



Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR)
(*Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos*, <http://www.iidh.ed.cr>)

IIHR Overview:

Founded in 1980, IIHR is an independent international organization located in San Jose, Costa Rica. USAID has supported IIHR since its inception, at a time when authoritarian governments existed throughout the hemisphere. IIHR was created as an auxiliary institution to the Inter-American System of Human Rights, with the specific mandate to promote human rights through education and the development and dissemination of human rights doctrine. During the 1980s and early 1990s, USAID provided nearly all the funding for the organization. Today, IIDH is proud to report that, USAID support accounts for less than 18% of its overall budget.

IIHR is the only hemispheric organization dedicated to promoting human rights through the advancement of democracy, and works to improve human rights protections at the national level by training human rights advocates and assisting government officials to better promote human rights and prevent cases of abuse. IIHR provides education, training, technical assistance and specialized publications and works with civil society, national governments, and international organizations. IIHR's regional networks of NGOs, electoral organizations and Ombudsmen connect human rights practitioners and push for consistent application of international human rights standards. Through its Center for Elections Promotion and Assistance (CAPEL), IIHR has helped establish democratic electoral processes in numerous countries since the mid-1980s, often for the first time following military rule.

USAID Cooperation with IIHR:

USAID has two ongoing Cooperative Agreements with IIHR. The first is a grant for \$6.7 million (2002-2008 obligated amount) that supports conflict prevention (citizen security and access to justice); inclusion and promotion of the political participation of women, afro-descendants and indigenous peoples; and democratization of political processes through strengthening of electoral institutions and political parties in the region.

The second grant, for \$2.4 million (2002-2009) is funded by USAID's Victims of Torture Fund (VTF), and supports psychological assistance and legal support to victims of torture whose cases are brought before the Inter-American System. Both Agreements are managed by the USAID Latin America and Caribbean Bureau in Washington, D.C.