

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Central America Regional Program
<b>Program Title:</b>	Investing in People
<b>Pillar:</b>	Global Health
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	596-023
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$6,039,000 CSH
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$1,399,000 CSH
<b>Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:</b>	\$5,700,000 CSH
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	2003
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2008

**Summary:** The regional HIV/AIDS program helps contain HIV/AIDS through targeted behavior change programs for high-risk groups and an improved HIV/AIDS policy environment. The program features a multisectoral approach with public, private, traditional, nontraditional partners, faith-based, and secular partners under the framework of participatory national strategic planning processes. The program emphasizes the participation and strengthening of local organizations to respond to this threat to future sustainable development of Central America, particularly in the strategic use of information for advocacy, policy-making, and monitoring and evaluation of program efforts. USAID's support seeks to reduce the stigma and discrimination around HIV that impedes the delivery and use of effective prevention practices. This program supports the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the Agency's goal of protecting human health.

### **Inputs, Outputs, Activities:**

#### **FY 2006 Program:**

Prevent and Control Infectious Diseases of Major Importance (\$693,000 CSH). USAID is promoting the integration and improvement of the TB and HIV/AIDS surveillance systems, including reviewing and revising the case reporting and referral systems, the information flows for consistency and accuracy of reporting, improved laboratory diagnostics, special studies of co-infection, and multi-drug resistance. The program is also building the capacity of clinics on the co-infection of HIV and TB at all levels of the health care system, including improved pre-service and in-service training, updating of training modules, and dissemination of state of the art treatment technology. The program is paying special attention to supporting Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria projects in the region. Partners are the Global Health Tuberculosis Control Assistance Program and Centers for Disease Control/Global AIDS Control Program (CDC/GAP).

Reduce Transmission and Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$1,399,000 Prior CSH Year funds, \$5,346,000 CSH). USAID's prevention program is focusing heavily on targeted interpersonal behavior change for "most at-risk populations" in concentrated epidemics. These populations include often "hidden" high-risk populations including prostitutes, men who have sex with men, and people living with HIV/AIDS. The program emphasizes smaller groups with more intensive and face-to-face interpersonal contacts. An additional 330,000 contacts are being targeted for 2006. The new behavior change program promotes more coordinated and improved access to services for voluntary counseling and testing and sexually transmitted infections services. These behavior change activities are being complemented by a distribution program that makes condoms available in outlets where high-risk behaviors take place. This component is also integrating USAID supported policy reform, human rights, and stigma reduction activities, thereby reducing the conditions of vulnerability that affect the ability of the target population to make decisions freely with regard to safer sexual practices. Partners to be determined through a competitive process.

USAID will pursue positive policy changes through the provision of technical and financial support for the development and implementation of the National AIDS Strategic Plans (NPSs). Emphasis is on the development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation strategies. The regional HIV/AIDS program is assisting Global Fund projects in scaling up and monitoring their efforts within the context of the NSPs. The program addresses the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS through technical assistance to improve their networking capabilities within the multisector strategic alliances. Additionally, the program is supporting campaigns to increase the general public's tolerance towards people living with HIV/AIDS. Faith-based and human rights groups, as well as other related sectors, are involved in advocating for the improvement and implementation of AIDS related policies. The specific policy actions that are being achieved in 2006 include: the official release and dissemination of the National AIDS Policy in Guatemala; a declaration on HIV/AIDS by the Central American Presidents at the Central American AIDS Congress; further modifications to the labor code and a National HIV/AIDS Policy in El Salvador; the completion of the National AIDS Strategic Plans and associated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan in Nicaragua; and completion of the National HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Plan in Panama. Principal grantees are: Academy for Educational Development and Futures Group.

The program is assisting National AIDS Programs in Central America to disseminate National HIV/AIDS Surveillance Plans among key stakeholders, decision makers and policy makers to ensure support and leveraging of resources and to establish reporting frameworks for communication and dissemination of key HIV/AIDS surveillance data. The program also promotes inter-agency and cross-country collaboration to develop country monitoring and evaluation plans under a regional strategic framework. Among others, the program is providing technical assistance to relevant Ministries of Health, Global Fund-El Salvador, the University del Valle/Guatemala (in the development and implementation of a surveillance survey of male prisoners), the World Bank Regional HIV/AIDS Grant Project (for the establishment of the regional HIV/AIDS reference laboratory at the Gorgas Institute of Panama), and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (in the development and implementation of national Behavioral Science Surveys in Panama for high-risk groups), and Kunas as a follow-up to the Multi-Site Study. Principal partner: CDC/GAP.

**FY 2007 Program:**

Reduce Transmission and Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$5,700,000 CSH). The program will target behavior-change interventions with high prevalence groups complemented by a distribution program for making condoms available in outlets where high risk behaviors take place. The annual target for number of contacts with high risk populations is estimated in the 300,000 range, to be refined once the implementers are in place. The policy component will be transitioning into a new implementing mechanism. Specific policy initiatives to be undertaken will be defined. Partners for the behavior change, condom distribution and policy change activities in FY 2007 are to be determined.

Program activities will include a heavy focus on information from the previous behavior science surveys, which will follow up on the 2001-2002 multisite surveys. Results will be presented and used for monitoring and evaluating impact within the context of the National AIDS Strategic Plans, leveraging policy support and resources, and for guiding future strategies. Further training for HIV/AIDS epidemiologists may also be pursued in 2007. The program plans to continue strengthening human resources at all levels to efficiently and effectively manage the scaling up of care and treatment programs and to strengthen the continuum between care and prevention through a Global Health Bureau field support mechanism. However, a final decision will be made after the Program Review with the Extended Team scheduled for FY 2006. Principal grantee/contractor is the CDC/GAP.

**Performance and Results:** Important achievements in 2005 include an improved HIV/AIDS policy environment with 14 new positive policy changes in 4 countries. The program maintained high coverage of behavior change communication activities with various hard-to-reach, high-risk groups (18,070 activities with 378,301 individual contacts in FY 2005 as opposed to 14,853 and

396,864 respectively in FY 2004). In future years, the program will intensify behavior change communication activities throughout the region to allow higher quality interventions and significant coverage of high risk groups. The program will mount an effective campaign for the reduction of stigma and discrimination. In the policy area, the program will achieve more positive policy instruments and increased scores in specific components of the AIDS Program Effort Index (Political Support, Legal-Regulatory Framework, Policy Formulation, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Human Rights). Trained professionals will increasingly use accurate and relevant surveillance information for decision making and monitoring and evaluation of national programs. Successful completion of the program will result in reduced incidence of HIV among high risk groups.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

### Central America Regional Program

	CSH	GHAI
596-023 Investing in People		
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>		
Obligations	5,714	1,000
Expenditures	61	0
Unliquidated	5,653	1,000
<b>Fiscal Year 2005</b>		
Obligations	4,498	500
Expenditures	4,465	421
<b>Through September 30, 2005</b>		
Obligations	10,212	1,500
Expenditures	4,526	421
Unliquidated	5,686	1,079
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	1,399	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>		
Obligations	6,039	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006</b>		
Obligations	7,438	0
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA</b>		
Obligations	5,700	0
Future Obligations	16,150	0
Est. Total Cost	39,500	1,500