

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Office of Democracy and Governance
<b>Program Title:</b>	Elections and Political Processes Program
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	932-002
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$2,200,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$1,150,000 DA
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$2,825,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 1997
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2007

**Summary:** The DG Office elections and political processes program provides technical assistance and support to USAID missions worldwide. The program strengthens USAID programming and reinforces country-based efforts, mainly by:

1. Assisting countries to administer their elections in a credible, impartial and professional manner;
2. Training local organizations to monitor elections and educate voters about their rights and responsibilities;
3. Helping political parties to become better able to represent citizens, compete effectively, and govern in the public interest;
4. Encouraging the political participation of women and historically-disenfranchised groups; and
5. Training newly elected legislators and local officials to effectively govern.

Lessons from different countries and regions are compiled and shared by the Office, new approaches to election and party assistance are developed and tested, and contracts and grants are made available for field missions to carry out programs.

### **Inputs, Outputs, Activities:**

#### **FY 2004 Program:**

Regional and country programs will continue to be implemented through the grants and contracts managed by the DG Office. Countries with national elections scheduled for late 2004 and 2005 that are candidates for DG election assistance include: Afghanistan, Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Lithuania, Macedonia, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Sudan, Ukraine, and West Bank and Gaza. Demand for political party development advice and support is expected from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iraq, Malawi, Mexico and Nepal. Support to political parties will continue in Algeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

#### **FY 2005 Program:**

The DG Office's election and political process technical leadership agenda will center on developing political parties (\$1 million), strengthening local and regional organizations concerned with elections and political processes (\$500,000), and developing state-of-the-art election administration approaches (\$300,000). For political party development, by the end of the period, two grantees -- National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and International Republican Institute -- will have determined best approaches resulting from programs they implemented, with USAID support, in Latin America, Asia, Europe and Central Asia. For strengthening regional and local organizations, by the end of FY 2005, grantees will be completing programs that were started in FY 2003 working with selected election organizations to make them capable of training and advising similar organizations in other countries or regions. For state-of-the-art election

research, by the end of 2005, the DG Office will have developed practical tools for field officers on mitigating conflict during elections and on monitoring electoral redistricting - an increasingly popular tactic to favor incumbents in emerging democracies. The DG Office also expects, by the end of the period, tangible results from its work in political finance reform. USAID missions and other donors will initiate their own programs, building on the best practices and lessons gained from pilot experiences the DG Office funded in Bolivia, Georgia, Guatemala, Kenya, Romania, and South Africa.

**Performance and Results:** DG Office's election and political processes staff provided technical assistance on many priority foreign policy initiatives - in Afghanistan and Iraq and on the new Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). On Afghanistan, the DG Office worked closely with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to support the voter registration program (\$4 million) in advance of the 2004 elections. The DG Office also designed a robust public outreach and civic education program to support the Constitutional Loya Jirga. In Iraq, the DG Office helped design an innovative program to help the Governing Council with constituency outreach programs, as well as an assessment on political parties. To help launch MEPI, the DG Office worked with the State Department to design a \$5.4 million program to strengthen democratic trends and political process in the Middle East and North Africa

Achievements for the period also include helping USAID missions and the State Department to develop and implement political party assistance in 16 countries: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Angola, Belarus, Benin, Bulgaria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Lesotho, Mexico, Nigeria, Serbia, Somaliland, Togo, and Ukraine. The DG Office also helped the field to provide election assistance in 16 countries: Bahrain, Benin, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, and Yemen. Notable gains were made in Kenya where elections were held without the widespread violence of the past and citizens voted overwhelmingly to change 30 years of one-party rule electing Mwai Kibaki opposition candidate as president and giving the opposition a significant majority in Parliament.

Major gains in technical leadership were made on two fronts. USAID political party assistance policy was issued, providing U.S. Government agencies with guidance on how to assist political parties - a growing area of concern within USAID -- and encouraging field officers to carry out programs. A second publication, "Money and Politics: A Guide to Transparency in Emerging Democracies," tackles the subject of party and campaign finance and highlights the importance of disclosure as a means of targeting political corruption and improving confidence in the political process.

Complementing these efforts, pilot programs launched by the DG Office are demonstrating new methods for increasing transparency in political finance, expanding suffrage, and improving political party relations with civil society. To increase transparency in political finance, pilot programs in Romania, Georgia, Bolivia and South Africa are making candidate and political party finances publicly available. Pilot programs in Georgia, Kenya and Bolivia have begun to help local authorities gain the skills they need to investigate, detect, and enforce campaign finance laws and regulations. To expand suffrage and improve voting rights for conflict-forced migrants, pilot programs in Angola, Azerbaijan and Georgia are underway. To improve political party relations with civil society - often a highly contentious and destructive interaction - pilot programs in Bolivia, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Mexico have started to focus on practical approaches to achieving constructive relations.

Principal Contractors, Grantees, or Agencies: For its election and political process, the DG Office manages one cooperative agreement and two IQCs. Its cooperative agreement (the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening) is held by the International Republican Institute, International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. Its contracts are with IFES (sub-contractor: Carter Center) and Development

Associates (sub-contractors: Decision Strategies Fairfax International, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, and Mendez England and Associates).