

USAID/BELARUS
ANNUAL REPORT 2002

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Part III: FY 2001 Performance Narrative

113-021: Increased, Better Informed Citizen's Participation in Political and Economic Decision Making

Key FY 2001 Achievements: Significant gains were achieved in increasing citizen activism through USAID-funded partner activities: Building Democracy in Belarus, the Civil Society Development program, and Election Action in Belarus. The Civil Society Development program helped indigenous NGOs develop and strengthen the capacity to advocate on behalf of themselves and their constituents, increase NGO and community influence on national and local agenda setting; increase public participation in the political process; and improve NGOs' capacity to better inform citizens. During the election year, indigenous grantees conducted 249 public information campaigns, with a total outreach to 3,443,707 people. Coalition activities reached over 2,000,000 citizens in rural areas and small towns. NGOs participating in the mobilization events created six new active coalitions, each involving from seven to 24 NGOs. Strengthening institutional capacity of Belarusian NGOs was a program priority. USAID-funded programs trained 558 NGO leaders representing 373 organizations in 16 topics related to advocacy, civic education, lobbying, election programming, and working with mass media.

An important role in the mobilization campaign was the dissemination of information through the mass media and special editions of newspapers. Belarusian grantees printed and disseminated 206 publications. Leaflets, booklets, training materials reached 6,876,610 people, and 340 media releases reached 3,123,000 people. One achievement was campaign coverage by print media and commercial FM radio and local TV stations. The Building Democracy in Belarus grants program (a total of 65 grants) supported the mobilization campaign, a series of countrywide synchronized actions, door-to-door campaigns and events. Get-out-the-vote (GOTV) projects that are focused on youth and women were part of the national mobilization effort. Other grants supported materials production, community, sports and cultural events. Grants were also awarded to establish links between Belarusian NGOs and their counterparts in countries that had succeeded in furthering democratic transition through national elections and had experience in nonpartisan mobilization campaigns. The GOTV campaign was the most ambitious in the country to date, and gave thousands of Belarusians an opportunity to participate in the pre-election activities, thus increasing the target groups' voter turnout and the level of voter knowledge about issues and candidates.

Achievements:

- Strengthening local NGOs' capacity to advocate on behalf of themselves and their constituents was demonstrated by the emergence of the issue-based coalition "Dialogue," which protested against the restrictive legislation on foreign assistance and violations of citizens' constitutional rights to receive and render charitable aid. The "Dialogue" coalitions initiated a broad-based information campaign and succeeded in public hearings on Decree # 8, which restricts citizen's constitutional rights to receive and render charitable aid.
- Intensive information dissemination within the target groups resulted in an increased level of their awareness and interest in the political process. The February 2001 polls show that 68% of those under 30 were "very interested" or "somewhat interest" in the election. Polling the week of the September election showed 89% of youth were in those categories.
- In February 2001, 52% of women voters identified themselves as "very interested" in the elections; the week of the election it was up to 64%.

Because independent trade unions are an important component of civil society and have a countrywide structure, USAID channeled some assistance to GOTV and voter education activities to mobilize union membership and increase public support for democratic processes. In the process, a network of organizers-coordinators-volunteers was established countrywide, involving 2,850 volunteers reaching 165,750 people, according to ACILS.

Other important components of the USAID efforts included domestic election observation, as well as media and political party training. The 2001 presidential election in Belarus was in many ways a turning point in the development of the political sector within Belarusian society. During the previous elections there was minimal international attention, political actors were not able to unify behind a single force, and there were relatively little resources expended. The 2001 election was highlighted by an active participation of a wide spectrum of democratic political forces: parties and civil society organizations developed their own process of selecting and supporting their candidates, finally uniting to support a single opposition candidate for president. Based on sociological survey data, USAID identified youth and women as important resource groups. Consultations among youth leaders have strengthened the effectiveness of their movement, improving coordination between the existing youth coalitions and expanding their overall outreach to voters. A training program educating women on various aspects of the election process and voter rights was conducted, mobilizing women to participate through parties and NGOs.

