

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Paraguay
Program Title:	Democracy & Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	526-004
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,829,000 DA; \$2,976,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$2,851,000 DA; \$2,550,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: Through a range of technical assistance, training, and grants, the democracy and governance program is working to strengthen the capacity of local governments to deliver services in response to the needs of citizens; improve the ability of civil society to put pressure on the current political system to change and become more responsive; reform judicial institutions to make them more effective and accountable; and develop an open, transparent policy dialogue that allows for the inclusion of all citizens and their organizations. Anticorruption efforts are incorporated throughout the program.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,029,000 DA, \$1,776,000 ESF). Using DA funds, USAID will provide technical assistance and training to prepare candidates for municipal elections and expand the number of local governments implementing good governance practices, including improved service provision, revenue enhancement, transparency mechanisms, and citizen participation mechanisms. A \$250,000 trust fund will be established for the sustainability of an activity aimed at promoting good governance and anticorruption. USAID will use ESF to provide technical assistance to promote good governance practices to help make local governments more responsive, transparent, and accountable to citizens by increasing revenue generation and partnerships with the private sector; improving financial management and fiscal transparency; and encouraging public hearings and access to information. Prime implementers are Alter Vida and Chemonics.

Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$200,000 DA, \$200,000 ESF). USAID will use DA to provide technical assistance to municipalities and justices of the peace to increase access to justice through mediation. Using ESF, USAID will strengthen the Prosecutor's Office, Controller's Office, and the Council of Magistrates to promote transparency. Prime implementers are Institute for Penal and Social Science Comparative Studies (INECIP) and Management Systems International.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$200,000 DA, \$1,000,000 ESF). USAID will use DA to provide technical assistance to civil society organizations to increase oversight of public institutions. Using ESF, technical assistance will be provided to civil society organizations, including watchdog groups, to improve oversight of public institutions, advocate for policy reforms, strengthen organized groups, and expose corruption. Prime implementer is Center for Information and Resources for Development.

Promote and Support Anticorruption Reforms (\$400,000 DA). USAID will provide technical assistance in promoting broad anticorruption efforts in such areas as civil society tracking and monitoring of corruption cases. Prime implementer is INECIP.

FY 2006 Program: Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,351,000

DA). USAID intends to provide technical assistance and training to strengthen the capacity of newly elected mayors and council members by helping them implement good governance practices, including service provision, revenue enhancement, citizen participation, transparency mechanisms, and performance measurement. Support may be given to local governments and their associations to implement decentralization projects in coordination with the central government. Principal contractors and grantees: Alter Vida (prime) and new contractor to be determined.

Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$1,500,000 DA). Technical Assistance is planned to improve control functions of government institutions and address problems caused by the patronage system in the justice sector. A career system focusing on public judicial employees may be developed to address recruitment policies, procedures and practices based on merit. Assistance may also be provided to improve accountability of judges and prosecutors, to build capacity for the prosecution of corruption through the Prosecutor's Office and other government institutions, and to improve access to justice. Prime contractor to be determined.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,000,000 ESF). USAID plans to extend a successful sub-grant program to strengthen civil society organizations in promoting citizen participation in the policy decision-making process, citizen oversight and control, and advocacy. Prime implementer will remain the same.

Support Democratic Political Parties (\$750,000 ESF). USAID intends to provide technical assistance and training to political parties to promote public sector accountability and good governance practices to challenge the existing patronage system. Emphasis will be on building political party capacity so that technically qualified people have access to increasingly higher party positions, government positions or elected offices based on merit. Prime contractor to be determined.

Promote and Support Anticorruption Reforms (\$800,000 ESF). USAID plans to provide technical assistance and training to strengthen the capacity of the private and public sectors to fight corruption and promote reforms. Activities may support transparency and accountability and promote reforms focusing on anticorruption policies. Prime implementer will remain the same.

Performance and Results: USAID has strengthened democracy at the local level and improved local government capacity to respond to the needs of citizens by improvements in financial management, greater transparency, and participation of citizens in local affairs. Thirty municipalities are providing improved, expanded or new services with increased revenues. Civil society has increased its capacity to effect policy change including draft legislation for access to public information, taxation reform for non-profit organizations, and making public hearings a standard operating procedure for the Congress.

A draft judicial ethics code for the Supreme Court is being developed with broad participation by Supreme Court and lower court justices. Two local nongovernmental organizations are gathering public input throughout the country. A computerized registry system and internal regulation for selecting new judges, public prosecutors, public defenders and magistrates have been developed. A communications plan for the Supreme Court was developed that included input from an unprecedented working session between Supreme Court justices and media reporters. Access to justice is improving as a result of the establishment of municipal mediation centers and 35 new Justices of the Peace who provide alternative dispute resolution mediation. Training has improved the media's investigative reporting.

The overall impact of the program will be a deepening of the democratic process through the involvement of national and local institutions, and increasing civil society participation and confidence in a more functional democratic system capable of improving the delivery of basic services at the local level.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Paraguay

526-004 Democracy & Governance	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	7,575	10,098
Expenditures	5,566	6,060
Unliquidated	2,009	4,038
Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	2,302	3,732
Expenditures	2,568	3,714
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	9,877	13,830
Expenditures	8,134	9,774
Unliquidated	1,743	4,056
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	1,829	2,976
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	1,829	2,976
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	2,851	2,550
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	14,557	19,356