

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Egypt
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	263-021
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$37,050,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$30,100,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2000
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2009

Summary: USAID governance programs respond to Egyptian efforts by civil society organizations and reform-minded leaders in the Government of Egypt (GOE) to support a stronger role for civil society, foster improvements in the administration of justice and introduce the application of participatory models of service delivery. As new programs are designed, in concert with the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) goals, USAID will explore new areas of assistance, such as media reform, human rights, legal education, women's legal services, criminal justice reform, and political participation. To date, the USG's longstanding approach to democracy assistance has been to implement activities that have full GOE concurrence.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Enhance democratic, accountable governance and citizen participation (\$20,000,000 ESF). Prospective activities will address a variety of issues central to the development of a democratic society. Based on an expansion of USG policy, high-level inter-governmental dialogue and pending concurrence from the GOE, USAID could begin to collaborate through multi-donor efforts to encourage freer and fairer elections and to promote political party development. USAID will propose to the GOE assistance for independent human rights organizations, legal aid services for women and assistance for university education with a focus on comparative law curricula and activities to promote knowledge of democratic practices. Support for public accountability efforts through NGOs will also be proposed to the GOE in order to assist "watchdog" groups in monitoring public sector budgets and expenditures and to assess and report on the quality of public service delivery. USAID plans to significantly expand support for journalist training and media reform programs conducted in Arabic in Egypt, based on the results of a comprehensive assessment of the mass media environment and opportunities for intervention.

Participation in local development program (\$10,950,000 ESF). USAID will launch this new program to enhance civil society capacity, promote citizen participation in local affairs and improve government responsiveness. This is a new activity, which was not notified last year. The effort will build on and expand past democracy investments to help increase public awareness about the relationship between citizen participation, accountable governance and the effective provision of public services. It will also capitalize on the work of USAID/Egypt's other programs, including those that focus on education, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and community-level infrastructure investments, targeting reform-minded leaders in those governorates where USAID already works. The program will aim to broaden the USG's democracy programs, focusing on citizen empowerment and participation as a means of defining community needs and priorities and advocate for government responsiveness and accountability to those issues.

Improve administration of justice and rule of law (\$6,100,000 ESF). Building on the achievements of the Administration of Justice Support (AOJS I) project, to end in March 2004, USAID will provide assistance in court administration, training of judges and court personnel, and automation of court systems. The follow-on AOJS II project will assist the Ministry of Justice in replicating the modernized systems, first in

two additional courts and then throughout Egypt, to improve court performance, reduce backlogs and delays, and decrease opportunities for corruption. USAID will conduct an assessment of the criminal justice system, which will address the creation of a public defense entity, criminal procedure reforms, and reorganization of the criminal justice system to alleviate the heavy docket.

FY 2005 Program:

Enhance democratic, accountable governance and citizen participation (\$20,000,000 ESF). With GOE concurrence, USAID will help improve the administration of elections, improve political party registration procedures, finance human rights monitoring groups, support greater government accountability and improve citizen awareness, media reform and journalist training. USAID is also considering support for university-based programs to promote knowledge of liberal democratic practices through model parliament activities, leadership training, and partnerships between American and Egyptian universities in support of democracy studies.

Participation in local development (\$5,200,000 ESF). USAID will continue to support planned activities that promote community participation in establishing local development priorities in selected Egyptian governorates. Once such priorities are identified, the program will assist local communities to communicate those priorities to government officials at the local and governorate levels. The project will draw on its own resources, as well as other elements of the USAID/Egypt program, e.g., education, health, infrastructure, small business promotion, etc. to help the government respond to the agreed upon priorities. Finally, the project will work to expand the use of community participation within other elements of the mission's program.

Improve administration of justice and rule of law (\$4,900,000 ESF). Under AOJS II, USAID will continue to support court administration, training of judges and court personnel, and the automation of court systems in civil/commercial courts, responding to the reform priorities of the Ministry of Justice. The project will assist the Ministry in devising cost estimates and a strategic plan to replicate the automated systems in civil courts nationwide. USAID may also begin to implement activities in the criminal courts, such as support for public defense, criminal procedure reform and institutional modernization, based on the results of its assessment of the criminal justice system.

Performance and Results: USAID has helped improve the capacity of civil society organizations to advocate for change and represent the interests of their constituencies in the public sphere. USAID has also improved lawyers' confidence in the justice system; reduced civil/commercial court backlogs in two pilot courts; and modernized the filing and tracking of cases, creating a model that can be replicated nationwide, beginning in late FY 2004. Finally, USAID has helped support citizens in organizing locally to address priority issues in their communities, laying the foundation for future efforts to promote citizen involvement in improving local service delivery and government responsiveness. For example, The Sohag Children with Special Needs Association and its partner NGOs advocated for the political and legal rights of women. It launched an awareness campaign on women's legal, political, and civil rights that received wide press and broadcast coverage, and held two conferences, attended by senior decision-makers. The network also assisted women in Sohag to obtain 182 civil documents (birth certificates, ID cards, election cards), trained 200 women activists advocating for women's legal rights; and increased women's representation in the network's general assembly and board by 10%.

As a result of these and other achievements, USAID remains well-positioned to respond to political openings and opportunities for reform. By working through knowledgeable and reform-minded individuals in academia, civil society, think tanks, and governmental institutions, USAID is helping to create a network of Egyptians at all levels of society who can advocate for democratic reform.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Egypt

263-021 Democracy and Governance	ESF
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	89,602
Expenditures	66,129
Unliquidated	23,473
Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	14,270
Expenditures	10,925
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	103,872
Expenditures	77,054
Unliquidated	26,818
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	37,050
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	37,050
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	30,100
Future Obligations	50,500
Est. Total Cost	221,522