The Rule of Law program emphasized the election law and legal support of independent observers and media. 2,171 participants attended seminars on the election legislation. A network of lawyers to provide legal support to Independent Election Observers Network was established and trained. One-hundred-and-thirty-eight lawyers were recruited to work in the district and regional offices of election observers, seven seminars trained lawyers on their basic functions and established the protocols and flow of information within the network. To provide infrastructure support to lawyers servicing NGOs and independent trade unions, the Legal Information Clearinghouse was established with an indigenous NGO.

The environment for independent media coverage in Belarus is extremely unfavorable. Equipment confiscation was a constant fact of life during the election campaign, along with tax inspections, criminal and civil lawsuits, and censorship. The USAID-funded media development program was retooled to reflect the special concerns and increased challenges of the election period. Some longer-term development activities were de-emphasized in favor of projects that would ensure the survival of independent media. Extensive training for reporters on legal aspects of election coverage, interpretation of public opinion polling data, investigative journalism, registration and accounting, design and layout, and newsroom management was carried out over 28 seminars with 232 participants representing 70 media outlets. Activities specific to the election period complemented such services as Internet and e-mail, photo-service, library, computer lab, auditing services, legal advice, and media monitoring.

Since 1995, USAID—via the Counterpart Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP)—delivered and distributed more than \$27 million worth of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable groups. In 2001, CHAP continued coordinating its efforts with Counterpart's NGO Development Program to provide Belarusian NGOs with commodities. CHAP donations to CAP-targeted NGOs amounted to almost \$1.8 million since the inception of the program; the number of NGOs supported is 273. CHAP's new approach helped Belarusian NGOs play a more important role in delivering social services, humanitarian relief and health, especially in rural areas.

Challenges to the SO: The Government of Belarus chose to ignore the recommendations of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on the conditions for free and fair elections, thus excluding Belarus from the mainstream of European political life. The OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission concluded that the September 9 Presidential election in Belarus did not meet democratic standards, but that a vibrant civil society emerged despite government pressure.

Belarus' social indicators have deteriorated, according to the government's Labor and Social Protection Department. Economic and social developments in the country have led to an acute decline in birth rates, marriages, and an increase in emigration and mortality rates (since 1990s, birth rate is down by 30%, the death rate grew by 26%).

The Legislative branch is largely limited in its powers and a weak judiciary—directly controlled by the Executive branch—cannot protect civil or commercial rights. Nonetheless, the civic resistance that emerged during the presidential election period has broadened the debate on legislative reform and redistribution of power, and presents a window of opportunity for political change.

Civil society remains weak largely due to the restrictive environment imposed by the government and its harassment of the most active democratic non-governmental institutions. During the election year, the government of Belarus chose to tighten the existing legislation even further, and used its administrative structures and state-controlled mass media to either neutralize or discredit the most active components of the civil society: trade unions, democratic political parties, and NGOs. The role of civil society is largely unrecognized or misunderstood by the general public due to the totalitarian control over the media, and misinformation in the state-owned information sources. The developmental challenge is to broaden the constituency for change towards democratic, market-oriented society. USAID's assistance program will continue to play an important role in the democracy-building process.

Beneficiaries: The beneficiaries of USAID resources for this SO are non-governmental organizations, political parties, independent media. The general public also benefits directly from news and information disseminated with USAID assistance and indirectly from successes that improve democratic governance.

Mission Performance Assessment: This SO met planned targets this year, increasing the level of citizens' participation during the election. The opportunity provided by the presidential election in 2001 to mobilize all democratically oriented forces of the Belarusian society. The main beneficiaries of the program continued to be the most active participants of the civil society: NGOs, trade unions, democratic political forces, independent media, professional associations and unions.

113-041: Cross-Cutting Programs/Special Initiatives: Health Partnerships

Key FY 2001 Achievements: As a result of USAID-funded *Health Partnerships* implemented by the American International Health Alliance (AIHA), several new facilities opened during FY 2000 in Minsk continue to successfully function, i.e. the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Training Center (fully equipped with multimedia instructional resources) and a Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Wellness Center with an associated Resource Learning Center. Both training centers link Belarusian medical professionals with their counterparts around the world and provide advanced training for specialists. In 2000, a Women's Wellness Center opened in Mozyr, Gomel Region. In addition to primary health-care services, it supports educational programs on reproductive health, health promotion and disease prevention, and a range of women's health issues. The introduction of hi-tech diagnostic, laboratory, and communication equipment had an impact effect on the effectiveness of the projects.

