

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Colombia
Program Title:	Democracy
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	514-007
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$22,000,000 ACI
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$19,000,000 ACI
Year of Initial Obligation:	2000
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: USAID's democracy program provides technical assistance and training to modernize the criminal justice system; protect and promote human rights; strengthen local governance; increase government transparency and accountability; support peace initiatives; and strengthen democratic political parties. Activities will promote a strong government presence to counter the negative effects that illicit activities have on transparency, accountability, and the ability of local officials to practice good governance.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Develop and Expand Alternative Development. The program includes the following major assistance areas:

Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$4,750,000 ACI). USAID will provide assistance to the recently enacted accusatory system through training and the construction of at least six new oral trial courtrooms. USAID will work with the Ministry of Interior and Justice to increase access to justice by establishing four new Justice Houses, including two located in high-conflict rural zones. The Justice houses will bring justice services and state presence to inaccessible areas using internet-based information and communication technologies. USAID will also strengthen the network of community mediators by training and certifying 610 conciliators. The principal implementer is Checchi & Company.

Protect Human Rights and Equal Access to Justice (\$6,900,000 ACI). USAID will provide technical assistance to enhance Colombian nongovernmental organization involvement in the human rights protection program. Assistance will be provided to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of the Early Warning System to prevent massive human rights violations and enable it to properly address approximately 80% of the warnings issued by the end of 2005. The human rights program will also focus on preventing human rights abuses directed towards and perpetrated by ex-combatants. The principal implementer is Management Sciences for Development.

Support Peace Process/Address Conflict Transitional Issues (\$5,750,000 ACI). USAID is prepared to provide technical assistance for the Government of Colombia's (GOC's) demobilization and reincorporation program pending a formal policy determination that such support is a U.S. Government priority. It is projected that about 19,000 individuals will be demobilized from illegal armed groups by the end of 2005. USAID is prepared to help in negotiations with the FARC and ELN, which are two important illegal armed groups. Two new coexistence centers will be built and at least five municipalities located in areas affected by the demobilizations will be integrated into a community strengthening program. This program promotes coordination and confidence-building between citizens and state institutions at the municipal level to strengthen collective and individual rights. USAID will support public and

private sector peace initiatives. The principal implementers are the International Organization for Migration and others to be determined.

Promote and Support Anticorruption Reforms/Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$4,100,000 ACI). USAID will provide technical assistance to four additional GOC entities to improve management and reduce corruption by strengthening internal controls, implementing ethical management standards, and developing information and communication technologies. At least an additional 75 citizen oversight groups will be strengthened. The principal implementer is Casals & Associates.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$500,000 ACI). USAID will provide technical assistance to strengthen political parties and to support political reform efforts in Colombia. Proposed activities include a baseline assessment, public opinion research, and political reform policy forums. Political party work activities will target organizational strengthening, internal democracy practices, outreach to new sectors, and policy platform development. Principal implementer is the National Democratic Institute.

FY 2006 Program: Develop and Expand Alternative Development. USAID plans to implement the following activities using new contractors and grantees to be determined.

Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$4,000,000 ACI). USAID plans to continue assistance in the transition to the accusatory judicial system through continued training; construction of additional oral trial courtrooms and related facilities; monitoring of the transition; and increasing the number of justice houses providing services to communities.

Protect Human Rights and Equal Access to Justice (\$6,000,000 ACI). USAID plans to provide technical assistance to the Vice President's Office, the national ombudsman, the Inspector General, and civil society organizations to support more efficient functioning and transfer of the Early Warning System to government and local groups.

Support Peace Process/Address Conflict Transitional Issues (\$6,000,000 ACI). USAID will support the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace by strengthening its capacity to effectively implement reincorporation activities for recently demobilized groups and will also support the Organization of American State's monitoring and verification program.

Promote and Support Anticorruption Reforms/Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$2,500,000 ACI). USAID plans to support national level policy dialogue while implementing municipal level activities aimed at increasing transparency and accountability and reducing corruption.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$500,000 ACI). USAID plans to strengthen political parties through an overall national policy level effort aimed at strengthening democratic governance institutions and promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance at all levels

Performance and Results: A total of 37 Justice Houses have been established (four in 2004), handling some 2.7 million cases (746,000 in 2004). USAID has also established 35 oral trial courtrooms (seven in 2004) and strengthened the capabilities of public defenders, who are an important element of the new judicial system. Overall, the number of requests for protection has declined. About 600 people and 25 offices received protection during FY 2004. The Early Warning System was strengthened in 21 regional offices, which improved its capacity to prevent and respond to human right violations. More than 75% of the alerts issued were addressed correctly by pertinent GOC entities. Under the peace program, USAID has strengthened the capacity of the High Commissioner for Peace's Office to engage in discussions and negotiations with illegally armed groups. With USAID assistance, policy and operational plans have been designed for both demobilization and reincorporation of ex-combatants into civilian society. The

demobilization of 19,000 combatants was successfully negotiated. USAID assisted with the creation of coexistence centers in seven municipalities to provide civil society with a mechanism to keep illegal armed groups from infringing on their territory and their rights. Internal controls were strengthened within 26 GOC entities and 100 citizen oversight initiatives monitored local government projects totaling about \$1.5 billion. The local governance program has promoted effective public administration by supporting more than 210 social infrastructure projects; creating 221 (54 in 2004) citizen oversight committees, and assisting 38 (two in 2004) local governments with improvements of public services. By the end of USAID's program, democracy in Colombia will be more responsive, participatory, and accountable to the needs of Colombian citizens. A stronger state presence will help counter the negative effects that illicit activities have on democracy.