

## Bangladesh

**The Development Challenge:** Bangladesh has progressed significantly in the past decade. It has achieved self-sufficiency in rice production, lowered infant and child mortality rates, virtually eradicated polio, increased girls' enrollment in schools; and annual GDP growth has averaged about 5% for ten years. With progress in many areas, Bangladesh is no longer the hopeless case that it seemed to be 30 years ago. Yet Bangladesh, one of the world's most densely populated and underdeveloped countries, is still considered highly corrupt, and its people remain among the most malnourished and impoverished in the world.

Nearly half of Bangladesh's 133 million people live below the national poverty level of \$1 per day. The Government of Bangladesh (GOB) has increased its investments in education, health, food security, and other social services, thus helping reduce poverty by 1% per year, and plans to reduce the incidence of poverty by 50% by 2015. However, poverty reduction on this scale will require achieving annual growth rates of at least 7%. Whereas economic reforms introduced by the GOB have been promising, further progress will require bolder structural reforms that are certain to disrupt the uneasy status quo of cronyism and patronage politics that determines social benefits and power relations. Without a firm commitment to improve governance and rule of law, the growth of the private sector and foreign investment will continue to be seriously constrained, and there will be little hope of achieving these poverty reduction goals. Bangladesh has a window of opportunity on several fronts—to keep HIV/AIDS prevalence at low levels; to continue to make needed investments in health and education; to safeguard press freedom and a vital, non-politicized civil society; to strengthen its democracy in ways that will make government more accountable and transparent; to protect its remaining natural resources; and to diversify and improve the quality of exports, including the potential export of natural gas. USAID is poised to assist Bangladesh to take advantage of this opportunity to improve the country's future prospects and raise the living standards of its people.

U.S. national interests in Bangladesh are threefold: democracy and human rights, economic prosperity, and national security. Bangladesh is one of the world's few moderate, democratic Islamic nations. If its fragile democratic institutions or growing market economy do not advance, the consequences for its neighbors and for U.S. interests could be quite serious. USAID's program of assistance in Bangladesh is particularly attuned to the priorities expressed in the joint USAID-State Department Strategic Plan 2004-09. In particular, the program for Bangladesh supports the joint objective of promoting democracy and economic freedom in the Muslim world, reducing the threat of famine, and advancing sustainable development goals. U.S. strategic interests include improving health, education, economic development, and the environment for the Bangladeshi population, and minimizing the costs of natural disasters.

**The USAID Program:** The USAID program consists of seven objectives which concentrate on reducing fertility and improving family health, increasing the growth of agribusiness and small business, improving management of open water and tropical forest resources, improving the performance of key institutions in the energy sector, improving food security for vulnerable groups, promoting democracy and governance, and improving the quality of Bangladesh's basic education system.

**Other Program Elements:** In addition to resources requested in the Program Data Sheets, USAID's food security and disaster preparedness program relies on several activities not managed in-country. University Linkages promote collaboration between U.S. universities (Virginia Tech, University of Houston) and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) to strengthen BUET's capacity to address Bangladesh's vulnerability to seismic hazards and local capabilities in energy economics and related policy issues. The Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project (ABSP II) activity focuses on the safe and effective development and commercialization of selected biotechnology crops in Bangladesh. The Program for Bio-Safety helps Bangladesh create the infrastructure, policies and capacity needed to use biotechnology safely. Climate Forecast Applications in Bangladesh (CFAB) involves a consortium of partners generating flood forecast information. The Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) Phase-2 (2003-2008) aims at improved earthquake response readiness through emergency response training, institutional strengthening, networking and coordination.

Bangladesh also participates in the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project to test concepts and measures of hunger and food security in order to develop a protocol for use in impact evaluations. The Child Survival Program (CSP) contributes to the reduction of maternal and child mortality and morbidity, and improves the health status of women and children through the development of sustainable municipal health services in two targeted areas. CSP develops the management capacity of municipality managers, improves the skills of municipal health service providers, and strengthens the municipality's community based health promotion approach. The Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors provides medical and psychiatric support to more than 100 former prisoners, who were victims of torture and underwent physical and mental trauma.

Over the past two years, USAID has been actively engaging new audiences, cultivating key relationships, and developing creative ways to expose Bangladeshis to the benefits of USAID's development activities. Our approach to outreach has been to deliberately seek out contacts with people who have the ability to influence a broad spectrum of society. We have exposed local imams (religious clerics) to the values of social and economic development, and they are now discussing such issues as human trafficking with their followers. We have taken journalists to see our development projects, which has helped to get USAID activities featured more consistently and accurately in the local press. We helped provide university law students with information about their rights under the Bangladeshi constitution, and they are now voluntarily visiting high schools to share this information. USAID has joined efforts led by the U.S. Embassy to Bangladesh to put on an annual event, "America Week," aimed at taking the message of U.S. contributions to Bangladesh to the populace in secondary cities around the country. These efforts have relied upon the creative use of existing resources, but with increased emphasis on Muslim outreach, we expect to attract additional resources to support our various outreach activities.

**Other Donors:** Donor coordination is excellent in Bangladesh, and USAID plays a leading role in several sectors, including health, private sector development, energy and democracy. The largest donors to Bangladesh are the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States and Canada. USAID coordinates with multilateral banks in agriculture, water resources, and energy. Other multilateral cooperation includes the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund for health, population, education and children's rights; the International Labor Organization for child labor issues; the World Food Programme for food security; United Nations Development Programme on environment, poverty reduction, human capacity, democracy, and disaster; and the World Health Organization on health issues.

