

USAID/Office of Democracy and Governance

Annual Report

FY 2004

June 15, 2004

Please Note:

The attached RESULTS INFORMATION is from the FY 2004 Annual Report and was assembled and analyzed by the country or USAID operating unit identified on the cover page.

The Annual Report is a "pre-decisional" USAID document and does not reflect results stemming from formal USAID review(s) of this document.

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Office of Democracy and Governance

Performance:

The DG Office assists USAID Missions, other parts of the Agency, and the USG to develop country programs promoting political transitions to, and the consolidation of, democracy. DCHA/DG provides technical assistance and develops innovative approaches to design, implement and evaluate programs for promoting democracy and good governance.

To help make strategic decisions on how and when to invest for greatest impact, DCHA/DG uses a strategic assessment framework to analyze country political conditions and craft program interventions aimed at overcoming the greatest constraints to democracy. The assessment framework has been heralded both inside and outside the Agency by academics and practitioners as one of the best applications of development assistance theory in the field of democracy. Using this framework, DCHA/DG staff and partners conducted 19 comprehensive DG assessments and helped to develop strategies for a number of countries in all four regions. Assessments were conducted for Albania, Algeria, Bahrain, Georgia, Honduras, Jordan, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, RCSA, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Yemen, and Zambia. These assessments reviewed conditions, opportunities, and constraints for democratic development. In each case, the strategic recommendations have helped inform the missions' strategic thinking as they design their DG portfolios. In addition, DG Office staff worked closely with missions on DG program designs for Sudan and Ghana. The DG Office will continue to conduct sectoral assessments, with assistance planned for USAID Missions in Bangladesh, East Timor, Paraguay, and Senegal, among others.

Bolstered by a 2003 GAO report criticizing the lack of reliable evaluations in democracy, DCHA/DG upgraded its ambitious research design to document the impact and effectiveness of democracy assistance programs. The office completed a final synthesis report of six country case studies (Bolivia, Croatia, South Africa, Bulgaria, Ghana, Guatemala), which included rich insights into reasons for program success and failure, as well as general recommendations for improving programs. The Bolivia study was singled out by the GAO as the best of the evaluations it encountered.

The DG Office supported the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and an SSRC advisory council that included many of the nation's foremost specialists in evaluating democratic development, to develop two products. The first product was a report with recommendations on how to better measure program impact in the future. As a consequence, we provided financial and technical assistance to the new regional strategy for Central America and Mexico to support region-wide democracy surveys, with individual mission modules for specific programs. The surveys and other recommended methodologies should improve the quality of data needed for measuring the impact of DG programs, allow cross-national comparisons, and lead to the development of common indicators, as well as capture the impact of specific mission programs. The second SSRC product was an expanded design for evaluating world-wide democracy programs that will be revised and implemented in 2004.

The DCHA/DG Democracy Fellows program continues to provide opportunities for USAID to access new academic and practitioner resources while offering DG fellows hands-on development experience. Fellows are supported in Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya, and Russia, as well as at the US Courts' Committee on International Relations and the DG Office. Five fellows completed their terms in 2003 while one new fellowship was begun. Seven fellows were participating in the program as of the end of FY 2003.

The DG Office has played a central role in the design and implementation of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) political reform programs. MEPI is the State Department-sponsored program to assist democratic transitions in the Middle East. Office staff sit on the interagency-working groups that make

allocation recommendations for MEPI programs and have hosted and facilitated several planning sessions. The DG Office is also the nexus of MEPI implantation for DG programs across the region. Currently, the DG Office manages 22 distinct MEPI-funded activities for a total of \$15.56 million, the majority of all MEPI DG programs implemented throughout the USG. These funds have primarily come from the FYs 2002 and 2003 anti-terrorism supplementals.

In 2003, DG staff provided TDY support to 33 countries (approximately 46% of active DG programs in the Agency): 8 to E&E; 7 to Africa, 12 to ANE, and 6 to LAC, in addition to acting as "virtual" team members in Washington to missions. As mission requests for DG support have ballooned, we have reorganized the DG staff to respond not only to technical requests, but also to the need for improved communication and coordination. Newly empowered regional coordinators for AFR, ANE, E&E, and LAC have organized the staff to respond directly to regional and country program needs, and country liaison officers to provide "one stop shopping" to assist missions.

