



Democracy & Governance Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Photo: CIRD

USAID supports the judiciary in its efforts to fight corruption and establish citizens' complaints mechanisms. It also works with civil society organizations to improve their ability to monitor government and to advocate for reforms.

Program Summary

USAID supports democracy and good governance by strengthening the mechanisms that detect and prevent corruption. In the justice sector, the program works closely with the Judicial Branch to improve the administration of justice and promote professionalization of the judiciary and a more transparent justice system. In the area of good governance, USAID promotes governmental reform to improve management and policy making systems, and increase government effectiveness to improve administrative processes and service delivery throughout Paraguay. The Democracy Program works to strengthen civil society organizations (CSOs) and build coalitions and alliances among CSOs, improve civic education, and foster investigative journalism. USAID also supports a local labor inclusion program, which promotes inclusion of people with disabilities in the labor force.

1. Judiciary

USAID is supporting the rule of law in Paraguay by working with the Supreme Court and the Public Ministry, as well as CSOs, such as law schools and bar associations. The comprehensive program includes technical assistance to the Supreme Court to create a specialized economic crimes and corruption jurisdiction that will increase the judiciary's effectiveness in resolving complex cases. In addition, USAID supports the development of a continuing education program in the judiciary, aimed at the professionalization of judges and judicial staff. This is an important step in establishing a strong judicial career path in Paraguay. Finally, USAID supports the judicial ethics system, and the Office of Transparency of the Supreme Court, with the goal of reducing opportunities for corruption and increasing the Supreme Court's commitment to transparency.

2. Good Governance

USAID supports the Civil Service National Secretariat (CSNS) in the development of a performance measurement tool, the People Management Index, which measures key components of human resources management within ministries and other public entities. Measurement results help participating ministries



Photo: Saraki

USAID/Paraguay is one of the few agencies supporting programs aimed at improving the quality of life for people with disabilities.

Photo: A young woman who currently works at a public institution, supported by the Effective Labor Inclusion Program.

identify areas of weakness and implement plans to improve their performance. The performance measurement tool was conceptualized by a group of CSOs, and was developed through a participatory process led by the CSNS, with the assistance of USAID and collaboration from a variety of representatives and experts from government and CSOs.

USAID also supports the evaluation component of the Finance Ministry's Results Based Budget program. This allows government entities to identify programs' strengths and weaknesses, and use relevant information to improve the decision making process. The assistance helps build institutional evaluation capabilities in public and private research organizations.

USAID is assisting several ministries to develop mechanisms for more effective cooperation among different levels of government related to administrative processes and public services such as local economic development, cadaster and social services delivery.

3. Civil Society

USAID continues to strengthen and expand CSO's ability to demand public sector accountability, support broader CSO alliances, and enhance civil society interaction with the government. USAID increases the institutional capacity of CSOs, in areas such as managerial capability, financial processes, organizational structure, fund-raising, project development, communications strategies, and monitoring and evaluation. USAID fosters alliances and coalitions to enhance their ability to achieve policy changes, demand citizens' rights and achieve democratic reforms.

USAID also supports civic education programs and works with journalists' associations and journalism schools to provide investigative journalism training for covering corruption cases, while promoting ethical values and objectivity.

4. Support for People with Disabilities

USAID assists the Effective Labor Inclusion Program, which promotes employment and accessibility for people with disabilities in public and private institutions. The program endorses more inclusive labor practices and the elimination of physical and attitudinal barriers to hiring people with disabilities.