

Data Sheet

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| USAID Mission: | Dominican Republic |
| Program Title: | Consolidating Democracy and Improving Governance |
| Pillar: | Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance |
| Strategic Objective: | 517-009 |
| Proposed FY 2004 Obligation: | \$3,364,000 DA; \$3,000,000 ESF |
| Prior Year Unobligated: | \$0 |
| Proposed FY 2005 Obligation: | \$2,739,000 DA; \$3,000,000 ESF |
| Year of Initial Obligation: | FY 2002 |
| Year of Final Obligation: | FY 2007 |

Summary: USAID's program to strengthen democracy in the Dominican Republic includes support for the following: a more representative and effective electoral system; a more democratic political party system with effective civil society involvement; strengthened rule of law and respect for human rights; and enhanced public sector anti-corruption systems.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Electoral system reform (\$590,000 DA). Through grants to civil society organizations, USAID will support activities that: promote more issue-oriented campaigns; implement public voter information and education programs; promote electoral reform through regional roundtables, conferences, and preparation of a proposal for changes to the Central Electoral Board; and enhance civil society capacity to improve and monitor administration of the 2004 national elections. Principal grantee is Participación Ciudadana.

Representative and accountable government (\$1,410,000 DA). Through grants to civil society organizations, USAID will help facilitate reform of political parties, including their legal frameworks and leadership selection processes. USAID will fund activities that: advance creation and/or strengthening of municipal and national citizens coalitions that monitor performance of elected officials; promote educational programs that contribute to formation of a more representative and accountable political leadership; and lead to equal gender representation among elected officials. Principal grantee is Participación Ciudadana.

Justice system personnel and institutions (\$1,400,000 DA, \$1,355,000 ESF). To ensure effective implementation of the Criminal Procedures Code (CPC), scheduled to take effect in September 2004, USAID will fund technical assistance and training for judges, prosecutors, and public defense lawyers. In addition, USAID will fund grants to civil society organizations to advocate for constitutional, human rights, and judicial institutional policy reform, as well as the transparent selection of a national ombudsman. Principal contractor is DPK Consulting and principal grantee is Foundation for Institutional and Justice (FINJUS).

Public sector anticorruption systems (\$1,645,000 ESF). USAID will fund technical assistance, training, and financial support to civil society organizations, including the recently formed anticorruption coalition, to monitor the Government of Dominican Republic's progress in implementing the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACC). USAID will advocate for passage of an anticorruption legislative agenda and monitor the judicial proceedings of the Banco Intercontinental (Baninter) and other bank fraud cases to advocate for fair and transparent processes. USAID will fund technical assistance and training courses for the judiciary, as well as oversight, investigative, and control agencies to strengthen their institutional and managerial capacity to perform investigations and prosecute fraud and corruption. This assistance validates and advances implementation of the Dominican Republic National Anti-Corruption Plan. The principal contractor is DPK Consulting and principal grantees are FINJUS and Participación Ciudadana.

FY 2005 Program:

Electoral system reform (\$593,000 DA). Following the 2004 presidential election, USAID plans to fund civil society programs that advocate for electoral reform. Principal grantee would remain the same.

Representative and accountable government (\$1,428,000 DA). To make political parties more democratic, USAID plans to support civil society public information, education, and advocacy efforts for constitutional and political party reform. Planned activities will also help foster changes in the public attitude regarding the respective roles of political parties, government, and citizens, and support education and advocacy programs to achieve balanced gender representation in elected positions. Principal grantee would remain the same.

Justice system personnel and institutions (\$1,479,000 DA, \$2,355,000 ESF). USAID plans to continue technical assistance to justice sector actors to ensure successful implementation of the CPC and improve the effectiveness of justice sector institutions. USAID-funded training will strengthen the capacity of the Public Ministry and improve court management procedures and administrative systems. To support further development of alternative dispute resolution systems and educate citizens on gaining better access to justice and respect for rule of law, USAID plans to support civil society efforts to assess and advocate for rule of law, justice sector, and police reforms. Principal contractor and grantee would remain the same.

Public sector anticorruption systems (\$1,645,000 ESF). USAID expects to continue technical assistance, training, and support for government and civil society organizations implementing the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACC) and the National Anti-Corruption Plan. Planned activities include assisting government agencies responsible for oversight, investigative, and control functions to strengthen their institutional and managerial capacity, as well as support civil society organizations to monitor corruption cases and government compliance with the IACC. In addition, USAID plans to support civil society efforts to advocate for an anticorruption legislative agenda. Principal contractor and grantees would remain the same.

Performance and Results: In FY 2003, USAID helped the Government of the Dominican Republic establish a public defenders program and select and train 14 public defenders to provide access to justice for poor and disenfranchised populations. USAID provided technical assistance to the Public Ministry and the National Congress to approve the legal framework for a career civil service for prosecutors and begin its implementation. USAID helped civil society establish an active anticorruption coalition and to select more than 6,000 presidential election poll watchers who will be trained before the May 2004 presidential election.

By program completion, the electoral and political party systems will be more representative and effective, strengthened by civil society participation. The judiciary will be more independent and professional, the judicial process will be more efficient and effective, and citizens, especially the poor and disenfranchised, will have greater access to justice. The judiciary will more capably and transparently handle complex fraud and corruption cases. Government ministries and regulatory or oversight entities will have a greater capacity to combat corruption, and civil society will be actively involved in oversight and advocacy for good governance.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Dominican Republic

| 517-009 Consolidating Democracy and Improving Governance | DA | ESF |
|--|--------|--------|
| Through September 30, 2002 | | |
| Obligations | 2,800 | 2,000 |
| Expenditures | 0 | 0 |
| Unliquidated | 2,800 | 2,000 |
| Fiscal Year 2003 | | |
| Obligations | 2,263 | 2,999 |
| Expenditures | 1,724 | 1,150 |
| Through September 30, 2003 | | |
| Obligations | 5,063 | 4,999 |
| Expenditures | 1,724 | 1,150 |
| Unliquidated | 3,339 | 3,849 |
| Prior Year Unobligated Funds | | |
| Obligations | 0 | 0 |
| Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA | | |
| Obligations | 3,364 | 2,982 |
| Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004 | | |
| Obligations | 3,364 | 2,982 |
| Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA | | |
| Obligations | 2,740 | 3,000 |
| Future Obligations | 1,037 | 5,001 |
| Est. Total Cost | 12,204 | 15,982 |