USAID coordinates with the following bilateral donors: Japan (rural development, agriculture, health, disaster assistance); the European Commission (rural development, forestry, governance, democracy, human rights, health, food security, poverty reduction); United Kingdom (agriculture, fisheries, natural resources, rural development, disaster management, water and sanitation, energy, enterprise development, education, democracy, health); Germany (health, energy, economic reform, private sector development, education); Switzerland (education, agriculture, forestry, enterprise development, water and sanitation, rural development, transportation, humanitarian assistance); the Netherlands (health, education, energy); Australia (food security, education, environment, enterprise development, microfinance, health); Norway (education, enterprise development, energy, democracy, human rights); Canada (health, education, microfinance, governance); Denmark (water and sanitation, agriculture, transportation, poverty reduction, private sector support); and Sweden (education, health, democracy, governance, enterprise development, human rights). The United Kingdom, Canada and the Netherlands recently declared Bangladesh a priority country and have accordingly increased future commitments.

## Bangladesh PROGRAM SUMMARY

(in thousands of dollars)

Accounts	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Current	FY 2005 Request
Child Survival and Health Programs Fund	39,950	33,100	36,000	36,300
Development Assistance	21,670	21,391	18,850	19,187
Economic Support Fund	3,000	4,000	4,971	5,000
PL 480 Title II	23,974	38,577	18,238	46,000
<b>Total Program Funds</b>	<b>88,594</b>	<b>97,068</b>	<b>78,059</b>	<b>106,487</b>

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SUMMARY

388-001 Integrated Family Planning and Health				
CSH	39,950	33,100	35,000	35,700
388-005 Private Enterprise Development				
DA	4,800	6,000	4,500	4,687
ESF	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
388-006 Environment				
DA	2,900	2,700	2,500	2,500
388-007 Bilateral Energy				
DA	4,770	4,741	3,500	3,000
ESF	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000
388-008 Food Security and Disaster Management				
DA	3,700	2,600	2,100	2,500
ESF	500	1,000	971	1,000
PL 480	23,974	38,577	18,238	46,000
388-009 Democracy and Governance				
CSH	0	0	250	300
DA	5,500	4,000	3,750	4,300
ESF	0	0	500	500
388-010 Education				
CSH	0	0	750	300
DA	0	1,350	2,500	2,200
ESF	0	1,000	1,500	1,500
TRANSFER				
ESF	1,000	0	0	0

Mission Director,  
Gene George

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Bangladesh
<b>Program Title:</b>	Integrated Family Planning and Health
<b>Pillar:</b>	Global Health
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	388-001
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$35,000,000 CSH
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$35,700,000 CSH
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 1997
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2007

**Summary:** USAID's National Integrated Population and Health Program is aimed at reducing fertility and improving family health. Efforts include the following:

- Technical assistance to expand, improve and sustain a package of basic health and family planning services available from NGOs, especially to the poor;
- Technical assistance and commodity support to the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and private sector to increase national contraceptive prevalence and contraceptive security;
- Behavior change communication for high-priority health problems, including HIV/AIDS, family planning, immunization, childhood diseases, antenatal and postnatal care, and adolescent reproductive health;
- Technical assistance for polio eradication; and
- Research, monitoring and evaluation.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

NGO health services (\$7,500,000 CSH). USAID will continue to support its NGO service-delivery program. Assistance will expand the range and quality of clinical services; increase use, especially by the poor; and influence government policy to expand the role of NGOs in health service provision. USAID has been working to strengthen NGOs' capacity to cover their own operating costs and decrease support from USAID. A new activity is planned to independently evaluate the quality of services provided. Principal grantees: Pathfinder International; others TBD.

Family planning and reproductive health (\$15,800,000 CSH). In addition to expanding family planning services at NGO clinics, USAID will fund contraceptives to a non-profit Bangladeshi company (Social Marketing Company - SMC); technical assistance to the GOB to improve family planning, health logistics and promote contraceptive security; assistance to the GOB to plan and implement expanded clinical contraceptive services, including voluntary surgical contraception; and behavior change communication activities addressing adolescent reproductive health needs. All family planning assistance agreements will incorporate clauses that implement the President's directive restoring the Mexico City policy. Principal prime grantees: SMC; John Snow, Inc.; EngenderHealth; Johns Hopkins University.

HIV/AIDS (\$3,700,000 CSH). Although HIV prevalence remains low, the widespread practice of high-risk behavior, high sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates, and severe epidemics in neighboring countries are a serious threat. USAID now has an approved HIV Strategy with the following objectives: 1) work with vulnerable groups to promote behavior change, improve STI services, promote condom use, and provide voluntary counseling, testing and care for those infected with HIV; 2) enhance NGO technical capacity in prevention; 3) strengthen behavioral and sero-surveillance; 4) conduct research on new prevention approaches and strategies; and 5) address policy issues and removing obstacles to expanded prevention efforts. Principal prime grantees: Family Health International; Johns Hopkins University.

Polio eradication (\$1,000,000 CSH). USAID will help keep urban areas polio-free by funding World Health Organization (WHO) assistance to the GOB in polio surveillance. USAID will continue to fund national

immunization days and provide limited support to improve routine immunization coverage. Principal grantee: WHO.

