

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Russia
Program Title:	Strengthening Democracy
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	118-0200
Status:	New in FY 2006
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$38,000,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,384,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$28,184,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2006
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2012

Summary: This objective fosters active citizen participation; open exchange of ideas; transparency and independence of legal systems; efficiency and accountability of local governments; dialogue between government, business, and civic organizations, and public-private partnerships. It includes a focus on improved governance and citizen participation in the North Caucasus and strategic cities.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$4,818,000 FSA). USAID will help improve the sustainability and professional standards of independent TV, radio, and newspapers through training, competitions, and social marketing campaigns. USAID will also promote professional, unbiased coverage of public policy, political, and electoral issues. Principal partners: Internews Russia, Eurasia Foundation, Foundation for Independent Radio, Foundation for Informational Policy Development.

Promote and Support Credible Elections Processes (\$1,655,000 FSA, \$750,000 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will support a leading election oversight non-governmental organization (NGO) to monitor local and regional elections. Other new programs will monitor media coverage of political issues and assist other organizations intending to monitor elections in the next two years. Principal partners: Voice Association and to be determined (TBD).

Reduce Trafficking In Persons (\$750,000 FSA). USAID will help crisis centers to improve the job skills and risk awareness of youth at risk of being trafficked. Principal partners: TBD.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$18,900,000 FSA, \$4,152 FSA prior year recoveries). The national program, "Dialogue," will help NGOs to conduct policy dialogue with government while policy think tanks will contribute to informed debate among the public and policymakers on economic, social, and environmental reforms and sustainable NGO financing. Resource Centers in 20 regions will support civic activism and community problem-solving, including in the Russian Far East (RFE). Civic education programs will build youth citizenship and service-learning. Public-private partnerships will be built to leverage resources in the civil society area. The New Eurasia Foundation, an American-European-Russian partnership, founded by the Eurasia Foundation and others, will continue to promote corporate social responsibility, policy development, and youth involvement. Principal partners: International Research and Exchanges Board, Institute for Urban Economics, Moscow School of Political Studies, Moscow Public Science Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, Institute for Economies in Transition.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$3,910,000 FSA, \$630,000 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will enhance organizational capacity of democratically-oriented parties, encourage and intensify coalition-building efforts for the 2007-2008 elections, and promote cooperation with NGOs. Community-based initiatives in selected regions will teach Russian youth to apply democratic principles and pursue civic initiatives. New partnerships will strengthen Russian policy institutes capacity to analyze campaign and policy issues. Principal partners: National Democratic Institute (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI), Project Harmony, TBD.

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$4,362,000 FSA). Russian-American judicial exchanges, capacity building of Russian judicial institutions, and 'sister bar' partnerships will complement several other programs to promote NGOs' use of the legal system. Human rights advocacy, legal clinics, and advocacy programs will aid refugees and disadvantaged groups. Principal partners: Chemonics International, American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI), International Memorial, Moscow Helsinki Group, Bay Area Council for Jewish Rescue and Renewal.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$3,605,000 FSA). Local governance activities will assist Russian communities to implement local governance and budget policy reforms. New approaches will include city-to-city partnerships, pooled finance, and Development Credit Authority guarantee structures to support private-sector-led solutions to deliver public services. USAID will also support the promotion of strengthened and effective local government in the North Caucasus and strategic cities. Principal partners: Center for Fiscal Policy, Institute for Urban Economics, TBD.

FY 2007 Program:

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$4,100,000 FSA). USAID will emphasize the independence, editorial excellence, and civic engagement of regional media sources, and election-related seminars for officials and journalists. Principal partners: Same as above.

Promote and Support Credible Elections Processes (\$1,605,000 FSA). USAID will support the efforts of an evolving NGO coalition for election monitoring; assist the domestic watchdog organization "Voice"; and support multilateral efforts wherever possible. Principal partners: Same as above.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$13,499,000 FSA). A new regional grants program will support NGOs and promote tax and other reforms. Policy analysis and civic education efforts will also expand. Principal partners: Same as above.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$2,010,000 FSA). USAID will support democratically oriented parties in preparation for the 2007-2008 elections. Principal partners: Same as above.

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$3,155,000 FSA). USAID will support clinical legal education, judicial reform and partnerships and NGO monitoring of Russian compliance with international standards. Assistance to human rights NGOs will continue. Principal partners: Same as above.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$3,815,000 FSA). USAID will expand the program to more regions and municipalities to foster active citizen participation in the design and delivery of public services and attract private financing for new solutions to improve service delivery. Principal partners: Same as above.

Performance and Results: USAID strengthened organizations essential to a functioning democracy: independent media, NGOs, advocacy and watchdog groups, policy think tanks, and business associations. Many local authorities introduced competitive mechanisms to fund social programs. Regional NGO networks in Samara, Siberia, and Southern Russia raised more than \$100,000 from local public and private sources to support grassroots civic initiatives; by the completion of the program the amount of support and number of localities using grant and contract competitions for NGOs is expected to grow, along with levels of corporate and individual philanthropy for local communities' charitable causes. More than 12,000 volunteers participated in community action projects, which are expected to steadily rise at the grassroots level. Russian regional media and NGOs organized public awareness campaigns. Citizen monitoring of elections and of government actions expanded to 30 regions last year. Despite the increasingly difficult environment for NGOs USAID grantees in 2005 won court decisions permitting disabled children to receive a public education, restoring benefits to forced migrants, and upholding labor rights. By the end of the program, USAID's partners are expected to increasingly use the courts to protect the rights of citizens, independent regional media sources will be commercially stronger and more effectively in producing quality news and socially-relevant programming, and, barring further limitations on the registration and operations of NGOs, advocacy organizations and professional associations will be more capable of engaging with government actors in effective advocacy for policy change.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Russia

118-0200 Strengthening Democracy	FSA
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Through September 30, 2005	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	1,384
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	38,000
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006	
Obligations	39,384
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA	
Obligations	28,184
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	67,568