In December 2003, the DG Office led the 6th Annual USAID Democracy and Governance Partners Conference. Some 320 participants, representing USAID Washington and field offices and our implementing partner organizations, joined together for the two-day event. The first day featured remarks by DCHA Assistant Administrator Roger Winter, and two panel presentations (Democracy Promotion and the Future of U.S. Foreign Assistance, and Millennium Challenge Account and Implications for Democracy Support. That afternoon, Editor and Analyst Fareed Zakaria provided his perspective in a question and answer session, The Future of Democracy. The first day closed with Perspectives on Democracy Promotion where new thinking on measuring the impact of democracy was outlined. The second day of our conference began with a policy update on USAID policy development and emerging issues. Three partner-led sessions on DG and economic growth at the local level, promoting peaceful democratic transitions in conflictive environments, and stalled and back-sliding democracies rounded out the day.

The DG Office held its 2003 DG Officers Workshop from 4 to 9 December. Some 90 participants joined the DG Office for two days of intensive training on civil society, rule of law, and strategic planning and research. The following two days were spent in Experience from the Field sessions, where mission staff led sessions sharing their field perspective; regional sessions, where USAID regional bureaus had the opportunity to design and run sessions reaching out to their DG staff; and an issues forum, where all participants were encouraged to share ways that the DG Office could help them do their work more effectively. Overall participants' responses to the sessions have been energetic and enthusiastic.

The Introductory Training Workshop of the USAID Office of Democracy and Governance was delivered June 22-27. Forty-eight DG Officers from 25 countries participated in a week-long training focused on the fundamentals of and USAID approach to rule of law, elections and political processes, civil society, decentralization and local governance, and anti-corruption. They were also trained in a strategic assessment tool used to plan programming in the aforementioned areas of democracy and governance.

The DG Office augmented its Technical Publications Series this year with a new document. "Money in Politics Handbook: A Guide to Increasing Transparency in Emerging Democracies" is the first publication by USAID on the topic of political finance in emerging democracies. Its purpose is to increase understanding by USAID field staff, host-country political leaders, civil society organizations, and the media of the sometimes obscure and sensitive topic of political finance. It also creates awareness of the issues and benefits of open finances and suggests some practical technical assistance options that encourage the use of disclosure as a methodology for strengthening national democratic political processes. Our Occasional Papers Series also expanded with the publications of "Approaching Education from a Good Governance Perspective: USAID Resource Guide for Joint DG/Education Programs" and "Mitigating Abusive Labor Conditions: Contemporary Strategies and Lessons Learned". The former resource guide is a joint effort of USAID's Office of Democracy and Governance and Office of Education, responding to the need to promote greater policy and program linkages between the Agency's DG and education sectors. The specific goals of this DG and education resource guide are to raise awareness among education sector professionals at USAID about the role of the DG sector in shaping education policies and programs; to raise awareness among USAID DG professionals about education as an

important DG issue; and to provide frameworks and best practice examples to help guide joint programming among USAID education and DG staff. The latter paper responds to a growing concern in the United States, which has given life to a number of diverse and experimental approaches to mitigate abusive labor conditions, often referred to as "sweatshops," in the apparel industry both in the United States and overseas. This paper describes a sample of the existing anti-sweatshop programs, assesses the strengths and weaknesses of each, and provides a set of recommendations for future directions in combating sweatshops.

The DG Office continued to rely on its web presences to disseminate its technical guidance, to provide resources for mission and bureau staff, and to enhance its efforts in building a DG cadre. In FY 2003, over 48,000 copies of our publications were downloaded from our sites. Combined, our web sites attracted an average of 400 visitors per day.

Country Close and Graduation:

Results Framework

932-001 Legal systems operate more effectively to embody democratic principles and protect human rights

932-002 Political processes, including elections, are competitive and more effectively reflect the will of an informed citizenry

932-003 Informed citizens' groups effectively contribute to more responsive government

932-004 National and local government institutions more openly and effectively perform public responsibilities

932-005 Improved social, economic, and/or developmental status of targeted vulnerable populations