

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Honduras
Program Title:	Ruling Justly
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	522-021
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$5,850,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$5,100,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2003
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2008

Summary: The Government of Honduras (GOH) and USAID have jointly agreed to place maximum emphasis on strengthening the responsiveness and transparency of governance in Honduras. USAID will focus on strengthening the rule of law by improving the legal framework, improving the quality and efficiency of the justice system, expanding access to justice, and strengthening advocacy and citizen participation. In concert with the GOH and other partners, USAID will help Honduras develop a more decentralized government and increase local government capacity to meet citizen needs. Finally, USAID will support the GOH at the central and local levels to ensure transparency, accountability, and oversight in the management of public funds.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Rule of law (\$2,740,000 DA). Over the last two years, implementation of the Criminal Procedures Code (CPC) has introduced oral trial procedures and dramatically strengthened the transparency and equity of criminal processes. In FY 2004, USAID will initiate a new technical assistance and training activity to refine criminal procedures, improve systems and processes for case management and evidence handling, and train judges, prosecutors, defenders, and forensics experts. Technical assistance will help strengthen judicial independence by making improvements in the legal framework and working with the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court. USAID will apply its successful experience with criminal justice reform to begin civil procedure reform, including the introduction of oral proceedings and greater transparency in civil courts. To improve access to justice for marginalized groups, including women and the poor, USAID will fund the design and implementation of alternative dispute resolution systems. To strengthen advocacy on justice sector reform and monitoring, human rights, transparency, anti-corruption, electoral reform, and immunity of public officials, USAID will provide small grants and technical assistance to nongovernmental justice sector organizations such as the Federation of Private Development Organizations of Honduras (FOPRIDEH) and other local professional associations of judges and lawyers that advocate for and sustain legal reforms. Contractors to be identified competitively.

Transparency and accountability (\$250,000 DA). To increase transparency and accountability, promote oversight in the management of public funds, and consolidate and support independent anti-corruption mechanisms, USAID will fund targeted technical assistance and training to the central government's auditor general in the areas of municipal budget and internationally-funded program audits. Contractors to be identified competitively.

Local governance (\$2,860,000 DA). USAID will target most of its government transparency and accountability efforts at the municipal level. USAID-funded technical assistance and training will help strengthen the effectiveness of citizen involvement in approximately ten municipalities. These activities will be aimed at: improving citizens' ability to participate productively in decision making with local governments; establishing oversight mechanisms for public investment; promoting public information and awareness programs; and supporting local coalitions focused on local economic development and transparency. To provide greater incentives for local governments to work collaboratively with citizen

groups, USAID will establish a small grants program that will provide seed money to improve participatory design and implementation of small activities that promote community and economic development. To build on the success of previous decentralization initiatives, USAID will fund technical assistance and training to strengthen the capacity of regional associations of municipalities to promote regional development initiatives, as well as the national association (Association of Municipalities of Honduras), to enhance its ability to effectively advocate on behalf of local government interests in public policy debates.

FY 2005 Program:

Rule of law (\$2,290,000 DA): USAID plans to continue to work toward increasing the fairness and efficiency of the legal system and improving the quality of judicial services by funding technical assistance to improve case tracking and management systems, as well as training and continuing education for legal professionals. Although USAID will continue to focus on the criminal justice system, momentum on civil procedure reform, including alternative dispute resolution, will increase. USAID expects to continue its technical assistance to help craft a sound constitutional and legal framework for an independent judiciary. Resources will be devoted to strengthening the capacity of selected professional associations and nongovernmental organizations to promote public awareness and influence legal reforms.

Transparency and accountability (\$250,000 DA): USAID plans to focus its assistance on improving mechanisms for implementing and tracking results of municipal audits, international program audits, and audits resulting from the USAID/Inter-American Development Bank-funded Project Oversight Program. USAID plans to replicate social auditing and public awareness models and support other emerging independent anti-corruption mechanisms.

Local governance (\$2,560,000 DA). USAID plans to place additional focus on promoting coordinated decentralization initiatives and increasing municipal capacity by strengthening nascent regional associations of municipalities and their relationship with the national municipal association. USAID plans on strengthening specific mechanisms, such as the community liaison with local governments and participatory budgeting processes, as a way to increase the effectiveness of citizen participation in promoting transparent practices and accountability in municipal finances. Assistance will be provided to both large and small municipalities to increase their capacity for transparent municipal management, participatory decision making, and effective delivery of basic services.

Performance and Results: Although this strategic objective began in late FY 2003 under the Central America and Mexico Regional Strategy, some components follow on to the previous strategy. In FY 2003, USAID's rule of law activities demonstrated that justice sector institutions have embraced the new CPC, with criminal trials and non-trial procedures taking place in key parts of the country. Case tracking and management systems designed with technical assistance from USAID have improved the transparency and effectiveness of the judicial system, and are being replicated in courts around the country. The Supreme Court has demonstrated leadership and independence in its decisions, and FOPRIDEH has successfully pushed forward legal reforms. Momentum for further legal reform is strong and growing, and successful criminal procedures models will serve as the basis for civil procedure reforms. Municipal development activities implemented during FY 2003 increased municipalities' capacity to manage resources, thereby enabling further decentralization of resources and responsibilities. Key legal reforms, such as the Water and Sanitation Law and the Land Use Planning Law, have advanced over the past year. The achievements of the past year have been critical in creating demands on the political system to reform national level governance institutions and practices.

By the end of the strategy period, USAID expects to see major reforms in the justice, civil, and political systems that will reduce corruption and ensure greater transparency and security, thus creating an environment more conducive to investment and economic growth. USAID expects the GOH to increasingly devolve authority to municipalities, who in turn will be better equipped to manage urban growth, generate and manage resources in a transparent and democratic manner, and provide public services to constituents.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Honduras

522-021 Ruling Justly	DA
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	3,250
Expenditures	0
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	3,250
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	3,250
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	5,710
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	5,710
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	3,992
Future Obligations	15,300
Est. Total Cost	28,252