

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Mongolia
<b>Program Title:</b>	More Effective and Accountable Governance
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	438-002
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$2,700,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$2,700,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	1996
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2008

**Summary:** USAID's program to promote more effective and accountable governance in Mongolia consists of two projects. The Judicial Reform Project (JRP) focuses on improving the professional and institutional capacity of the judiciary. The Parliamentary and Political Party Project strengthens parliamentary processes and supports the conduct of free and fair elections.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

**FY 2005 Program:** Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$2,200,000 ESF). In FY 2005 USAID's implementing partners will work with the General Counsel of the Courts (GCC) to improve the implementation of the new court administration and management system introduced last year. Areas such as budgeting and financial and human resource management will be addressed through training, technical assistance, and preparation of new guidelines and procedures. JRP has computerized case management procedures and records, initiated automated random assignment of cases, and created public information areas in courtrooms. The public access terminals in each court make case information available to lawyers, litigants, and the public. With all courts now automated, the USAID grantee will assist courts with the creation of a nationwide, web-based database of cases and decisions, further improving the transparency of the judicial system. This year, the new database will be made available on-line in a "user friendly" format. Educational efforts will continue to further develop the capacity of the newly created National Legal Center. Activities such as training of trainers and increasing skills in legal research and writing will be emphasized in 2005. A new course in decision writing for judges will be designed and implemented. Automation of the prosecutor's office will begin this year and public education activities will be expanded to better inform the public and improve its perception of the judiciary. Training and advisory services for the Special Investigative Unit in the Prosecutor General's office, the Judicial Disciplinary Committee, and the GCC will continue with the goal of improving ethics throughout the judicial sector. Finally, USAID will support a new court observation program, initially in Ulaanbaatar. In 2005, the highly effective and popular television show - "Legal Hour" - will continue to inform the public on such issues as legal rights and remedies. Work in this area is performed by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in partnership with The Asia Foundation (TAF) and PACT, Inc.

Promote and Support Free and Fair Elections (\$250,000 ESF). USAID resources will fund training for political party poll-watchers and local election commissioners in preparation for the upcoming presidential election in June 2005. Two polls will be conducted and one focus group will be held to identify and analyze issues of national importance for this election. This program is implemented by the International Republican Institute (IRI).

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$250,000 ESF). Parliamentary development activities in 2005 will focus on training for newly elected Members of Parliament, as well as assistance with implementation of the recently passed "Parliamentary Procedures Law". USAID's grantee IRI will also work to achieve the passage of new and effective ethics legislation, continuing a process begun in 2004. Efforts to increase the participation of women in politics, such as workshops and training conferences, will be expanded significantly.

**FY 2006 Program:** Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$2,200,000 ESF). Based on good progress, USAID plans to extend the JRP through September 2008. With FY 2006 funding, JRP will focus

on “universal” implementation of the new procedures for improved court management. Continuing legal education programs will be strengthened, with an emphasis on increasing the independence of judges by improving their skills and networks of information and support. Greater transparency in the courts will combine with public education and media efforts to allow the public to have a good sense of how “their” courts are performing. Training will be provided to further improve court procedures. Areas such as integrity in the courtroom and improved customer service will receive attention in 2006. Automation of the prosecutor’s offices will continue, and training on property law may be initiated. The implementers will remain the NCSC, TAF, and PACT, Inc.

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$400,000 ESF). USAID plans to announce a competitive solicitation for this program in 2005. Implementation of new activities will begin in FY 2006. This solicitation will seek ideas from new partners on how to address issues such as corruption, strengthening the Parliament’s oversight capacity, expanding public participation, strengthening local government and civil society, and increasing the involvement of women in the political process.

Promote and Support Free and Fair Elections (\$100,000 ESF). USAID does not plan further assistance to political parties, but may use funds to support limited groundwork for the lead-up to the 2008 national elections (e.g., updated poll watcher manuals).

**Performance and Results:** In FY 2004, the automation of all 61 of Mongolia’s courts was completed, increasing transparency and improving accountability of the court system nationwide. Public access terminals were installed in all courts, increasing participation and expanding the public’s opportunity to review the judicial system at work. Continuing education for all legal professionals was begun with the creation of the National Legal Center (NLC). USAID-funded assistance built much of the capacity of the NLC to train legal professionals on a sustainable basis. Training of trainers under the JRP has created a cadre of trainers capable of conducting high-quality, cost-effective training in every region of the country.

USAID assistance also helped establish the Special Investigative Unit that reports to the Prosecutor General. As a result of that assistance, the Unit is now a viable and active operation - more reports of crimes committed by justice sector officials were reported and investigated in its first year of operations than were investigated in the previous four years combined. USAID’s grantees also contributed to the design and equipping of a new Judicial Disciplinary Committee with its own, independent investigators. During the first year of the Committee’s operations, the number of judges disciplined almost doubled. In 2004, the JRP continued to improve public outreach, educating people on their rights under new judicial codes. Finally, last year the first bar examination in Mongolia was developed and implemented with USAID assistance and the first examination was given. This will contribute dramatically to improving the competence and status of legal professionals.

Partly as a result of extensive USAID-funded training for political parties in coalition building and message development, opposition candidates (MDC plus independents) in the June 2004 national elections increased their seats in the 76-member parliament to 37 from four, while receiving about the same percentage of the total popular vote as in the previous election. This dramatic accomplishment struck a positive blow for democracy in Mongolia. Last year also saw the passage of the Parliamentary Procedures Law, which will redistribute power from the centralized Secretariat’s office in the Parliament to eleven standing committees and committee chairs.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Mongolia

438-002 More Effective and Accountable Governance	DA	ESF	FSA
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>			
Obligations	1,442	11,981	1,728
Expenditures	1,442	8,337	1,728
Unliquidated	0	3,644	0
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>			
Obligations	0	2,700	0
Expenditures	0	3,134	0
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>			
Obligations	1,442	14,681	1,728
Expenditures	1,442	11,471	1,728
Unliquidated	0	3,210	0
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>			
Obligations	0	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>			
Obligations	0	2,700	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005</b>			
Obligations	0	2,700	0
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>			
Obligations	0	2,700	0
Future Obligations	0	5,400	0
Est. Total Cost	1,442	25,481	1,728