



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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## CYPRUS

# U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PERFORMANCE PUBLICATION Fiscal Year 2009

### **FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS**

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The United States Government (USG), the Government of the Republic of Cyprus (GOC), and the Turkish Cypriot leadership share the long-term vision of a stable, prosperous Cyprus, which acts as a partner for progress and peace in the region. However, the longstanding unresolved conflict in Cyprus continues to undermine that vision by consuming time, energy, and resources that would otherwise be used to fight terrorism and transnational crime, promote economic development, and foster the process of reconciliation. The U.S. foreign assistance program in Cyprus is designed to reduce tensions and promote peace and cooperation between the two communities through measures aimed at the reunification of the island, as outlined in the congressional mandate. After decades of division, however, the challenges for the program and for reconciliation more broadly, remain great. The policies and procedures of both the GOC and the Turkish Cypriot administration, which understandably focus on political and legal issues, have done little to encourage Cypriots to work for compromise or reconciliation, and may have inadvertently undermined trust and confidence in the prospects for a solution. For these reasons, the U.S. foreign assistance program is now focused almost exclusively on strengthening the capacities of Cypriots to participate actively in reconciliation and the peace process.

### **HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE**

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#### **Peace and Security**

Decades after inter-communal fighting broke out in the 1960s, and the island was divided in 1974, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots continue to live separately, divided by the United Nations-patrolled “Green Line.” Six years after a handful of crossing points opened across the island, only 24 percent of Greek Cypriots and 38 percent of Turkish Cypriots report having had contact with members of the other community; only one in three of those reported that the contact was anything more than superficial. More than a year after the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities resumed official United Nations-facilitated settlement negotiations, USG-supported programs still provide Cypriots with the majority of organized, substantive opportunities to interact and work towards a common future. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Forged the bi-communal alliances needed to complete seven significant cultural heritage restoration projects including the Panayia Pergamiotissa Church at Akanthu, a traditional Turkish Cypriot olive mill, the Maronite Church of the Virgin Mary in Cambili, a community center in the village of Peristerona, the Mosaics at the Basilica of Soli, a bicomunal community center in Nicosia, and the Cathedral of St. Mamas in Morphou
- In partnership with the United Nations and at the request of the leaders, facilitated the opening of the crossing point at Limnitis (a significant new crossing point to connect remote areas in northwest Cyprus with the capital), and supported several other confidence-building measures identified by the leaders and their negotiating teams, including a conference on fiscal federalism, and art exhibitions displayed in the negotiating facilities and designed to encourage and inspire the leaders
- Brought together 100 Cypriots and international experts to work to combat human trafficking, and trained 40 civil society organizations in the provision of professional services to victims of human trafficking
- Supported 105 civil society organizations in their efforts to build trust and understanding while working across the divide on issues of common concern such as environmental protection, cultural heritage preservation, and pressing social issues. These organizations hosted 200 events, in which 10,000 people participated, resulting in 400 positive news stories.
- Facilitated 25 meetings between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot business leaders that have resulted in increased trade over the dividing “Green Line.” “Green Line” trade has increased 400 percent since facilitation began, but the global financial crisis has begun to have a negative effect on these results.
- Supported Cypriot efforts to produce supplementary history textbooks, train 70 secondary school teachers as teacher trainers, and train 230 secondary school teachers on how to use multi-perspective approaches to teach history in the classroom. These efforts by civil society, with the backing of all seven teacher trade unions in Cyprus, have resulted in an ongoing and vigorous debate about the role that history teaching will play in the future of Cyprus.
- Trained 200 Turkish Cypriot professionals in English language and communication skills. Participants have demonstrated marked improvements in oral, aural, and written English language skills; as such, they are better equipped to communicate with Greek Cypriots and engage in island-wide activities, including negotiations and related processes.