

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Moldova
Program Title:	Social Transition
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	117-0340
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$3,930,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$2,116,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$3,498,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2007

Summary: USAID/Moldova's Social Transition Program includes three components: humanitarian and social assistance, combating infectious diseases, and the new anti-trafficking initiative.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Combating Infectious Diseases (\$3,580,000 FSA, \$150,000 FSA carryover). Tuberculosis (TB) is a major public health danger in Moldova. The TB epidemic is being driven by declining social and economic conditions, growing unemployment, and subsequent poverty, as well as by inefficient anti-tuberculosis practices. The Combating TB Bilateral Project is a new four-year activity that will expedite and complement the implementation of the cost-effective World Health Organization (WHO)-recommended DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course) strategy for tuberculosis diagnosis, treatment and care procedures. At the end of the project, the following results are anticipated: improved laboratory capacity to diagnose infectious pulmonary TB; strengthened institutional capacity of the Moldova primary health care system to initially detect TB suspects and provide post-hospitalization anti-TB treatment; established up-to-date TB surveillance system; increased knowledge of TB signs, symptoms, referral, and treatment of the general population; and establishment of a facility to monitor multi-drug resistant TB and DOTS Plus treatment for TB patients with confirmed drug resistance. The implementing partner will be the American International Health Alliance (AIHA).

The Combating TB Cross-Border Project will build upon another on-going USAID-funded Regional Moldova/Romania TB Initiative. This activity has two components: 1) TB laboratory strengthening to improve laboratory diagnosis, treatment, outcome monitoring, laboratory safety, and quality control; and 2) Improving TB drug procurement and supply management systems to assure the uninterrupted availability of the appropriate TB drugs in the correct quantities, at reasonable prices, meeting recognized standards of quality, and supported by favorable political and regulatory processes. The implementing partners will be the Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (RPM+) and WHO.

During FY 2004 the Mission will implement a Priority Health Concerns project that will provide assistance for reproductive and maternal health and the prevention of priority infectious diseases. The levels of morbidity and mortality associated with infectious diseases rank high on the list of Moldova's most serious health problems. The rapidly increasing incidence of HIV, the high prevalence of hepatitis and elevated levels of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are especially problematic. The low utilization of modern contraceptive methods has led to a high abortion rate and high maternal mortality. A set of activities focused on primary prevention and behavior change, strengthening of diagnostics protocols, and screening, monitoring, and evaluation will help to improve maternal health and slow the spread of infectious diseases in Moldova. The implementer is yet to be determined.

Anti-Trafficking in Persons (\$350,000 FSA, \$1,446,753 FSA carryover). Moldova is a major origin country for trafficked persons. USAID intends to start a new anti-trafficking project in FY 2004. The project will focus on prevention through public awareness and information campaigns, the identification and

recognition of risk factors, and assistance to potential and actual victims of trafficking through legal consultations, crisis prevention services, psychological rehabilitation, training programs in job skills, and entrepreneurship. The objective of this project will be to prevent trafficking in persons by offering economic solutions to an economic problem. Assistance will be directed to women in rural areas, adolescent girls, university graduates who are seeking employment, and women developing entrepreneurial ideas. Contractor/grantee: to be determined.

Humanitarian Assistance (\$519,579 FSA carryover). The Community Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP), a humanitarian commodity distribution program, is a rapid response to the critical needs of the most vulnerable groups of the population. CHAP provides assistance to rural areas and regions often overlooked by other international donors. CHAP has four objectives: improving of the quality of life of humanitarian assistance end-users; increasing capacity of local non-governmental organization (NGOs) partners; improving humanitarian assistance activities by other private voluntary organizations (PVOs); and responding effectively to natural and man-made disasters in coordination with the U.S. Government, the Government of Moldova (GOM) and local authorities. In FY 2004 CHAP/Moldova will be in its last year of implementation and will focus on ensuring the sustainability of the program's local NGO partners. Following the completion of the CHAP program in Moldova, local NGOs are expected to have sufficient capacity and sustainability to independently provide these services. Principal grantee: Counterpart International, Inc.(prime).

FY 2005 Program:

Combating Infectious Diseases (\$2,398,075 FSA). The Combating TB Bilateral Project will continue to work on the key project components, such as improved laboratory capacity, TB surveillance system, public outreach campaigns on TB, and the establishment of a facility to monitor multi-drug resistant (MDR) tuberculosis. Grantee is same as above.

The Priority Health Concerns project will continue to work on the key project components focusing on effective measures to assist with maternal health and stop the spread of blood-borne bacteria and sexually transmittable diseases. Contractor/grantee to be determined.

Anti-Trafficking (\$1,100,000 FSA). The Anti-Trafficking project will continue to focus on economic roots of trafficking and improve access for young women and girls to employment within Moldova. Contractor/grantee to be determined.

Performance and Results: In FY 2003, USAID and its implementing partners achieved significant success in this program. A steady flow of humanitarian assistance shipments occurred. Citizens of Moldova now have more health care options with the operation of model clinics, as well as health care professionals and local government officials who are trained to update policies, treatment protocols, and preventive methods according to international standards. USAID has refurbished the relocated penitentiary hospital for treatment of prisoners infected with TB, creating adequate conditions for WHO's DOTS treatment program. USAID has enabled the GOM to standardize the collection and use of all the data that was previously collected by a variety of applications for social assistance, thus assisting the GOM with meeting the needs of applicants for social assistance based on any number of criteria.

By the end of the program, indigenous NGOs will have sufficient capacity to independently assess Moldova's humanitarian assistance needs, identify donors for humanitarian support, secure funding for the transportation of humanitarian support, distribute assistance to those in need and monitor its use. Moldova will have the indigenous resources necessary to enhance the condition of maternal health and complete implementation of the GOM Anti-TB Program, including the capacity to reach a 75% cure rate, reducing TB cases to nearly the Western Europe average. It is also expected that local economies will be sufficiently vibrant to offer more jobs and economic opportunities to significant numbers of young women who would otherwise be vulnerable to trafficking.