

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Panama
<b>Program Title:</b>	Judicial Reforms
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	525-005
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:</b>	\$500,000 ESF
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$3,500,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2000
<b>Estimated Completion Date:</b>	FY 2004

**Summary:** The USAID Judicial Reform program in Panama is focused on pilot efforts designed to increase access of the poorer segments of the population to justice and to promote increased participation of civil society in justice reform efforts. USAID is providing technical assistance and training to support GOP efforts to: (a) reduce pretrial detention; (b) introduce the use of alternative dispute resolution in commercial disputes; (c) improve the dissemination of Supreme Court and appellate court judicial opinions; and (d) establish a permanent program in ethics training for all judicial personnel.

### **Inputs, Outputs, Activities:**

#### **FY 2003 Program:**

Improve access to justice in targeted areas (\$200,000 ESF). USAID will complete the final design and initiate implementation of a pilot project to reduce pre-trial detention by expediting criminal procedures and using alternatives to imprisonment. In addition, USAID will complete implementation of pilot activities utilizing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in civil courts in order to reduce the caseload entering the system. Finally, the last phase of the ongoing judicial registry pilot project will be completed. The Supreme Court judges are pleased with results to date and have expressed a desire to expand this effort. The principal grantee is Management Science for Development.

Increase the participation of civil society in justice sector reforms (\$200,000 ESF). USAID is supporting a number of activities implemented by the Citizens Alliance for Justice, an umbrella NGO, designed to increase participation and collaboration with judicial officials. Activities include: continuation of a prime time, monthly television program "Cabildo Abierto" (Town Meeting) sponsored by the private sector, in which specific judicial issues are openly debated; the second forum on judicial independence; the Latin American Conference on Penal Reform and Alternatives to Imprisonment; and meetings with mediators to discuss use of alternative dispute resolution and identify additional areas for collaboration with Panamanian government officials. The principal grantee is Management Science for Development.

Evaluation (\$100,000 ESF). In FY 2003 the program will be evaluated to document results and lessons learned. Contractor or grantee to be determined.

#### **FY 2004 Program:**

Follow-on program (\$3,500,000 ESF). Based upon the results of the evaluation, USAID will expand the Democracy and Governance program to increase this effort and address other issues of interest to the GOP and the United States Government, such as anticorruption and transparency. The proposed funding will cover initial activities under the expanded program following the anticipated successful completion of the current program.

**Performance and Results:** The USAID program has resulted in several major achievements during FY 2002 towards consolidating momentum for fairer and faster justice. The Supreme Court has undertaken the development of a Strategic Plan, including a vision statement and results frameworks that clearly identify objectives and expected results in the short, medium, and long term. A significant reduction in the

number of detainees resulting from sentences by administrative authorities has taken place. The Supreme Court website is operational. Free text consultation of cases dating back to 1993 is now computerized and readily available. The implementation of an alternative dispute resolution pilot activity was initiated. The proactive role of civil society in the reform process was improved as evidenced by the active participation of Citizens Alliance for Justice in numerous outreach and mass media communication programs. These programs focused on important reform issues related to the judicial process.

By the end of this activity, having worked with stakeholders inside and outside the justice system, broad-based support for, and confidence in, continued justice sector reform will be established and an agenda for future reforms will be developed.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Panama

525-005 Judicial Reforms	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2001</b>	
Obligations	1,996
Expenditures	472
Unliquidated	1,524
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>	
Obligations	1,000
Expenditures	1,031
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>	
Obligations	2,996
Expenditures	1,503
Unliquidated	1,493
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>	
Obligations	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA</b>	
Obligations	500
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003</b>	
Obligations	500
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>	
Obligations	3,500
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	6,996