Research, monitoring and evaluation (\$7,000,000 CSH). USAID will continue an operations research program to improve the GOB's Essential Services Package, through which USAID-supported NGOs offer child survival, maternal health, and family planning services. USAID will also fund the Demographic and Health Survey and an NGO Impact Survey. Program funded personnel are also supported from this category. Principal prime grantees: International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh; Centre for Development and Population Activities; Johns Hopkins University; and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**FY 2005 Program:**

NGO health services (\$10,550,000 CSH). USAID plans to continue funding local NGOs that provide quality essential services to more than 20 million Bangladeshis and help the NGOs move toward sustainability. USAID's NGO Service Delivery Program is a model for expanding the role of the NGO sector in providing quality healthcare, and other donors are keenly interested. Two new activities will provide targeted support to NGOs. Principal grantees: Pathfinder International; others TBD.

Family planning and reproductive health (\$15,000,000 CSH). USAID intends to continue support for the social marketing of contraceptives, technical support to GOB contraceptive procurement and for the expansion of long-term, voluntary clinical contraception. Same implementers as above.

HIV/AIDS (\$3,700,000 CSH). USAID will continue limited assistance for HIV/AIDS prevention. Support will be provided for behavior change and harm reduction among high-risk groups through peer education, STI treatment, and condom promotion, along with surveillance and research and include additional vulnerable groups. Principal grantees: TBD.

Polio eradication (\$1,000,000 CSH). USAID will continue limited support for polio activities in urban areas through WHO's assistance to the GOB. Principal grantees: WHO.

Research monitoring and evaluation (\$5,450,000 CSH). USAID will continue an operations research program to improve the content and implementation of the GOB's Essential Service Package. Program funded personnel will also continue to be supported from this category.

**Performance and Results:** USAID-supported NGOs continue to make strides on the path to sustainability. The GOB and donors look to NGOs as viable service providers to the poor. USAID-supported NGO clinics increased customer contacts by 7% this year, serving 22.9 million customers. The combined efforts of SMC and NGO clinics increased their contribution to non-surgical contraception by 16% in 2003. Efforts to promote institutional and financial sustainability led to SMC increasing total cost recovery from 43% in FY 2002 to 51% in FY 2003. USAID strengthened the GOB's clinical and surgical contraception program, tripling performance of voluntary sterilizations in 24 districts. Working against government inefficiencies and bureaucratic hurdles, USAID technical assistance in contraceptive procurement helped ensure that the national contraceptive supply will meet the country's need for the next three years. Routine immunization coverage in urban areas increased from 66% in FY 2002 to 71% in 2003, largely due to USAID efforts. USAID's investment in the development of education materials for Adolescent Reproductive Health is leveraging enthusiastic support from other donors; UNICEF support will double the size of USAID's project by funding additional media components including a T.V. series. HIV prevention activities have doubled the number of sites from last year and have begun working with additional high-risk groups. The first-ever condom campaign for HIV prevention was successfully launched with GOB approval. By program completion, a network of strong NGOs will provide an essential-services package in health and family planning. USAID support will move from service provision to technical assistance; the National Family Planning program will provide a wider range of contraceptive options, helping to restart a decline in the fertility rate; Bangladesh will remain polio free; and HIV/AIDS prevalence will continue to be under 1% in the general population.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

	CSH	DA
388-001 Integrated Family Planning and Health		
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>		
Obligations	94,210	78,137
Expenditures	57,737	72,028
Unliquidated	36,473	6,109
<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>		
Obligations	24,022	0
Expenditures	22,862	3,098
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>		
Obligations	118,232	78,137
Expenditures	80,599	75,126
Unliquidated	37,633	3,011
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>		
Obligations	35,000	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004</b>		
Obligations	35,000	0
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>		
Obligations	35,700	0
Future Obligations	35,000	0
Est. Total Cost	223,932	78,137

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Bangladesh
<b>Program Title:</b>	Private Enterprise Development
<b>Pillar:</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	388-005
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$4,500,000 DA; \$1,000,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$4,687,000 DA; \$1,000,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2000
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2007

**Summary:** USAID's program for enterprise development includes technical assistance and training to promote and develop more market-oriented policies, laws and regulations; to strengthen key business support organizations; and to improve productivity and competitiveness of enterprises in targeted sectors. Direct beneficiaries include rural households, micro, small and medium-sized private firms, agribusiness, and private providers of business support services.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Agribusiness (\$2,060,000 DA). USAID will continue its agribusiness development project, which promotes competitiveness of private agribusiness in four targeted sub-sectors--fisheries, horticulture, poultry, and grains--by improving productivity, market access, and product quality. Assistance will also target key policy and institutional issues that constrain growth in the agribusiness sector. The project will continue to develop a high-impact, industry-managed Seal of Quality program. The program is designed to improve the competitiveness of the shrimp industry, Bangladesh's second largest import, in world markets by assuring buyers that products marked with the seal meet the highest sanitary, environmental and labor standards. USAID will also support efforts to increase the supply of properly trained professionals who are critically needed to manage private agribusiness, thus strengthening agribusiness management capacity. USAID will also fund the development of a market information system that will help agribusiness clients make more informed business decisions. Principal contractors: Louis Berger Group (Prime); Cargill Technical Services (Sub); Land O' Lakes (Sub).

Small business and microenterprise (\$2,440,000 DA, \$1,000,000 ESF). USAID will continue to extend proven low-cost technologies to help rural households improve their productivity, income, and nutrition through pond aquaculture. Under a new competitive export development project, USAID will develop promising market linkages and needed policy and institutional support initiatives to stimulate business growth and employment within targeted sectors. USAID will further refine and develop its activities in support of the information and communications technology (ICT) sector, with a focus on ICT-related human capacity development, e-governance and policy reform. USAID will continue to support bank supervision assistance to the Central Bank provided by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Through the Global Trade and Technology Network, USAID will continue to encourage local firms to establish business relationships with potential trade and investment partners in the United States and other countries. Principal prime contractors and grantees: University of Maryland's Center for Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector; WorldFish Center.

