

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Kyrgyzstan
Program Title:	Conflict Prevention
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	116-0240
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$643,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$600,000 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. Through this approach, USAID is addressing 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 with local government, and contribute to mitigating sources of conflict by promoting economic recovery and inter-ethnic cooperation. In the Kyrgyz Republic, conflict prevention activities are focused in the Ferghana Valley and Batken, where threats of extremism are most prevalent. The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) made incursions into Batken in 1999-2000. The Ferghana Valley was determined to be at greater risk for conflict for a variety of reasons including greater threats due to extremism, more concentrated populations, a high percentage of youth, and closed borders. Conflict prevention activities began in FY 2002 under the Mission's cross-cutting program, and have been reported up to now as a component under SO 4.2. Since the conflict program will become a strategic objective in FY 2004, it is being notified separately for FY 2004 funding.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Conflict Prevention (\$643,000 FSA). Conflict prevention activities will expand to 50 Ferghana Valley and Southern Kyrgyzstan communities, with a new emphasis on Batken Oblast, where vulnerability to extremist activities is deemed quite high. Community targeting also will take into account localities where recently-disempowered elites may attempt to manipulate their constituents to undertake violent action in their defense. USAID will continue to focus on coordination with other partners to address issues of unemployment (especially among urban youth). The primary instrument for achieving this will be a new programmatic component added in FY 2003, which directly targets businesses that serve communities through lower prices and lower unemployment, and thereby alleviate economic tension. As a result of a mid-term evaluation of the program, a number of adjustments will be made 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 contractors/grantees: Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers for Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA) and Mercy Corps.

FY 2005 Program:

Conflict Prevention (\$600,000 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 will continue to help communities draw youth away from the attraction of violent and extremist organizations

and manipulation by elites. The number of total beneficiaries is expected to reach approximately 200,000 in 2005. Principal contractors/grantees: to be determined.

Performance and Results: Kyrgyzstan's conflict prevention activities are focused in the south, where tensions run especially high because of several factors. Some examples are: closed international borders that restrict trade; disputes that have resulted from recent land reform measures; a general lack of information; government control of media; unemployment; manipulation by elites; and issues that arise in an ethnically-mixed area such as the Ferghana Valley. At the end of FY 2003, USAID was active in 27 communities in Kyrgyzstan, including Ferghana Valley border communities. Over 100,000 people benefited from this program through 70 projects completed this fiscal year. Some examples of USAID's conflict prevention activities include a small, ethnically-Turkish isolated village that was able to leverage local government funding to help with road rehabilitation, summer camps, and other children's events (e.g., sporting competitions and talent shows) that have brought border children and their parents together for social interaction. The neighboring villages of Jeke-Miste, Kyrgyzstan, and Naiman, Uzbekistan completed a water project that allows for sufficient water to serve the upstream village's irrigation needs as well as the downstream village's cleaning and drinking needs. Polling began in FY 2003, providing USAID with baseline data for levels of trust within and between communities and residents' perceptions of local tension. A recent mid-term project evaluation of USAID's conflict prevention program states that, in general, USAID is helping to realize 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.