

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	West Bank and Gaza
<b>Program Title:</b>	Higher Education and Training
<b>Pillar:</b>	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	294-005
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$700,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$7,666,000 ESF
<b>Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$14,000,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	2000
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2007

**Summary:** USAID's higher education program aims at building human capital by providing long and short-term training opportunities to Palestinians. One initiative supports local universities, students, and academics, by providing scholarships to eligible students at local universities as well as support for scientific research proposals and training in the area of Information Technology (IT). Another initiative provides graduates from local universities with the opportunity to seek a Master's degree in the United States in professional fields that support developmental and reform priority needs in the West Bank and Gaza.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

**FY 2005 Program:** Improve Institutions of Higher Education (\$700,000 ESF; \$346,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). The Higher Education Support Initiative (HESI) provides increased access to higher education and training and strengthens Palestinian institutions of higher learning by providing local scholarships to students in fields that meet immediate and critical needs. 476 local undergraduate students (199 male and 277 female) are benefiting from two to four semesters of full tuition scholarships at Palestinian universities. Following an eight month assessment of Palestinian higher education needs, USAID is funding up to 15 research proposals which were identified for support under HESI. These are in the following fields of specialization: biochemistry, botany, nutrition, microbiology, electronics, environment and wastewater treatment, and energy. Funding for an additional 15 proposals will be disbursed during FY 2005. If needed, additional local scholarships may also be provided. USAID will also support selected institutions of higher education with an activity aimed at faculty development. In order to improve educational resource effectiveness, USAID will support the ability of these institutions to access the most appropriate, state of the art electronic journals and databases. An assessment of the IT and staffing capacity of several higher education institutions is being carried out, and depending on the results of the assessment, USAID intends to commence funding for access to electronic journals in January 2005. The principal contractor is: Academy for Educational Development (AED).

As part of the Missions rapid response initiative, a major new initiative supporting colleges and vocational schools will begin immediately in support of the new Palestinian government (\$7,320,000 ESF Wye). This will include providing 1,000 new scholarships at local universities, improving library resources at eleven of the existing West Bank and Gaza universities, improving computer laboratories at 20 community colleges, and modernizing 13 vocational colleges that provide education to some 12,000 students.

The Mission's Program Development and Support Objective (SO) has been notified under this objective for several years. While a new Program Support Objective will be established with the arrival of new FY 2005 funding, \$400,000 under this SO will be used to provide project support needed to effectively manage the short term aspects of the new activities, and provide public information so Palestinians can learn about the U.S. government's support.

**FY 2006 Program:** Improve Quality of Workforce (Continuing to use funds obligated in FY 2004). USAID will provide support under the Presidential Scholarship Program for 24 scholars, who will be returning from the United States to the West Bank and Gaza, as well as for the remaining 46 Palestinian scholars who will be continuing with their studies in the United States. Principal contractor: AED.

Improve Institutions of Higher Education (\$4,000,000 ESF). USAID will extend HESI, which provides increased access to higher education and training and strengthens Palestinian institutions of higher learning by providing local scholarships to students in fields that meet immediate and critical needs. 476 local undergraduate students are currently benefiting from up to four semesters of full tuition scholarships at Palestinian universities. In addition, funding will be provided through the HESI program to enable access to electronic journals at colleges, a Higher Education Management Information System database, and for funding research proposals in the scientific and social sectors. Principal contractor/grantee is AED.

The Mission will introduce a vocational training activity (\$10,000,000 ESF) to develop the curricula of, equip, and build the capacity of Palestinian Vocational & Technical Centers and Colleges. Principal contractor/grantee is TBD. Principal contractor/grantee is to be determined.

**Performance and Results:** By providing scholarships and short-term training, USAID has had a significant beneficial impact on the availability and quality of higher education and training. Numerous students, institutions, and professionals have been assisted, and a cadre of leaders has been developed. Many of these beneficiaries and former students have already begun to play a prominent and visible role in the economy and in the development of Palestinian society. Furthermore, anecdotal evidence has highlighted the important role that Palestinian scholars play on U.S. campuses, enlightening counterparts at universities and in their communities to the realities of the Middle East.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

West Bank and Gaza

294-005 Higher Education and Training	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>	
Obligations	96,002
Expenditures	78,527
Unliquidated	17,475
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>	
Obligations	2,677
Expenditures	4,395
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>	
Obligations	98,679
Expenditures	82,922
Unliquidated	15,757
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>	
Obligations	7,666
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>	
Obligations	700
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005</b>	
Obligations	8,366
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>	
Obligations	14,000
Future Obligations	2,500
Est. Total Cost	123,545