

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Kosovo
<b>Program Title:</b>	Accountable and Transparent Governance
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	167-0210
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$7,250,000 AEEB
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$3,188,000 AEEB
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$8,200,000 AEEB
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 1999
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2008

**Summary:** Assistance under this strategic objective aims to develop and strengthen the relationship between civil society and local governments so that they act as partners in furthering democratic processes. USAID will work with both citizens and local governments to develop this relationship. At the citizen level, there is a need to improve public information about individual rights and responsibilities, facilitate understanding of political, economic, and social reforms, and promote citizen participation. These efforts will include work with the media, NGOs, and informal citizens' groups. Assistance to local governments will ensure that they are fulfilling their key functions effectively, and that local government operations are transparent and accountable to their constituencies.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Independent Media (\$1,100,000 AEEB, \$1,200,000 AEEB carryover, \$79,000 AEEB prior year recoveries). USAID support has been key in ensuring the physical production and transmitting infrastructure for two Kosovo-wide TV stations and for more than 20 local radio stations and building the capacity of Kosovar journalists to provide timely and unbiased information. In FY 2004, USAID will continue its assistance to: ensure unbiased and professional reporting in both print and broadcast media, focusing on increasing the business and investigative reporting skills; build the capacity of media associations to act as self-regulators and advocate for protection of freedom of expression by increasing their organizational capacities and advocacy skills; increase the financial viability of the private TV stations by providing them with technical assistance and advice; and assist Kosovars in building a legal framework that ensures a level playing field for public and private television broadcasters to compete. Grantee: International Research and Exchange Board (IREX)

Civil Society (\$1,900,000 AEEB, \$159,000 AEEB carryover). In FY 2004, support will continue to focus on increasing the role of NGOs in becoming better advocates of the issues they represent and increasing the capacities of the public policy and think tank organizations and their interaction with the government. To promote the sustainability of NGO advocacy, USAID will strengthen the capacity of the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives (FDI), an indigenous grant-making foundation, and the Advocacy Training and Resource Center to become sustainable organizations that provide demand-driven assistance to the NGO sector. In addition, USAID will encourage the nascent practice of coalition-building among influential NGOs in Kosovo and continue to increase the capacity of indigenous trainers for basic NGO skills. Grantee: East West Management Institute (EWMI)

Local Government (\$4,250,000 AEEB, \$1,750,000 AEEB carryover). In early 2004, USAID will initiate a three-year, \$10 million Local Governance Strengthening Program that will assist selected Kosovo municipalities in improving their local institutional capacities by 1) strengthening the legal and institutional framework of local governance and 2) promoting good governance at the local level. At the central level, USAID will ensure adequate input from all stakeholders in dialogue, policy formulation, and legislative drafting, in order to clarify and refine the roles and responsibilities of municipal governments to enable those governments to function effectively. At the local level, Resident Municipal Consultants will be

assigned to pilot municipalities to work side-by-side with municipal authorities to develop capacity, establish procedures, and provide on-the-job training while addressing real community problems on a demand-driven basis. The work with the pilot municipalities will focus on three areas of improving local governance: 1) improved municipal management and leadership; 2) transparency, accountability, and public participation; and, 3) fostering local economic development. The local governance project will complement ongoing USAID and other donor projects to promote and facilitate minority returns, integration, and the rights of ethnic minorities. Contractor: To be determined.

**FY 2005 Program:**

Independent Media (\$2,000,000 AEEB). In FY 2005, USAID will continue to be involved in building a media legal framework that would ensure a sustainable media environment for both public and private media to survive; further assist media associations and media regulatory bodies by making them effective advocates of freedom of expression and professional conduct media professionals; and, continue to increase the professional capacity of journalists in both print and broadcast media focusing on investigative and business reporting as well as begin to engage more journalists in civic journalism. Contractor/Grantee: To be determined.

Civil Society (\$2,000,000 AEEB). USAID will assist a smaller number of NGOs, networks, and coalitions to make them more efficient advocates and agents of change. In addition, USAID will assist public policy NGOs and think tanks to better engage in policy dialogue with the decision makers at both local and central level. Contractor/Grantee: To be determined.

Local Government (\$4,200,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to implement the new local governance program, and more fully integrate it with other USAID and donor programs addressing citizen participation, local economic development, increased transparency, minority returns, and decentralization. The program will help consolidate transfer of competencies from UNMIK to municipal governments, and possibly begin the rollout of the program beyond the initial pilot municipalities. Contractor: To be determined.

**Performance and Results:** According to two different media surveys conducted on a quarterly basis, one independent and the other funded by USAID, the two private TV stations that are primarily assisted by USG funding have a notable increase in the audience share. The two private Kosovo-wide TV stations share 58% of the viewers leaving the rest of viewers to be shared between the public and the international satellite channels. The two private stations now have full program schedules and earn revenues from advertising and satellite subscriptions that now cover much of their expenses, improving prospects for financial sustainability in the near term. The quality of reporting in both print and broadcast media has increased. However, the media associations are nascent and have been slow in assuming their role in ensuring self-regulation mechanisms for print journalists. They have not shown the ability to engage successfully in policy dialogue with decision-makers. In the NGO sector, there are at least ten laws and regulations that were adopted at the local level as a direct result of NGO advocacy campaigns funded by USAID. There is at least one campaign underway in each of Kosovo's 30 municipalities, undertaken by USAID-trained and funded NGOs. Recently there has been a trend among NGOs to establish coalitions to advocate for Kosovo-wide issues such as electoral law reform and equal gender representation in political processes.

By the end of the strategy period, it is expected that USAID assistance will have resulted in or contributed to at least one Kosovo-wide independent private television station that is financially sustainable without donor support and which provides an alternative source of professional news and information programming. Furthermore, professional media and journalist associations will play a more active and effective role in promoting professional media and protecting freedom of speech. NGOs will regularly engage government official and institutions and successfully advocate for changes. Municipal governments will be more responsive to citizens, and begin to fulfill their tasks effectively and contribute to more effective service delivery and increased economic opportunities.