

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Ecuador
Program Title:	Democracy and Conflict Prevention
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	518-012
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$990,000 DA; \$1,980,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$250,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: The Democracy and Governance (DG) program supports U.S. government efforts to promote and strengthen democracy through justice sector reform, anti-trafficking in persons, decentralization and local governance and support for free, fair and inclusive elections. Through these efforts, USAID is helping develop the building blocks and constituencies for democracy and good governance. Ecuador is one of the countries in the Latin America and Caribbean Region (LAC) where public confidence in democracy and government institutions is lowest. The DG program aims to reverse this trend with focused assistance in areas of greatest potential and by leveraging private sector, the Government of Ecuador (GOE), and other donor resources for greater impact.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Reduce Trafficking In Persons (\$250,000 FY 2005 ESF Carryover). Building on program achievements and recommendations from an assessment, USAID is expanding its Trafficking in Persons (TIP) program to help GOE implement its national anti-trafficking plan through prevention, prosecution, and protection (rescue, rehabilitation, and re-integration) in targeted geographic areas. Activities include coordination mechanisms between local governments and civil society; assistance to victims; training for local officials, police and judges on the application of TIP related legislation and ordinances and public outreach campaigns. Principal implementers: To be determined through a competitive process.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,400,000 ESF). USAID supports domestic NGO observation of the 2006 national elections including access for persons with disabilities, civic and voter education campaigns, public debates with candidates, quick vote counts, and NGO monitoring of campaign spending and enforcement of electoral laws. USAID is consolidating the leadership training of Participacion Ciudadana's (PC) (provincial leaders and their counterpart youth coordinators) in 22 provinces to develop the next generation of civic leaders. In addition, PC will analyze the results of the National Democratic Values Survey (NDVS) and similar measures of socio-economic and political factors affecting or contributing to citizen support for democracy and organize focus groups to discuss major issues to orient national and local policies. These initiatives will serve to: expand the use of the rich data generated by the NDVS surveys; gather local information in each province to be utilized in the implementation of PC's activities, including communication products, analyses, and events with public elected officials and candidates; and enhance PC's capacity to conduct public opinion surveys that could be offered to cooperating agencies and the private sector to strengthen PC's financial sustainability. USAID will also support civic education campaigns on democratic values and practices, involving citizens, especially youth, and accountability by elected officials. Principal implementer: Participacion Ciudadana.

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$990,000 DA; \$380,000 ESF). USAID continues to provide

technical assistance to consolidate the results achieved in the implementation of the accusatory criminal justice system. This includes training for judges, prosecutors, public defenders, judicial police, lawyers, law faculties and bar associations in order to develop a cadre of experts to implement the accusatory system. At the local level, the program will expand its pilot model to two additional cities. Subject to political will from key judicial institutions (Supreme Court, Prosecutor General Office, Public Defender), the program may also assist the National Commission for Criminal Justice Reform and the National Judicial Council to design and implement comprehensive administrative and procedural reforms. USAID is expanding support to five legal service offices providing training, technical assistance and implementation of a case tracking system, enhancing their capacities for service delivery and sustainability. USAID uses ESF funds to replicate civil society oversight of judicial performance and independence in the administration of justice at the local level in two additional cities. USAID supports civil society and the judiciary's efforts to formulate, disseminate, and implement the Access to Public Information Law, Public Defender Law, and reforms to the CPC. This program component also promotes the institutional and financial sustainability of the local implementer; and the continuity of the justice reform efforts. Principal implementers: Fundacion Esquel and others to be determined through a competitive process.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$200,000 ESF). USAID is phasing out of its current municipal strengthening programs and designing a new program to advance local governance and decentralization, and support local economic development. USAID is contracting an assessment of its local governance programs and a design of a new program in this area. Principal Implementer(s): To be determined through a competitive process.

FY 2007 Program:

There will be no new obligations to this Strategic Objective. A new strategy will begin in FY 2007.

Performance and Results: USAID's FY 2005 program continued to make important contributions to devolve authority and decision making to local authorities, and develop more pluralistic and participatory democratic practices at the local level. Citizen participation processes were consolidated in 31 local governments, while citizen oversight mechanisms monitored targeted service improvement in 28 local governments. A graduate program in local government management was inaugurated in four universities in CY 2005; over 100 students are now enrolled. A pilot was launched to assist the lower courts and the Prosecutor's Office to implement the new accusatory system. The program also financed eight legal clinics in six cities where 3,609 indigent defendants received legal counseling and defense services. More than 1,000 victims of trafficking, sexual abuse and domestic violence received psychological and medical care or legal services. USAID supported NGOs helped organize peaceful citizen responses to the political crisis in Ecuador protesting the dismissal of the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Tribunal and the Electoral Tribunal. USAID also supported an oversight network (Veeduría) that helped implement a transparent and participatory process to select a new Supreme Court. The 2007 program will promote local economic development to support economic growth.

By the end of the DG program in September 2007, the local government program will have consolidated citizen participation processes in 35 local governments, civil oversight and monitoring processes will have become institutionalized in 30 local governments, and 30 local governments will have improved basic services. The graduate level program will have no fewer than 100 students trained in basic theory and practice criteria. Pilot programs to advance the accusatory justice system will be implemented in three cities; reforms to the Criminal Procedures Code will be widely disseminated to justice sector actors, implementation of the Public Defenders Law will begin; and civil society oversight of judicial performance will help citizens to be more involved in judicial reform. Anti-trafficking in persons interventions will help Ecuador move out of Tier III classification.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Ecuador

518-012 Democracy and Conflict Prevention	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	6,812	30,226
Expenditures	6,593	20,427
Unliquidated	219	9,799
Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	0	6,867
Expenditures	163	6,397
Through September 30, 2005		
Obligations	6,812	37,093
Expenditures	6,756	26,824
Unliquidated	56	10,269
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	250
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	990	1,980
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006		
Obligations	990	2,230
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA		
Obligations	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	7,802	39,323