

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	West Bank and Gaza
Program Title:	Community Services Program
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	294-008
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$16,000,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,233,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$6,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1999
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2005

Summary: The goal of USAID's Community Services Program (CSP) is to improve the quality of life of Palestinians in under-served communities in the West Bank and Gaza (WBG). The program responds to the growing gap in the provision of community services through a wide range of interventions. While generating employment opportunities, the program upgrades basic infrastructure, improves the capacity of local entities to provide sustainable community services, and provides humanitarian assistance to disadvantaged groups. Community involvement is the cornerstone of the program. Communities participate in identification, design and implementation of projects, and, in most instances, make substantial contributions in kind or in cash. Municipal/village councils, village development committees and community-based organizations also receive training and technical assistance to maintain and sustain the projects within their communities.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Upgrade infrastructure for selected needy rural areas and urban neighborhoods in the West Bank and Gaza (\$6,000,000 ESF, \$893,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). USAID will fund small community activities focused on the education, health, youth, agriculture and small municipal infrastructure fields to improve the quality of life and provide much needed services while creating employment opportunities. Interventions in the education and health sectors will focus on rehabilitation and construction of schools and clinics resulting in greater access to these needed facilities. Poor areas often suffer from inadequacy or absolute absence of schools and clinics. Typical interventions in this area include construction or expansion of educational and health facilities and training of service providers. Small municipal infrastructure activities will include water projects aimed at the provision of quality water for drinking purposes. Construction of household water cisterns and rehabilitation, and extension of piped water networks will be carried out in water-scarce areas. Support to youth facilities and agricultural land reclamation will continue if resources are available and suitable activities exist. The program and number of partners is expected to decrease as the last of the Wye Accord funds are disbursed. The principal implementing partners are: Save the Children Federation (SCF), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CARE International, YMCA, American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), World Vision International (WVI), Mercy Corps (MC), Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), United Palestinian Appeal (UPA), International Youth Foundation (IYF), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Road rehabilitation (\$8,500,000 ESF, \$340,000 ESF Prior Year Unobligated). USAID will also fund a second phase of highly successful road rehabilitation project, providing much needed jobs and cash into the local economy. The principal implementing partners are CH2MHill and numerous local contractors (TBD).

Providing humanitarian assistance for disadvantaged groups (\$1,500,000 ESF). The aim of humanitarian assistance is to reach out to groups that have fallen on the margins of mainstream donor assistance. These groups include the elderly, physically and mentally challenged youth, needy school children,

internally displaced persons, families with inadequate shelter and other similar groups with urgent needs. Typical interventions in this area will include the distribution of commodities, such as food packages and school supply bags. The principal implementing partner is Associates in Rural Development, Inc. (ARD).

FY 2005 Program:

Upgrade of infrastructure in needy communities in the West Bank and Gaza (\$5,500,000 ESF). Depending on the success of the assistance model for FY 2004 described above, and if additional resources become available, USAID may expand the program into new locations of demonstrable need. Technical assistance could be provided to community councils to enable them to carry out their own needs assessment planning in order to leverage further assistance from local and international organizations more effectively. Such partnerships will be crucial since Palestinian local governments do not have adequate resources to finance desperately needed community infrastructure and services.

Humanitarian assistance (\$500,000 ESF). Humanitarian assistance will be continued where needed.

Performance and Results: USAID's CSP achieved its targets for 2003, which will contribute towards enhancement of services to rural communities in the absence of functioning government structures and the depletion of local economic resources. In 2003, CSP generated over 500,000 person days of employment and extended benefits to more than 2.3 million beneficiaries. By providing new facilities, or expanding existing ones in important sectors like education and health, CSP has provided direct employment and supported the local economy and social sectors. Examples of the CSP's contributions to Palestinian society abound. Since program inception, the CSP has supported projects in about 300 villages, which is almost half of all Palestinian communities. It has been active in every Palestinian governorate creating more than 1.3 million person days of employment. It has financed construction of over 1,300 educational rooms, representing about 30% of total Palestinian needs for increased classroom space and benefiting about 30,000 students. It has also built or renovated 550 youth facilities, constructed or developed nearly 900 water cisterns, increased arable land available to Palestinian farmers by over 750 acres, and constructed interior agricultural access and connecting roads that allow farmers to reach their land and get their products to market. To summarize, the CSP external evaluation stated as its main finding that: "The CSP is an outstanding program that has effectively targeted the poorest Palestinian communities, has utilized creative concepts, and has had a tangible, positive impact on the lives of thousands of Palestinians."

One of the most highly acclaimed activities this year was the Roads Rehabilitation project, funded from monies made available through the FY 2003 Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act. The project deserves mention in terms of innovative contracting and implementation, high visibility, and significant impact on the local economy in terms of job generation and local material utilization. In a record five months from contract execution until project completion, 45 kilometers of roads were built in 11 communities throughout the West Bank and Gaza. The program utilized the skills of 11 local contractors overseen by a U.S. architectural design and engineering firm. As a result of this activity, 500 construction and professional jobs have been created in Palestinian communities, \$14 million has been injected into the economy, and tremendous positive media support and good will toward the United States were engendered.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

West Bank and Gaza

294-008 Community Services Program	ESF
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	196,327
Expenditures	66,420
Unliquidated	129,907
Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	63,344
Expenditures	57,626
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	259,671
Expenditures	124,046
Unliquidated	135,625
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	1,233
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	16,000
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	17,233
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	6,000
Future Obligations	6,000
Est. Total Cost	288,904