

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Kazakhstan
Program Title:	Conflict Prevention
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	115-0240
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$423,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2005

Summary: Conflict prevention activities strengthen vulnerable communities and ease local tensions through public dialogue and improvement of small-scale social and physical infrastructure. USAID addresses both the root and immediate causes of potential conflict through its conflict prevention objective. Since many conflicts in Central Asia have arisen at the community (rather than international) level and the U.S. Government's ability to change structural factors at the national level is limited, the conflict prevention strategy focuses on giving citizens opportunities to participate in decisions that affect their communities, improve living standards, and provide skills and experience that will diminish the potential for conflict. Community action programs, targeted where risks of communal or religious conflicts are greatest, are designed to increase citizen participation in community decision making and local government, and contribute to mitigating sources of conflict by promoting economic recovery and inter-ethnic cooperation. In Kazakhstan, the program is focused on the southern part of the country (Almaty, Zhambul and South Kazakhstan oblasts), where threats of religious extremism are most prevalent. Relative to other regions of the country, southern Kazakhstan is extremely poor, one of several conditions increasing the potential for conflict. Conflict prevention activities began in FY 2002 and have previously been reported under the Mission's cross-cutting program. Since the conflict program will become a special objective in FY 2004, it is being notified separately for FY 2004 funding.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Conflict Prevention (\$423,000 FSA). The conflict prevention activity will remain active in the 15 initially targeted communities, and the communities added during the FY 2003 expansion, in Southern Kazakhstan, Almaty, and Zhambul oblasts. USAID will continue to work more closely with other partners to fold into ongoing community strengthening efforts, particularly related to economic opportunities for urban youth, and to decrease the attractiveness of extremist organizations and the drug culture. Principal contractor/grantee: Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance.

FY 2005 Program:

Performance and Results: Conflict prevention activities are currently underway in 12 communities (of 15 originally targeted) in southern Kazakhstan, where residents have carried out 21 projects (e.g., repair of health clinics, water systems, and schools) in an effort to decrease the level of local tension. Over 75,000 people have benefited from this program. In Turkistan, a pilgrimage site for faithful Kazakhstan Muslims and a hub for extremist activity in Kazakhstan, two youth centers were renovated in FY 2003. The youth centers serve as a place where youth can spend time in sports or cultural activities after school, an attractive alternative to extremist groups and drug gangs. Another community near Turkistan which is experiencing "urban creep" on its farms was able to renovate the irrigation structure on newly-assigned farm land, thereby retaining employment for many farmers and, potentially, creating more future employment opportunities. Similar public works activities in newly-targeted vulnerable communities in

Shymkent and along the Uzbek border promise stronger local government ties to their constituencies, greater satisfaction with local services, and a higher level of trust in general among residents. Baseline data from polls measuring these factors in target communities was obtained this fiscal year. We expect to see positive movement of the indicators throughout the life of the project. By program's end, there will be an increased number of communities reporting lessened tension or resolved conflicts, strengthened community participation, and improved local services through community decisions.