

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	LAC Regional
<b>Program Title:</b>	Regional Democracy Initiatives
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	598-005
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$4,224,000 DA; \$5,421,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$5,000,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	1996
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2007

**Summary:** The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) regional democracy and governance program supports the deepening of democracy in LAC by strengthening regional institutions, networks and initiatives to: (a) strengthen human rights protections and advance justice sector modernization and reform; (b) reduce violent conflict and crime; (c) improve public sector legitimacy through good governance and accountability; and (d) increase civil society capacity to facilitate citizen participation and oversight of government.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Human rights and rule of law (\$1,324,000 DA; \$7,500,000 ESF). USAID will assist LAC governments and non-governmental organizations to expand human rights, foster inclusion of all groups in public life, and strengthen the use of the Inter-American System of Human Rights to integrate international human rights standards into local practice. USAID support of Inter-American coalitions will help bring innovative solutions to violence prevention and crime reduction. Community-oriented policing and other community-based citizen security initiatives will be implemented. USAID will expand assistance to regional networks of justice reformers, and comparative analysis of sector reforms will augment ongoing national justice modernization efforts. Strategies for conflict prevention at the local, national and regional levels will be expanded. Prime implementers include the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH), Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence, Justice Studies Center of the Americas, and the Department of Justice.

Public sector legitimacy (\$1,600,000 DA). USAID will document successful methodologies to implement country level anti-corruption strategies to increase internal controls, improve transparency and expand accountability. Regional associations of electoral commissions will be assisted to improve the independence of electoral systems and opportunities to promote political party reform. Methodologies will be developed to measure the advances in local government capacity for participatory planning and service delivery. Distance-learning techniques and technical assistance to improve local government capacity in financial management, citizen participation, and knowledge management will be expanded. Prime implementers include Casals and Associates, Center for Electoral Assistance and Promotion (CAPEL), and International City and County Management Association (ICMA).

Pluralism and citizen participation (\$1,300,000 DA). USAID will assist civil society to develop a more pluralistic and participatory democratic culture across the hemisphere. This includes civil society follow-up to the Summit of the Americas and the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (IACAC). Partners of the Americas is the prime implementer.

#### FY 2005 Program:

Human rights and rule of law (\$2,000,000 DA). USAID will focus on community-based and national-level assistance to prevent violence and address insecurity, along with regional networks to disseminate and

exchange promising practices. Technical assistance, based on comparative justice sector research, will complement LAC bilateral justice programs. Same implementers as above.

Public sector legitimacy (\$1,800,000 DA). USAID will refine methodologies to complement bilateral anti-corruption efforts with lessons learned disseminated and replicated in collaboration with LAC country programs. Implementers will include CAPEL (prime) and others to be determined.

Pluralism, citizen participation and municipal decentralization (\$1,200,000 DA). USAID will use DA to continue providing support for civil society organizations to develop and inform local and national Summit and IACAC agendas and to follow-up on their implementation. The program will also support the development of local and national civil society agendas to address key concerns, such as anti-corruption and citizen security. Emphasis will be directed at building coalitions between civil society organizations and local governments to further implement decentralization policies and programs that enable greater citizen participation in local level decision-making and oversight. The prime implementer will be Partners of the Americas.

**Performance and Results:** Under advancing transparency and the rule of law, the USAID-supported anticorruption website ([www.respondanet.com](http://www.respondanet.com)) provides state-of-the-art information on anticorruption issues and practices in the Americas. Over four million people visit the site annually. In El Salvador, the regional police assistance program helped develop an emergency 911 service for police which led to more than a 300% increase in calls, reflecting a rise in public confidence in the police. The Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSC) disseminated information on best practices in legal reform which generated debate in Mexico on updating that country's criminal justice system--just one example of JSC publications, outreach and assistance programs, and judicial training leaving their mark on the hemisphere. Moving towards sustainability, JSC has diversified its funding base with more than 50% of its funding now coming from other donors. IIDH played a critical role in helping Guatemala's first round presidential election be a success by providing technical assistance to the Supreme Electoral Commission.

In terms of civil society, the Inter-American Democracy Network expanded its reach while changing major law and policy across the region. The network spans about 250 local civil society organizations (CSOs) across the hemisphere. It effectively fostered partnerships between governments and civil society across borders, and CSO-to-CSO links to promote citizen participation in public decision-making.

USAID promoted transparency and participation in the Summit of the Americas process and provided strategic analysis and guidance to countries on trafficking in women and children, helping countries curb this practice and protect vulnerable populations.

Working through IIDH, USAID has fostered psychological assistance programs for victims of torture and created a support network for victims in each country of Latin America. Psychological experts were identified in each country where cases are pending appearance before the Inter-American Court. A workshop marked the first time lawyers, psychologists, and other experts discussed patient needs and case preparation to present stronger testimony and better-prepared plaintiffs. The outcome included a systemization of the methodology for psychological attention as well as an established cadre of psychologists to advise and train lawyers representing victims of torture.

To make local governments more effective, USAID joined with the Central American Federation of Municipalities to promote electronic networking and increased participation in local government decision-making, taking advantage of best practices and internet connectivity. USAID continued support to improve the capacity of Central American municipalities to respond effectively to the needs of its citizens.

By FY 2007, the LAC Regional democracy program will have contributed to strengthened regional institutions, networks, and initiatives to deepen democracy in the LAC region.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

LAC Regional

	DA	ESF
598-005 Regional Democracy Initiatives		
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>		
Obligations	67,465	115,821
Expenditures	62,491	106,047
Unliquidated	4,974	9,774
<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>		
Obligations	4,849	1,710
Expenditures	8,605	6,605
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>		
Obligations	72,314	117,531
Expenditures	71,096	112,652
Unliquidated	1,218	4,879
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>		
Obligations	4,194	4,924
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004</b>		
Obligations	4,194	4,924
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>		
Obligations	5,000	0
Future Obligations	7,229	36,790
Est. Total Cost	88,737	159,245