

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Uzbekistan
Program Title:	Democratic Culture and Institutions
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	122-0211
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$6,321,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$2,055,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$4,900,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: In Uzbekistan, USAID's democracy programs strive to create stronger and more sustainable civic organizations, increase the availability of information on civic rights and domestic public issues, enhance opportunities for citizen participation in governance, and assist public institutions become more responsive, transparent, and accountable.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Citizen Participation (\$780,785 FSA). While at present the only registered political parties in the country are pro-governmental, there are several others that have applied for registration and are politically active. USAID will include political party work in Uzbekistan under a regional program. USAID will also issue a request for proposals to provide support to local NGOs for national level advocacy campaigns concerning a variety of social, political, and economic issues. Principal implementing partners are to be determined.

Civic Organizations (\$1,594,136 FSA, \$777,144 FSA carryover). USAID will continue to develop civil society organizations in Uzbekistan through its support to an NGO resource center network, which will provide training to NGOs on a host of financial, administrative, and programmatic issues. Grants will be given to local communities to mobilize community-based organizations to advocate for their needs. Institutional grants will be distributed to NGOs in targeted sectors, to strengthen their operating capacity and improve their ability to serve as leading organizations in their sectors. The network's local lawyers based at the NGO resource centers will provide legal consultations to NGOs. USAID is also focusing its civil society support efforts on developing strong human rights organizations in Uzbekistan. Through human rights resource centers, human rights organization members will develop the ability to report on and advocate for the end of human rights abuses. Principal contractors/grantees: International Research and Exchange Board (prime), the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (sub), Partners for Democratic Change (sub), and Freedom House (sub).

Media and Information (\$1,320,562 FSA, \$1,277,453 FSA carryover). The establishment of a network of six television stations in the Ferghana Valley and Tashkent Oblast will be a high priority of USAID's media work in FY 2004. In addition, USAID will continue to work to protect journalists and media outlets from government-sponsored harassment, and will explore opportunities to work with radio stations in an effort to promote the increased availability of information. USAID will support a full-scale human trafficking research program in Uzbekistan, and will support prevention activities by conducting awareness campaigns throughout the country. A new civic education program will be introduced in FY 2004. Principal contractors/grantees: the International Organization for Migration (prime) and others to be determined.

Accountable Public Institutions (\$2,625,517 FSA). USAID will focus its efforts on developing the skills and knowledge of the next generation of lawyers and judges by supporting legal curriculum reform, clinical programs, moot court competitions, mock trials, legal reasoning, and persuasive writing classes for law students. USAID will support judicial training and information dissemination in Uzbekistan. USAID

will also provide training to judges and lawyers on new amendments to the Uzbek Criminal Code that address the issue of torture. USAID will continue to promote democratic governance and professional management in housing partnerships. In addition to Tashkent City and the Andijan Region (pilot sites), the housing reform program will expand to Samarkand and Namangan regions. Principal implementing partners are: Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector, the Urban Institute, and others to be determined.

FY 2005 Program:

Citizen Participation (\$420,781 FSA). Depending on the outcome of the 2004 parliamentary elections, USAID may bolster its efforts to political parties. Civic advocacy campaigns will continue to highlight important social and political issues facing Uzbekistani citizens. Principal implementing partners to be determined.

Civic Organizations (\$2,379,930 FSA). USAID will continue its support to the network of NGO resource centers. By 2005, USAID will make a decision on whether to shift from supporting the U.S.-based implementing partner as an intermediary to directly assisting the local support center network. Training will be focused on institutional capacity-building and financial management in order for the network to compete for international donor funding as a direct grantee. USAID will continue supporting human rights defenders and human rights legal clinics at law schools in Tashkent and Namangan. Principal contractor: same as above.

Media and Information (\$1,257,726 FSA). If a network of independent television stations is formed in 2004, USAID assistance will continue to support its development as an alternative to state television. Increased advocacy and legal support to journalists will help protect individuals and improve the legislative environment for media. Providing information to the public about human trafficking will continue to be a priority for USAID. Efforts to promote tolerance and civic responsibility will continue through civic education activities. Principal implementing partners are to be determined.

Accountable Public Institutions (\$841,563 FSA). USAID will foster the development of the rule of law in Uzbekistan through its legal and judicial reform training activities. USAID's housing reform efforts will promote democratic resident participation through its work with condominium associations. Principal implementing partners are: the Urban Institute and others to be determined.

Performance and Results: While the government did not meet USAID's overall expectations for democratic reform, some progress was made last year. With USAID and State Department funding, two human rights resource centers and the Tashkent State Law Institute Human Rights Clinic helped create an environment where human rights defenders and activists are able to work more openly than in recent years. Progress on housing reform proceeded well with USAID support, thereby improving the daily lives of Uzbek citizens by putting more control over their housing into their own hands. As a precursor to its new anti-trafficking program in Uzbekistan, USAID supported two trafficking-in-persons training seminars for Uzbek government officials in the summer of 2003. Due to activities like these, President Bush certified Uzbekistan as a Tier II country in September 2003, thereby avoiding U.S. Government sanctions.

By program's end, there will be stronger and more sustainable civic organizations; increased availability of information on civic rights and domestic public issues; enhanced opportunities for citizen participation in governance; and more accountable public institutions.