

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	West Bank and Gaza
<b>Program Title:</b>	Democracy and Governance
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	294-003
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$13,350,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$3,183,000 ESF
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$7,500,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 1996
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	FY 2006

**Summary:** USAID West Bank and Gaza (WBG) supports a program of broad-based democratic development through: financial and technical assistance for Palestinian civil society organizations to promote public discourse and improve oversight of public institutions; technical and limited material assistance to the Palestinian Council to improve the capacity and responsiveness of key legislative staff, offices, and committees; and activities that strengthen the rule of law including enhancing prosecutorial capacity, improving the efficiency of Palestinian courts, increasing the use of alternative dispute resolution, and modernizing curriculum and teaching practices of Palestinian law schools. USAID/WBG also provides modest technical assistance to support the eventuality of free and fair Palestinian elections.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Strengthen local civil society organizations (\$6,850,000 ESF, \$800,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). USAID will assist civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote public discourse in the decision-making process and ensure proper oversight of public institutions. USAID will also stimulate and improve local CSO work in the areas of policy analysis, communication, leadership skills, strategic planning, financial management, and conflict resolution. Interventions support reform, promote discourse, and CSO oversight functions. The principal implementing partners are: Chemonics Inc., Academy for Educational Development (AED), Search for Common Ground, International Republican Institute (IRI), and the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs (PASSIA).

Improve the capacity of the Palestinian Council (\$4,200,000 ESF, \$250,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). USAID will strengthen the Council's capacity to draft, review and approve legislation, provide oversight of the Executive Branch, improve constituent relations, and strengthen internal administration. The technical assistance to the Palestinian Council will end in July 2004. The Mission will evaluate the activity and design a follow-on activity that focuses on the other entities involved in the legislative process. Future activities may include strengthening the executive branch's capacity to propose legislation and formulate policy, help CSOs monitor the legislative process and oversee the legislative branch. The principal implementing partners are: Associates in Rural Development (ARD) and others TBD.

Strengthen the rule of law (\$2,000,000 ESF, \$2,133,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). USAID efforts in the rule of law sector will promote Palestinian reform, an independent judiciary, and broad-based economic growth. USAID assistance will help increase the professionalism of the legal community, build the legal profession, improve the curriculum and teaching capacity in law schools, support constituencies for legal reform, and support alternative dispute resolution centers. The principal implementing partners are: DPK Consulting and others TBD.

Support for free and fair Palestinian elections (\$300,000 ESF). USAID will continue to provide modest technical assistance to strengthen the Central Elections Commission, polling and surveying capacity, and campaign message and management skills. Support for the development of political diversity may also

be programmed. The principal implementing partners are: National Democratic Institute (NDI), IRI, and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

**FY 2005 Program:**

Strengthen local civil society organizations to ensure proper oversight of public institutions (\$4,200,000 ESF). The fully-funded CSO project will continue to provide grants to local CSOs through September 2005. The Mission plans to design, award, and fund a follow-on project.

Legislative Strengthening/the Legislative Process (\$2,200,000 ESF). USAID will design and launch a legislative strengthening project in FY 2004 that will be incrementally funded in FY 2005.

Strengthen the rule of law to promote Palestinian reform, institutional transparency, and broad-based economic growth (\$1,100,000 ESF). USAID will provide incremental funding to its on-going rule of law program.

**Performance and Results:** USAID is a leader in providing assistance to Palestinian CSOs to strengthen their role in public discourse and in the decision-making process and to increase the capacity of CSOs to provide oversight of public institutions. Over the past twelve months, USAID has provided 97 grants to local CSOs. Specific results include CSO advocacy and support efforts resulting in mainstreaming of disabled youth into families, integration of women into the economy, reinforcing of non-violent solutions to typical problems through popular CSO-designed radio soap and strengthened planning and revenue generating skills for CSOs. USAID is also supporting a variety of channels, including television, radio, town hall meetings, theater, film, and art to facilitate citizen/decision maker dialogue and consultation. USAID has also provided significant support to the Palestinian Council to promote key elements of the reform process. USAID assistance and training has established a comprehensive legislative structure, improved outreach to constituents, and systematized internal processes, procedures, management, and record-keeping. Over the past twelve months, USAID assistance has supported efforts to draft legislation across a wide range of important political, social, and economic issues, including elections, pension reform, independence of the judiciary, and market development. Assistance to Palestinian judiciary has resulted in the development of an automated case-tracking system in twelve Palestinian courts. USAID's efforts make the justice system more effective and efficient by reducing case processing and investigation times and caseload. USAID has provided over 80 Palestinian judges and 70 prosecutors with specialized training across a range of critical areas. Two alternative dispute resolution centers created with USAID support are handling commercial cases, offering non-litigious arbitration and mediation services to the public.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

West Bank and Gaza

294-003 Democracy and Governance	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>	
Obligations	82,236
Expenditures	59,694
Unliquidated	22,542
<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>	
Obligations	18,737
Expenditures	11,890
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>	
Obligations	100,973
Expenditures	71,584
Unliquidated	29,389
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>	
Obligations	3,183
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>	
Obligations	13,350
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004</b>	
Obligations	16,533
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>	
Obligations	7,500
Future Obligations	7,500
Est. Total Cost	132,506