

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Paraguay
Program Title:	Democracy & Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	526-004
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$1,952,000 DA; \$2,982,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$200,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,847,000 DA; \$3,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2005

Summary: Providing a range of technical assistance, training, and small grants, USAID, through its 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 be able to put pressure on the current political system to change and become more responsive; and develop an open, transparent policy dialogue that allows for the inclusion of all citizens and their organizations. Citizen participation, oversight, transparency, and accountability are incorporated throughout the democracy program to promote anti-corruption efforts.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Local governance (\$1,952,000 DA). USAID will provide technical assistance and training to expand local governments' capacities to implement good governance practices, including providing services, enhancing revenue collection and increasing citizen participation. USAID will fund programs that strengthen local governments and municipal associations to advocate for decentralization and act as a counterweight to the central government. USAID will provide training in alternative dispute resolution to the Justices of the Peace as a means to provide greater access to justice at the local level. USAID will fund an expansion of a successful sub-grant program, designed to strengthen civil society organizations in promoting citizen participation, citizen oversight and control, and advocacy. The prime implementers are the Information and Resources Center for Development, the Institute of Comparative Studies in Social and Criminal Law and Peace Corps.

Transparency and accountability (\$2,982,000 ESF). USAID provides technical assistance to help local governments become more responsive, transparent, and accountable, and to support civil society in providing control and oversight of the public sector. USAID will continue supporting successful anti-corruption efforts by providing training to local governments in areas of integrated financial management systems, fiscal transparency, public hearings, and open procurement processes that assure citizen participation. Local governments will provide new services and expand existing services through increased revenue generation and private partnerships. A national network of watchdog groups will be expanded and strengthened to provide oversight of public institutions and expose corruption. USAID will provide technical assistance to enhance coordination and collaboration between the Controller's Office, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Supreme Court towards improving convictions of public corruption cases. USAID will also provide technical assistance to civil society organizations to strengthen their capacity to advocate for policy reforms relating to decentralization, access to public information, and inclusive participation mechanisms in the public decision-making process, both at the local and national levels. The prime implementers are the Information and Resources Center for Development, the Institute of Comparative Studies in Social and Criminal Law, Management Systems International/Florida International University (sub), and Chemonics.

FY 2005 Program:

Local governance (\$1,847,000 DA). USAID will provide technical assistance to local government associations and expand the number of local governments implementing good governance practices. Civil society will be supported to improve its capacity to exercise oversight of public sector institutions, advocate for policy reforms (e.g., decentralization), and strengthen organized groups. USAID will support national reform processes and transparency within government institutions by promoting public participation in the policy decision making process. Same implementers as above.

Transparency and accountability (\$3,000,000 ESF). USAID will provide technical assistance to help local governments become more responsive, transparent and accountable to citizens by increasing revenue generation and partnerships with the private sector (promoting transparent procurement and contracting), improving their financial management and fiscal transparency, and encouraging public hearings and access to information. USAID will also provide technical assistance to civil society organizations, including the media and watchdog groups, to better oversee public institutions and expose corruption. USAID will provide grants to strengthen institutions such as the Prosecutor's Office, Controller's Office, Council of Magistrates and Jury for the Prosecution of Magistrates to promote transparency, including changes to assure civil society oversight. Same implementers as above.

Performance and Results: During the past year, USAID expanded implementation of anti-corruption activities. In addition to improving municipal services with increased revenue, transparency and citizen participation, governance mechanisms were implemented in areas as public budget hearings, citizen committees for monitoring public works, access to local government by watchdog groups, and disclosure of key financial information on municipal web sites. Citizen groups and department networks expanded oversight and control of their local governments to increase anti-corruption efforts. The National Network of Citizen Watchdog Groups signed an agreement with the Ministry of Finance to provide oversight and promote greater transparency in the Ministry. A new judicial transparency and accountability component that includes civil society oversight of the judicial sector began implementation. USAID supported an alliance of six non-governmental organizations that are promoting judicial transparency and oversight, including the process of selecting new Supreme Court justices. A nationwide federation of local government associations developed a decentralization bill that will be presented to Congress.

The overall impact of the democracy program will be a deepening of the democratic process in this recently established democracy. By focusing on building effective, responsive, transparent, and accountable local governments and a politically viable civil society, USAID hopes to promote democratic reforms from "the bottom up." USAID is also promoting policy formulation and implementation in such areas as decentralization and the judicial sector. USAID's support to the development of local institutions and political processes will assist Paraguay in strengthening its nascent democracy.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Paraguay

526-004 Democracy & Governance	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	5,450	7,098
Expenditures	2,968	3,341
Unliquidated	2,482	3,757
Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	2,125	3,000
Expenditures	2,598	2,719
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	7,575	10,098
Expenditures	5,566	6,060
Unliquidated	2,009	4,038
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	200
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	1,952	2,982
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	1,952	3,182
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	1,847	3,000
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	11,374	16,280