

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Kosovo
Program Title:	Accountable and Transparent Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	167-0210
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$6,980,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$464,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$8,171,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	1999
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: USAID promotes accountable and transparent governance by assisting civil society, local government, and the media to become more effective in their roles as stakeholders, implementers, partners, and advocates for the views of citizens. USAID helps municipal governments serve their residents better, facilitates the engagement of community groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in government decision-making, and enables independent media to better inform citizens about the issues affecting them.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom Of Information (\$1,830,000 AEEB, \$163,800 AEEB carryover). Following on earlier efforts to establish an independent media in Kosovo, USAID will now focus on helping targeted broadcast media achieve financial sustainability as commercial ventures. This will assure that a diversity of voices is available to audiences across Kosovo. Competition between the media will help "raise the bar" for performance of private and publicly-funded media, encouraging improved content and programming of news, public and cultural affairs, and entertainment. As part of this overall effort, USAID will assist the Kosovo Terrestrial Transmission Network (KTTN) to attract capital investment needed to upgrade and expand its services for domestic broadcasters, and to reach virtually every household in Kosovo. USAID will also provide training to journalists of both print and electronic media, and assist media associations to better represent the interests of their members and become better advocates of freedom of expression. Finally, as a trusted broker and advisor, USAID will work with the media industry to set up mechanisms for measuring audience share and circulation to improve advertising sales. Principal contractor: International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX).

Mitigate Conflict and Support Peace (\$1,000,000 AEEB, \$300,000 AEEB carryover). In the second phase of the Municipal Integration and Support Initiative (MISI), USAID will continue to engage municipalities in creating environments conducive to the return and reintegration of ethnic minorities. MISI brings together ethnic communities, village leaders, and municipal authorities to develop plans to accommodate the reintegration of minority groups, and upon their completion, funding is provided for small infrastructure projects for which the communities have expressed a need. The recently-created Ministries for Communities and Returns, and Local Government Administration, will be brought into the program through meetings, reports and site visits. Principal grantee: Mercy Corps.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,600,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to provide training, consultancies and sub-grants to Kosovar NGOs to improve their advocacy skills, and increase their organizational efficiency. Fundraising approaches will also be emphasized, to assure better prospects for sustainability. As a result of these efforts, a core group of civil society organizations will be able to more effectively advocate for the issues of the constituencies they represent. Principal grantee: IREX.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$2,550,000 AEEB). As central budgetary support to municipalities declines, the need for "own source" funding for services increases. USAID provides selected municipalities with resident advisors who work with authorities to increase property tax payment rates and improve the financial management capabilities of the municipal offices. To reinforce

the advisors' efforts, an incentive fund will support municipal initiatives aimed at better revenue generation, fiscal management, citizen involvement, and improved service provision. Lessons learned from these combined efforts will be disseminated to the rest of Kosovo's municipalities. At the central level, USAID will continue to work with the Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA) in drafting its platform legislation, the local government law, as well as laws on local and central elections, and municipal finance. Principal contractor: RTI International.

FY 2007 Program:

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom Of Information (\$1,600,000 AEEB). As other international sources of support and assistance are withdrawn, USAID will assist the newly-established media regulatory authority, the Independent Media Commission, to function effectively as an independent and professional body. USAID's support to the independent media sector will focus on improving the legal framework for media, increasing professionalism among journalists, and increasing the business viability of independent media. Principal contractor: International Research and IREX.

Mitigate Conflict and Support Peace (\$771,000 AEEB). MISI will continue monitoring the implementation of municipal action plans and assisting localities to measure progress on steps they committed to undertake to demonstrate their commitment to returns and reintegration of ethnic minorities. Twenty community investment projects and 15 projects targeting youth, in seven selected municipalities, will be completed. Principal grantee: Mercy Corps.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$900,000 AEEB). USAID will continue assisting NGO networks and coalitions to make them more effective advocates and agents of change. In addition, USAID will assist NGO regional networking efforts and engagement in policy dialogue with decision-makers at both local and central levels of government. Principal grantee: IREX.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$4,900,000 AEEB). USAID plans to undertake a follow-on program to consolidate the financial and other improvements made under the first local governance initiative. In coordination with the MLGA, USAID will work to strengthen municipalities as part of a more advanced local government reform process and planned decentralization. Implementer: to be determined.

Performance and Results: In FY 2005, according to industry-standard surveys, RTV 21, one of two USAID-supported private television stations, continued to be the market leader with more than 52% of audience share, while KTV, the second USAID beneficiary, was rated by journalists to be the most professional and independent TV station in Kosovo. Sustainability of these stations has increased substantially, exceeding targets and reaching 80% of their operating costs. As a result of USAID assistance, KTTN, which assures the uninterrupted transmission of all Kosovo-wide licensed TV and radio stations, is independent and covers almost 70% of its operating costs. The annual Media Sustainability Index (MSI) report of October 2005 indicated that Kosovo's media sector is making progress on freedom of speech, professionalism, and increased capacity of media associations.

USAID's programs have improved public participation in decision-making since local governments have opened their meetings to the public; public hearings increased from 7 in 2004 to 28 by October 2005 in the 6 targeted municipalities. Survey results from 2005 indicate an improvement in the public's perception of accessibility to local government; 65% of residents polled in the targeted municipalities believe their municipalities are more accessible, compared with 52% in 2004. Concerning integration of minority communities, 75% of the obstacles mentioned in the plans of nine targeted municipalities have been addressed and 35 infrastructure projects benefiting more than 400,000 people have been completed.

By the end of the program in 2008, USAID expects that citizen participation in all levels of government in Kosovo will have increased. Civil society will provide oversight of local policy-making and implementation, and will ensure that the government upholds citizens' rights. Media should be able to become self-supporting, while maintaining professionalism and pluralism. Meaningful progress will be achieved in creating more efficient, transparent, and accountable government, with clear functions and responsibilities, and the capacity to fulfill them.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Kosovo

167-0210 Accountable and Transparent Governance	AEEB	ESF
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	42,525	142
Expenditures	34,720	142
Unliquidated	7,805	0
Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	9,538	0
Expenditures	8,354	0
Through September 30, 2005		
Obligations	52,063	142
Expenditures	43,074	142
Unliquidated	8,989	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	464	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	6,980	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006		
Obligations	7,444	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA		
Obligations	8,171	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	67,678	142