

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Guyana
Program Title:	Governance and Rule of Law
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	504-004
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$1,344,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$1,750,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1999
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2003

Summary: The USAID Governance and Rule of Law program in Guyana seek to consolidate democratic institutions in five areas: 1) Legislative Strengthening, 2) Administration of Justice, 3) Elections, 4) Civic Advocacy, and 5) Local Government.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Improve legislative drafting (\$250,000 DA). In order to improve legislative drafting technical capacities, USAID will fund training for six drafters in the Attorney General's Office and the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel. Training will focus on electronic document preparation and editing in a linked network-based system. USAID will fund the necessary hardware and software for establishment of a network linkage between the Chief Parliamentary Counsel's Office and the Parliamentary Clerk. USAID will provide assistance to continue the compilation and updating of the Laws of Guyana on CD-ROM; technical assistance to launch a Parliamentary web site where the Laws of Guyana and other pending legislation can be accessed; and training to maintain the site. The principal contractor is National Democratic Institute (NDI).

More just and timely case dispositions (\$300,000 DA). In order to reduce the current case backlog, USAID will fund training for Court Registry personnel in electronic case record management. USAID will fund technical assistance to establish a case tracking system, and funds will be provided to procure the necessary hardware and software for the system. USAID will fund a pilot level Alternative Dispute Resolution program that draws upon changes in civil rules and criminal procedures allowing pre-trial hearings, court-annexed arbitration, plea bargaining and diversionary programs for juveniles and first-time offenders. USAID will continue to provide assistance to the Chancellor of the Judiciary to establish an enforceable code of judicial conduct and the implementation of professional ethics training courses on an annual basis. The principal contractor is the Carter Center (sub to NDI).

Guyana elections commission and local government elections (\$300,000 DA). In order to further institutionalize core Elections Commission Secretariat functions, USAID will fund training for key Information Technology personnel involved in maintaining and updating the Voter registration database. USAID will provide technical assistance to the Elections Commission to develop procedures manuals for Elections Administration and Logistics officers. USAID funds will assist the Elections Commission in Voter Education programming for the upcoming Local Government Elections. USAID funds will be used to support domestic election observation efforts as well as media monitoring during the local government campaign. The principal contractor is International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) (sub to NDI).

Civil society capacity (\$294,000 DA). In order to improve Civil Society Organizations (CSO) capacity to participate in policy dialogue with elected leaders, USAID funding will be used to provide advocacy training for target groups (i.e., women, youth and Amerindians). USAID will fund a series of organizational development programs, as well as civic education programs focusing on constitutional

reform, legal rights, the national budget, public security and land use planning. The principal contractor is the Carter Center (sub to NDI).

Democratic decentralization (\$200,000). In order to facilitate further democratic decentralization, USAID will continue to provide technical assistance to the inter-party task force working to rationalize the roles and function of local-level government. USAID will fund technical assistance to revise local government statutes and Election Laws, in advance of the upcoming local government elections. USAID funds will be used to conduct a survey of local government technical and administrative personnel requirements and to establish a prioritized training program for meeting these needs. USAID funds will be used to continue efforts to build community-based coalitions to engage with Local Government decision makers in designing and implementing development projects in two municipalities. The principal contractor is NDI.

FY 2004 Program:

Government and rule of law (\$1,750,000 DA). USAID is currently designing a new Country Strategy that anticipates providing assistance to consolidate democratic institutions by mitigating political conflict and improving transparency and accountability in governance. In order to mitigate political conflict, USAID anticipates designing and implementing activities aimed at improving inclusiveness in public policy making, continuing with constitutional reform efforts and implementing reforms already enacted, providing remedies for inter-personal and inter-organization disputes, and supporting mediated inter-party dialogue. To promote transparency and accountability, USAID anticipates designing and implementing activities aimed at supporting participatory budget-making processes, developing investigative journalism capacities, fostering democratic decentralization, and continuing to revise electoral law to promote direct representation.

Performance and Results: USAID's support in the area of Legislative Strengthening yielded a significant result in 2002, i.e., the production of the consolidated Laws of Guyana on CD-ROM. This major milestone marks the first time since gaining independence in 1966 that Guyanese policy-makers, judges and advocates, teachers and students, and the public at large have had one-stop access to the laws governing their daily lives. Equally significant was the revision of existing Civil Rules and Criminal Procedures, which when put into practice, will greatly reduce the time between case filing and case disposition. Further progress toward institutionalizing the core roles and functions of the Guyana Elections Commission Secretariat was marked by the adoption of a revised organizational structure. Training provided to core information technology personnel is an essential component in moving ahead with efforts to update and compile Guyana's voters list on a continuous basis. Finally, support to the local government task force and leadership training for women has laid the groundwork for establishing effective and truly representative local governance.

Continued efforts in these areas will help to mitigate latent inter-racial and ethnic-based conflict and transform Guyana into a country where citizens have expanded opportunities to voice their concerns in policy-making discussions and where access to justice is improved for all.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Guyana

504-004 Governance and Rule of Law	DA
Through September 30, 2001	
Obligations	4,556
Expenditures	3,058
Unliquidated	1,498
Fiscal Year 2002	
Obligations	1,500
Expenditures	1,666
Through September 30, 2002	
Obligations	6,056
Expenditures	4,724
Unliquidated	1,332
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA	
Obligations	1,344
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003	
Obligations	1,344
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA	
Obligations	1,750
Future Obligations	2,000
Est. Total Cost	11,150