

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Lebanon
Program Title:	Promoting Democracy and Good Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	268-002
Status:	Last Year of Expenditure 2006
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$7,000,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$4,000,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	1998
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: Strengthening Foundations for Governance is a program that empowers Lebanese local government, Parliament, oversight agencies, and civil society. It improves the delivery of governmental services to citizens and municipalities, thereby enhancing the democratic nature of Lebanon's overall political system. The assistance focuses on enhancing administrative and financial capabilities; expanding social services; encouraging public participation; and increasing accountability, transparency, and effectiveness. Also, USAID is working with local advocacy groups to promote transparent and democratic practices on the civil society and public sector levels. Moreover, the program provides professional development opportunities for key leaders to access new professional practices within the region and in the United States.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Improve Quality of Workforce Through Vocational/Technical Education (\$100,000 ESF). As a crosscutting theme affecting all USAID objectives, the Professional Training Program (PTP) aims at building the knowledge base and capacities of Lebanese professionals by exposing them to international experiences in specific fields. PTP serves male and female professionals from both the private and public sectors and is a valuable vehicle to strengthening bridges between the Lebanese and American cultures. PTP is continuing to provide appropriate and efficient training to relevant participants from all sectors of Lebanese society. Fifteen trainees are being sent to the United States and 10 trainees are being sent to the Middle East North Africa region, and three training programs are being organized in Lebanon in 2006. Principal Implementer: America-Mideast Educational and Training Services (AMIDEAST)/Lebanon.

Promote And Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$900,000 ESF). Through the Transparency and Accountability Grant program, USAID is continuing to strengthen civil society. USAID is funding activities that empower local civic associations to play a constructive role in advocating change and enhancing transparency, accountability, and good governance in Lebanon. Funds are supporting a minimum of 25 grants in FY 2006. Principal Implementer: AMIDEAST/Lebanon.

Promote Effective and Democratic Governance of the Security Sector (\$1,000,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). To bolster the Government of Lebanon's (GOL) ability to investigate, counter, and deter an ongoing campaign of destabilization, which takes the form of bombings and assassinations, USAID funds are being transferred to the U.S. Department of State under the Section 632(a) mechanism to support Federal Bureau of Investigation training in crime scene management and post-blast investigations for security and law enforcement personnel. Two new Lebanese "evidence response teams" are being formed. The program will also be helping the GOL acquire state-of-the-art equipment for reliable forensic analysis, fingerprinting, DNA, and chemical analysis. This activity is still under development and indicators and results have not yet been developed. Principal Implementer: To Be Determined.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$6,000,000 ESF; \$3,000,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). USAID is continuing to build on the progress made in the previous year to further institutionalize municipal standards and procedures, increase transparency and accountability in operations, expand the municipal revenue base, strengthen the role of local government in economic

development, and facilitate greater citizen participation in decision making. Two hundred municipalities are issuing automated annual financial statements. Tax revenues are expected to increase by at least 10% from FY 2005. Protocols are being developed to allow electronic sharing of data with the Government Accounting Office. Four thousand municipal employees are receiving training. Twenty-two municipal unions are improving their administrative and financial capabilities, of which five will be using standardized budgeting procedures. Surveys are being conducted in seven municipalities to measure citizen satisfaction. Revenue is anticipated to increase by 10% compared to the previous year by installing the Municipal Geographic Information Systems in 10 large municipalities. The twinning of cities is continuing, and policy dialogue trips are being organized between Lebanese municipal officials and their U.S. counterparts to facilitate joint projects between them. Five municipal laws, decrees, and orders are being issued/amended to enhance the role of municipalities. Principal Implementer: State University of New York/Albany-Center for Legislative Development.

USAID plans to use proposed funding for implementation of activities to address key rule of law problems: legitimacy, order, and security. Activities may include: supporting the judicial system in order to make it independent from political interference; enhancing the system of court administration to render it more transparent, accessible, and efficient; building a culture of respect for the rule of law through awareness and civic education; and initiating professional education targeted at judges.

A U.S. House Democracy Assistance Committee team will visit Lebanon in March 2006 to assess the possibility of a cooperative assistance program between the U.S. House of Representatives and the Lebanese Parliament. USAID will provide technical assistance to the GOL-appointed election commission to review all proposed electoral laws.

FY 2007 Program:

This objective will close in FY 2006. Funds and activities from this objective are notified under Strategic Objective 268-YYY as part of the new strategy for FY 2007-2009.

Performance and Results: The program achieved significant results in the past year, most notably by increasing municipal revenues, forming more transparent and accountable government institutions, and expanding civil society advocacy. Demand from additional municipalities for further assistance has been extremely high throughout Lebanon leading USAID to provide additional assistance. With the successful completion of the program, municipal governments employing modern systems and practices will be able to meet democratic milestones (transparency, accountability, and citizen participation) and will become the engines for local and regional development, with inter-municipal councils bringing jobs, investments, and creating informed citizens watchful of their rights. Municipal revenue increases will permit substantial investments in economic development initiatives and provide local governments with the resources needed to sustain the reform process. As local governments improve their ability to deliver services and create jobs, citizen confidence in local government will increase, ensuring more public participation in municipal activities and projects. The support extended to local non-governmental organizations and civic initiatives to conduct short-term, impact-oriented activities will increase public awareness and action on the part of citizens, employees, consumers, investors, and youth in Lebanon. Lebanese professionals will deliver better services to their organizations by offering them training programs based on their professional needs in both the public and private sectors.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Lebanon

268-002 Promoting Democracy and Good Governance	ESF
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	24,965
Expenditures	19,398
Unliquidated	5,567
Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	5,000
Expenditures	6,168
Through September 30, 2005	
Obligations	29,965
Expenditures	25,566
Unliquidated	4,399
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	4,000
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	7,000
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006	
Obligations	11,000
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA	
Obligations	0
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	40,965