

USAID/Office of Democracy and Governance

Annual Report

FY 2005

June 16, 2005

Please Note:

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Office of Democracy and Governance

Performance:

In FY 2004, DCHA/DG focused on how best to contribute to the development of democracy and good governance in weak and failing states. The Office's operational tools are 1) direct and virtual field support, 2) development and dissemination of technical guidance, and 3) a comprehensive training program. The rest of this section will document FY 2004 accomplishments in those areas.

1. Field Support

The DG Office's most important resource is its nearly 60 experts, specializing in the planning, analysis, and implementation of assistance programs to build democratic practices and good governance. This staff provides both direct and virtual support to over 80 field democracy and governance assistance programs. In FY 2004, DCHA/DG staff provided over 1200 person days of direct TDY field assistance covering every geographical region. Of particular note, DCHA/DG staff provided extensive TDY assistance to USAID efforts in Iraq (over 100 person days), Afghanistan (over 100 person days), and Sudan (over 75 person days). In addition to providing field support through its staff, DCHA/DG supported field missions in a variety of other ways. Through its "bullpen," DCHA/DG placed a seasoned DG professional in the Democratic Republic of Congo for three months during a critical period in Congo's peace process. Using its own funds, DCHA/DG placed Democracy Fellows in such critical missions as Angola, Guatemala, Kenya, REDSO, Russia, and Sudan.

2. Technical Assistance

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 9 comprehensive DG assessments and helped to develop strategies for a number of countries in all geographic regions. Assessments were conducted for Angola, Benin, Liberia, Tanzania, Senegal, Bangladesh, East Timor, Yemen, and Paraguay. In addition, sub-sectoral strategic analyses were conducted for missions in Russia, Serbia, Montenegro, Georgia, Azerbaijan, El Salvador, Panama, and Honduras. 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 countries such as Ethiopia, Liberia, Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Middle East Partnership Initiative, Russia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Haiti, and Central America and Mexico.

DCHA/DG was also the leader within the Agency in developing and finalizing the Agency's policy on anticorruption. In November, the Administrator approved the USAID Anticorruption Strategy which was developed by the DG Office, pursuant to his tasking. The strategy places anticorruption in the context of U.S. national security interests and argues that corruption is a central development imperative and a key factor in state failure and conflict. The document advocates a new analytical approach to the political and economic dynamics of corruption and urges development of innovative approaches to addressing corruption among elites, among political actors and across all sectors.

A further accomplishment during FY 2004 was the roll-out of USAID's work on campaign finance. DCHA/DG researched money in politics in 108 countries in a pioneering study of disclosure. A book entitled "Money in Politics Handbook: A Guide to Increasing Transparency in Emerging Democracies" was published and vetted in a dozen of Anticorruption workshop held in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and

Latin America. The handbook was featured in events in the United States in roll-out function with Transparency International at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., and at the Carter Center in Atlanta, an event attended by 10 ex-president of Latin American. In addition to publishing the handbook, a pilot program to affect changes in disclosure laws was developed to promote transparency in political finance. The program which calls for the reporting of campaign finance reports over the Internet has been implemented in over 10 countries in Europe and Latin America and is being introduced in Africa.

