

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Macedonia
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance Reform
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	165-0200
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$11,780,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$300,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$10,931,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	2002
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: USAID's democracy and governance program focuses on: 1) increasing citizens' participation in political and social decision-making; 2) enhancing adherence to the rule of law; and 3) improving the effectiveness and accountability of government institutions, including local governments and the Parliament.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Strengthen Civil Society (\$2,980,000 AEEB). USAID will launch the new Macedonian Activity for Civil Society Strengthening (MACSS) project to build on and consolidate the impressive strides that have been made in strengthening civil society. MACSS will support key civil society partners to: a) influence the positive, tangible reform of public policy in Macedonia toward European Union standards and accession; b) effectively represent citizens' interests in monitoring the Government of Macedonia, ensuring increasing transparency in Government decision-making; c) improve the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) to carry out publicly beneficial services; d) increase public understanding and support for the work of CSOs; e) promote corporate and private philanthropy; and f) improve the coordination of CSOs to more effectively act as a check on Government authority.

During the final year, the Community Self-Help Initiative (CSHI) will fund 60 community development projects, including school rehabilitations, water and sanitation systems, recreation facilities, and projects to support local economic development. This will bring the total number of CSHI projects completed to above 300, covering all of Macedonia's municipalities. Implementers: Louis Berger Group (prime), MACSS to be determined (TBD).

Improve Justice Sector and Legal Framework (\$3,000,000 AEEB, \$193,000 AEEB prior year recoveries). USAID's Court Modernization Program will continue improving the efficiency and transparency of the court system. Assistance will focus on: a) redrafting key laws; b) outlining court organizational and procedural reforms to reduce case backlog and improve court efficiency; and c) funding continuing education and professional development of the Macedonian Judiciary. USAID will also provide expert advice to the Administrative Office on management of the independent court budget. Assistance to legal associations will continue as well as efforts to increase minority access to the legal system. Implementers: DPK Consulting (prime), American Bar Institute/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (prime).

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$5,000,000 AEEB). USAID's new local government project will prepare municipalities to assume increased competencies and resources under a decentralized government. USAID will provide the technical assistance and system support so that: a) Macedonian municipalities develop the financial management and tax administration capacity to assume new authorities; b) municipalities will significantly increase tax collection rates and levels; c) municipalities will regularly canvass citizens and incorporate the input into public decision-making; d) a critical mass of Macedonian municipalities will implement modern urban planning systems; e) municipal associations will demonstrate increasing financial independence, sustainability, and advocacy capabilities; and f) public communal enterprises will

demonstrate higher collection rates, improved financial management and improved customer satisfaction. The Municipal Good Governance Fund will be established to provide initial funding for small scale infrastructure projects and physical improvements to help municipalities successfully fulfill new responsibilities and provide citizens with visible signs of progress on local needs. It aims to improve service delivery to citizens through projects such as community infrastructure, school rehabilitation, waste collection, and recycling. Access to the Municipal Good Governance Fund is triggered by the municipality's progress in the adoption of the key reforms. Development Alternatives Inc. (prime).

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$800,000 AEEB, \$107,000 AEEB prior year recoveries). USAID technical assistance will continue to strengthen the Macedonian Parliament, increasing the capacity to develop quality legislation; USAID will also continue to assist Members of Parliament to represent constituents, through the operation of constituency offices and the conduct of public hearings and other means to reach out to citizens. Political party assistance will provide advice and training to young and promising leaders and strengthen youth and women's participation in the parties, developing more democratic, message-driven political parties. National Democratic Institute (prime), International Republican Institute (prime).

FY 2006 Program: Strengthen Civil Society (\$2,431,000 AEEB). USAID's new civil society activity MACSS will support key civil society partners to influence the positive reform of public policy in Macedonia, to effectively represent citizens' interests in monitoring the Government, and to strengthen the capacity to carry out publicly beneficial services. Contractor/grantee TBD.

Improve Justice Sector and Legal Framework (\$2,900,000 AEEB). Assistance will be provided for critical legal reform, efficient court procedures and support for the court Administrative Office and other judicial institutions. Contractor: DPK Consulting (prime).

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$4,500,000 AEEB). USAID's Make Decentralization Work Project will continue to train and prepare municipalities to assume increased competencies and resources under a decentralized government, and will build practices of citizen participation and input into the public decision-making process. Contractor same as FY 2005.

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$1,100,000 AEEB). Parliamentary Assistance will be provided to Parliament committees as well as Members of Parliament to make them more responsive to constituencies and increase citizen input into the legislative process. The Political Party Assistance will concentrate on strengthening political party leadership at the local level. Grantees: Same as FY 2005.

Performance and Results: USAID programs have contributed to significant reforms and improvements in the justice sector. USAID's Macedonia Court Modernization Project provided the bulk of the work in reforming the two major procedural laws, which will remove key impediments to the efficient and timely delivery of justice. USAID's Pilot courts prepared and implemented backlog reduction plans that resulted in reduction of 8% of cases older than one year and 13% for cases older than three years, in only the first six months of this activity. USAID was instrumental in drafting and passage of key decentralization laws on finance and education; these are critical steps in the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement. USAID also opened 10 urban planning and permitting centers, reducing the number of stops for citizens to get a building permit from seven to three and assisted 25 municipalities to initiate property tax collection and administration, increasing the average rate collection by 25%. Through USAID assistance, the Parliament conducted the first ever public hearings on key draft legislation, and positive legislative reforms were introduced as a result of these hearings. Twenty four new constituent offices were opened, bringing to 60 the number of Parliamentarians who have constituency offices and who hold regular meetings with the public.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Macedonia

165-0200 Democracy and Governance Reform	AEEB
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	28,615
Expenditures	12,611
Unliquidated	16,004
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	11,750
Expenditures	16,994
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	40,365
Expenditures	29,605
Unliquidated	10,760
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	300
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	11,780
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	12,080
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	10,931
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	63,376