

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	West Bank and Gaza
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	294-003
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$23,255,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$11,401,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$20,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	1996
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2007

Summary: USAID/West Bank and Gaza (WBG) supports a program of broad-based democratic development through: technical and limited material assistance for elections and political party development; financial and technical assistance for Palestinian civil society organizations to promote public discourse and improve oversight of public institutions; technical and limited material assistance to the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) to improve the capacity, accountability, and responsiveness of key legislative staff, offices, and PLC committees; activities that strengthen demand for rule of law reform through work with law faculties, civil society organizations, and professional associations; and extraordinary budget support to assist reform by the new leadership of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,000,000 ESF). USAID will assist civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote public discourse in decision-making processes, work for representation of diverse social interests, and ensure proper oversight of public institutions. USAID will also support civil society initiatives in Presidential, parliamentary, and local elections. These efforts may include domestic observation, voter mobilization, and voter education programs, including specific programming for women's participation. USAID will also stimulate and improve local CSO work in the areas of advocacy, policy analysis, training capacity building, communication, leadership skills, strategic planning, financial management, conflict resolution, and holding the PA accountable for execution of laws and regulations. Interventions support reform, deepen CSO oversight capabilities, and promote citizen discourse. With proper Congressional consultation and subject to Foreign Assistance Act FY 2005 Appropriation language, if needed, USAID will implement a community policing initiative as a contribution to improving the security conditions for community-based law and order together with CSOs. The Mission's primary civil society program is scheduled to end in late 2005 when the Mission plans to design, award, and fund a follow-on project in FY 2005. The principal contractors are: Chemonics Inc., Academy for Educational Development, Search for Common Ground, and International Republican Institute (IRI).

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$22,000,000 ESF). The Mission's long-standing legislative strengthening contract concluded in the first quarter of FY 2005. USAID will design, award, and fund a follow-on project in FY 2005, which will assist the prospective newly democratically elected PLC. Parliamentary elections are anticipated for May 2005. Building upon the results of an evaluation conducted in FY 2004 and capitalizing on new momentum towards reform, USAID will strengthen the new Council's capacities in targeted core areas. These may include executive-legislative relations, new member training and development, improved outreach and engagement with civil society and citizen constituencies, and enhanced transparency and accountability. The Mission will also explore opportunities to strengthen the legislative process more broadly, including expanding the executive branch's capacity to propose legislation and formulate policy and helping CSOs monitor the legislative process and oversee the legislative branch performance and execution of the law by the PA. The principal implementing partners are to be determined. As tangible support for the new leadership of the PA, and in recognition of the PA's improved financial reforms, the U.S. Government provided extraordinary budget support in the form of a cash transfer of \$20 million to the Palestinian Authority. This direct budgetary support has been transferred to the PA Ministry of Finance and was used for the payment of utility arrearages to the Government of Israel. This support was rendered with all necessary

legislative and policy waivers and approvals.

Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$255,000 ESF). USAID launched two new rules of law initiatives in FY 2004. Through these programs, USAID promotes Palestinian internal reform, economic growth based on enforceable legal and commercial transactions, and the development of an independent, well-trained, and merit-based judiciary. USAID assistance through its new Rule of Law Reform project increases the professionalism of the legal community, improves the curriculum and teaching capacity in law schools, and supports constituencies for legal reform. During FY 2005, USAID will build on previous efforts to strengthen the Palestinian judiciary and prosecution by constructing several courthouses and improving forensic skills. The principal contractors and grantees are: Chemonics Inc., the United Nations Development Program, and others to be determined.

Promote and Support Free and Fair Elections (\$11,401,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). To support the organization and implementation of Presidential, parliamentary, and local elections, USAID is providing technical assistance and equipment, such as ballot boxes and ballot paper. This support will strengthen the operations of the Central Elections Commission and possibly its counterpart commission for local elections. USAID is also supporting international observation of elections. Technical assistance will increase campaign polling and surveying capacity, support voter education and information campaigns, build campaign message and management skills, and otherwise strengthen the electoral process as a cornerstone of the democratic system. Principal contractors and grantees are: The National Democratic Institute; The International Foundation for Electoral Systems, and IRI.

There will be a \$20,000,000 ESF Cash Transfer to the Palestinian Authority to pay electric bills.

FY 2006 Program: Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$8,000,000 ESF). Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$3,000,000 ESF). Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$3,000,000 ESF). Strengthen Civil Society (\$5,000,000 ESF). Support Democratic Political Parties (\$1,000,000). The Mission will continue to implement its legislative assistance, rule of law, local governance, and civil society programs. However, Presidential, local, and parliamentary elections may result in significant realignments of democracy and governance program components. The major priorities which USAID might address in FY 2006 include: 1) strengthening the rule of law and the judiciary; 2) supporting the Palestinian Legislative Council and Executive Branch policy units, as needed; 3) improving the quality of governance and the service delivery capabilities at the local level; and 4) continued support for civil society programs, including media. Principal contractors and grantees are to be determined.

Performance and Results: USAID is a leader in providing assistance in the Democracy and Governance sector in West Bank and Gaza (WBG). The focus is on consolidating gains in core Palestinian democratic institutions: the PLC, the judiciary, electoral institutions and political parties, and civil society. Important, visible results have been achieved in strengthening the Palestinian judiciary and in sustaining the PLC's operations. USAID rehabilitated, automated, and modernized a total of 13 Palestinian courts and seven offices of the Attorney General in the WBG. These courts and offices are now able to process cases more swiftly and efficiently, compile and store records more safely, and have the potential to administer justice more effectively. Work with Palestinian civil society has continued to achieve demonstrable results by engaging non-governmental organizations in the democratic process and supporting their efforts to represent and integrate marginalized groups such as women, children, and the disabled. Concerning elections, the Mission supported a voter registration observation initiative, which helped build public and international confidence in Palestinian electoral preparations.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

West Bank and Gaza

294-003 Democracy and Governance	ESF
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	98,249
Expenditures	79,152
Unliquidated	19,097
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	6,449
Expenditures	7,599
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	104,698
Expenditures	86,751
Unliquidated	17,947
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	11,401
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	23,255
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	34,656
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	20,000
Future Obligations	7,500
Est. Total Cost	166,854