

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Kyrgyzstan
Program Title:	Democratic Culture and Institutions
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	116-0211
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$6,500,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$216,000 ESF; \$1,083,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$5,400,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID's democracy efforts in Kyrgyzstan are geared toward creating stronger, and more sustainable civic organizations, increasing the availability of information on civic rights and domestic public issues, enhancing opportunities for citizen participation in governance, and helping public institutions become more effective, responsive, and accountable.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Accountable Public Institutions (\$2,542,707 FSA, \$227,542 FSA carryover). USAID's local government program will promote further decentralization through clear functional assignments that empower local governments. USAID will solicit proposals for legal education reform, and continue to support judicial training and dissemination of judicial opinions. Principal contractors/grantees: ARD/Checchi (prime), the Urban Institute (prime), and others to be determined.

Civic Organizations (\$1,764,509 FSA). NGO resource centers will be the main beneficiaries of capacity-building institutional grants, which will allow NGOs to become an integrated part of the civil society resource center network. Community grants will be given to local organizations to mobilize around various issues and advocate for their needs at the local level. USAID will help create an enabling environment for civil society development by improving the legal framework for NGOs and by providing legal consultations to NGOs on a variety of legal issues. USAID will build on its initial human rights efforts in Kyrgyzstan by issuing a proposal for human rights training and advocacy, with a specific focus on human trafficking, including the protection of trafficking victims. Principal contractors/grantees: Counterpart (prime), the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (sub), Social Impact (sub), Winrock International (prime), and others to be determined.

Citizen Participation (\$765,100 FSA, \$816,925 FSA carryover). In FY 2004, the Kyrgyz Parliament will review drafts of a new political party law and a new election code. USAID will work with parliamentarians to ensure that these draft laws are well-analyzed and incorporate public input via public hearings. USAID will offer limited training for political parties and will assess the need for a request for proposals for parliamentary and political party work. USAID will work with local NGOs in advocating for the political parties law and election code and other legislation that must be redrafted as a result of the new constitution. Principal contractors/grantees: to be determined.

Media and Information (\$1,427,684 FSA, \$38,770 FSA carryover). USAID will redesign its media program in FY 2004. Components of the new activity include providing information through programming support, generating public discussion on media issues, increasing the economic viability of independent television stations, and supporting independent newspapers and radio stations. Support will continue for civic education activities. USAID will make improvements to the civic education textbook and a teacher's manual, which will be introduced to 500 new schools. In addition to the textbook, civic education extracurricular activities will be conducted, giving students a forum to practice some of the new ideas they

learn in the civics classes. Principal contractors/grantees: International Foundation for Election Systems (prime) and others to be determined.

FY 2005 Program:

Accountable Public Institutions (\$1,312,341 FSA). USAID will advance decentralization in Kyrgyzstan by assisting the government to draft local government legislation and advising it on decentralization issues. At the local level, USAID will assist targeted Kyrgyz cities to carry out their functions in a decentralized system. USAID will support legal reform by focusing on law students through wide-ranging legal education activities. Based on the opportunities for judicial reform USAID may expand its judicial training program to include other activities to strengthen the judiciary. Principal contractors/grantees: same as above.

Civic Organizations (\$1,881,159 FSA). USAID will support the network of NGO resource centers by providing a full-range of services to indigenous civil society organizations so that they can serve as advocates for reform in their respective communities. By 2005, USAID will shift from supporting the U.S.-based implementing partners to directly assisting the local network of resource centers. Training will be focused on institutional capacity-building and financial management. Local human rights advocates will receive information and training on international human rights standards. With the help of USAID, local organizations will be better-equipped to tackle the problems associated with human trafficking. USAID funds will help NGOs provide legal, medical, and psychological services to trafficking victims. Principal contractors/grantees: same as above.

Citizen Participation (\$841,561 FSA). The nature of the work to be done with political parties and Parliament in 2005 will largely depend upon the outcome of the February 2005 parliamentary elections. If the election produces a Parliament with numerous parties, USAID will concentrate on orienting new parliamentarians and working with returnees to get the Parliament off to a productive start. USAID will also work with civic advocacy groups on the parliamentary elections, and may provide support for political parties and citizens to participate in the presidential elections to be held in October 2005. Principal contractors/grantees: to be determined.

Media and Information (\$1,364,939 FSA). In 2005, USAID's support for media will continue with a focus on print media. Assuming that the independent printing press is still fully operational in 2005, newspapers will have a strong advantage over other media in avoiding government harassment. USAID will provide training and technical assistance to print media organizations. Efforts will continue to introduce the civic education textbook and teachers' manual in as many schools as possible and persuade the government to include the civic education course in the national curriculum. Principal contractors/grantees: same as above.

Performance and Results: The Constitutional Referendum held in February was a major setback for democracy. Initially, the government welcomed public participation in the development of the amendments to be considered, but at the last moment disregarded them, issuing its own set of amendments, further concentrating power in the President's hands. NGOs and political opposition members involved in the referendum were harassed by the government. Government harassment of the media contributed to significant self-censorship by independent media and the closure of one independent newspaper. On a more positive note, a new local government finance law and new amendments to the tax code were passed, establishing an economic basis for local self-government and sustainable NGOs. With USAID assistance, the government introduced and implemented a National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking that includes anti-trafficking materials, providing free airtime on state television and radio for announcements, and mandating hundreds of law enforcement officials at central and local levels to participate in anti-trafficking lectures. The passage of tax code amendments in March now allows for grants and humanitarian assistance to be tax-exempt, a major step forward for the sustainability of NGOs. By program's end, there will be stronger and more sustainable civic organizations, increased availability of information on civic rights and domestic issues, enhanced opportunities for citizen participation in governance, and more effective, responsive, and accountable public institutions.