

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Armenia
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	111-0210
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$7,425,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$2,829,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$6,900,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1999
Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: USAID's program to achieve more transparent, accountable, and democratic governance includes training and technical assistance to: enhance citizen participation; strengthen civil society, non-governmental organizations, non-state media, local governments, and legislature; and promote rule of law and anti-corruption efforts.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Increasing Civic Participation (\$2,432,000 FSA, \$1,503,560 FSA carryover). To increase activism among civil society, USAID will provide technical assistance and training to strengthen non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and will award grants to a selected group of NGOs. USAID will continue supporting discussion groups, initiative groups, civic action groups, and town hall meetings that bring together citizens and government officials to solve community problems. An increased focus on youth will become an integral part of USAID's democracy program. USAID will also support anti-corruption activities initiated by local NGOs. These initiatives will include raising awareness, campaigning, advocating for policy change, and increasing accountability for corrupt practices. The new and follow-on programs will support NGO strengthening as well as initiatives targeted to community and youth involvement proposed by civil society actors. Principal contractors: World Learning (Prime), International Foundation for Election Systems (Prime), National Democratic Institute (Prime), and Junior Achievement International (Prime).

Strengthening Non-State Media (\$2,040,000 FSA). Enhancing the professionalism and financial viability of Armenia's independent media outlets will continue to be a program priority in FY 2004. USAID will support training for journalists, editors, and managers in areas such as business management, fact-based journalism, and investigative journalism. USAID will support technical assistance for reforms to create a more enabling legal framework for the media sector. Assistance to electronic media will continue to focus on TV stations that demonstrate potential to operate independently. New and follow-on programs will enable non-state media outlets to strengthen their ability to operate as businesses. Principal contractor: InterNews (Prime).

Governance (\$2,953,000 FSA, \$1,325,182 FSA carryover). USAID programs will provide technical assistance to strengthen selected governance institutions including the National Assembly (NA), local governments, and the legal sector. USAID support for strengthening local governments will continue with an emphasis on strengthening local government capacity, increasing responsiveness to and interaction with citizens, and supporting local economic development. The follow-on Legislative Strengthening program will provide technical assistance to increase the representational and oversight role of the NA. USAID will continue to strengthen the organizational capacity of the lawyers' association and support law school reform. Given poor progress with the judiciary, USAID will limit work with the judiciary to monitoring the sector and encouraging reform while shifting support to improve legal education. If the GOAM and the judges clearly indicate their commitment to establishing the judiciary as an independent branch of government, the Mission will selectively restart programs with the judiciary. Principal contractors: Urban Institute (Prime), Development Associates, Inc. (Prime), American Bar

Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (Prime), and Development Alternatives, Inc. (Sub).

FY 2005 Program:

Increasing Civic Participation and Promoting Non-State Media Sustainability (\$4,122,000 FSA). USAID will continue this activity through a broad program of assistance to the NGO sector and direct technical assistance to independent media. USAID will foster citizen participation at the grassroots level by strengthening advocacy NGOs through grants as well as tailored technical assistance. USAID's technical assistance will strengthen non-state media by heightening business acumen, consolidating an over-saturated market, and improving objective reporting. USAID will work to encourage civic activism among youth. USAID will support public awareness campaigns involving NGOs, media, and the private sector that address corruption and the shared responsibility in combating it. Principal contractor/grantee: to be determined.

Governance (\$2,778,000 FSA). USAID plans to continue efforts to support targeted governance institutions including local governments, the National Assembly, lawyers associations and law schools. USAID will further support the development of professional and organizational capacities of lawyers' associations and assist in legal education reform in selected law schools. Assistance to the judiciary will be linked to judges' performance in promoting judicial independence. USAID will provide support for local governments to improve fiscal and administrative management systems and develop local economies. In addition to helping the NA to further its research and analytical capacity, USAID will focus on strengthening the NA's representational and oversight role. Principal contractors/grantees: Urban Institute (Prime), ABA/CEELI (Prime), and others to be determined.

Performance and Results: USAID's democracy and governance program contributed to successes both within civil society and government by strengthening the legislature's institutional capacities; improving fiscal and administrative management in nine municipal governments; strengthening organizational and reporting capacities in broadcast and print media; and promoting civil society through support for a broad array of non-governmental organizations and enhancing their abilities to advocate for change.

USAID activities succeeded in enhancing citizens' understanding of their rights and responsibilities by engaging 12,000 citizens in over 1,346 dialogue and action groups on issues of concern to citizens including the legal system, community needs, human rights, tax legislation, engaging local government officials. Members of Voter List Advisory Committees (VLACs) made a total of 47,462 changes to voter lists in 49 communities prior to the elections. A two-year effort by three NGOs, working with MP's and international experts, resulted in the passage of a Freedom of Information Act. Public hearings on the budget were conducted in six cities. Capital improvement projects were implemented in six pilot cities. The resource center at the Pedagogical Institute in Gyumri became sustainable and continues to offer services to journalists and students of journalism in the region. Citizen awareness of local government increased by 17% over last year while satisfaction with city officials and service delivery increased by 21%. Training and consultations for the Control Chamber resulted in procedures for an improved budget oversight process and implementation of the new Law on the Budget System. The newly developed website on the NA increased access to information about it. The first legal clinic was established to train advocates on how to apply to the European Court of Human Rights. The percentage of cases sent back by the Court of Cassation was reduced from 70% in 2002 to 30% in 2003.

Completion of this strategic objective will lead to improved democratic governance through expanded civic participation and strengthened governance institutions.