

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Regional Development Mission-Asia (RDM-Asia)
Program Title:	Foreign Policy Interests
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	486-001
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,200,000 CSH; \$1,150,000 DA; \$1,736,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,570,000 CSH
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$500,000 CSH; \$1,150,000 DA; \$2,500,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: This program helps the United States pursue special foreign policy interests in mainland Southeast Asia and China. Current activities include: (1) efforts to combat trafficking in persons and assist its victims under programs with The Asia Foundation, World Vision, and Consortium; and (2) technical assistance support to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN); and (3) provide assistance to vulnerable groups.

Starting in FY 2006, this Strategic Objective (SO) will be restructured as part of the Regional Development Mission/Asia (RDM/A) strategic framework that is currently being developed. Activities under some country-specific SOs (Burma, China, Laos, and Vietnam) may be subsumed under the regional program pending finalization of the strategy.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Reduce Trafficking in Persons (TIPs) (\$400,000 DA). The emphasis of the FY 2005 TIP programs will be to develop stronger ties among countries in the region on issues related to trafficking and to direct more resources to cross border initiatives. This includes working closely with the Global TIP-funded country activities that focus on prosecution, protection, and prevention efforts. In addition, RDM/A plans to develop a "regional mechanism" to improve data collection, capacity building, standardization of research, and monitoring and evaluation tools. This will be done by putting into place a multi-year regional strategic framework within the Mekong Region (Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia). Current implementers include The Asia Foundation (TAF), World Vision, and World Education/World Learning Consortium.

Improve Economic Policy and Governance (\$744,000 ESF). Targeted technical assistance and training support will be used to support U.S. Government (USG) objectives with ASEAN, which are to enhance the administrative and implementation capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat and build regional cooperation to address transnational challenges of importance to both ASEAN and the USG, including terrorism, human trafficking, narcotics, and HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. Technical assistance to ASEAN will increase its capacity in helping to solve problems that cross transnational borders within the region which further advance economic integration and development.

Improve Community-Based Reconciliation Efforts (\$992,000 ESF). Working closely with the Embassy, USAID will work to identify measures and activities that can promote reconciliation and peace in Burma and in southern Thailand. Possible activities may include primary education in southern Thailand, migrant rights issues of Burmese refugees, democracy, and press freedom. Grantee(s) to be determined.

Protect Human Rights and Equal Access to Justice (\$700,000 CSH; \$1,070,000 CSH Prior Year Unobligated; \$300,000 DA). FY 2005 funds will be used to strengthen a legal framework to protect the rights of people with disabilities (PWDs), including the enforcement of Barrier-free Access Codes and Standards in construction, implementation of a national action plan on accessibility to public transportation, and reviewing and enforcing the Government's Decree on Employment of PWDs. USAID will also help PWDs to acquire knowledge and skills so they can find work and achieve a stable economic status. Grantees include Health Volunteer Overseas and Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped.

Build Health System Capacity (\$500,000 CSH; \$500,000 CSH Prior Year Unobligated; \$450,000 DA). Funds will be used to strengthen institutional structures and shape the direction of Prosthetic and Orthotic rehabilitation development. It will also continue to support the development of non-governmental organization laws to raise awareness of the role of civil society in Vietnam, and support inclusive education for the disabled. Grantees include Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, Health Volunteer Overseas, Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped, Catholic Relief Services, and Pearl S. Buck International.

FY 2006 Program: Reduce Trafficking in Persons (\$400,000 DA). USAID will continue the TIP programs initiated with FY 2005 funds. The emphasis of TIP programs will be to continue the development of stronger ties among countries in the region on issues related to trafficking and to direct more resources to cross border initiatives.

Improved Economic Policy and Governance (\$2,500,000 ESF). U.S. technical assistance and training will be used to advance USG and ASEAN objectives and activities started in FY 2005. Activities will include training programs for ASEAN secretariat staff and ASEAN members and technical assistance to ASEAN Secretariat or member countries on policy issues of importance to the USG such as disaster management, economic governance, counterterrorism, security and trade facilitation, and regional economic integration.

Protect Human Rights and Equal Access to Justice (\$250,000 CSH; \$300,000 DA). Funds will be used to continue working at the policy level to create and strengthen a legislative framework that protects the rights of PWDs and vocation training for PWDs.

Build Health Systems Capacity (\$250,000 CSH; \$450,000 DA). USAID will conduct impact evaluation to review lessons learned from 14 years of rehabilitation efforts in Vietnam, finalize drafting of NGO laws, and development of education curricula for inclusive education.

Performance and Results: USAID achieved notable successes under this SO in FY 2004. USAID's TIP programs initiated public outreach campaigns that reached more than 8,000 persons at risk and 100,000 public viewers. In Laos, USAID supported the initiation of anti-trafficking and domestic violence legislation and trained over 20 project staff and 901 volunteers to be principal project implementers. USAID funds also sponsored vocational training (88 hour courses) for 813 young people in five subject areas in two target villages. In addition to developing a functional education curriculum in five subject areas, USAID trained 30 teachers in content and methodology. Through all programs, 11 vulnerable women were placed in jobs and 384 received small loans. In addition, approximately 160 trafficked victims and 30 voluntary returnees were assisted in safe repatriation.

RDM/A, working in collaboration with USAID's Global Women in Development Office, carried out a three-month TIP assessment within seven countries in the region to identify what other donors are doing and to identify programmatic gaps and needs. Following this assessment, 40 USG representatives from the State Department, USAID, Centers for Disease Control, and U.S. Department of Labor met and agreed on two basic recommendations: the development of a regional TIP program in the Mekong and the initiation of TIP Demand research.

After implementing a variety of disparate programs supporting the ASEAN Cooperation Plan over the past two fiscal years, in FY 2004, USAID enhanced its engagement with the ASEAN Secretariat and the U.S. State Department and put into place a new technical assistance and training program. This program should further consolidate USG assistance that falls under the ACP, with projects totaling approximately \$9 million, and supports U.S.-ASEAN cooperation in such areas as protection of intellectual property rights, competition policy, information technology, environmental and health issues, and transnational issues such as maritime security and counterterrorism. These programs support the USG foreign policy objectives of assisting ASEAN to integrate and increase the Secretariat's capacity, and of strengthening U.S.-ASEAN relations.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Regional Development Mission-Asia (RDM-Asia)

	CSH	DA	ESF
486-001 Foreign Policy Interests			
Through September 30, 2003			
Obligations	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	0	0
Unliquidated	0	0	0
Fiscal Year 2004			
Obligations	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	0	0
Through September 30, 2004			
Obligations	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	0	0
Unliquidated	0	0	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	1,570	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA			
Obligations	1,200	1,150	1,736
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005			
Obligations	2,770	1,150	1,736
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA			
Obligations	500	1,150	2,500
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	3,270	2,300	4,236