

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	El Salvador
Program Title:	Democratic Consolidation and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	519-002
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$5,469,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1997
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2004

Summary: USAID's program is aimed at strengthening democratic processes and encouraging good governance by providing technical assistance and training to: (1) promote increased access to justice and improved court case preparation; (2) strengthen local governments to provide basic public services; (3) increase public access to legislative processes; and (4) encourage active civil society advocacy and promotion of transparency.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Increase access to justice and improve court case preparation (\$2,000,000 DA). One of the key focus areas will be consolidation of criminal code reforms. This includes training of key justice sector operators in appropriate use of rules of evidence to assure fairer and more equitable treatment of court evidence. Technical assistance will further develop modern rules of evidence. Other training areas will include evidence collection and management, case preparation, criminal investigation techniques and use of oral arguments. This training will be available to a wide range of judges, prosecutors and public defenders. Selected law schools will receive additional training and technical assistance to consolidate curriculum and teaching reforms as well as broaden and deepen the use of recently established legal clinics and moot courts (mock trials) as hands-on learning tools for law students. Expanding the use of mediation and other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as arbitration will increase access to justice. At least five additional mediation centers will be established by the Public Defender's Office and training in the appropriate use and application of mediation will be provided to all justice sector institutions. Technical assistance will be provided to the Judicial Training School to develop training plans in the civil/commercial law area. Principal contractors and agencies are: DPK Consulting, Department of State, Public Defender's Office, Attorney General's Office, Judicial Training School, and National Judiciary Council.

Strengthen local governments (\$1,700,000 DA). Technical assistance and training will be provided to 22 target municipalities to continue to improve coverage of basic public services, especially potable water provision and solid waste collection and disposal. Training and assistance in the transparent administration of public funds will also be provided, accompanied by a deepening of citizen oversight and participation in local decision-making. Medium-term community development and multi-year investment plans will be developed with USAID assistance. Policy dialogue will be supported between local government authorities, the Legislative Assembly, and Executive Branch to further define decentralized roles and responsibilities for public service delivery and for revenue generation authority. Principal contractor and grantees: Research Triangle Institute; the Salvadoran National Mayors Association (COMURES).

Citizen participation in legislative process, civil society advocacy and transparency (\$1,769,000 DA). Approximately eight to ten small grants to selected civil society organizations will support targeted advocacy or oversight activities to strengthen democratic processes. Complementary training in internal administrative and financial management will also be provided. The Legislative Assembly will receive

assistance in development and adoption of internal regulations to institutionalize public hearings in the legislative process. In addition, technical assistance will be provided to improve awareness and use of the legislative hotline for consultations, to establish a centralized Office of Citizen Attention and to promote of civic education programs for students concerning the role of the legislature. Additional technical assistance and limited training will be provided to help the Government of El Salvador implement a code of ethics for government employees. Principal contractor/grantees: Creative Associates Inc., prime; the University of Texas (sub); the Legislative Assembly; and the Court of Accounts.

FY 2005 Program:

Activities implemented above will be completed in FY 2005. The follow-on program will begin under a new Strategic Objective "More Responsive, Transparent Governance" (519-021).

Performance and Results: USAID programs have assisted in increasing access to justice in El Salvador. Four additional mediation centers were opened during the past year, raising the total to six. These centers have provided free legal advice and mediation services to 4,252 mostly rural people who have limited access to the formal justice system. The Public Defender's Office has decided to replicate and finance this successful initiative on a national scale over the next three years, starting with the establishment of five new mediation centers during 2004. Based on the positive results of the first modern legal education clinic, four more major law schools opened clinics this past year. Now, five of the eight largest law schools in the country are using legal clinics as a teaching methodology and providing hands-on, practical experience for law students. USAID's programs helped nine legislative committees hold twelve public hearings and reach 13,573 young people through the Assembly's civic education initiative. USAID technical assistance and training in electoral preparation and management significantly contributed to holding internationally recognized free and fair elections for legislative and local government authorities. A code of ethics for government employees was submitted to the Legislative Assembly for approval. Local governments, assisted by USAID, continued to increase delivery of public services. Given the increased responsiveness of these municipalities, residents have answered by paying a higher percentage of their taxes and fees, resulting in a 15% increase in local revenue generation. ESF funding was made available in late FY 2003, under special authority to carry out community policing activities in El Salvador. Within this authority and funding, USAID will assist the community policing program to improve its operations through the purchase of portable radios and accessories, 911 emergency call consoles, and other necessary equipment.

It is expected that by June 2005, El Salvador will have improved its criminal justice system and people should have increased access to justice. More transparent and effective public management of services at the local level will have been established and Salvadorans will be more active in policy dialogue. Legislative decision-making should be more transparent, with more citizen participation. The community policing model will be working nationwide and assisting in lowering the levels of crime and violence.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

El Salvador

519-002 Democratic Consolidation and Governance	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	28,201	16,832
Expenditures	22,143	14,935
Unliquidated	6,058	1,897
Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	4,950	750
Expenditures	4,670	1,188
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	33,151	17,582
Expenditures	26,813	16,123
Unliquidated	6,338	1,459
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	5,362	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	5,362	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	38,513	17,582