

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Armenia
Program Title:	Water Management
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	111-0160
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$0
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$2,595,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1999
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2005

Summary: USAID's program for sustainable water resources management is designed to address some of the more severe consequences of environmental degradation in Armenia. In particular, the program focuses on improving the framework of national policy and institutions for water management, rehabilitating selected elements of the water quality and quantity monitoring systems, and providing support to local-level initiatives to develop capacity and implement market-based solutions to water management problems.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

National policy and institutional framework for water management (\$1,535,000 FSA carryover). USAID will support the development of regulations and sub-laws and work to strengthen the capacity of the associated institutional structures required to begin effective implementation of the newly enacted Water Code. In particular, USAID will provide training and technical assistance to help develop the organizational, staff, and methodological systems for the Water Resources Management and Protection Agency (WRMPA) of the Ministry of Nature Protection, which has the role of issuing water use and quality protection permits. USAID will provide logistical support to the National Water Council as well as technical assistance and training to the agencies the Council designates to develop policies and legislation in areas of water system management and regulation. USAID will also provide support to the decentralized Water Basin Management bodies that have a new and key role to play in the Water Code's system of integrated water management and planning. The focus of the program will shift to strengthening capacity at the WRMPA and providing targeted assistance on policy and implementation to the water system management and regulatory entities. USAID also plans to continue to provide institutional strengthening and capacity building support to decentralized Water Basin Management entities. Principal contractors/grantees are: Associates in Rural Development (prime), others to be determined.

Water monitoring systems (\$1,060,000 FSA carryover). USAID will provide equipment, facilities' renovation, training, and technical assistance to ensure restored and enhanced monitoring capabilities for 29 water quality parameters at 65 key sites in the Lake Sevan-Hrazdan River basin system, including at regional and central environmental monitoring laboratories. Renovations and upgrades for monitoring water quantity flow and depth will be completed at ten hydro-posts, in particular at: the Arpa tunnel inflow to Lake Sevan; the outflow from Lake Sevan; the major tributary to the Hrazdan River below Yerevan; the point where the Hrazdan River flows into the Araks River; three border posts along the Akurian and Araks Rivers; and three posts on the Debed-Khrami Basin. USAID will be supplying another quantity of water meters to wholesale water supply companies, along with enhanced accounting and customer billing and information systems; this will assist them in more effectively managing bulk water supplied to irrigation and drinking water distribution companies and to gauge their readiness to develop enhanced commercial operations in support of eventual privatization. Principal contractors/grantees are: MIR-A International (prime); Associates in Rural Development (prime); and Development Alternatives, Inc. (prime).

FY 2005 Program:

Performance and Results: In the water sector there were significant results from USAID interventions. Although the target for improving specific water quality and quantity indicators at specific locations was 4, improvements were actually made at 12 locations and an additional 5 on trans-boundary rivers. Significant progress was made in strengthening the national policy and institutional framework for integrated water management, as water use permitting guidance was developed. This guidance is one of the most important regulatory mechanisms of the Water Code, as it provides for an open and transparent permitting process. Finally, water quality monitoring equipment upgrades were completed at the Central Laboratory and at the Yerevan, Artashat, Sevan and Vanadzor Hydromet Regional Centers, reestablishing their ability to monitor 27 key quality parameters. Successful completion of this program will lead to improved governance and resource management in the water and energy sectors, increased transparency and enhanced commercial operations in the sectors, and improved energy security.

Continued progress in this objective will support Armenia's economic growth by promoting integrated and sustainable management of a key, scarce natural resource and help to address fundamental causes of the severe ecological impacts of historically weak water management.