

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	LAC Regional
Program Title:	Regional Democracy Initiatives
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	598-005
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$3,059,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	1996
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) regional democracy and governance program supports the deepening of democracy in LAC by strengthening regional institutions, networks and initiatives to enhance human rights protections and advance justice sector modernization and reform; reduce violent conflict and crime; improve public sector legitimacy through good governance and accountability; and increase civil society capacity to facilitate citizen participation and oversight of government.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$682,000 DA). Building on lessons learned, USAID is promoting innovative and practical approaches for improving transparency and accountability in the LAC region. The program is addressing the challenge of grand corruption, improve approaches to reduce administrative corruption, and work with USAID Missions and implementing partners to incorporate anti-corruption programming across all sectors. Principal contractor: Casals and Associates.

Promote and Support Credible Elections Processes (\$400,000 DA). Technical assistance is being provided to regional associations of electoral commissions and electoral organizations to enhance the independence and transparency of electoral systems as well as to promote political party reform. Principal grantee: Center for Electoral Promotions and Assistance.

Protect Human Rights (\$1,312,000 DA). USAID is providing technical assistance and training to regional and local networks to promote human rights, prevent trafficking in persons, assist victims of torture, encourage civil society advocacy, promote inclusion, and improve public security. USAID has begun a new activity to reduce youth gang violence. Principal grantees include the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, the Organization of American States, and others to be determined.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$90,000 DA). To monitor public attitudes and democratic trends, USAID is conducting surveys throughout the region to provide compatible cross-national information on democratic values, behaviors, and perceptions. USAID is using state of the art survey methods that uphold international survey standards and are transparent. Survey results are being used to identify trends and facilitate public discussion on the country and region's state of democracy. Approximately \$1,910,000 is being transferred from other USAID programs for a total of \$2,000,000 to conduct these surveys. Principal grantee: Vanderbilt University.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$575,000 DA). Technical assistance is supporting the development of methodologies to advance local government capacity for participatory planning and service delivery. E-Government and distance-learning

strategies are being expanded to improve local government capacity in financial management, citizen participation, and knowledge management. Principal grantee: International City and County Management Association.

FY 2007 Program:

No funds will be obligated in FY 2007.

Performance and Results: The LAC Regional program advanced U.S. national security and foreign policy interests in helping LAC governments deepen their commitment to democratic governance and human rights. The regional program trained women, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations in Peru, Colombia and Panama, respectively, to better equip them to influence the legislative agenda in their efforts to narrow the gap between legal (de jure) equality and real (de facto) equality. A human rights and citizen security roadmap was designed and incorporated into the Dominican Republic police force orientation and training. Ombudsman's offices region-wide were trained to improve oversight of public institutions and promote transparency. The anticorruption program replicated its survey on the costs of corruption in public service delivery in Bolivia. The survey, which will be repeated next year, established a base line to assess future progress in reducing corruption. The regional anticorruption activity successfully designed and presented a Mainstreaming Anti-Corruption Workshop for delivery to USAID programs worldwide. A local democracy network was created in the Dominican Republic to unite government officials and civil society for open dialogue and exchange on transparency issues and participatory budget practices. Assistance to the Organization of American States (OAS) allowed for civil society's incorporation into formal sessions in the General Assembly and Summit of the Americas which gave a venue to voice its agenda before high level officials. Additionally the civil society activity supported a regional forum for disabled persons to also promote their agenda before Summit officials. The local governance and decentralization program worked with the OAS to showcase eight local government cases in video format in four languages and is replicating these best practices. Through the regional anti-trafficking in persons' program information campaigns, inter-ministerial task forces, and/or legislation were created in Mexico, Bolivia, and Belize. USAID expanded the program for psychological and legal assistance for victims of torture to the country level in order to strengthen civil society's response to victims' needs and country's accountability on judged reparations. USAID provided assistance, recommendations, and training to electoral bodies, observers and political parties for greater transparency and democratic practices in ten countries.

By the end of FY 2006, the LAC Regional democracy program will have contributed to strengthened regional institutions, networks, and initiatives to deepen democracy in the LAC region.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

LAC Regional

598-005 Regional Democracy Initiatives	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	78,952	119,948
Expenditures	71,000	114,366
Unliquidated	7,952	5,582
Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	3,560	-2,869
Expenditures	6,579	1,492
Through September 30, 2005		
Obligations	82,512	117,079
Expenditures	77,579	115,858
Unliquidated	4,933	1,221
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	3,059	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006		
Obligations	3,059	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA		
Obligations	0	0
Future Obligations	7,229	36,790
Est. Total Cost	92,800	153,869

