

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Uzbekistan
Program Title:	Conflict Prevention
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	122-0240
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$302,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$400,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: Conflict prevention strengthens vulnerable communities and eases local tensions through public dialogue and improvement of small-scale social and physical infrastructure. USAID addresses both the root and immediate causes of potential conflict through its conflict prevention objective. Since many conflicts in Central Asia have arisen at the community (rather than international) level and the U.S. Government's ability to change structural factors at the national level is limited, USAID's conflict prevention strategy focuses on giving citizens opportunities to participate in decisions that affect their communities, improve living standards, and provide skills and experience that will diminish the potential for conflict. Community action programs, targeted where risks of communal or religious conflicts are greatest, are designed to increase citizen participation in community decision-making and local government, and contribute to mitigating sources of conflict by promoting economic recovery and inter-ethnic cooperation. In Uzbekistan, USAID has focused its conflict prevention activities on the Ferghana Valley which was determined to be at greater risk for conflict for a variety of reasons including extremism, a high population of unemployed youth, and closed borders. USAID is also implementing its conflict prevention program in southern Uzbekistan due to concerns about threats from religious extremists. Conflict prevention activities began in FY 2002 under the Mission's cross-cutting program, and has been reported up to now as a component under SO 4.2. As the conflict program will become a strategic objective in FY 2004, it is being notified separately for FY 2004 and FY2005 funding.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Conflict Prevention (\$302,000 FSA). Conflict prevention activities will expand to 110 communities in the Ferghana Valley and Southern Uzbekistan, with a new emphasis on community economic development. USAID will continue to focus on coordination with other partners to fold in issues of unemployment (especially among urban youth), with a new component that will directly target businesses whose growth will serve the community as a whole, through lower prices and lower unemployment, and thereby alleviate economic tension in that community. As a result of a mid-term evaluation of the program, USAID will make a number of adjustments including: more directly discussing and addressing issues of conflict in communities; placing a greater emphasis on social projects and activities to be done in conjunction with infrastructure projects; and making a greater effort to involve women and youth. Principal contractor/grantee: CHF International (prime) and Mercy Corps (prime).

FY 2005 Program:

Conflict Prevention (\$400,000 FSA). By 2005, USAID will be nearing the end of its engagement with some of its initial conflict prevention sites. In the more recently targeted areas, where conflict vulnerability is likely to be much higher, economic activities and community-based infrastructure and social events supported by USAID will continue to help communities draw youth away from the attraction of violent and extremist organizations and manipulation by elites. USAID plans to continue conflict prevention activities in the Ferghana Valley, but close out its program in southern Uzbekistan, where the potential for conflict appears to be less. The number of total beneficiaries is expected to reach near 477,000 in 2005. Principal contractor/grantee: to be determined.

Performance and Results: Uzbekistan's conflict prevention activities are focused in the Ferghana Valley, where tensions run especially high because of: closed international borders that restrict trade; disputes that have resulted from recent land reform measures; a general lack of information and government control of media; unemployment; and reported activity by extremist groups. By the close of FY 2003, USAID was active in 110 communities in Uzbekistan, including the Ferghana Valley border communities which have identified sources of tension and worked together with USAID to overcome those tensions. One hundred eleven small infrastructure and social engagement projects have been completed (85 in FY 2003 alone) since the commencement of the program, benefiting more than 120,000 people. For example, the neighboring villages of Jeke-Miste, Kyrgyzstan, and Naiman, Uzbekistan completed a water project that allows for enough water to serve the upstream village's irrigation needs, as well as the downstream village's cleaning and drinking needs. The ethnic Kyrgyz community of Korayantok in Uzbekistan, isolated from the contiguous territory of Kyrgyzstan due to the recent border demarcation policy, mobilized the community to construct a new health clinic. This clinic allowed the residents to overcome their isolation and to seek medical aid locally. The community Kuklam in southern Uzbekistan had received little attention from local authorities, prior to USAID's conflict mitigation program. The community successfully lobbied the government for support that was used in the rehabilitation of a local school.

A recent mid-term project evaluation of USAID's conflict prevention program states that in general, USAID is helping to knit together a stronger social fabric in these communities. By program's end, there will be an increased number of communities reporting lessened tension or resolved conflicts, strengthened community participation, and improved local services through community decisions.