

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	LAC Regional
<b>Program Title:</b>	Regional Democracy Initiatives
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	598-005
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$2,491,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$3,800,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	1996
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2006

**Summary:** The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) regional democracy and governance program supports the deepening of democracy in LAC by strengthening regional institutions, networks and initiatives to: 1) enhance human rights protections and advance justice sector modernization and reform; 2) reduce violent conflict and crime; 3) improve public sector legitimacy through good governance and accountability; and 4) increase civil society capacity to facilitate citizen participation and oversight of government.

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

**FY 2005 Program:** Promote and Support Anticorruption Reforms (\$996,000 DA). USAID will share lessons learned and support networks to more effectively engage civil society participation local budget process and the review of country submissions for the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption. Principal contractor and grantee: Casals and Associates, Partners of the Americas.

Protect Human Rights and Equal Access to Justice (\$500,000 DA). USAID will provide technical assistance and training to regional and local networks to promote human rights, prevent trafficking in persons, encourage civil society advocacy, and improve public security. Principal grantees include Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, Partners of the Americas, and the Organization of American States.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$500,000 DA). Technical assistance will be provided to regional associations of electoral commissions to enhance the independence of electoral systems and assess openings and opportunities to promote political party reform. Principal grantee: Center for Electoral Assistance and Promotion.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$495,000 DA). Technical assistance will support the development of methodologies that measure advances in local government capacity for participatory planning and service delivery. This will be shared through a donor coordination forum. E-Government and distance-learning strategies will be expanded to improve local government capacity in financial management, citizen participation, and knowledge management. Principal grantee: International City and County Management Association.

**FY 2006 Program:** Promote and Support Anticorruption Reforms (\$300,000 DA). USAID will continue to provide assistance for formulating strategies that integrate anticorruption measures across sectors. USAID will also develop new approaches for dealing with grand corruption with a specific focus on extractive industries. Principal contractor: Casals and Associates.

Protect Human Rights and Equal Access to Justice (\$400,000 DA). USAID will continue to provide technical assistance and training to support regional networks to bring innovative solutions to human rights protection, violence prevention and crime reduction while addressing

trafficking in persons. USAID will also pursue opportunities to expand successful strategies for conflict prevention at the local, national and regional levels. Principal grantees include Inter-American Institute, Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence, and the Organization of American States.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$600,000 DA). Technical assistance to enhance the independence of electoral systems will continue to promote political party reform. Principal grantee: Center for Electoral Assistance and Promotion.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,400,000 DA). Technical assistance will continue to be provided to develop methodologies to measure the advances in local government capacity in the areas of financial management and citizen participation. Principal contractor and grantee: Casals and Associates, International City and County Management Association.

**Performance and Results:** The LAC Regional program advanced U.S. national security and foreign policy interests in helping LAC governments deepen their commitment to democratic governance and human rights. The USAID-supported anticorruption website ([www.respondanet.com](http://www.respondanet.com)) receives a million hits per quarter. In El Salvador, a new USAID-financed emergency 911 service for police led to a 300% increase in calls, an indication of a rise in public confidence in the police. The Justice Studies Center of the Americas, created under the Santiago Summit, has disseminated information on best practices on legal reform, which in turn has generated a major debate in Mexico over updating its criminal justice system. The USAID-assisted Inter-American Democracy Network expanded its membership and advocated for policy and law reform for greater transparency and inclusion through its sub-grant program. LAC programs promoted initiatives toward reaching Summit of the Americas goals and has upheld U.S. Government commitment to the summit process. This includes USAID's promotion of transparency and participation of civil society and local governments in the Summit of the Americas. Strategic analysis and guidance were provided to countries on trafficking in persons. Working through the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights, USAID fostered new psychological assistance programs for victims of torture and created Public Defenders offices in Dominican Republic and Paraguay. Following a Quebec Summit mandate, USAID contributed support to the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence. To make local governments more effective, USAID joined with the Central American Federation of Municipalities to promote electronic networking and increased participation in local government decision-making, taking advantage of best practices and internet connectivity. USAID continued its efforts to improve the capacity of Central American municipalities to respond effectively to the needs of its citizens.

By FY 2007, the LAC Regional democracy program will have contributed to strengthened regional institutions, networks, and initiatives to deepen democracy in the LAC region.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

LAC Regional

	DA	ESF
598-005 Regional Democracy Initiatives		
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>		
Obligations	72,314	117,531
Expenditures	71,096	112,652
Unliquidated	1,218	4,879
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>		
Obligations	4,724	4,924
Expenditures	0	0
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>		
Obligations	77,038	122,455
Expenditures	71,096	112,652
Unliquidated	5,942	9,803
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>		
Obligations	2,491	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005</b>		
Obligations	2,491	0
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>		
Obligations	3,800	0
Future Obligations	7,229	36,790
Est. Total Cost	90,558	159,245