

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Dominican Republic
<b>Program Title:</b>	Democracy, Governance and Human Rights
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	517-009
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$2,463,000 DA; \$2,976,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$2,639,000 DA; \$3,000,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	2002
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2007

**Summary:** USAID's democracy and governance program in the Dominican Republic encourages elected officials to represent their constituents more effectively, improves government service delivery, advances transparent and ethical decision making, and promotes modernization of the criminal justice system with more equitable and effective case resolution. In order to take advantage of a new political environment, USAID conducted a mid-term strategy assessment. The overall direction of the objective remains unchanged, with some realignment of sub-activities and resource allocation. The discussion below reflects these changes.

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

**FY 2005 Program:** Promote and Support Free and Fair Elections (\$663,000 DA). USAID will provide technical assistance to the Central Electoral Board and support advocacy efforts for campaign finance reform and creation of party primaries. USAID will support monitoring of preparations for the 2006 congressional elections. Activities targeting institutional sustainability of the leading local NGO engaged in electoral reform will continue. Primary grantee is Participation Ciudadana (local NGO).

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$640,000 DA). A new activity targeting promotion of democratic values and practices among future political leaders and oversight and dissemination of information on the performance of elected congressional representatives will begin. Grantees will be determined through competitive bidding.

Promote and Support Anticorruption Reforms (\$1,500,000 ESF). USAID will assist executive branch institutions to respond to recently enacted Freedom of Information Act legislation by putting in place internal controls and whistle-blowing measures to detect and prevent corruption. Targeted campaigns to raise awareness about the costs of corruption to citizens, their responsibility to denounce unethical behavior, and expand understanding of various legal reforms that are critical to stem the tide of corruption will be implemented. New activities will be designed and implemented to decrease corruption at the "point of service delivery," such as, in hospitals, electricity distribution, the public pension system, and environmental management. Principal contractors and grantees are DPK Consulting, Inc. (prime), and local NGOs.

Protect Human Rights and Equal Access to Justice (\$1,200,000 DA; \$1,476,000 ESF). Technical assistance to strengthen capabilities of the Public Prosecutor's Office, Office of the Public Defender, and Court system to insure adequate implementation of the new Criminal Procedures Code (CPC) will continue. Training related to CPC implementation will continue, supporting the transition to an accusatorial criminal justice procedure. USAID financing of merit-based selection and training of new public defenders and prosecutors will continue, as well as legal aid for the indigent and advocacy for full implementation of a career system for the justice sector. To increase access to justice, development of a nationwide alternative dispute resolution model, a legal literacy program, and activities to increase transparency and ethical behavior in the justice

sector will begin. Principal contractors and grantees are DPK Consulting, Inc. (prime) and local NGOs.

**FY 2006 Program:** Promote and Support Free and Fair Elections (\$700,000 DA). USAID plans to continue support for transparent and effective electoral administration and institutional sustainability of Participación Ciudadana. In addition USAID will fund international monitors for the May 2006 congressional elections. Primary grantee is Participación Ciudadana (local NGO).

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$439,000 DA). Training of future political leaders is expected to continue, adjusted based on a program assessment of this applied research activity to strengthen democratic culture and values among future political leaders. Implementer will be determined through competitive bidding.

Promote and Support Anticorruption Reforms (\$1,500,000 ESF). Pilot projects to reduce corruption in targeted government service offices will continue and be adjusted based on program assessments and indicator data analysis. Support for advocacy and implementation of a package of legal reforms as part of the Presidential anticorruption action plan is expected, as well as a public information campaign to increase citizen understanding of the value and impact of this legislation. Technical assistance and training to detect and prevent corruption in the executive branch will continue. Principal contractors and grantees are not expected to change.

Protect Human Rights and Equal Access to Justice (\$1,500,000 DA; \$1,500,000 ESF). Support for implementation of the Criminal Procedures Code will continue as well as institutional strengthening of the Public Prosecutor's Office, Court System, Public Defense, and National Judicial School. Assistance to sector leaders will continue to develop a model for alternative dispute resolution and a system of constitutional justice in order to provide the average citizen increased access to effective and fair dispute resolution.

**Performance and Results:** In FY 2004 USAID activities increased voter confidence in elections administration through civil society identification of information security problems in the Elections Board (which was followed up by an audit of the information technology system), as well as the conduct of a parallel vote tabulation and domestic monitoring effort that increased transparency of the election and acceptance of election results. USAID helped the government expand the number of public defenders by 66% and more than double the number of poor people receiving free legal defense. Six fundamental new laws were enacted due to successful USAID financed advocacy, improving the legal environment for anti-corruption reform and the administration of justice. USAID is the lead donor in anticorruption reform, and is responsible for putting this issue on the public agenda and successfully encouraging presidential candidates and elected officials to develop sound anticorruption platforms and action plans to reduce corruption.

By program completion, the electoral board will be capable of holding transparent elections and campaign finance legislation will be implemented. Participación Ciudadana will no longer depend on USAID as its sole source of support. Future leaders will be exposed to an alternative to patronage politics and they will have a greater appreciation for democratic values and practices. The transition to an accusatorial justice system will be well established through the successful implementation of the new Criminal Procedures Code. Criminal case processing will be faster, will include public defense services, and outcomes will be more just with less impunity. Sustained citizen demand for anticorruption reform will be evident, with enough pressure on elected officials to force institutional reforms to detect and prevent corruption. Sanction of corrupt public officials will occur. Pilot institutions will demonstrate success in reducing corruption and increasing user satisfaction with service delivery.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Dominican Republic

517-009 Democracy, Governance and Human Rights	DA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>		
Obligations	5,063	4,999
Expenditures	1,724	1,150
Unliquidated	3,339	3,849
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>		
Obligations	3,364	3,482
Expenditures	1,970	2,444
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>		
Obligations	8,427	8,481
Expenditures	3,694	3,594
Unliquidated	4,733	4,887
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>		
Obligations	2,463	2,976
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005</b>		
Obligations	2,463	2,976
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>		
Obligations	2,639	3,000
Future Obligations	1,037	977
Est. Total Cost	14,566	15,434