Challenges to the SO: The most serious challenge is that the GOB is not supportive of USAID's initiatives to provide technical assistance and grants to NGOs.

Beneficiaries: The primary beneficiaries of USAID health care programs are citizens of Belarus, who have more health care options with the opening of model clinics, as well as health care professionals, and government officials who are trained to update policies, treatment protocols and preventive methods according to international standards.

Mission Performance Assessment: Overall, this SO has met planned targets in providing international experience and expertise in areas of family medicine, maternal and infant health services, surveillance and prevention of birth defects, and other programs described above.

Annual Report Part IV: FY 2001 Performance Data Tables and Results Framework

Belarus SO 2.1

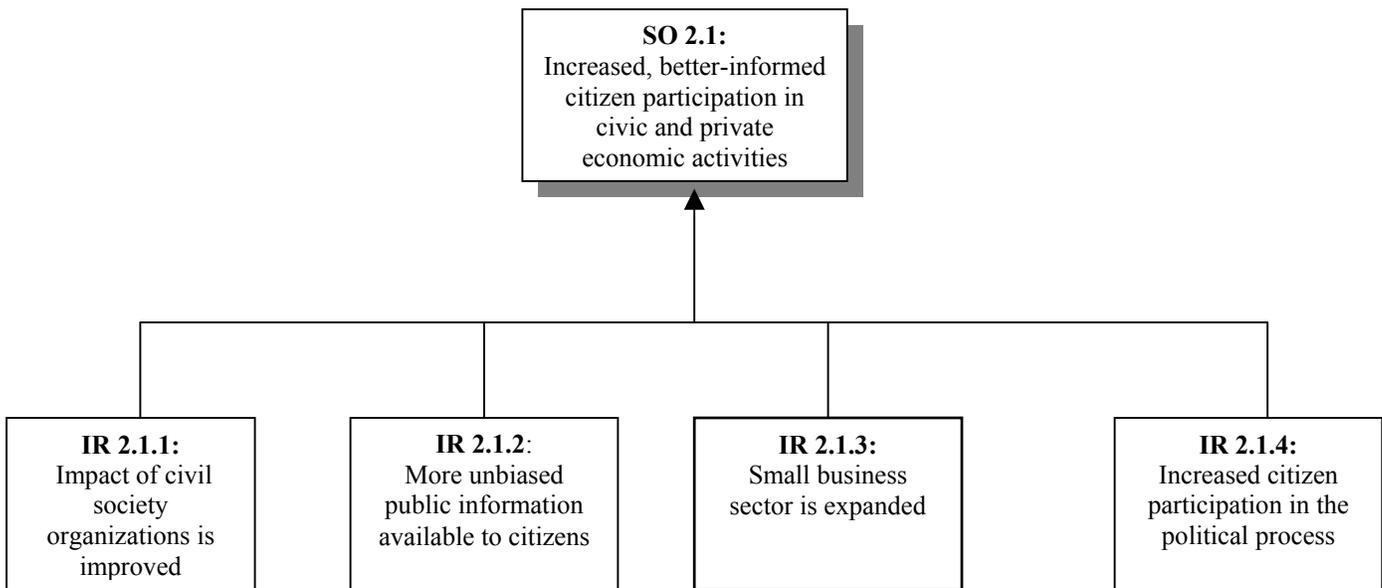


Table 1: Belarus FY 2002 Annual Report Selected Performance Measures

USAID/Belarus OU does not measure performance using indicators included in this list of Selected Performance Measures and does not report data for the performance indicators selected for this table.