#### FY 2005 Program:

Agribusiness (\$2,747,000 DA). USAID plans to continue support for its ongoing agribusiness project focusing on four targeted sub-sectors. During the final year of this project, USAID will assess the lessons learned and evaluate future needs to develop Bangladesh's agribusiness sector. A new agribusiness project will be developed on the basis of this assessment.

Small business and microenterprise (\$1,940,000 DA, \$1,000,000 ESF). USAID plans to continue support for competitive export development. The effort will be concentrated on facilitating the provision of business development services to enterprises within targeted sectors, with accompanying policy and institutional support as appropriate. USAID also plans to extend existing loan portfolio guarantee programs and possibly develop new initiatives with private commercial banks in response to promising opportunities. With ESF funding, USAID will continue and possibly expand human resources development and other initiatives in the ICT sector, and will continue support for the U.S. Treasury's assistance to reform the Central Bank. USAID also plans to create a workforce development program to help meet projected demands for skilled workers in emerging export sectors.

**Performance and Results:** The focus on small business and agribusiness development within targeted subsectors remains central to Bangladesh's efforts to stimulate and diversify economic growth. Total annual sales for enterprises supported by USAID programs reached an estimated \$65.35 million in 2003, exceeding the target value of \$55 million. Domestic sales accounted for \$50.27 million of the year's total, with exports at \$15.08 million. USAID has a strong reputation as a leading donor providing assistance to agribusiness enterprises resulting in notable successes in domestic sales of poultry and grains. The Seal of Quality program for the shrimp industry received the Prime Minister's endorsement and formed partnerships with important international and regional aquaculture institutions. USAID support helped to launch an Agribusiness MBA program that will develop necessary skills and leadership in the agribusiness sector. USAID's small business development project expanded sales in targeted sectors, including several promising new sectors, by identifying potential export markets for non-traditional items. The pond aquaculture project continued to extend economic benefits to tens of thousands of farm households and to demonstrate simple technologies that are already proving to be sustainable through spontaneous replication in rural Bangladesh.

USAID continued to promote economic growth by addressing key policy and institutional issues, and significant progress was made in two policy initiatives. Secured Transactions and Information Technology laws are now under active consideration by the relevant government ministries. In the ICT sector, one USAID project expanded a program that develops quality human resources in computer networking now provides trainees with opportunities for international certification. Initiatives were also undertaken to help local IT firms develop their marketing skills, to enhance the capacity of Bangladeshi IT associations, and to promote the products and services of IT companies in international marketplaces.

By program completion, Bangladesh agribusinesses and small businesses will have significantly increased opportunities to expand their enterprises and their penetration of both domestic and international markets with a diversified range of products. A suitable enabling environment for the development and expansion of the ICT sector will have been created, and opportunities will be made available to meet the growing demands for ICT-related products and services.



## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

388-005 Private Enterprise Development	CSH	DA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>			
Obligations	525	38,489	0
Expenditures	525	31,572	0
Unliquidated	0	6,917	0
<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>			
Obligations	0	4,143	2,135
Expenditures	0	5,882	0
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>			
Obligations	525	42,632	2,135
Expenditures	525	37,454	0
Unliquidated	0	5,178	2,135
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>			
Obligations	0	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>			
Obligations	0	4,500	1,000
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004</b>			
Obligations	0	4,500	1,000
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>			
Obligations	0	4,687	1,000
Future Obligations	0	7,037	2,500
Est. Total Cost	525	58,856	6,635

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Bangladesh
<b>Program Title:</b>	Environment
<b>Pillar:</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	388-006
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$2,500,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$2,500,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2001
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2007

**Summary:** USAID's program to improve the management of open water and tropical forest resources includes technical assistance and training to do the following:

- Establish community-based resource management systems;
- Restore selected aquatic and tropical forest habitats and ecosystems;
- Heighten awareness among stakeholders, local governments and national level policy-makers regarding the need to manage natural resources sustainably; and
- Improve public sector and NGO natural resource management capacity.

Direct beneficiaries include target communities of poor fisher-people and forest resource users whose lives depend upon open water and forest resources. Indirect beneficiaries include surrounding communities where up to 80% of the families are partially dependent on these resources.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Open water resources (\$1,000,000 DA). USAID will fund a second phase of an initiative to manage aquatic ecosystems through community husbandry. Building on the success of the first phase, USAID will fully develop community-based resource management organizations and related institutions and will work to ensure their sustainability. Wetlands rehabilitation will intensify, so the impact of a healthy ecosystem on biodiversity and productivity can be fully assessed. The second phase of the aquatic ecosystems initiative will expand outreach and public education efforts. Prime grantee: Winrock International; three subgrantees.

Tropical forest resources (\$1,000,000 DA). USAID will support a newly initiated project to improve the management of Bangladesh's tropical forest resources and protect the country's remaining natural tropical forest areas. USAID will use a co-management approach that it successfully piloted with open water resources. The new project will help establish links between the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems while building local capacity in tropical forest resources management. It will complement USAID's other environmental activities, consolidating lessons learned in community-based resource management, and stimulating the development of a protected area management system in Bangladesh. Prime contractor: International Resources Group; four subgrantees; seven resource organizations.

