

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Mexico
Program Title:	Ruling Justly
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	523-021
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$976,000 DA; \$12,554,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$1,156,000 DA; \$10,078,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2003
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: USAID's democracy program complements Mexican reforms at the federal and state levels to provide more accountable policy-making, and enhance the rule of law. These efforts will help strengthen democracy in Mexico and increase transparency and effectiveness of the Mexican legal system.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$376,000 DA, \$6,174,000 ESF). USAID supports Mexican initiatives in state and federal jurisdictions to: 1) develop and pass criminal justice reforms; 2) implement oral, adversarial procedures codes; 3) train judges, prosecutors, and public defenders; and 4) build professional capabilities to carry out investigative and forensic functions. USAID will provide technical assistance and training to open court-annexed mediation programs in two additional states and provide small grants to strengthen three additional nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that provide quality mental health and medical services to victims of crime and survivors of torture. The principal contractors and grantees are Casals & Associates, Freedom House, and the American Bar Association.

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$600,000 DA, \$2,480,000 ESF). USAID will support Mexican reforms launched in the following areas: 1) the passage of legislation to implement a government performance and results act and a chief information officer (CIO) law; 2) a competitiveness initiative to improve Mexican business climate; 3) a constitutional amendment to permit the consecutive re-election of legislators; and 4) technical assistance to increase citizen charters and public commitments by the government to achieve specified results in target priority areas. USAID will support a competitiveness initiative to improve the Mexican business climate and will foster specific improvements in the functioning of the legislature. USAID will support the establishment of a NGO-based center dedicated to advancing more cooperative and participatory policy debates and resolving pressing public disputes. USAID will also promote reforms to increase tax deductibility of private donations to nongovernmental organizations. The principal contractors and grantees are Casals & Associates and Partners for a Democratic Change.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$3,400,000 ESF). USAID will support the development of fiscal policy reforms; policy dialogue among state legislatures of the U.S-Mexico border region; greater state and municipal access to capital markets; and the dissemination of studies on traditional governance in indigenous municipalities in state of Oaxaca. As part of Mexico's anticorruption strategy, assistance will help develop model legislation for Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), develop a standard training program for SAIs to reinforce the provisions of the model legislation, and introduce performance audits. USAID will support implementation of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in five states and FOIA passage in one state, train the National Association of FOIA Commissions staff, and develop standards for investigative journalism. The principal contractors and grantees are Casals &

Associates, the Council of State Governments, and the University of New Hampshire.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$500,000 ESF). USAID will provide technical assistance to political parties toward reforming and modernizing party policies and encourage increased participation of traditionally underrepresented groups. The principal grantees are the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute.

FY 2006 Program: Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$546,000 DA, \$5,608,000 ESF). USAID will continue support for Mexican initiatives at the state and federal level to develop and pass oral, adversarial criminal justice reforms in at least two additional jurisdictions and to implement oral, adversarial procedures and train prosecutors, judges, and defenses in at least four jurisdictions; and build professional capabilities to carry out investigative and forensic functions in at least one jurisdiction. USAID will provide technical assistance and training to one additional state to open court-annexed mediation centers, and will also provide small grants to two additional NGO-managed centers to increase their capacity to provide mental health and medical services to victims of crime and survivors of torture. The principal contractors and grantees are Casals & Associates, Freedom House, and the American Bar Association.

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$610,000 DA, \$2,467,000 ESF): USAID will support the implementation of the government performance and results act and the CIO law; 20 additional citizen charters; and a comprehensive national competitiveness initiative. USAID will also support the institutional development of an NGO dedicated to advancing more cooperative and participatory policy debates; and passage of reforms to increase the tax deductible status of private donations to NGOs. The principal contractor and grantees are Casals & Associates, Partners for Democratic Change, and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$3,395,000 ESF). USAID will support fiscal reforms in two additional areas, and one additional pilot entity to present results that will stimulate increased capital markets participation of state governments. USAID will provide technical assistance to two more states to pass FOIA laws, and will develop a second-generation advanced training program building on the first FOIA training module. USAID will also provide technical assistance and training to two more states to pass model legislation to create or reform SAIs, and performance audits will take place in all states with model legislation. The principal contractor is Casals & Associates.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$500,000 ESF). USAID will work to consolidate progress and provide technical assistance to political parties to reform and modernize party policies. USAID will also encourage the political participation of traditionally underrepresented groups. The principal grantees are the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute.

Performance and Results: To date the results of this program include: 1) Mexico's drafting and enactment of civil service regulations and the implementation of the country's first federal government-wide civil service; 2) the introduction of comprehensive federal and state level legislative proposals to reform the criminal justice system from a written, inquisitorial system to an oral, adversarial one; 3) the passage of the first oral, adversarial code of criminal procedure in Mexico by the state of Nuevo Leon; 4) the opening of 18 mediation centers in 12 states; and 5) technical assistance to the first National Fiscal Convention, in which representatives from federal, state and local governments applied international best practices to elaborate 341 fiscal reform proposals in the areas of government expenditures, revenues, public debt, assets, tax administration, inter-governmental coordination, transparency, and auditing.

By program completion, at least seven states and the federal GOM will have adopted modern codes of criminal procedure and be implementing new oral, adversarial criminal justice systems. Sixteen states will have opened court-annexed mediation centers, increasing access to and

confidence in the justice system for disadvantaged or marginalized groups. The federal GOM and several states will have civil service systems under implementation. Citizen-focused government will operate through citizen charters and plain-language initiatives. A new legislative framework will have increased the fiscal authorities of the three levels of government. Mexico's municipal bond market will have strengthened at least six states, local governments and private sector groups having adopted competitive market practices. More democratic political parties led by constituent-focused and constituent-responsive members will be operating under more open and accountable internal rules. An NGO-based center will advance more cooperative and participatory policy debates. At least 16 SAIs will be conducting financial audits using modern technical criteria and at least 18 states will have adopted FOIA laws. Six NGO-led centers will have greater capacity to provide mental health and medical services to victims of torture.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Mexico

	DA	ESF
523-021 Ruling Justly		
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	0	3,750
Expenditures	0	0
Unliquidated	0	3,750
Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	781	9,432
Expenditures	606	4,685
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	781	13,182
Expenditures	606	4,685
Unliquidated	175	8,497
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	976	12,554
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	976	12,554
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	1,156	10,078
Future Obligations	3,898	8,375
Est. Total Cost	6,811	44,189