

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Honduras
Program Title:	Ruling Justly
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	522-021
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$4,662,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$5,284,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2003
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: The Government of Honduras and USAID have jointly agreed on a program to strengthen the responsiveness, effectiveness, and transparency of governance in Honduras. The justice sector will be strengthened through improvements to the legal framework, and expanding access to justice to the poor and marginalized groups. USAID will focus on strengthening reform-minded legal professionals, in combination with the efforts of civil society organizations, to build a sustainable foundation for democracy. To reinforce this effort, Honduras must strengthen the democratic culture and government accountability by establishing effective checks and balances. USAID and other partners will help Honduras to develop a more decentralized, responsive government; improve oversight in the management of public funds; and increase local government capacity to meet citizen needs. USAID will focus on models of local governance that encourage community initiative through local government alliances, leading to innovation that can be replicated in other municipalities.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$1,600,000 DA). Because implementation of the Criminal Procedures Code (CPC) is still in its early stages, USAID will fund technical assistance to refine criminal procedures; train judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and forensics experts to ensure effective implementation; and improve case management and evidence handling systems and processes. USAID will strengthen judicial independence through improvements in the legal framework and work with the Supreme Court's Constitutional Chamber. USAID will apply its successful experience with the CPC to begin civil procedure reform, introducing oral proceedings and greater transparency into the civil courts. To improve access to justice for marginalized groups, including women and the poor, USAID will support the development of alternative dispute resolution systems. To improve the advocacy and participation of professional associations within justice institutions, USAID will provide technical assistance and grants to these organizations in the area of legal reform. Support provided to justice sector nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) will strengthen advocacy on justice sector reform and monitoring, human rights, transparency and anticorruption, and immunity of public officials. USAID will also support implementation of recent electoral reforms which make representatives more accountable to the electorate rather than solely to their political parties. Technical assistance and supplies are being provided to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to implement the primary and general elections in 2005. A voter education campaign will also be implemented to ensure that voters understand the landmark changes, thereby minimizing confusion and possible nullification of their ballots. Principle contractors and grantees include Florida International University, Chemonics (sub), International Foundation for Election Systems, and local NGOs.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$3,062,000 DA). USAID is funding technical assistance and training to promote the transparent management of public resources and strengthen citizen oversight of the municipal sector. Technical assistance and small grants

are focused on increasing and improving citizen participation in local government decision making, establishing mechanisms to monitor the use of public funds, and promoting public information and awareness programs. To improve the management capacity of local governments, USAID will fund specialized technical assistance and training for a select number of large municipalities, and basic technical assistance and training to a number of small municipalities in the areas of financial administration, tax collection, and service delivery. USAID will also fund technical assistance to municipal governments transitioning due to elections, including assistance to foster citizen involvement in monitoring the change in administration. To promote transparency, accountability, and oversight in the management of public funds, technical assistance will strengthen the capabilities of the country's Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) to audit municipal government and international donor programs. Technical assistance and small grants will be provided to support independent anticorruption mechanisms.

USAID will build private sector participation and support for initiatives to promote transparency, good governance, and ethical conduct. The National Association of Municipalities will receive technical assistance and a grant to enhance its advocacy on behalf of local government interests in public policy debates and improve the quality of services to municipalities. USAID support will also strengthen regional associations of municipalities in their capacity to support smaller, more impoverished municipalities and promote regional development initiatives. Principle contractors and grantees include Management Systems International, the Urban Institute (sub), and local NGOs.

FY 2006 Program: Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$2,420,000 DA). To strengthen the rule of law, USAID plans to fund technical assistance and training to strengthen the cadre of reform-oriented justice sector professionals and to raise the quality and transparency of justice. This support will complement technical assistance designed to achieve a sound constitutional and legal framework for an independent judiciary. USAID may support activities to strengthen the technical capacity and vision of selected legal professional associations through technical assistance, training, and small grants. Support will continue for justice sector civil society organizations to promote advocacy, dialogue, and public awareness of legal reform issues. Same implementers as above.

Support for Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$2,864,000 DA). USAID expects to provide assistance to both large and small municipalities to increase their capacity for transparent administration, participatory decision making, and effective delivery of basic services. Additional focus will be placed on strengthening nascent regional municipal associations and their relationship with the national municipal association in order to promote coordinated initiatives and increase municipal capacity to manage decentralized health and education services. USAID also plans to provide targeted technical assistance and training to the Honduran SAI. Same implementers as above.

Performance and Results: Local governments increased their administrative management capabilities to enable them to better respond to citizen needs, and the groundwork has been laid for further decentralization of responsibilities and resources. Despite political interference, municipal and civil society organizations have preserved their independence and are offering improved services to their membership. Justice sector institutions have embraced the new CPC, and criminal trials and non-trial procedures are being implemented nationwide, thus building a more transparent justice system. Through the joint initiative of USAID and civil society, the passage of a landmark electoral reform law removes the direct control by political parties over the selection of members of Congress by allowing voters to directly elect their representatives.

By program completion, USAID expects to see major reforms in the justice, civil, and political systems to reduce corruption and ensure greater transparency and security, thus contributing to increased investment and economic growth. Greater authority is expected to devolve to municipalities, which will be better equipped to manage growth, generate and manage resources in a transparent manner, and provide improved public services to constituents.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Honduras

522-021 Ruling Justly	DA
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	3,250
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	3,250
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	5,640
Expenditures	28
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	8,890
Expenditures	28
Unliquidated	8,862
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	4,662
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	4,662
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	5,284
Future Obligations	10,664
Est. Total Cost	29,500