

**Capital:** Zagreb  
**Size:** 21,823 square miles, slightly smaller than West Virginia  
**Population:** 4.5 million (2001)  
**Population Growth Rate:** 0.1% (2002)  
**Life Expectancy:** males 71.2 years; females 78 years (2002)  
**Infant Mortality:** 7 deaths per 1000 live births (2002)  
**GNI per capita:** \$4,540 (2002)  
**Real Annual GDP:** \$22.4 billion (2002)  
**Foreign Direct Investment:** \$980.5 million (2002)  
**Unemployment:** 14.4%  
**Religion:** Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Muslim and others  
**Language:** Croatian  
**President:** Stipe Mesic  
**Prime Minister:** Ivo Sanader  
**Ambassador to U.S.:** Neven Jurica



**National Interest:** Croatia's progress towards democracy and a free market economy has regional repercussions. Croatia could serve as a model of cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro. Croatia has been a staunch partner with the U.S. in its ongoing war against terrorism. USAID's role focuses on democratic and economic reform and the successful return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

#### OVERVIEW OF USAID'S FOCUS IN CROATIA

FY 04: Total AEEB - \$24.8 million, USAID Total - \$21.5 million

USAID has been operating in Croatia since 1992. During this time USAID delivered more than \$283 million in assistance to Croatia. USAID/Croatia implements a comprehensive transition program that includes economic and fiscal reform, democratic institution building, sustainable return and reintegration of war-affected populations, social transition reform and cross-cutting activities. Croatia's successful transition is integral to achieving the U.S. core policy goal of stability in the Balkan region and serves other important American interests such as fighting terrorism and trafficking in persons. USAID/Croatia's current portfolio is approximately \$190 million. In FY 2004 Croatia's program budget was nearly \$25 million.

The USAID assistance program is aimed to help Croatia continue progress toward a prominent place within the community of democratic and market-oriented nations, and to become a force for stability, peace, cooperation and prosperity throughout Southeast Europe. Stronger economic and political institutions and social stability in Croatia, will further peace and stability throughout the region. USAID intends to complete its assistance program in Croatia in 2008.

**Private Sector Growth (FY 04 \$9.9 million, 46%):** USAID's focus in this sector encourages the growth of a dynamic and competitive private sector by providing technical assistance to private enterprises, and guidance on structural reforms necessary to increase foreign and direct investment to spur private sector growth and reduce high unemployment with special focus on economically distressed areas.

**Effective Citizen Participation & Improved Governance (FY 04 \$9.4 million, 44%):** USAID provides technical assistance to local governments on budget and management; provides local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) with fundraising, management and outreach skills to ensure sustainability; assists parliamentarians and political party leadership in responding effectively and reaching out to their constituents; fostering a more effective and transparent political process.

**Mitigation of Adverse Social Conditions and Trends (FY 04 \$0.5 million, 2%):** USAID's Social Transition program is aimed at addressing expanding social ills and political disaffection originating from decades of socialism and post-independence economic contraction. USAID's efforts in the social sector include enhancing public awareness and support for the reforms in the pension system, supporting multi-stakeholders negotiations on labor and family laws, and strengthening organizations' capacities to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and trafficking in persons (TIP).

**Cross Cutting Initiatives (FY 04 \$1.7 million, 8%):** USAID's assistance provides support across all strategic objectives in the areas of anti-corruption, good governance and transparency and participant training.

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