

Data Sheet

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| USAID Mission: | Bangladesh |
| Program Title: | Democracy and Governance |
| Pillar: | Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance |
| Strategic Objective: | 388-009 |
| Proposed FY 2004 Obligation: | \$250,000 CSH; \$3,750,000 DA; \$500,000 ESF |
| Prior Year Unobligated: | \$0 |
| Proposed FY 2005 Obligation: | \$300,000 CSH; \$4,300,000 DA; \$500,000 ESF |
| Year of Initial Obligation: | FY 2000 |
| Year of Final Obligation: | FY 2007 |

Summary: USAID's democracy and governance program promotes awareness, responsibility and advocacy for transparent local governance, anti-corruption, political party responsiveness to citizen priorities, and protection of human rights. Grants under this program to local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) support the development of a network of elected local bodies, and help to reduce child labor, violence against women and trafficking in persons. Additional funding supports research, technical assistance and training to build local council and municipal associations, protect workers rights, reform political processes, develop an anti-corruption strategy with the government, and improve investigative reporting.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Create an active constituency for strong elected local government (\$1,550,000 DA). USAID technical assistance and training, as well as subgrants to 14 local NGOs, will provide the knowledge and resources necessary to build awareness of the value of elected local governments at all levels, provide models, and increase citizen participation. It will support the establishment and strengthening of associations and networks of elected local councils and municipalities, and provide training and grants to local NGOs for public opinion polling, research and advocacy. The program will also train elected officials to work with communities to increase tax collection efficiency to raise the resources necessary to improve local services. Principal contractor and grantee: Associates in Rural Development (prime), RUPANTAR (prime) and 14 Bangladeshi NGOs (subs).

Foster greater responsiveness of political parties to citizens' priorities (\$1,000,000 DA, \$500,000 ESF). USAID will provide technical assistance to political parties and the Parliament to reduce destructive conflict and improve the parties' ability to negotiate, improve the committee system and increase the responsiveness of political parties, the Parliament and politicians to citizens' input and concerns. A democracy assessment, informed by a recent survey on knowledge, attitudes and practices of democracy, will be conducted as a basis for further program refinement in preparation for the 2006 general elections. Principal grantees: the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute.

Increase recognition of women's and children's rights as human rights (\$1,200,000 DA, \$250,000 CSH). Training, technical assistance, and subgrants to ten local NGOs will increase human rights awareness, document abuses by law enforcement agencies, continue alternative dispute resolution programs in 120 villages and promote effective advocacy for change. Anticorruption work will continue, though reoriented to help the government to develop an anticorruption strategy, timetable and short-term measures to achieve results and build public confidence. Training in investigative reporting will complement this work, as well as improve basic reporting skills. Anti-trafficking initiatives will include technical assistance, training and grants for awareness campaigns, support for the rescue and recovery of victims, including child victims with resulting physical disabilities and psychological trauma, and legal assistance to promote the prosecution and conviction of traffickers. Schools for former child laborers and the children of

garment workers will receive continued support, as will the highly successful Working Women's Education Center. Principal grantees and agencies: Academy for Educational Development (prime), the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (prime), International Organization for Migration (IOM) (prime), International Labor Organization (prime), and eight Bangladeshi NGOs (subs).

FY 2005 Program:

Create an active constituency for strong elected local government (\$1,400,000 DA). USAID plans to provide technical assistance and training to continue national debate on decentralization and to initiate national and regional events to create and strengthen a broader network of local council and municipal associations to move decentralization forward. Same implementers as above.

Foster greater responsiveness of political parties to citizens' priorities (\$800,000 DA, \$500,000 ESF). Efforts to reform and strengthen political parties will continue, with an added focus on leveling the playing field for the 2006 elections. Same implementers as above, with a new implementer to be determined.

Increase recognition of women's and children's rights as human rights (\$2,100,000 DA, 300,000 CSH). Activities to combat domestic violence; internal and external human trafficking, including child victims with resulting physical disabilities and psychological trauma; child labor and other human rights abuses and to support labor development will continue. Anti-corruption initiatives and investigative journalism training are planned. Same implementers as above, with a new subgrantee to be determined.

Performance and Results: In 2003, USAID's democracy activities achieved significant results in three program areas: anti-trafficking, anticorruption and local governance. In anti-trafficking, one USAID-supported NGO helped to return 52 women, children and men from internal (24) and external trafficking (28). This NGO also helped the police to arrest 76 suspected traffickers and convict 15. Over the past four years, the total number of convictions achieved with USAID support is 49, starting from zero in 2000. The USAID-funded anti-trafficking network expanded its nationwide communications campaign and held the first-ever anti-trafficking film festival, while the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, IOM and USAID launched a month-long road march across 18 districts, which brought the anti-trafficking campaign directly to an estimated 50,000 people. This successful technique was later adopted for a nationwide HIV/AIDS campaign. USAID's anti-trafficking program also provided orientations for 250 imams, many of whom are now speaking out against this crime following Friday prayers. In anticorruption, USAID completed and handed off its highly successful project with Transparency International to a consortium of donors for a \$6 million expanded effort. USAID assistance has been reoriented to build government support for development of an anticorruption strategy and other short-term measures to build confidence and achieve tangible results. In local governance, USAID's partners involved 1,000 local elected officials and 107 civil society organizations in debates on decentralization, created five district networks of local councils, representing 300 councils and five million people, and established the Municipal Association of Bangladesh, which achieved membership in the Netherlands-based International Union of Local Authorities. Citizens' Forums to represent constituencies' interests to local governments were established in 23 localities in Khulna and Bagerhat and tax collection there increased by 10% over one year as a direct result.

By program completion, Bangladeshis will be more aware and active in support of human rights, especially women's and children's rights, with reduced trafficking in persons and child labor as a result. Citizens' demand for and the government's ability to deliver transparent governance will be enhanced, and corruption will be reduced. Civil society will advocate more effectively for reforms to local and national governance to accommodate decentralization. Elected leaders and political parties will be more efficient and responsive to citizens.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

| 388-009 Democracy and Governance | CSH | DA | ESF |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Through September 30, 2002 | | | |
| Obligations | 1,500 | 9,360 | 2,580 |
| Expenditures | 1,118 | 3,528 | 2,347 |
| Unliquidated | 382 | 5,832 | 233 |
| Fiscal Year 2003 | | | |
| Obligations | 0 | 5,500 | 0 |
| Expenditures | 325 | 1,965 | 0 |
| Through September 30, 2003 | | | |
| Obligations | 1,500 | 14,860 | 2,580 |
| Expenditures | 1,443 | 5,493 | 2,347 |
| Unliquidated | 57 | 9,367 | 233 |
| Prior Year Unobligated Funds | | | |
| Obligations | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA | | | |
| Obligations | 250 | 3,750 | 500 |
| Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004 | | | |
| Obligations | 250 | 3,750 | 500 |
| Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA | | | |
| Obligations | 300 | 4,300 | 500 |
| Future Obligations | 0 | 7,000 | 2,000 |
| Est. Total Cost | 2,050 | 29,910 | 5,580 |