

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Haiti
Program Title:	Democracy and Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	521-005
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$2,000,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$2,900,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2002
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2004

Summary: Despite the climate of impunity, pro-democracy advocates chose to brave the consequences though they sometimes pay with their lives. Citizens and civil society organizations continue to decry government abuses and insist on participating in the democratic process despite the ever-decreasing space to do so effectively. Corruption has become the norm, with GOH ministries providing few basic services. In order to address these problems, in FY 2002 USAID launched new programs to help Haitian civil society resist the growing trend toward authoritarian rule by: (1) Strengthening the independent media; (2) Working with reform-minded organizations pushing a judicial reform agenda and human rights; and (3) Developing new political leadership. USAID/Haiti has also taken up activities to stop the spread of corruption in the public and private sectors and address the sensitive issues of trafficking in persons, including child domestics.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Independent media (\$625,000 DA). USAID will continue to support the independent media and broaden the independent community radio network initiated during the first year of programming. This same network will be one of the principal avenues for communicating with the otherwise isolated rural population on issues of primary importance, including civic education and other social marketing messages for health, education, and agriculture. The principal contractor is Creative Associates International (prime).

Legal system (\$500,000 DA). Support to groups advancing a judicial reform agenda and human rights will continue into its second year and, with lessons learned from Dominican counterparts, this movement will advance its reform agenda to the national level. The legal system reform group has developed sound contacts with Haitians in the Diaspora, who are eager to lend their support to push its agenda forward. Support for human rights organizations also will be increased, funds permitting. The principal contractor is International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) (prime).

Political party assistance (\$875,000 DA). This project will work with political parties to strengthen their constituencies, both inside and outside of Port-au-Prince; formalize party structures; and formulate issue-driven platforms. The principal contractors are National Democratic Institute (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI) (primes), and Fondation Heritage, CNO, and CID Gallup (subs).

FY 2004 Program:

Because USAID's Democracy & Governance program depends on the political environment in Haiti, which is very fluid and unpredictable, as well as the availability of funds, USAID's ability to plan for the new cycle is constrained. USAID can only presume what the FY 2004 requirements will be; it may be an election year, and USAID may be called upon to give election assistance. As the political situation and funds permit, USAID plans to continue work in the critical areas of civil society strengthening, assistance to political parties, legal reform, anti-corruption activities, and child trafficking. Possible major program areas for FY 2004 include: Legal System (\$700,000 DA), Independent Media (\$900,000 DA), and Political

Party Assistance (\$1,300,000 DA). Now is a critical juncture in Haiti's democracy, and the country is crying out for competent democratic leadership.

Performance and Results: To date, USAID's support to civil society has empowered and perhaps emboldened groups to engage with government on national interests. The number of cases in which an organized dialogue on policy issues was carried out by civil society organizations with the public institutions nearly doubled last fiscal year. The bulk of the increase is due to an upsurge in politically-charged events such as the unresolved political impasse, increase in human rights abuses, and government corruption.

As elections loom, some of the civil society groups who have benefited to date from capacity building training will be put to the test. Specifically, the election observation committee (CNO), which mobilized 22,000 volunteers for the May 2000 elections and selected and trained an elite corps of observers, will be required to perform again.

In a recently conducted political opinion poll, more people expressed confidence in the role and responsiveness of the media than in any other institution in Haiti, with more than 70% stating that they believed the press "worked for the nation." As USAID's community radio network expands its outreach in year two of activities, USAID projects an estimated 40% increase in its listenership. USAID's objectives in strengthening these stations' capabilities are to mitigate the social, geographic, and educational gaps that exist between groups based in the capital city and their counterparts in rural areas.

Program impact will be measured in terms of the number and quality of advocacy actions by civil society and acceptance of election results by political parties. With continued support to civil society organizations, USAID can anticipate even greater contribution of these organizations to the democratic process. The long-term goal of USAID's Democracy & Governance program is to cultivate democratic practices, culture, and institutions in order to shift Haiti away from its tradition of autocratic dictatorship and promote a more stable, democratic government.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Haiti

	DA	ESF
521-005 Democracy and Governance		
Through September 30, 2001		
Obligations	32,353	68,328
Expenditures	32,353	58,146
Unliquidated	0	10,182
Fiscal Year 2002		
Obligations	249	2,252
Expenditures	0	6,409
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	32,602	70,580
Expenditures	32,353	64,555
Unliquidated	249	6,025
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA		
Obligations	2,000	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	2,000	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	2,900	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	37,502	70,580