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, and Yemen. (\$275,000)

The DG Office's election and political process technical leadership agenda will center on deepening and expanding the development of political parties by helping to improve field programs designed to support more representative and inclusive political parties with the skills needed to govern effectively. (\$120,000)

The DG Office will also develop toolkits to help guide the field in democratic political party strengthening and free and fair election administration, including in weak and failing states and post-conflict settings. EPP will help strengthen support for free and fair elections through expanding critical technical assistance to election commissions, and help to strengthen political parties in these settings through improved transparency mechanisms and training. In addition, EPP will pursue innovative programming in support of more inclusive political processes and consensus-building for peace-building, peace processes, national dialogue and fora, elections and referenda in weak, failed, and post-conflict states. (\$400,000)

At the end of 2005, the DG Office will have supported the training and development of an expanded cadre of election technical experts capable of fulfilling key positions in support of electoral and other political process work, including in weak, failed, and post-conflict countries. The DG Office will also have completed two additional election diagnostics and action plans for expanded political rights of conflict-forced migrants and developed civil society advocacy efforts around this issue, thereby expanding

democratic processes in countries recently emerging from conflict, or attempting to avoid exacerbating conflict by improving inclusiveness of political processes. The DG Office will continue to provide highly accessible expertise to support free and fair elections and strengthen democratic political parties worldwide. The remaining balance of \$1,300,000 will go to cross-cutting programs which include performance management, special projects, assessments, personnel, and research support.

FY 2006 Program: The DG Office will continue to focus its technical leadership on democratic political party strengthening, with an emphasis on assessing and evaluating best practices, particularly in weak and failing states. Conduct of credible elections in post-conflict and weak states will also continue to be a focus of EPP's technical leadership, given the elections scheduled for late 2005 and 2006 and the continuing need for an increase in highly qualified election technical expertise, particularly in weak, fragile, or post-conflict settings.(\$2,150,000)

Performance and Results: The DG Office's efforts have proven invaluable in helping to expand and further develop more inclusive and representative political processes around the world, working in countries where in some cases democratic political processes took place for the first time ever. The elections and political processes work met or exceeded expectations towards expansion of democratic political processes through increasing inclusiveness in some of the most difficult regions of the world. EPP also furthered the Agency's democracy and governance goals by further strengthening regional mechanisms and approaches to political party development and promoting accountability and transparency in political parties. In FY 2004, the DG Office's support focused in three broad areas: field support, technical leadership, and cadre development.

The DG Office's EPP staff provided technical assistance on many high priority, foreign policy initiatives including Afghanistan, Haiti, Iraq, the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), West Bank and Gaza, and Sudan. One important achievement to note this year is the historic election in Afghanistan, which brought President Karzai to office in an election that reflected the will of the people, thereby expanding democratic political processes to Afghans for the first time in history. It was a critical milestone in the Bonn Accords and helped to advance political competition through democratic processes in Afghanistan. The DG Office supported an international observer delegation to the elections in Afghanistan that helped to bring important international attention and support for the elections, and lent credibility to the country's democratic process currently unfolding. In Haiti, the DG Office conducted a political party assessment and designed a political party development program to improve peaceful political competition and dialogue, and reduce political violence. In Iraq, the DG Office, through technical support and assistance in the field as well as sustained support in Washington, helped design political party strengthening programs, election administration, and technical and commodity assistance to the electoral commission for the early 2005 elections. The DG Office also worked with the State Department, USAID missions and U.S. embassies to coordinate and support implementation of MEPI-funded programs. In the West Bank and Gaza, EPP helped the mission design programs in support of the upcoming presidential, parliamentary and municipal elections, including support to the Central Election Commission of the Palestinian Authority, election technical assistance, civic and voter education, donor coordination, and international observation for all three rounds of elections scheduled for 2005.

Principal Contractors, Grantees, or Agencies: For its election and political processes work, the DG Office manages one cooperative agreement and two Indefinite Quantity Contracts (IQCs). Its cooperative agreement (the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening II) includes the International Republican Institute, IFES (formerly known as the International Foundation for Election Systems), and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. Its contracts are with IFES (sub-contractor: Carter Center) and Development Associates (sub-contracts: Decision Strategies Fairfax International, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, and Mendez England and Associates).

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Office of Democracy and Governance

932-002 Elections and Political Processes Program	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	29,120	10,566
Expenditures	22,261	3,270
Unliquidated	6,859	7,296
Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	3,042	6,775
Expenditures	0	0
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	32,162	17,341
Expenditures	22,261	3,270
Unliquidated	9,901	14,071
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	2,095	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	2,095	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	2,150	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	36,407	17,341