

Paraguay Program Summary

Paraguay’s program is focused on combating corruption by strengthening the rule of law and building a transparent business environment. It aims to fight impunity and confront informality in the economic sector by improving the capacity of the judicial system to carry out investigations, process allegations of corruption, and strengthen its internal controls and disciplinary capabilities.

Program Highlights

- ★ Construction of the new forensic laboratory is nearing completion, and will be followed by refurbishment and installation of lab equipment. A laboratory director and other key personnel were assigned in May, and their training began in June. Procedures and functions manuals for the laboratory and personnel were approved by the Attorney General.
- ★ The Tax Authority continued an aggressive program to identify and temporarily suspend non-tax compliant businesses, with a total of 141 firms suspended by the end of May. Operations on highways to control and check documentation of in-transit merchandise started in June.
- ★ Since the Threshold Program began, over \$6.5 millions in merchandise has been seized and embargoed by the contraband and seizure unit, DETAVE, of which \$1.3 million is pending proper documentation.
- ★ The internal investigation unit at the Finance Ministry has investigated and sent approximately 100 corruption cases to the Public Ministry offices for processing. The internal investigation unit in the customs service is also functioning well, providing useful information for Customs to allow them to implement contraband seizure operations.
- ★ The Threshold Program’s support of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce’ Maquila Council and various promotional trips are demonstrating results. Twenty four firms have registered as maquilas over the last two years, five of which are direct result of the program’s promotional efforts; the other 19 have resulted from improvements of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce’ Maquila Council’s capacity during that period, as a result of assistance from the program.

Threshold Status

Status.....Implementation, Year 2

Threshold Information

Total Amount.....\$34.65 million

Agreement Signed.....May 8, 2006

Country Information

Population.....6,158,259*

GNI Per Capita Income.....\$1,280*