

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Lebanon
Program Title:	Enhancing Rule of Law and Political Will
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	268-YYY
Status:	New in FY 2007
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$0
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$10,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2007
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2009

Summary: This Strategic Objective (SO) is part of the new country strategy for FY 2007-2009 that is being developed. Specific activities have not been identified yet, however the objective will be built on the achievements of the closing SO 268-002. It will expand support to the legislature and civil society. In addition, it will introduce new activities to enhance the rule of law and support improved political processes.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

This objective is new in FY 2007 and builds on the activities under SO 268-002 that will close in FY 2006.

FY 2007 Program:

Improve Quality of Workforce through Vocational/Technical Education (\$100,000 ESF). Funds will be used to continue providing appropriate, efficient, and effective training to relevant professionals from all sectors of the Lebanese society. The Professional Training Program aims to build the knowledge base and capacities of Lebanese professionals from both private and public sectors by exposing them to international experiences and practices in their specific fields. It is expected that 15 trainees will be sent to training destinations in the United States, 10 will be sent to the Middle East North Africa region, and three training programs will be organized in Lebanon in 2007. Additional components and activities may be initiated. Principal Implementer: America-Mideast Educational and Training Services (AMIDEAST)/Lebanon.

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$2,200,000 ESF). USAID plans to continue working on strengthening civil society through the Transparency and Accountability Grant (TAG). TAG empowers local civic associations to play a constructive role in advocating change and enhancing transparency, accountability, and good governance in Lebanon. With the additional funding, TAG will support 15 projects. Principal Implementer: AMIDEAST/Lebanon.

Assistance will also be provided to service providing government institutions in the executive branch, like the Ministry of Finance, and to watchdog agencies, like the Civil Service Board, the Court of Audit, and the Central Inspection Board, that have a major role to play in exercising oversight of public institutions. Principal Implementer: To Be Determined (TBD).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,000,000 ESF). USAID plans to increase its support to civil society organizations, particularly those that foster reform and debate on non-confessional, technical, economic, and social issues. Principal Implementer: TBD.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$200,000 ESF). USAID plans to build on programs currently funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and Middle East Partnership Initiative to support the development of a competitive and representative political framework and build capacity of political parties to effectively participate in this framework. USAID will also provide support to the independent electoral commission to represent a more competitive political life and a more reliable electoral process. Principal Implementer: TBD.

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$3,000,000 ESF). USAID plans to use proposed funding for implementation of activities to address key rule of law problems: legitimacy, order, and security. Legitimacy will be addressed through the following activities: support of the judicial system in order to make it independent from political interference; enhancement of 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. Principal Implementer: TBD.

Strengthen Legislative Function/Legal Framework (\$1,000,000 ESF). USAID plans to increase support to the legislature to enhance the ability of Parliament to exercise effective oversight of public administration and to legislate in areas critical to economic and political reform. Principal Implementer: TBD.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$2,500,000 ESF). Though the municipal program will end in FY 2007, with a one-year optional extension, ongoing support will be provided to further the process of institutionalization and standardization of procedures for the municipalities. It is anticipated that an additional 200 municipalities will issue automated annual financial statements bringing the cumulative total to 700, 75% of total municipalities in Lebanon, and 1,000 municipal staff and officials will be trained. Municipal revenue expansion will remain a primary focus of efforts as a means to ultimately enable municipalities to provide better services to citizens. The Municipal Geographic Information System, a key component of this effort, will be installed in an additional 10 municipalities for a cumulative total of 20. Revenue is anticipated to increase approximately 10% compared to the previous year for a cumulative increase of 30% compared to the baseline of 2003. Communication with citizens and the quality of municipal services provided will continue to be enhanced.

Within the aim of promoting decentralization and strengthening the role of municipal unions in implementing regional plans, USAID plans to extend support to the 22 active municipal unions to further ensure that standardized procedures are institutionalized and that municipalities efficiently coordinate in regional planning. To ensure regional planning, an additional five municipal unions will be using standardized budgeting procedures by the end of 2007. Fifteen municipalities will be electronically audited by the control agencies, thus, allowing the control agencies to practice their audit objectives to ensure transparency and accountability.

In support of improved administrative, financial, and legislative practices, exchange programs will continue to be organized for experts from the United States to Lebanon and for municipal officials and parliamentarians to visit the United States. Principal Implementer: State University of New York.

Performance and Results: As this objective will be launched in FY 2007, no performance can be reported at this time.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Lebanon

268-YYY Enhancing Rule of Law and Political Will	ESF
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Through September 30, 2005	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006	
Obligations	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA	
Obligations	10,000
Future Obligations	10,000
Est. Total Cost	20,000