#### **Data Sheet**

USAID Mission:

Program Title:

Armenia

Democracy and Governance

Pillar: Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance

Strategic Objective: 111-0210

Status: Continuing

Planned FY 2006 Obligation:\$11,500,000 FSAPrior Year Unobligated:\$7,361,000 FSAProposed FY 2007 Obligation:\$8,383,000 FSA

Year of Initial Obligation: 2004
Estimated Year of Final Obligation: 2008

**Summary:** USAID will support transparent, accountable, and democratic governance by focusing on citizen participation, civil society, independent media, local governments and legislature, the rule of law, and anti-corruption.

## Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

### FY 2006 Program:

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$1,615,000 FSA, \$201,258 FSA carryover). USAID will implement a television and radio ratings system and a media loan program with corresponding business management technical assistance for target media outlets. USAID will support curriculum reform in the journalism departments of Armenian universities. The prime partners are the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) and the International Center for Journalism (ICFJ).

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$4,500,000 FSA, \$432,300 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will provide technical assistance and grants for anti-corruption activities initiated by civil society to mobilize popular will into action against corruption. USAID will also selectively support anti-corruption initiatives of government entities. Principal contractor: to be determined (TBD).

Promote and Support Credible Elections Processes (\$2,300,000 FSA, \$2,200,000 FSA carryover). To promote more free and fair national-level elections USAID will provide technical assistance and training in the following areas: voter registration, voter information, election administration, polling, political party building, strengthening political culture, and election monitoring. The principal partner is the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Support (CEPPS).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,830,000 FSA, \$1,096,137 FSA carryover, \$200,000 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will promote civic activism in Armenia by providing tailored technical assistance and core funding for a select group of advanced advocacy NGOs, along with unsolicited advocacy grants. USAID will assist in the development of intermediary service organizations that offer expertise, counseling, and training to NGOs. An increased focus on youth will be an integral part of USAID's democracy program. USAID will promote effective access to public information to support people's participation in addressing public issues. Principal partners include: Counterpart International, the Academy for Educational Development (AED), Civil Society Institute (CSI), Freedom of Information Center of Armenia (FOICA), and the Armenian Forests NGO.

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$450,000 FSA, \$1,600,000 FSA carryover). USAID will continue to provide technical assistance and training to the judiciary as it develops reforms to increase judicial independence and implements a Code of Ethics. USAID will continue to strengthen the organizational capacity of the new single Chamber of Advocates and assist the Chamber in drafting a new unified code of ethics for advocates. USAID also continues to develop legal clinics associated with universities. The principal partner is the American Bar Association Central and East European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI).

Strengthen the Legislative Function/Legal Framework (\$679,000 FSA carryover, \$200,000 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will continue strengthening the National Assembly (NA). Assistance will focus on

increasing the representational and oversight roles of the NA and institutionalizing citizen input in the legislative process. The principal contractor is Development Associates, Inc. (prime)/ Development Alternatives, Inc. (sub).

Strengthen Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$805,000 FSA, \$752,606 FSA carryover). Support for strengthening local governments will continue with an emphasis on a) policy reform, b) strengthening financial management systems, c) improving service delivery, d) improving local government public relations functions, and e) strengthening local councils. USAID will implement the program nationally. Principal contractor: Research Triangle Institute (RTI).

#### FY 2007 Program:

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$1,382,000 FSA). USAID will continue its media loan program and direct technical assistance to targeted independent media. USAID will also provide election-related training for journalists, editors, and media outlet managers. Same implementers as above.

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$1,824,000 FSA). USAID will continue to provide technical assistance and grants for anti-corruption activities initiated by civil society to mobilize popular will into action against corruption. USAID will also continue to selectively support anti-corruption initiatives of government entities. Principal contractor: TBD.

Promote and Support Credible Elections Processes (\$382,000 FSA). USAID will continue to provide election-related assistance as described above through the Presidential election in 2008. Same implementer as above.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$2,038,321 FSA). USAID will continue a broad program of assistance to advocacy NGOs and support for youth activism and community involvement in public affairs as described above. USAID will continue to support public awareness campaigns, involving NGOs, media, and the private sector, that cover both the costs of corruption and the shared responsibility in combating it. Same implementers as above.

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$390,000 FSA). USAID will assist the judiciary to implement reforms achieved in 2006, and provide training in electoral adjudication for both judges and advocates. Additionally, USAID will continue to provide assistance to the Chamber of Advocates to strengthen its sustainability and its function as a disciplinary body for advocates. Same implementer as above.

Strengthen the Legislative Function/Legal Framework (\$1,082,000 FSA). USAID plans to continue legislative strengthening, particularly in the conduct of formal open hearings and improving committee staff skills to review, analyze, and offer commentary on Government legislative initiatives. Same implementers as above.

Strengthen Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,284,679 FSA). USAID will continue human and institutional capacity building with local governments throughout the country. The implementing partner is the Research Triangle Institute.

**Performance and Results:** In FY 2005, with USG assistance, a national TV network was launched. Six media outlets are in the one-year loan qualification/ developmental program. Two major political parties conducted member surveys that will be incorporated into their parties' messages. Local governments increased budget revenues due to improved asset planning and tax collection and administration. All pilot municipalities developed asset management plans. The NA's Citizen Letters Division began piloting a new Public Inquiry Tracking System to track citizen appeals and the history of how each inquiry is being addressed. Legal professionals put forward recommendations for improving the proposed packages of Constitutional Amendments in terms of the legal-judicial system. Completion of this objective will lead to improved democratic governance through expanded civic participation and strengthened governance institutions.

# **US Financing in Thousands of Dollars**

# Armenia

67,663 58,937 8,726
58,937
58,937
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8,726
7,500
0
75,163
58,937
16,226
7,361
11,500
18,861
8,383
0
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