Natural resources policy (\$500,000 DA). To help institutionalize the community-based co-management approach, USAID is planning to initiate a natural resources policy project. The groundwork to commission an assessment of the implementation of the Government of Bangladesh's (GOB) natural resources-related policies has been completed. The assessment will help USAID define the best probable niche for future policy work in the natural resources management arena. Principal grantee: TBD.

**FY 2005 Program:**

Open water resources (\$700,000 DA). USAID intends to continue funding for the aquatic ecosystems project to support community-based resource management organizations, related institutions and beneficiary groups. USAID will work to ensure their sustainability as well as expand wetlands rehabilitation. Support for expanded outreach and public education will further develop the constituency for co-management of natural resources. USAID plans to expand support for the use of the co-management approach by the GOB and by others involved in environmental protection activities.

Tropical forest resources (\$1,100,000 DA). The project will develop a co-management planning and implementation model for selected protected areas (national park, wildlife sanctuary and game reserve), improve ecosystems management, encourage the development of a constructive policy environment for co-management, and create a conservation constituency in Bangladesh.

Natural resources policy (\$700,000 DA). USAID will continue addressing natural resources policy issues in order to institutionalize the co-management approach.

**Performance and Results:** USAID's aquatic ecosystem activities preserve biodiversity and open water ecosystems that benefit a population of more than 500,000 through increased fish production and improved nutrition and incomes. 18,866 of floodplain area are now being sustainably managed - a dramatic improvement from four years ago, when no floodplain areas were managed sustainably. 66 community-managed fish sanctuaries have been established, including 8 in important waterbodies that the GOB has now designated as permanent sanctuaries. In addition, 333,000 native trees have been planted at three project sites to help restore wetland and riparian ecosystems. 225 community credit groups with 4,598 members (about one-third of them women-led) have been created to help make up for lost income due to restricted fishing and other resource-use practices through alternate income generation program. Through these groups, more than four thousand individuals have received credit and technical assistance. To stimulate policy support for natural resource conservation, USAID cooperated with a multi-donor review of the fisheries sector and helped pioneer the development of the National Wetlands Network, an influential association of activists and organizations that helps inform policymakers about wetland conservation issues. In a major breakthrough, for the first time in Bangladesh, public wetlands normally leased and exploited by elites have been turned over to the community in perpetuity to be managed through community efforts as permanent fish sanctuaries. This precedent-setting action is the first step in the establishment of a national sanctuary system and will contribute to USAID's overall goal of co-management of common pool natural resources for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources. The newly initiated Tropical Forestry program has developed a realistic work-plan and conducted important socioeconomic, biological and physical appraisals in four protected areas. The project team is working with government officials to assess issues and opportunities that would improve management of the country's Protected Areas System. In addition, the idea of creating a "Protected Area Management Program" within the Forest Department has met with a positive response. The Arannayk Foundation was successfully established as a not-for-profit company as a result of USAID's efforts.

By the time the environment program is completed, USAID anticipates that wetland and tropical forestry co-management systems will be incorporated into local planning processes throughout Bangladesh; a large constituency for wetlands and tropical forest conservation will be established; and there will be widespread support for both the wetland and tropical forestry conservation and the co-management approach among influential policy makers in Bangladesh.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

	CSH	DA
388-006 Environment		
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>		
Obligations	2,275	4,773
Expenditures	2,275	2,487
Unliquidated	0	2,286
<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>		
Obligations	0	2,370
Expenditures	0	1,577
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>		
Obligations	2,275	7,143
Expenditures	2,275	4,064
Unliquidated	0	3,079
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	2,500
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004</b>		
Obligations	0	2,500
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	2,500
Future Obligations	0	2,700
Est. Total Cost	2,275	14,843

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Bangladesh
<b>Program Title:</b>	Bilateral Energy
<b>Pillar:</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	388-007
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$3,500,000 DA; \$1,000,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$3,000,000 DA; \$1,000,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 1996
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2007

**Summary:** USAID's program to improve the performance of key institutions in the energy sector includes technical support, training and other assistance to do the following:

- Increase institutional capacity through reforms in the gas and power sector;
- Create an improved enabling environment to help attract foreign investment; and
- Improve rural power sector performance to help alleviate poverty in rural areas.

Assistance to reform the energy sector addresses both power and gas and emphasizes policy change and regulatory reform.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Policy (\$500,000 DA, \$750,000 ESF). USAID will continue to provide technical assistance and training to restructure and reform the state-dominated power and natural gas sector. USAID assistance also will:

- Encourage continued "unbundling" and separation of policy, regulatory and commercial functions;
- Promote improved performance of distribution companies; and
- Assist the Government in anticipating and addressing the social impacts of market reforms.

Assistance to build financial, management and operational capabilities will be extended to promote other energy sector reforms instituted by the Government of Bangladesh (GOB), for example, power sector distribution and power and gas transmission. Support for a partnership between the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to improve the institutional capacity of PGCB will continue. New partnerships for other key energy institutions--including the new Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission--will be developed based upon opportunities and prospects for success. The program will place particular emphasis on supporting and making fully operational an effective and independent regulatory body through tailored training and technical assistance. A recently established academic partnership between the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and the University of Houston (UH) through USAID's "Institutional Partnerships Program" will strengthen local capabilities in energy economics and related policy issues. Principal contractors and grantees: National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; UH; BPA; others TBD.

