

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Azerbaijan
Program Title:	Civil Society
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	112-0210
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$5,900,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,402,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$6,000,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	1996
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2009

Summary: USAID promotes the development of civil society through the following five components: 1) civic and voter education and citizen participation; 2) grants, information, and organizational training program for advocacy-oriented national groups; 3) technical skills and professional development provided for judges, lawyers, election officials, political parties, and journalists; 4) promotion of an independent media and increased access to information; and 5) legislative commentary and drafting assistance.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

More viable multi-party system and political pluralism (\$2,260,000 FSA, \$485,000 FSA carryover). USAID will provide institutional strengthening and leadership development for political parties, institutions, and civil society representatives through technical assistance and training. Specific assistance will target conflict prevention and resolution, an increase in political space and political pluralism, election administration, internal democracy of targeted institutions, and entry to mid-level political actors. Political pluralism programming will remain engaged with traditional political and electoral partners and institutions while expanding support to emerging groups including Government of Azerbaijan (GOAJ) elected and appointed officials. Principal contractors/grantees: National Democratic Institute, International Republican Institute, International Foundation for Electoral Systems.

Heighten public awareness through the media (\$2,000,000 FSA). This three-year program anticipates increasing civil society's access to objective and varied information through professional and organizational development training, grants, and technical assistance to journalists, media outlets and governmental press services. Principal contractors/grantees: to be determined.

Improved capacity for public outreach and advocacy (\$600,000 FSA). This ongoing civil society development program will promote and expand public participation in the policy formation process by strengthening the institutional capacity and advocacy skills of a select group of 42 civil society organizations. This will be accomplished through strengthening grants, training, and technical assistance. Principal contractors/grantees: Catholic Relief Services.

Increased public awareness of the legal and policy environment (\$900,000 FSA, \$300,000 FSA carryover). This legal database project plans to improve access to legal remedies through expanding access to and public awareness of citizens' legal rights. The planned activity will collect, compile, and develop along with the GOAJ a single official codified database of Azerbaijani laws and regulations whereby legal professionals and the general populace alike will have access to this much needed information through the Internet and a CD-ROM distribution program. Principal contractors/grantees: to be determined.

Program Development and Support (\$140,000 FSA, \$616,653 FSA carryover). This section is to provide funding for program-funded personnel, as well as assessments/evaluations and other administrative actions.

FY 2005 Program:

Political & Civic Organizations (\$2,000,000 FSA). USAID will continue to assist political parties and civil society organizations to increase citizen participation in political decision-making processes, and promote more democratic and responsive government. With parliamentary elections planned for the fall 2005 USAID will continue to fund civic/voter education programs to develop an informed citizenry and to encourage more active citizens' participation during the elections. USAID will also work with government and electoral officials to reduce fraud and voter intimidation, and for improved implementation of the recently adopted Unified Election Code. Principal contractor/grantee: International Republican Institute (IRI).

Rule of Law (\$1,700,000 FSA). USAID activities in this area in FY 2005 will promote effective and fair legal institutions, including the judiciary and a variety of NGOs. USAID will work to improve the competency of legal professionals through improvements in the curriculum of universities and other legal institutions and to increase citizen's knowledge of their rights and how to implement those rights leading to increased confidence in the legal system. Principal contractors/grantees: ABA/CEELI.

Civil Society (\$1,800,000 FSA). Conditions of the legal environment for NGO development, government and NGO relations, and public awareness of how a civil society functions are still in the early stages. USAID will continue the development of local NGOs by providing technical assistance, improving managerial and financial skills, and assisting in building networks of professionals and NGOs which influence decision-making processes at government levels. With USAID assistance local NGOs will be on the path towards becoming fully institutionalized. Principal contractors/grantees: to be determined.

Program Development and Support (\$500,000 FSA). This section is to provide funding for program-funded personnel, as well as assessments/evaluations and other administrative actions.

Performance and Results: USAID has aided Azerbaijan with creating additional political space for citizen engagement. While this is a long-term process in this traditionally hierarchical society, USAID has been able to achieve the following successes in FY 2003. Progress included the passage of the Unified Election Code whereby USAID provided critical and timely assistance to the GOAJ resulting in much-needed transparency provisions (e.g. transparent ballot boxes, numbered ballot box seals and protocol forms, use of envelopes, signature procedures), although the election was criticized. USAID's political party strengthening and voter and media education activities stimulated public debate around political concerns, the emergence of a new generation of political actors, and an active multi-party campaign. USAID contributed to expanding citizen access to the judicial process and strengthening the legal profession through the passage of a judicial code of ethics and the formation of an independent lawyers' union. USAID is contributing to anti-corruption efforts through a series of public education and public discourse opportunities on the daily costs of corruption. USAID continued to provide equal opportunities for Azerbaijani women to participate in public education and policy debates, with female participation in our activities reaching an all time high of 10,552. Continued progress in this objective will lead to a more active civil society and better developed democratic processes and institutions.