Indicator (all data should pertain to FY or CY 01)	OU Response			Fund Account	Data Quality Factors
Global Development Alliance: GDA serves as a catalyst to mobilize the ideas, efforts, and resources of the public sector, corporate America and non-governmental organizations in support of shared objectives					
1 Did your operating unit achieve a significant result working in alliance with the public sector or NGOs?	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	
2 a. How many alliances did you implement in 2001? (list partners) b. How many alliances do you plan to implement in FY 2002?	0			N/A	
3 What amount of funds has been leveraged by the alliances in relationship to USAID's contribution?	N/A			N/A	
Pillar I: Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade: USAID works to improve country economic performance using five approaches: (1) liberalizing markets, (2) improving agriculture, (3) supporting microenterprise, (4) ensuring primary education, and (5) protecting the environment and improving energy efficiency.					
4 If you have a Strategic Objective or Objectives linked to the EGAT pillar, did it/they exceed, meet, or not meet its/their targets?	Exceed	Met	Not Met		
USAID Objective 1: Critical, private markets expanded and strengthened					
5 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A		
USAID Objective 2: More rapid and enhanced agricultural development and food security encouraged					
6 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A		
USAID Objective 3: Access to economic opportunity for the rural and urban poor expanded and made more equitable					
7 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A		

Indicator (all data should pertain to FY or CY 01)	OU Response			Fund Account	Data Quality Factors
USAID Objective 4: Access to quality basic education for under-served populations, especially for girls and women, expanded					
8 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A		
9 a. Number of children enrolled in primary schools affected by USAID basic education programs (2001 actual) b. Number of children enrolled in primary schools affected by USAID basic education programs (2002 target)	Male	Female	Total		
USAID Objective 5: World's environment protected					
10 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A		
11 a. Hectares under Approved Management Plans (2001 actual) b. Hectares under Approved Management Plans (2002 target)					
Pillar II: Global Health: USAID works to: (1) stabilize population, (2) improve child health, (3) improve maternal health, (4) address the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and (5) reduce the threat of other infectious diseases.					
12 If you have a Strategic Objective or Objectives linked to the Global Health pillar, did it/they exceed, meet, or not meet its/their targets?	Exceed	Met	Not Met		
USAID Objective 1: Reducing the number of unintended pregnancies					
13 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A		
USAID Objective 2: Reducing infant and child mortality					
14 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A		

Indicator (all data should pertain to FY or CY 01)	OU Response			Fund Account	Data Quality Factors	
USAID Objective 3: Reducing deaths and adverse health outcomes to women as a result of pregnancy and childbirth						
15 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A			
USAID Objective 4: Reducing the HIV transmission rate and the impact of HIV/AIDS pandemic in developing countries						
16 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A			
USAID Objective 5: Reducing the threat of infectious diseases of major public health importance						
17 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A			
Pillar III: Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance						
18 If you have a Strategic Objective or Objectives linked to the Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance Pillar, did it/they exceed, meet, or not meet its/their targets? (113-021: Increased, Better Informed Citizen's Participation in Political and Economic Decision Making)	Exceed	Met X	Not Met			
USAID Objective 1: Rule of law and respect for human rights of women as well as men strengthened						
19 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A X			
USAID Objective 2: Credible and competitive political processes encouraged						
20 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A X			
USAID Objective 3: The development of politically active civil society promoted						
21 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	x				
USAID Objective 4: More transparent and accountable government institutions encouraged						
22 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A x			

Indicator (all data should pertain to FY or CY 01)	OU Response			Fund Account	Data Quality Factors
USAID Objective 5: Conflict					
23 Did your program in a pre-conflict situation achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A X		
24 Did your program in a post-conflict situation achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A X		
25 Number of refugees and internally displaced persons assisted by USAID	Male	Female	Total		
USAID Objective 6: Humanitarian assistance following natural or other disasters					
26 Did your program achieve a significant result in the past year that is likely to contribute to this objective?	Yes	No	N/A X		
27 Number of beneficiaries					

Table 2: Belarus FY 2002 Selected Performance Measures for Other Reporting Purposes

The information in this table will be used to provide data for standard USAID reporting requirements

USAID/Belarus OU does not measure performance using indicators included in this list of Selected Performance Measures and does not report data for the performance indicators selected for this table.

