

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Kosovo
Program Title:	Democratic Institutions
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	167-0220
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$6,100,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,498,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$4,900,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2004
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2008

Summary: USAID's democratic institutions program will support Kosovo's transformation to self-government by strengthening recently created democratic institutions and helping Kosovars take complete ownership of these bodies. USAID's democratization approach to date has focused on promoting transparency and accountability during the transitional phase of international administration. This approach will expand to include the creation of a truly representative electoral system, responsive political parties, a legislature that exercises effective oversight, an independent judiciary staffed by competent legal professionals, efficient court administration, and increased access to justice for all Kosovars. Strengthening these key institutions will help the Mission achieve its goal of helping Kosovo become democratic and self-governing, providing equal opportunities and rights for all citizens. Assistance to Democratic Institutions was previously notified under Strategic Objective 167-0210.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Rule of Law (\$4,300,000 AEEB, \$1,100,000 AEEB carryover). In 2004, USAID will continue to work with legal professionals to build their professional capacity. USAID will assist UNMIK, Kosovar legal professionals, and civil society in developing laws and policies that support an effective and impartial Kosovar justice system. Priority areas for reform include structural and functional reform in the justice system. USAID will assist in developing a comprehensive strategy and action plan for a post-UNMIK justice system in Kosovo. Moreover, USAID's program will: strengthen the capacity of the court system to operate smoothly, impartially, and effectively while protecting the human and legal rights of citizens; develop systems to provide effective oversight for judges, prosecutors, and lawyers in the areas of ethics and delivery of quality services; and, increase public awareness of Kosovo's evolving legal framework and justice system to improve access and ensure individual and community rights are protected. The importance and enormity of this issue coupled with the slow progress to date will make rule of law a major area of emphasis in 2004. Grantees: American Bar Association/Central and East European Law Initiative; Contractor: National Center for State Courts.

Political Process (\$1,800,000 AEEB, \$398,000 AEEB carryover). The FY 2004 program components will complement one another and increase coordinated activity at the Kosovo-wide and municipal level. The program seeks to promote the democratization of political parties and the central and municipal assemblies by facilitating constructive interaction between representatives and their constituents. The 2004 elections for the Kosovo Assembly represent an important opportunity for USAID to consolidate advances in intra-party democratization, inter-party collaboration and civic engagement, and to marginalize extremist elements by further strengthening democratic institutions such as the Assembly and Municipal Councils. The future Political Process Strengthening program will be a follow-on program and will include a clear emphasis on supporting the PISG and "localizing" this technical support. As UNMIK has agreed to turn over for the first time some election administration competencies to Kosovar institutions in 2004, USAID will provide assistance to the Kosovar Central Elections Committees and others responsible for ensuring the administration of free and fair elections. Grantees: National Democratic Institute (NDI) and to be determined.

FY 2005 Program:

Rule of Law (\$3,600,000 AEEB). Rule of law assistance will support the improvement of court administration; the development and implementation of justice system reforms; oversight for judges, prosecutors, and lawyers; and, increased public awareness and understanding of the legal system. Contractor/Grantee: American Bar Association and East European Law Initiative; National Center for State Courts.

Political Processes (\$1,300,000 AEEB). USAID will provide training and orientation for new members of the Kosovo Assembly and continue to work with Assembly Committees and members to improve the effectiveness of the legislature. USAID will also continue to provide training to political parties to improve their ability to develop policies, strengthen internal democratic structures, promote participation of women and youth, and effectively reach out to constituents. By 2005, a sound legal and policy framework for good governance would be in place including a Freedom of Information Act. Grantee: National Democratic Institute and to be determined.

Performance and Results: To date, USAID has helped establish Kosovo's first ever registry of voters and elections administration through the Joint Registration Task Force (JRT). Smooth and efficient processes set up by the JRT allowed Kosovo's first three elections to be judged free and fair by local and international monitors. USAID helped improve the ability of political parties to conduct coherent campaigns and improve internal democratic practices. The Assembly, established following elections in 2001, has adopted rules of procedures, formed committees that debate draft legislation, and overcome ethnic tensions and disagreements with UNMIK to adopt legislation and represent citizen interests. The Chamber of Advocates has emerged as a vibrant organization and advocate for legal reform, and an Association of Judges has formed to represent the interests of its members. USAID has supported programs to provide legal professionals and citizens with access to legal databases, and to train all existing judges and prosecutors to achieve a minimally acceptable level of competence in practical skills related to their jobs. Court administration has been improved through training and development of management and automation systems, such as fee and fine collection software.

By the end of the strategy period, it is expected that USAID assistance will have resulted in or contributed to increased capacity and indigenization of democratic institutions. For the first time, Kosovars will have had full responsibility for administering elections, and will have substantial or complete responsibility over the justice system. Political parties will be more internally democratic and elected representatives will be more responsive to their constituencies. The Assembly will be more effective at conducting its business, and the three branches of government will begin to perform checks and balances on each other.