Energy (\$1,000,000 DA, \$250,000 ESF). USAID will help introduce the new regulatory development model, develop a tariff methodology to reflect the cost of supply, and provide other focused assistance to the energy sector, both gas and power. If the GOB decides to allow gas exports, USAID will provide technical assistance and training to the Bangladesh energy sector to address the many financial, technical and policy issues that are likely to accompany the large-scale export of gas. Principal contractors and grantees: TBD.

Rural power (\$2,000,000 DA). USAID's Rural Power for Poverty Reduction Program (RPPR-II) will provide training and technical assistance to consolidate the successes of the earlier programs that brought electricity to remote areas through rural power distribution cooperatives. The program also will further strengthen the management and technical capabilities of the Rural Electrification Board (REB) and its constituent rural electric cooperatives. The program focuses on ensuring the sustainability of USAID's long-standing effort in this sector while cultivating promising opportunities for other donor support to allow for a more coordinated overall technical assistance effort. Principal contractors and grantees: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

**FY 2005 Program:**

Policy (\$500,000 DA, \$500,000 ESF). USAID plans to continue its assistance for gas and power sector reform, strengthening the regulatory regime and other capacity building efforts. USAID also will provide assistance to GOB and energy sector entities to improve the enabling environment for attracting greater private investment in the energy sector. Principal grantees and contractors: TBD.

Energy (\$500,000 DA, \$500,000 ESF). USAID will provide assistance to create new human and institutional capacity within the most reform-oriented energy sector entities, such as Gas Transmission Co. Ltd., PGCB, Dhaka Electric Supply Company, etc., which are key institutions in implementing true sector "unbundling" and regulatory reform. Existing partnerships for technical assistance and training in the energy sector will continue to facilitate and further encourage the reform and restructuring process. The academic partnership established under the "University Linkages" program is expected to continue. Principal grantees and contractors: U.S. Energy Association and others TBD.

Rural power (\$2,000,000 DA). The RPPR-II project will continue to focus on strengthening institutional management and promoting efficient systems operation to ensure the sustainability of this long-standing effort. Principal contractor: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

**Performance and Results:** In FY 2003, power sector unbundling exceeded expectations, with 3,337 kilometers of transmission lines transferred to the newly established PGCB against a target of 3,000 kilometers. Assistance in rural electrification has further strengthened the capacity of the REB and the rural power co-operatives. The number of electric connections in rural areas continues to increase significantly. The total number of legal power connections grew from 6.31 million in FY 2002 to 7.20 million in FY 2003. A crucial move towards sector reform took place in March 2003, with passage by Parliament of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Act. USAID has assumed the lead role among donors in assisting the GOB to establish and make operational the regulatory commission, with assistance aimed at making it a truly independent entity to curb corruption in the sector.

By the time the energy program is completed, USAID anticipates that an independent regulatory body for the gas and power sectors will be established and functioning effectively, the private sector will play a significant role in power generation with at least sector transmission and distribution "corporatized," and the rural electrification program will be effective and largely self-sustaining.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

388-007 Bilateral Energy	DA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>		
Obligations	34,150	1,599
Expenditures	27,441	99
Unliquidated	6,709	1,500
<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>		
Obligations	4,250	0
Expenditures	4,001	356
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>		
Obligations	38,400	1,599
Expenditures	31,442	455
Unliquidated	6,958	1,144
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>		
Obligations	3,500	1,000
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004</b>		
Obligations	3,500	1,000
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>		
Obligations	3,000	1,000
Future Obligations	4,200	2,500
Est. Total Cost	49,100	6,099

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Bangladesh
<b>Program Title:</b>	Food Security and Disaster Management
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	388-008
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$2,100,000 DA; \$971,000 ESF; \$18,238,000 PL 480
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$2,500,000 DA; \$1,000,000 ESF; \$46,000,000 PL 480
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2000
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2007

**Summary:** USAID's program to improve food security for vulnerable groups and to mitigate effects of disaster, funded by DA, ESF and P.L. 480 Title II resources, includes the following:

- Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve food security policy;
- Technical assistance, training and construction of environmentally-sound infrastructure, primarily in rural areas;
- Training and technical assistance to improve disaster preparedness and mitigation measures at the community level; and
- Technical assistance and outreach to diversify agricultural production.

Beneficiaries include the rural and urban poor, with emphasis on the rural poor, especially vulnerable children and women.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Environmentally-sound community infrastructure (\$160,000 DA). DA funds complemented by Title II resources will support community infrastructure improvements, including low cost, hard surface, farm-to-market roads; earthen village roads; safe drinking water and sanitation facilities; school rehabilitation; flood proofing activities (raising homesteads, building multi-purpose community flood shelters, and developing social/community places and marketplaces); local government building construction; and urban slum rehabilitation (improvement of drainage, footpaths, community latrines and bathing facilities). Grantees: CARE; World Vision.

Disaster management (\$240,000 DA). DA funds complemented by Title II resources will support disaster management activities to strengthen community-level disaster preparedness and response/mitigation mechanisms. This activity also includes USAID/OFDA-supported climate forecasting, urban disaster mitigation, and enhancement of emergency response efforts. Grantees: CARE; World Vision.

Agriculture diversification (\$900,000 DA). Agricultural diversification will help reduce vulnerability to major crop failure and contribute to more sustainable use of land and water resources. Agricultural diversification efforts will emphasize outreach efforts in wheat and maize production, as well as papaya research focusing on biotechnological approaches to disease problems. Activities will include training farm families in improved technologies and promoting appropriate mechanization. USAID's agricultural diversification strategy is also supported by P.L. 480 Title II resources, and monetization proceeds will be used to help small and marginal farm families increase their food production (fish, poultry, and home gardening) and cash incomes through training and technology transfer. Grantees: International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (prime), World Vision (Title II prime) and Cornell University (sub).

