

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	West Bank and Gaza
Program Title:	Community Services Program
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	294-008
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,430,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$9,843,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$19,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	1999
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2005

Summary: The goal of USAID's Community Services Program (CSP) is to improve the quality of life of Palestinians in under-served communities in the West Bank and Gaza (WBG). The program responds to the growing gap in the provision of community services through a wide range of interventions. While generating employment opportunities, the program upgrades basic infrastructure, improves the capacity of local entities to provide sustainable community services, and provides humanitarian assistance to disadvantaged groups. Community involvement is the cornerstone of the program. Communities participate in the identification, design, and implementation of projects, and, in most instances, make substantial contributions in kind or in cash. Municipal and village councils, village development committees, and community-based organizations also receive training and technical assistance to maintain projects within their communities. The principle of sustainability through community participation and thus ownership is the cornerstone of this Strategic Objective. Given that municipal elections are occurring (the first in almost thirty years), the CSP will support selected municipalities, beginning with those who elect their own commissioners and mayors. Previously, all mayors were appointed by the Palestinian Authority President Arafat.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Expand and Improve Access to Economic and Social Infrastructure (\$1,430,000 ESF, \$7,900,000 ESF Wye). The focus is on upgrading infrastructure for selected needy rural areas and urban neighborhoods in the West Bank and Gaza, particularly educational and youth facilities. USAID funds small community activities in education, youth and small municipal infrastructure to improve the quality of life and provide much needed services while creating employment opportunities. Interventions in the education sector focus on rehabilitation and construction of schools and classrooms, resulting in greater access to and better quality education. Poor areas often suffer from an absence of, or inadequate supply of schools, classrooms, toilets for girls, and youth facilities. Typical interventions in this area include construction or expansion of educational and youth facilities and the training of service providers. Small municipal infrastructure activities will include water projects aimed at the provision of quality water for drinking purposes, extension of piped water networks and connecting and interior roads. Support to interventions in agriculture and health will continue if resources are available. The program and the number of partners are expected to decrease as the last of the Wye Accord supplementary funds are disbursed. The principal grantees are: Save the Children Federation (SCF), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), YMCA, American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), World Vision International (WVI), Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Provide Emergency Assistance (\$1,000,000 ESF Wye). This assistance targets groups that have fallen out of the reach of mainstream donor support and are in exceptional need of humanitarian assistance. These groups include the elderly, physically and mentally challenged youth, needy school children, internally displaced persons, families with inadequate shelter and other similar groups with urgent needs. Typical interventions in this area include the distribution of commodities, such as food packages and school supply bags. The principal grantee is Associates in Rural Development, Inc. (ARD).

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$943,000 Prior Year Unobligated). As

tangible support for the new leadership of the PA and subject to availability of additional funds, the Mission will design, award and launch a new program, which strengthens the democratic governance capabilities of Palestinian municipalities and towns. This program will be linked to local elections scheduled to take place in stages in West Bank and Gaza beginning in December 2004. The new program will build upon previous USAID WBG efforts in the sector, as well as more recent analysis conducted by the United Nations Development Program and other donors. It will enhance the accountability and responsiveness of local councils to their constituents, improve their management, planning, and administrative capacities, and improve service provision through better governance. The principal contractors and grantees are to be determined.

FY 2006 Program: Strengthen Civil Society (\$19,000,000 ESF). Two new programs will be introduced. The first, a four year program to support youth and organizations that provide youth services will focus on: 1) youth incomes and job opportunities; 2) awareness and training to change youth behaviors; 3) recreational infrastructure for youth; and 4) educational and vocational training. In a post-conflict setting, the youth program will enable a reintegration into society by improving access to social and cultural activities, building morale and developing a sense of self-worth. Youth will be empowered to participate positively and productively in the development of their communities. A second program, also to be implemented over four years, will support municipalities and town and village councils in the West Bank and Gaza. The aim will be to strengthen democratic governance, accountability, and responsiveness, while improving municipal planning and management capacities. USAID will seek to ensure that the municipalities, town, and village councils that it supports are able to deliver a range of services that are sustainable, tangible, and highly visible. Technical and material support might be provided in cooperation with local authorities for needs assessment planning and service delivery in a sustainable fashion. The municipal support program will also work with non-governmental organizations to strengthen their ability to serve communities and to empower these local communities by emphasizing sustainability and self reliance. A second phase of an existing jobs creation program will be continued, and other humanitarian assistance will be continued where needed.

Performance and Results: USAID's CSP achieved its targets in 2004, which were to contribute towards the enhancement of services to rural communities in the absence of functioning government structures and the depletion of local economic resources. In 2004, the CSP generated over 137,000 person days of employment and extended benefits to more than 735,000 beneficiaries. By providing new facilities or expanding existing ones in key sectors such as education, the CSP provided direct employment and supported the local economy and social sectors. Since the program's inception, it has made great contributions to stabilizing the Palestinian economy and society. The CSP has supported projects in about 300 villages or almost half of the total number of Palestinian communities in the West Bank and Gaza. It has been active in every Palestinian governorate, and it has financed the construction of over 1,400 educational rooms (classrooms, libraries, laboratories, etc.), benefiting about 30,000 students. Thus, this USAID program has provided about 30% of the total Palestinian needs for increased classroom space in recent years. It has also built or renovated over 550 youth facilities, repaired nearly 900 water cisterns, increased arable land available to Palestinian farmers by over 750 acres, and constructed interior agricultural and connecting roads that allow farmers to reach their land and access their markets.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

West Bank and Gaza

294-008 Community Services Program	ESF
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	242,835
Expenditures	141,404
Unliquidated	101,431
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	24,330
Expenditures	75,645
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	267,165
Expenditures	217,049
Unliquidated	50,116
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	9,843
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	1,430
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	11,273
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	19,000
Future Obligations	6,000
Est. Total Cost	303,438