Indicator (all data should pertain to FY or CY 01)	OU Response			Fund Account	Data Quality Factors
Child Survival Report					
Global Health Objective 1: Reducing the number of unintended pregnancies					
1 Percentage of in-union women age 15-49 using, or whose partner is using, a modern method of contraception at the time of the survey. (DHS/RHS)					
Global Health Objective 2: Reducing infant and child mortality					
2 Percentage of children age 12 months or less who have received their third dose of DPT (DHS/RHS)	Male	Female	Total		
3 Percentage of children age 6-59 months who had a case of diarrhea in the last two weeks and received ORT (DHS/RHS)	Male	Female	Total		
4 Percentage of children age 6-59 months receiving a vitamin A supplement during the last six months (DHS/RHS)	Male	Female	Total		
5 Were there any confirmed cases of wild-strain polio transmission in your country?					
Global Health Objective 3: Reducing deaths and adverse health outcomes to women as a result of pregnancy and childbirth					
6 Percentage of births attended by medically-trained personnel (DHS/RHS)					
Global Health Objective 5: Reducing the threat of infectious diseases of major public health importance					
7 a. Number of insecticide impregnated bed-nets sold (Malaria) (2001 actual) b. Number of insecticide impregnated bed-nets sold (Malaria) (2002 target)					
8 Proportion of districts implementing the DOTS Tuberculosis strategy					
HIV/AIDS Report					

Global Health Objective 4: Reducing the HIV transmission rate and the impact of HIV/AIDS pandemic in developing countries					
9	a. Total condom sales (2001 actual)				
	b. Total condom sales (2002 target)				
10	a. Number of individuals treated in STI programs (2001 actual)	Male	Female	Total	
	b. Number of individuals treated in STI programs (2002 target)				
11	Is your operating unit supporting an MTCT program?				
12	a. Number of individuals reached by community and home based care programs (2001 actual)	Male	Female	Total	
	b. Number of individuals reached by community and home based care programs (2002 target)				
13	a. Number of orphans and vulnerable children reached (2001 actual)	Male	Female	Total	
	b. Number of orphans and vulnerable children reached (2002 target)				
14	a. Number of individuals reached by antiretroviral (ARV) treatment programs (2001 actual)	Male	Female	Total	
	b. Number of individuals reached by antiretroviral (ARV) treatment programs (2002 target)				

Victims of Torture Report				
Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance Objective 7: Providing support to victims of torture				
15 Did you provide support to torture survivors this year, even as part of a larger effort?				
16 Number of beneficiaries (adults age 15 and over)	Male	Female	Total	
17 Number of beneficiaries (children under age 15)	Male	Female	Total	

Global Climate Change				
USAID Objective 5: World's environment protected				
18 Global Climate Change: See GCC Appendix				

Part VII: Environmental Compliance

The USAID Regional Mission for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova continue to make significant progress in meeting requirements under 22 CFR 216 (Reg. 216). The Mission has found the MAARD "check list" to be a successful method for ensuring that each activity receives an environmental review before it is approved. There is a high level of awareness among SO Teams, Office Directors, CTOs and Activity Managers of the need for environmental review. The Mission plans on conducting training in Spring 2002 for key staff on Reg. 216 procedures.

Most of the Mission's activities continue to fall among those classes of action that are categorically excluded from needing an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) or Environmental Assessment (EA). Historically, the major exceptions to the Categorical Exclusion (CE) have been agricultural activities. The Mission has one outstanding IEE for the Ukrainian Land Titling Initiative (ULTI). The ULTI was approved and initiated under a CE. However, the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) later revised the CE decision to require an IEE. It is expected that this issue will be resolved during an upcoming TDY by the BEO in March 2002.

In 2001, the Mission reviewed fifty (50) activities that recommended a CE, one (1) activity that requested CE and IEE with a negative determination, and two (2) that recommended an IEE with a negative determination. To date, the BEO has approved all but one request. One (1) request for a CE and sixteen (16) requests for a CE and an IEE were initiated for agricultural activities in Moldova that subsequently were covered under the Programmatic Environmental Assessment and, therefore, were not reviewed individually by the Mission or the BEO.

In calendar year 2002, the Mission has already reviewed four activities (3 CEs and 1 IEE). Two of the requests for a CE have been approved by the BEO. An additional 31 new activities, or substantive amendments to existing activities, are expected to require an environmental review before the end of the year.

The Mission's team for managing Reg. 216 matters is led by the Mission Environment Officer with support from the Environment Program Management Specialist, the half-time Environment Program Assistant and the Administrative Assistant in the Office of Democratic and Social Transition.