Food security (\$800,000 DA, \$971,000 ESF). USAID will provide technical assistance to support the GOB's efforts to identify and implement more appropriate access-to-food and nutrition-focused policies and programs. The program will include research and analysis for improving access to food and the nutrition status of the poor and vulnerable, combined with institutional capacity building. The technical



assistance will, among other things, encourage the GOB to adopt measures to assist the neediest. In addition, USAID will fund activities to monitor and manage food security program performance. USAID will continue to support impact studies of arsenic contamination, including plant health and agricultural sustainability, food chain uptake and food safety issues with both ESF and DA resources. ESF resources will fund work by the U.S. Geological Survey on the feasibility of tapping deep aquifers underlying most of Bangladesh for arsenic free water and the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) for work on the epidemiology of arsenic. ESF will also support biotechnology research through the Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project, and the Program for Bio-safety Systems. Grantees: Food and Agriculture Organization (prime), The Asia Foundation (prime), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (prime), Cornell University (prime), Texas A&M University (sub), USGS, International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR), and ICDDR,B.

**FY 2005 Program:**

Environmentally-sound community infrastructure (\$400,000 DA). DA funds, complemented by Title II resources, are expected to support community infrastructure improvements, including earthen village roads, water and sanitation, school rehabilitation, homestead raising, building of multi-purpose community flood shelters, social/community places development, and other activities to improve the social and physical environment in vulnerable communities.

Disaster management (\$300,000 DA). With DA and Title II resources, USAID plans to continue building local capacity, systems and infrastructure to mitigate and respond to natural disasters. Emphasis will be placed upon the sustainability of the disaster contingency plans and seismic hazard awareness in urban areas.

Agricultural diversification (\$900,000 DA). USAID plans to continue support for research and community extension activities to promote agricultural diversification.

Food Security (\$900,000 DA). Technical assistance to improve access-to-food and nutrition-focused food security policies is expected to continue as well as support for food security program performance monitoring and management.

Food Security (\$1,000,000 ESF). These funds would be used to provide support to the ongoing centrally-funded Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project and Program for Biosafety activities and, prospectively, new support to arsenic and seismic hazard and/or flood mitigation activities.

**Performance and Results:** In 2003, USAID infrastructure projects constructed 327 kilometers of low-cost hard surface farm-to-market roads and rehabilitated 220 kilometers of earthen village roads, generating 3.7 million person-days of seasonal employment and stimulating new job creation and improved access to markets and services. In addition 267,216 people gained access to hygienic sanitation facilities, and 94,294 people gained access to safe drinking water as a result. Contingency plans now ensure that over 25 million vulnerable people in the 277 most disaster prone areas have access to emergency relief supplies within 72 hours of a disaster. With only moderate floods during FY 2003, no external assistance was sought due to the increased flood-management capacity of the local communities, which is largely attributable to USAID assistance. The flood-proofing program benefited 221,800 people in 596 villages, thereby reducing property damage and helping them improve food security. In 2003, USAID assistance helped to increase wheat production by 44%, and maize production by 47% in target areas.

USAID expects to consolidate the improvements made in rural community infrastructure and the promotion of agricultural diversification. By the end of this objective, local villagers and poor women will continue to benefit from participation in humanitarian and development activities at the community level, while USAID's NGO partners will ensure local capacity in disaster mitigation and relief management, so suffering and loss are minimized.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

388-008 Food Security and Disaster Management	CSH	DA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>			
Obligations	1,200	19,850	1,500
Expenditures	1,200	14,958	0
Unliquidated	0	4,892	1,500
<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>			
Obligations	0	2,600	350
Expenditures	-129	2,331	324
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>			
Obligations	1,200	22,450	1,850
Expenditures	1,071	17,289	324
Unliquidated	129	5,161	1,526
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>			
Obligations	0	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>			
Obligations	0	2,100	971
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004</b>			
Obligations	0	2,100	971
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>			
Obligations	0	2,500	1,000
Future Obligations	0	3,500	0
Est. Total Cost	1,200	30,550	3,821

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Bangladesh
<b>Program Title:</b>	Democracy and Governance
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	388-009
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$250,000 CSH; \$3,750,000 DA; \$500,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$300,000 CSH; \$4,300,000 DA; \$500,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2000
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	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
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>			
Obligations	1,500	9,360	2,580
Expenditures	1,118	3,528	2,347
Unliquidated	382	5,832	233
<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>			
Obligations	0	5,500	0
Expenditures	325	1,965	0
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>			
Obligations	1,500	14,860	2,580
Expenditures	1,443	5,493	2,347
Unliquidated	57	9,367	233
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>			
Obligations	0	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>			
Obligations	250	3,750	500
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004</b>			
Obligations	250	3,750	500
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>			
Obligations	300	4,300	500
Future Obligations	0	7,000	2,000
Est. Total Cost	2,050	29,910	5,580

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Bangladesh
<b>Program Title:</b>	Education
<b>Pillar:</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	388-010
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$750,000 CSH; \$2,500,000 DA; \$1,500,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$300,000 CSH; \$2,200,000 DA; \$1,500,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2003
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2007

