

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Central America Regional Program
Program Title:	Investing in People
Pillar:	Global Health
Strategic Objective:	596-023
Status:	New in FY 2005
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$5,901,000 CSH
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$5,839,000 CSH
Year of Initial Obligation:	2005
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: The regional HIV/AIDS program is designed to support efforts to contain HIV/AIDS through targeted behavior change programs for populations who are most at risk according to the epidemiology of the disease, and implementation of improved policies and programs. USAID will support HIV/AIDS prevention, HIV/AIDS policies, and surveillance and data collection and analysis for decision making.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Reduce Transmission and Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$2,000,000 CSH). Prevention program will focus on interpersonal behavior change. USAID will build upon lessons learned in working with vulnerable groups to improve upon interpersonal behavior change approaches and develop new ones. The program will focus less on scaling up activities and more on quality of face-to-face education. Social marketing activities will continue to emphasize the availability of a low-priced condom in high-risk zones, and use the "ABC" approach (Abstinence, Being faithful, and Condoms) as appropriate using the paper, radio and TV media. The prevention program will be integrated with policy reform interventions and human rights and stigma reduction activities. Principal grantees will be determined through competitive bidding.

Build Health Systems Capacity (\$3,618,000 CSH). USAID will fund technical assistance to support implementation of improved HIV/AIDS policies, strategic plans, and monitoring and evaluation strategies. USAID will maintain its support for national strategic plans and assist countries in the development of proposals, work plans, monitoring and evaluation plans for activities funded by the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS. Efforts will include strengthening the capacity of local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working with high risk populations to develop quality proposals for increased program funding, especially from the Global Fund. The program will work towards increasing and improving social sector investments through effective advocacy, policy dialogue for needed reforms, and alliance-building among key stakeholders. In addition, USAID will assist the development and dissemination of projection models and socio-economic impact studies to further policy discourse on the epidemic. USAID will continue to strengthen, through training and technical assistance, HIV/AIDS legal-rights service groups to help people living with HIV/AIDS and other vulnerable groups. It will do so under existing legislation and will support a general population media campaign to help decrease stigma and discrimination.

The program will work to finalize national surveillance plans for Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama and will continue to provide technical and financial support for Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama to complete the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP). Continued technical support and assistance to the World Bank Regional HIV/AIDS Grant Project will be a critical activity. This includes the establishment of the regional HIV/AIDS reference laboratory at Gorgas Institute in Panama as part of the support for the newly formed regional laboratory network. Regional capacity to use and disseminate strategic information will be further strengthened through training workshops for FETP participants as well as program-trained

surveillance staff from target countries.

USAID will also provide technical assistance to: (1) the Global Fund in El Salvador for a "second generation" surveillance survey targeting male prisoners; (2) Panama for a national behavioral science survey for most at-risk populations; and (3) El Salvador's and Panama's ministries of health to generate strategic reports and presentations related to the 2005 behavioral science survey. The program will also assist in disseminating national HIV/AIDS surveillance plans among key stakeholders and decision-makers in the target countries to ensure support and leveraging of resources. One aspect of the program will establish reporting frameworks for communication and dissemination of HIV/AIDS surveillance data. In coordination with other bilateral and multilateral partners, USAID will promote inter-agency and inter-country collaboration to create a regional strategic plan for monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS. Under this plan each country will develop a national monitoring and evaluation plan based on the regional strategic plan for surveillance model. Principal grantees will be the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Academy for Educational Development (AED) and The Futures Group International.

FY 2006 Program: Reduce Transmission and Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$2,000,000 CSH). USAID plans to continue to target interpersonal behavior change interventions for high-prevalence groups supported by a mass media campaign. Grantees to be determined in FY 2005.

Build Health Systems Capacity (\$3,839,000 CSH). USAID plans to expand support for strategic alliances to develop and implement HIV/AIDS policies and strategic plans. The program will also support the biannual Central America AIDS Congress, a strategic event for information sharing and strengthening alliances. The program will continue to assist, through training and technical assistance, the most vulnerable groups. In addition, a general population media campaign aimed at decreasing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and other affected populations will be developed and implemented.

It is expected that assistance will focus heavily on using the information gathered in the behavioral science surveys that were a follow up to the 2001-02 multi-site study. This will include the collection of data in countries that did not complete the field work the previous year, as well as analysis, presentation and use of the results for monitoring and evaluating impact in the context of the national strategic plans. Information would also be used to guide future strategies and leverage policy support and resources. If indicated, the program would sponsor further training for HIV/AIDS epidemiologists. Grantees to be determined in FY 2005.

Performance and Results: In FY 2004, USAID more than tripled the number of its behavior change communication activities, reaching a larger segment of the at-risk populations while increasing the quality of the programs. Results from the 2004 behavioral survey show a marked increase in participation in these activities for all countries (Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua) over the last three years. USAID assistance, in collaboration with the UN AIDS program, the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization, the World Bank and the USAID bilateral programs, provided the impetus and technical direction for development of an umbrella regional strategic plan for surveillance. It further establishes the base for installing regional and national institutional capacity for surveillance and strategic information systems. As a result of this process, the World Bank is finalizing an \$8 million regional grant.

USAID will work toward more specific policy instruments and increased scores on components of the AIDS Program Effort Score (political support, legal-regulatory framework, policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation, and human rights). The expected end result is reduced incidence of HIV among high-prevalence groups in Central America.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Central America Regional Program

596-023 Investing in People	CSH
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	764
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	764
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	5,950
Expenditures	3,781
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	6,714
Expenditures	3,781
Unliquidated	2,933
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	5,901
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	5,901
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	5,839
Future Obligations	24,546
Est. Total Cost	43,000