

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Serbia
<b>Program Title:</b>	Civil Society and Local Governance
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	169-0210
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$49,410,000 AEEB
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$150,000 AEEB
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$38,000,000 AEEB
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2001
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2006

**Summary:** The USAID Civil Society and Local Governance Program in Serbia consists of the Community Revitalization through Democratic Action Program (CRDA) to revitalize local democracy through strong citizen participation; and the Serbian Local Government Reform Program (SLGRP) to strengthen the capacity of local governments to provide services in a transparent, participatory manner.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

CRDA Program (\$42,910,000 AEEB, \$150,000 AEEB carryover). The CRDA Program is now active in approximately 350 communities where broad-based, representative citizens' committees are actively engaged in making decisions on community development activities to improve the quality of their lives. Projects funded by CRDA may involve civic participation activities, local small-scale civil works, rehabilitation or construction (such as schools or clinics), income-generating activities, environmental improvement actions and reproductive health efforts. Since the inception of the program, over 2,200 projects have been initiated in collaboration with local communities providing counterpart contributions that covered about 45% of project costs, reflecting the strong support and involvement of the communities. In FY 2004, CRDA will expand to an additional 50 communities, and initiate another 1,000 projects, with an increased emphasis on projects that involve clusters of two or more communities and in some cases, entire regions. As in FY 2003, a percentage of funds will be used for projects to assist socially vulnerable groups, such as refugees, internally displaced persons, and Roma. The implementers are: America's Development Foundation (prime), the University of Delaware's FLAG International (sub) and the International Executive Service Corps (sub), Mercy Corps International (prime), Deloitte, Touche, Tomatsu (sub), International Relief and Development, Inc. (prime), the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR)(sub), Camp, Dresser, McKee International (sub), Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Activities (ACDI/VOCA) (prime), Overseas Strategic Consulting, Ltd (sub), and Corporate Housing Foundation.

Serbian Local Government Reform Program (\$6,500,000 AEEB). During the five-year life of the program, SLGRP will provide training and technical assistance to 87 municipalities, including the 17 local governments in the metropolitan Belgrade area to help municipal governments become more efficient, responsive and accountable. The assistance will focus on the areas of financial management, municipal services and utility management and information management. The program improves local government customer focus and responsiveness, increases citizen and civil society organizations' involvement and access to local government, improves legal and financial sustainability, and increases local government influence at the national level. As a result of its efforts, Serbian municipalities are holding public budget hearings for the first time and allowing citizens to participate in the decision-making process concerning local funding priorities. During the second year of SLGRP, 40 municipalities were provided with technical assistance. In FY 2004, 47 additional local governments will receive assistance to reach the program planned goal of 87 municipalities, which represent over 70% of the total population of Serbia. At the national level, the SLGRP is providing technical assistance to the Republic of Serbia in drafting and

implementing policy reforms that will decentralize many government responsibilities and decision-making to the local level. The implementers are Development Alternatives, Inc. (prime) and PACDO (sub).

**FY 2005 Program:**

Community Revitalization through Democratic Action Program (\$38,000,000 AEEB). In FY 2005, it is anticipated that the CRDA Program will be active in more than 400 communities, as many as 90 municipalities, and will initiate approximately 1,000 new projects in participating communities. An increased number of the CRDA activities will be cluster projects involving collaboration between several communities, often of different ethnic composition. By the final year of the CRDA Program, it is expected that more than 6 million people (over 60% of the total population) will have directly benefited from it. The implementers will be the same as in FY 2004.

Serbian Local Government Reform Program (\$0 AEEB). During its final year, SLGRP will limit its capacity-building activities to 17 local governments of the Belgrade metropolitan area. An emphasis will be placed on the establishment of transparent accounting financial management and budgeting procedures that include public hearings and citizen participation in decision-making on local priorities. Staff from the municipalities who had received training in the early phases of the program will be used as mentors to staff in the local governments added in the later phases of the program. The implementers are the same as in FY 2004.

**Performance and Results:** After two full years of operation, the CRDA program was working in approximately 350 communities in 79 municipalities. Of the more than 2,200 projects that have been initiated, over 50% were completed by the end of FY 2003. Approximately an additional 1,000 projects are planned for the third year. It is estimated that around 4 million people have directly benefited from the CRDA projects in its first two years. The continued strong involvement and support of the communities for CRDA activities is demonstrated by the fact that 45% of the funding for project costs (up from 33% in the first year) has come from non-USAID resources. Beneficiaries indicate that the most important aspects of the CRDA Program have been its willingness to let the community identify and implement projects to address its own priorities and CRDA's ability to bring people together to work cooperatively towards improving their living conditions. Local government leaders have come to embrace the notion of citizen participation and, in most municipalities, are allocating their own meager resources to help provide the local matching contribution. A survey conducted in August 2003 in selected CRDA communities found that the program had a positive impact on changing people's attitudes toward democracy, community involvement and the United States.

SLGRP program has conducted 1,022 training sessions for municipal officials on such topics as financial management, public works and utility management, citizen participation and policy reform. This training has been provided to 26,300 participants, over 50% of whom were women. Public budget hearings are for the first time being held in all participating municipalities. The program has established public-private partnerships in four municipalities to improve central business districts and mobilized a contribution of about \$200,000 from the local private sectors in these cities. Citizen information and one-stop centers for obtaining permits and licenses have been set-up in several cities and this effort will be expanded in FY 2004. Modern IT equipment and software plus related training have been provided to 38 municipalities, to assist local governments to implement more efficient and transparent information management systems.

Serbia will have a strong, well-organized civil society coupled with a highly decentralized government structure relying heavily on participatory, transparent, and accountable local governments to provide basic services and infrastructure. While ethnic and religious cleavages may remain, there will be a greater degree of mutual trust and respect among these groups.