**Summary:** The USAID basic education objective in Bangladesh seeks to improve performance at the early childhood and primary education levels by increasing early learning opportunities, primarily through a new Sesame Street Bangladesh co-production focused on literacy, numeracy and critical thinking skills; by developing and disseminating innovative materials that make learning fun and productive; and by fostering system change through the strengthening of champions and reformers within and outside the educational system.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Increase early learning opportunities (\$250,000 CSH, \$900,000 ESF). USAID support to three grantees and their partners will continue for the second and final year, based on funding provided in the previous year. The activity will increase school readiness, improve reading and math skills and expand primary school access in targeted areas of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Sylhet and Dhaka. By working with school management committees and establishing parent teacher associations, the program will also mobilize parent and community support for quality learning, as well as reduce corrupt and unethical practices at the schools. An evaluation of the three projects will be conducted upon their completion. USAID's major new initiative, Sesame Street Bangladesh, will complete the design phase and begin development of a national half-hour television program in Bangla. This new program will target an audience of six to nine million preschoolers, including disabled children, and will improve literacy, numeracy and critical thinking skills and prepare children for success in school. Principal grantees: Sesame Workshop, CARE, SAVE the Children, and Plan International.

Develop and promote use of innovative learning tools by children and teachers (\$1,800,000 DA, \$500,000 CSH, \$600,000 ESF). Training, technical assistance, and subgrants to NGOs will promote innovation in the formal and non-formal education system. USAID will fund activities that inspire and prepare children and teachers to improve skills and performance in the classroom and other settings through development of new learning tools and technical assistance in their use. A major outreach initiative will be launched under the Sesame Street Bangladesh program, in cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh. This initiative will target Bangladeshi children under the age of six with disabilities. Principal grantees: Sesame Workshop, CARE, SAVE, and Plan International. An additional principal contractor/grantee under a new project called SUCCEED is TBD.

Increase capacity to foster education system change (\$700,000 DA). Limited activities to promote leadership capacity will bring together and strengthen champions and leaders of educational reform in Bangladesh and expose them to best practices and lessons learned elsewhere. USAID will also initiate an Education Data Program, tied to its Demographic Health Survey, to ensure that trends and achievements under the education program can be measured in an objective, systematic manner. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD.

**FY 2005 Program:**

Increase early learning opportunities (\$1,000,000 DA, \$750,000 ESF). Under SUCCEED, USAID plans to initiate follow-on projects to those completed in 2004, and to finance the production, launch and broadcast of the Sesame Street Bangladesh educational program nationwide on the government television channel, with 52 half-hour segments focusing on literacy, numeracy and critical thinking. Principal contractor/grantee: Sesame Street Workshop and others TBD.

Develop and ensure use of innovative learning tools by children and teachers (\$1,200,000 DA, \$300,000 CSH, \$500,000 ESF). Activities to strengthen learning through innovative tools and methodologies are expected to continue, in conjunction and coordination with the Sesame Street Bangladesh outreach program, including disabled children. Principal contractor/grantee: Sesame Street Workshop and others TBD.

Increase capacity to foster education system change (\$250,000 ESF). USAID intends to continue funding for limited activities that promote leadership and motivate change in primary education at the local and national levels. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD.

**Performance and Results:** Approved on December 12, 2002, USAID's new education objective got a jumpstart by awarding three grants in August 2002 for pilot programs under the Mission's democracy program. Based on their proven success with past initiatives in basic education in three regions, the project implementers quickly ramped up and refined their efforts, reaching 40,715 students, in 337 formal and non-formal primary schools as well as 72 home-based preschools by the end of 2003. In the post-conflict region of Chittagong Hill Tracts, children and teachers have benefited from technical assistance and training in a simplified methodology of teaching Bangla, the tribal children's second language. In addition, 56 mothers' groups were also established to monitor their children's and teachers' performance. The groups have kept a close watch on absenteeism, false enrollment and performance deficiencies and send regular written reports to local and national education authorities, documenting abuses and problems. In rural areas of Sylhet, 72 home-based preschools were established, along with kindergartens in 28 government schools. A recent innovation was the creation of a "reading buddy" program, in which fourth and fifth graders mentor first and second graders in reading and math. The total number of "reading buddy" pairs is 3,191. Preschools were also established in rural areas outside Dhaka, serving 14,248 children. The program also established after-hours "learning camps," using unemployed teenagers to tutor under-performing students in core subjects and exam-taking skills. Finally, in June 2003, USAID signed a three-year cooperative agreement with Sesame Workshop to replicate its world-renowned educational television program with a co-production in Bangladesh, using Bangla-speaking characters and local themes to teach literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking. The design phase will end in March 2004, with production beginning shortly afterwards.

By program completion in 2007, USAID anticipates that the following will have been accomplished:

- Early childhood development programs that enhance school readiness will be available nationwide through mass media and in targeted rural communities;
- Improved learning tools and methodologies will be employed in all types of schools to improve performance; and
- Parents, communities and local leaders will be more active advocates of quality education, contributing to the education reform agenda.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

388-010 Education	CSH	DA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>			
Obligations	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	0	0
Unliquidated	0	0	0
<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>			
Obligations	0	1,350	1,500
Expenditures	0	479	0
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>			
Obligations	0	1,350	1,500
Expenditures	0	479	0
Unliquidated	0	871	1,500
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>			
Obligations	0	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>			
Obligations	750	2,500	1,500
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004</b>			
Obligations	750	2,500	1,500
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>			
Obligations	300	2,200	1,500
Future Obligations	0	3,000	2,000
Est. Total Cost	1,050	9,050	6,500