DCHA/DG was very active in FY2004 in the Agency's effort to crystallize policy and strategy related to governance in weak and failing states. In addition to the work done direct in support of the Agency commitments in Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan, DCHA/DG was an active participant in the State/USAID Joint Policy Council (JPC), contributed substantially in the Agency Fragile States task force, and initiated a Security Sector Reform activity. In the JPC, DCHA/DG represented the Agency on two working groups: Human Rights and Democracy, and Security and Regional Stability. The latter especially accomplished significant goals in FY 2004, including developing a strong working relationship with important State Department bureaus (INL, PolMil, H), got agreement from the State Department to seek relaxation of restrictive legislation pertaining to police assistance, and drafted proposed new language for legislation on police assistance. Following from the JPC work, DCHA/DG conducted a one-day training seminar for USAID staff on democratic policing, drafted Agency policy guidance for police assistance, and initiated work on a field manual for democratic policing. Throughout the year, the DG Office was an active participant in the Agency's fragile states task force, contributing substantially to the Fragile States Strategy, including convening a DCHA discussion meeting and extensive commentary and review. DCHA/DG also participated during the year in the development of a Fragility Assessment Methodology and an Early Warning System. The initiation of a Security Sector Reform program began with the adding of a sector expert to the DCHA/DG staff. Direct assistance on security sector reform (specifically civilian-military relations) was provided to USAID/Nicaragua. Although this activity is very new, DCHA/DG is working to develop a robust program for FY 2005.

In FY 2004, DCHA/DG provided funding and significant technical support to a ground-breaking series of democracy and governance surveys conducted in eight countries from Colombia to Mexico. These surveys marked the first time that such a rigorous study of citizen attitudes and experiences has been carried-out simultaneously across a region. An independent evaluation of the surveys, funded by DCHA/DG, concluded: "Project methods are meticulously documented and conform to the highest international standards in virtually all respects... And the conclusions drawn are well supported by the evidence presented and provide valuable insights into the problems and prospects for sustaining and extending democracy in the region." Specifically, the results shed new light on citizen experiences with corruption, crime, and the resulting impact on the legitimacy of, and support for, democratic institutions. The surveys will be used to inform USAID democracy programming in the region as well as provide a tool to better demonstrate the impact of DCHA/DG programs.

Although democracy programs have an extensive history as a foreign assistance priority to date, there have not been any systematic and rigorous analyses to evaluate which types or sequences of programming best promote different aspects of democratic development. The Strategic Operations Research Agenda is intended to facilitate such research to help the DG Office revise its activities by ending or revising ineffective programs, adding new programs, integrating better design and evaluation into programs, and engaging in dissemination and learning activities with a wider policy community. Progress in FY 2004 included development of a methodological approach, recruitment of a Democracy Fellow, and granting of an award for the first portion of research.

3. Cadre Development

DCHA/DG conducted four major training events from December 2003 through December 2004. The DG Officers Training Conference was held December 2003, and featured keynote contributions from journalist Fareed Zakariah and former U.S. Representative Lee Hamilton. Ninety DG officers from Washington and field missions attended the advanced training component. In June 2004, the DG Orientation training workshop was attended by 47 USAID field officers. DCHA/DG developed a comprehensive training programs for New Entry Professionals and Presidential Management Fellows.

This program, consisting of 120 hours of coursework, was delivered to seven participants in the spring and five participants in the fall of 2004.

Results Framework

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

SO Level Indicator(s):

- Cadre Development
- Field Support
- Inter-Agency Collaboration
- Technical Leadership

IR No. 1 Promoting Human Rights

IR No. 2 Legal Reform

IR No. 3 Access to Justice

IR No. 4 Institutional Reform

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

SO Level Indicator(s):

- Cadre Development
- Field Support
- Inter-Agency Collaboration
- Technical Leadership

IR No. 1 Promoting free and fair elections

IR No. 2 Developing impartial electoral frameworks

IR No. 3 Representative and competitive multi-party systems

IR No. 4 Informed and active citizenries

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

SO Level Indicator(s):

- Cadre Development
- Field Support
- Technical Leadership

IR No. 1 Encourage the development of civil society groups

IR No. 2 Increase development of a politically active civil society

IR No. 3 Assisting groups to become financially viable and self-sufficient

IR No. 4 Strengthen independent print and broadcast media

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

SO Level Indicator(s):

- Cadre Development
- Field Support
- Technical Leadership

IR No. 1 Anticorruption

IR No. 2 Decentralization and local capacity-building

IR No. 3 Public policy development and implementation

IR No. 4 Legislative Strengthening

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