

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Turkmenistan
Program Title:	Energy and Water
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	120-0161
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$275,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$200,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID's water and energy activities are focused on improving Turkmenistan's capacity to manage natural resources and energy, through well-directed technical assistance, the introduction of improved technologies accompanied by selected training, targeted public outreach, and similar actions leading to better management of critical resources. This includes activities which seek to broaden public participation in resource decision-making and improve the government's capacity to effectively regulate oil, gas, and water resources. Proper management of resources will enable Turkmenistan to more directly and fully contribute to regional energy needs in the emerging economies of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Water User Association Support (\$200,000 FSA). USAID plans to initiate a limited program of support for water user associations in Turkmenistan. Although some associations do exist, for the most part, they are weak and require further assistance to help them become sustainable. The goal of the program is to increase the number of viable, sustainable water user entities in the country. These organizations include not only organizations that manage irrigation systems, but also those that are organized to distribute potable water, particularly in remote areas of the country. Due to strong control of the central government and regressive policies in the agricultural sector, USAID's initial activities will focus on both technical and organizational development training for representatives of existing groups, and assessing further targets of opportunity for follow-on interventions, such as a small grants program. Principal contractor: to be determined.

Energy Development Programs (\$75,000 FSA). A very limited program of training will continue, aimed mainly at students studying in oil and gas disciplines. Principal contractor/grantee: PA Government Services (prime).

FY 2005 Program:

Water User Association Support (\$200,000 FSA). The level and nature of activities in 2005 will depend heavily on the level of success in 2004. It is planned that development of the water user associations will continue, as it contributes to broadening and deepening the strength of non-governmental entities in Turkmenistan, and creating a more viable civil society. Principal contractor/grantee: to be determined.

Performance and Results: USAID has provided support to the student chapter of the U.S. Society of Petroleum Engineers (USSPE), which USAID helped established at the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute. Students are provided computer access to the internet and other resources of the USSPE, as well as lectures from visiting professionals who live in the region or visit on business. They also receive specialized training in best management practices to prevent or minimize pollution from oil and gas operations. Training materials for this course were first developed by one of USAID's implementing partners, and were later translated into Turkmen and accepted by the faculty as an integral course in the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute's oil and gas ecology course curricula.

USAID's Natural Resources Management Project (NRMP) was not able to complete two activities it had planned to do with the oil and gas regulatory body of Turkmenistan, commonly known as the "Competent Body", due to the Government of Turkmenistan's failure to meet conditions that were needed to further U.S. Government assistance in this area. The planned activities were to assist with standardizing of production-sharing agreements and reporting requirements in order to lower the cost of doing business for foreign investors in Turkmenistan.

In the water sector, a USAID demonstration project installed an automated meteorological station, capable of monitoring water and weather data, at one site in the country. After almost six months monitoring the successful performance of the automated station, the Turkmen weather and water forecasting agency, using its own scarce resources, purchased another station for a different site in the country. Station operators have participated in training programs designed to improve the capacity of the agency's staff in operating and maintaining new automated equipment. The Turkmen weather and water forecasting agency's decision to purchase the same low maintenance equipment that USAID had installed will help the staff analyze and process data faster, thus improving the quality of the weather reports. In a companion activity, USAID also assisted in the modernization of the overall weather and water forecasting agency communication system. Turkmen officials examined communication equipment upgrades installed by USAID in three other Central Asian republics. Based on their observations and USAID guidance, they were so convinced of the value of these improvements that the Director of the agency requested and received from the Government of Turkmenistan significant funds to upgrade their own central communication center. Again, using their own funds, they purchased and are now using the same software and hardware demonstrated by USAID. The equipment and trained personnel at this center now meet the standards of the World Meteorological Organization.

By program completion, an improved system of collecting, analyzing, and transmitting weather and water resources data will be implemented in a limited number of areas in the Turkmen system, and specialists will be trained on effective replication of such activities. A greater number of Water User Associations will exist and a more favorable regulatory environment may be in place.