

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Turkmenistan
Program Title:	Democratic Culture and Institutions
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	120-0211
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$1,100,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$278,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,000,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID's democracy efforts are limited in Turkmenistan due to the difficult operating environment. USAID seeks to strengthen democratic culture in Turkmenistan by building strong and sustainable civic organizations and by increasing the availability of legal information to Turkmen citizens.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Civic Organizations (\$909,268 FSA). USAID will support the on-going development of three NGO resource centers throughout Turkmenistan. These resource centers provide local non-governmental and community-based organizations with training, technical assistance, and information on a host of financial, administrative, and legal issues. Institutional grants will be given to NGOs to strengthen their capacity and serve as leading organizations in their sectors. Special attention will be paid to professional associations. In addition, the NGO resource center network will provide legal consultations to NGOs on a variety of legal issues. Advocacy work will continue to develop a better legal environment for NGOs. Principal contractors/grantees: Counterpart (prime), the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (sub), and Social Impact (sub).

Media and Information (\$190,732 FSA, \$277,971 FSA carryover). Implementation will depend on the ability to function in the current political climate. USAID will continue support of activities that increase the availability of information in Turkmenistan. USAID will look to establishing a civil law legal aid program, and supporting satellite television programming. The legal aid program will provide Turkmen citizens with legal information as well as free legal advice on civil matters. In addition to the clinical program, USAID will continue support to a legal information resource center at Turkmen State University and law student activities such as moot court, mock trials, and street law. The satellite television activity will involve USAID soliciting services to establish a satellite television channel that would carry news, talk shows, and informational programs about Central Asia to the citizens of Turkmenistan free of charge. The satellite channel also would broadcast programs developed by USAID-supported independent stations from around the region. While this channel would benefit the entire Central Asian region, its largest impact would be on Turkmenistan, where there is a large information vacuum and a dense concentration of privately-owned satellite dishes. To increase the impact of this project, the USAID-funded implementer could produce at least one weekly program targeted exclusively for Turkmenistan's viewers. Principal contractors/grantees: to be determined.

FY 2005 Program:

Civic Organizations (\$1,000,000 FSA). USAID will continue its support to the network of NGO resource centers by providing a full range of services to indigenous civil society organizations. USAID will assist NGOs in developing their institutional capacity by providing training and grant support. Increased attention will be given to improving NGOs' organizational development and financial management since these issues are key elements for a vital, sustainable organization. USAID will provide institutional grant funds to NGOs working on various issues, including youth, civic rights, and environmental issues. A cadre of local professional lawyers will provide legal assistance to NGOs. Continuing support will be provided to

professional associations capable of advocating for their constituents. Principal contractor: same as above.

Media and Information (\$0 FSA). USAID will seek to increase the availability of information available to Turkmenistan citizens by such activities as supporting a legal aid project or supporting a satellite channel in Turkmenistan. Principal contractor: same as above.

Performance and Results: This past year has been a particularly difficult one for the development of democracy in Turkmenistan. After the attempted assassination of the President in November 2002, the Government of Turkmenistan clamped down on many actors and institutions in society, significantly closing the political space in Turkmenistan. The reintroduction of exit visas is one example of the government seeking to control society. The revocation of dual citizenship with Russia also had a substantial impact, with many Russians fleeing Turkmenistan to Russia. USAID's support to civil society continued, giving a lifeline to many NGOs that might not otherwise have been able to survive. Despite USAID's efforts to assist NGOs, USAID's NGO Sustainability Index revealed an overall decline of civil society development by 5%, and a strong decline in legal environment (by 8%), organizational capacity (by 11%), and public image of NGOs (by 8%). Moreover, a recently adopted, restrictive NGO law gives the government much more control over NGOs and will severely hamper their future activity.