

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	El Salvador
Program Title:	Ruling Justly
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	519-021
Status:	New in FY 2004
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$4,350,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$4,061,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: USAID's democracy and governance program strengthens rule of law, increases access to justice, and promotes greater transparency, accountability and more responsive governance. Program activities are intended to improve the transparency and responsiveness of the justice system, increase the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, promote anticorruption measures, and encourage more transparent and effective management of public resources and decision making.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$2,000,000 DA). In the first year of the program, USAID will work with the Public Defender's Office, selected municipalities, universities, and other interested entities to strengthen existing mediation centers and deepen and institutionalize alternative dispute resolution in the country. An evaluation will be conducted to examine the results of work to date and provide recommendations for this component. USAID will explore supporting youth mediation activities as well as potential support to the municipality of San Salvador to open a mediation center. Efficiency and transparency will be increased by working with the Supreme Court, with judges through the National Judicial Council, and with lawyers' associations and civil society groups. Principal contractors and grantees will be chosen through a competitive selection process.

Promote and Support Anticorruption Reforms (\$800,000 DA). USAID will focus its efforts on prevention of corruption through increased transparency, education of public employees, and support to civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote accountability and ethics in government. If the draft Code of Ethics for government employees, now with the Legislative Assembly, is passed, USAID will support its implementation, including technical assistance and training for the establishment of an ethics or transparency office. Select CSOs will advocate for legislation for increased public access to information, as well as encourage the Government to publicize public information through websites, pamphlets, and other modes of communication. Principal contractors and grantees will be selected through a competitive, multi-country (El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Panama) implementing instrument.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$880,000 DA). At the initial stages of this activity, USAID will focus on education and training for party institutes, mid-level party members, and those who are genuinely interested in making their parties internally more democratic. Primary mechanisms for training will include seminars, roundtables, workshops, and observational visits. Training will be on topics such as political party strategic planning and development; organizational development; membership recruitment; policy formation; campaign planning and management; and modern political thought. In addition, USAID may help improve accountability of elected and appointed officials and build the capacity of political parties to participate effectively in elections. Principal contractors and grantees will be chosen through a competitive selection process.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$647,000 DA). USAID will foster dialogue at the national level to promote policies that devolve public services and decision making authority to the municipal level, as defined by the National Commission for Local Development and the President's advisory group. Agenda topics include the establishment of policy reforms for generating local resources, a municipal transparency code, and determination of the roles and responsibilities of local governments with respect to the central government. Principal contractors and grantees will be chosen through a competitive selection process.

FY 2006 Program: Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$1,800,000 DA). Based on evaluation results in FY 2005, alternative dispute resolution activities may be expanded throughout the country in order to further institutionalize mediation. If a new civil and commercial procedures code is enacted into law, USAID will provide training and technical assistance to the Judicial Training School for the development of appropriate courses for judges and lawyers. Programs targeted at increasing the transparency and efficiency of the justice sector may continue. Same partners as above.

Promote and Support Anticorruption Reforms (\$1,250,000 DA). USAID plans to continue working with governmental institutions and with CSOs to implement a government ethics or transparency initiative. Transparency interventions with CSOs may be supported in the areas of government oversight and access to information. Public-private partnerships would be pursued to take advantage of the interest of businesses in more transparent government processes such as procurement. Same partners as above.

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$461,000 DA). Training and technical assistance would continue for interested political parties. Depending on the level of party interest and political will, and the results achieved in the first year, USAID would determine the types of assistance most appropriate for the next stage of this program. Given that municipal and legislative elections will be held during this year, specific activities may be targeted at issues relevant to participation in those elections. Same partners as above.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$550,000 DA). USAID plans to continue to facilitate policy dialogue on topics that devolve more authority to local governments, and that promote increased transparency and financial responsibility. If some of the draft laws are passed or if policies are established to strengthen local governance, increase tax authority, and promote devolution of local public services, USAID would provide support for their successful implementation. Same partners as above.

Performance and Results: This new strategic objective began in September 2004 under the USAID/El Salvador Country Plan for FY 2004-2008. Successful implementation of this program should result in improved access to justice through both the formal system and particularly through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms; a more transparent and more efficient justice system; increased governmental transparency and accountability; decentralized resource management and decision making to local levels; deepened citizen oversight and participation in government; and more democratic political parties that better represent their constituents.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

El Salvador

519-021 Ruling Justly	DA
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	1,000
Expenditures	0
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	1,000
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	1,000
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	4,350
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	4,350
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	4,061
Future Obligations	10,589
Est. Total Cost	20,000