

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Paraguay
Program Title:	Democracy & Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	526-004
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$1,980,000 DA; \$1,980,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: Through a range of technical assistance, training, and grants, the democracy and governance program is working to strengthen the capacity of local governments to deliver services in response to the needs of citizens; improve the ability of civil society to put pressure on the current political system to change and become more responsive; reform judicial institutions to make them more effective and accountable; and develop an open, transparent policy dialogue that allows for the inclusion of all citizens and their organizations. Anticorruption efforts are incorporated throughout the program.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Promote And Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$350,000 ESF). USAID is providing technical assistance and training to strengthen the capacity of the business and civil society to fight corruption and promote reforms. Activities are supporting oversight, access to information, transparency and accountability, and promote reforms focusing on anticorruption policies. Prime implementers: Management Systems International (MSI) and the Institute for Penal and Social Science Comparative Studies (INECIP).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,130,000 ESF). USAID is extending a successful sub grant program that strengthens civil society organizations in promoting citizen participation in the policy decision making process, citizen oversight and control, and advocacy. Prime implementer: Center for Information and Resources for Development.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$500,000 ESF). USAID is providing technical assistance and training to political parties to promote public sector accountability and good governance practices to challenge the existing patronage system. Emphasis is placed on building political party capacity so that based on merit, technically qualified people have access to increasingly higher party positions, government positions or elected offices. Technical assistance is also being provided for political party finance reform. Prime implementer: Alter Vida.

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$1,000,000 DA). Technical assistance is being provided to improve control functions of government institutions, including strengthening the capacity of the Prosecutor's Office to fight corruption. Assistance is being provided to address problems caused by the patronage system in the justice sector, including improving the accountability of judges and prosecutors. In addition, this supports a career system focused on judicial employees that will address recruitment policies, procedures and practices based on merit. Prime implementers: MSI and INECIP.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$980,000 DA). USAID is providing technical assistance and training to strengthen the capacity of newly elected mayors and council

members by helping them implement good governance practices, including service provision, revenue enhancement, citizen participation, transparency mechanisms, and performance measurement. Technical assistance is being provided to local governments and their associations to implement decentralization projects in coordination with the central government. Prime implementer: Alter Vida.

FY 2007 Program:

No obligations are planned during FY 2007.

Performance and Results: A Judicial Code of Ethics was approved and is being implemented by the Supreme Court. Selection criteria, exams and a computerized registry for judges, prosecutors and public defenders have been developed and are also being implemented. Progress has been made in strengthening the Public Ministry's ability to fight corruption through internal regulations and procedures and an agreement to coordinate investigation of corruption cases with the Controller General's Office. USAID expanded the number of local governments receiving assistance from 30 to 40; and, as part of a new Global Development Alliance, continues to incorporate revenue enhancement, services, citizen participation and transparency as a means to ensure more effective and accountable local governments. More than \$2 million of non-USAID funds have been mobilized to support local economic development and other local projects. The civil society program has supported more than 30 organizations that produced over 25 local reforms via citizen advocacy and oversight. The program also supported five significant non governmental organization coalitions working on national reforms, an example being the more than 20 civil society organizations and members of the media that drafted and presented a Freedom of Information Act to Congress which received approval by the lower house.

The overall impact of the program will be a deepening of the democratic process through the involvement of national and local institutions, and increasing civil society participation and confidence in a more functional democratic system capable of improving the delivery of basic services at the local level.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Paraguay

526-004 Democracy & Governance	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	9,371	13,804
Expenditures	7,546	9,777
Unliquidated	1,825	4,027
Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	1,829	1,920
Expenditures	2,280	4,512
Through September 30, 2005		
Obligations	11,200	15,724
Expenditures	9,826	14,289
Unliquidated	1,374	1,435
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	1,980	1,980
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006		
Obligations	1,980	1,980
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA		
Obligations	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	13,180	17,704