

## SUMMARY OF LAW AND JUSTICE REFORM PROGRAMS OF SELECTED DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

1. The World Bank approved its first judicial reform project loan in Venezuela in 1993, followed a year later with its first legal reform project in PRC. Since then it has approved 1,300 technical assistance and loan projects of which 24 were loans supporting law and justice reforms in 23 countries (nine Latin American countries with two projects in Venezuela, eight Asian, three European, two Middle Eastern, and one African country) totaling \$374.2 million.<sup>1</sup> The loan size ranged from \$2.5 – 58 million, with an average of \$15.6 million. Implementation completion reports are available for projects in Ecuador, Venezuela, West Bank and Gaza, a project performance assessment is available for the Yemen project.

2. Between 1993 and 2001 the Inter-American Development Bank approved 18 loans and 65 TA to promote justice sector reform in 21 of its 26 borrowing member countries. A total portfolio of \$461 million is evenly divided across civil justice, criminal justice and access to justice reforms. Four types of reform processes are supported institution strengthening, law reform, consensus building, and research, with most investment in institution strengthening.<sup>2</sup>

3. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is currently implementing rule of law and justice sector assistance programs in over 50 countries through implementing partner organizations from the private sector.<sup>3</sup> USAID's involvement in rule of law programs began in the 1950s, continuing through the 1960s with sporadic assistance in conjunction with other programs, mostly in Latin America. The focus on basic human needs in 1970s resulted in fewer rule of law programs. However, from the mid-1980s, with a shift toward trade, investment, and private sector development it was recognized that a country's legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks impeded foreign and domestic investment. This coincided with support for democracy-building programs and resulted in new justice strengthening activities, primarily directed at reducing human rights abuses in Latin America. USAID's first major justice sector program in El Salvador in 1984 was followed by similar programs throughout central and South America. After 1989 USAID's rule of law programs expanded rapidly in Europe and Central Asian newly independent states and countries transitioning to a market economy. In the Africa and Asia, fewer windows of opportunity and relatively less funding meant rule of law programs were less extensive and focused on country-specific issues.<sup>4</sup>

4. DFID's policy on safety, security and accessible justice is recognizes that to meet international development targets for poverty reduction, it is necessary for governments to develop the capacity to ensure safety, security and access to justice for all. The objectives of DFID's safety, security and accessible justice strategies are (i) to make all people safe from violence and intimidation in their communities, homes, work and schools; (ii) to make people's property secure from theft and damage; and (iii) to ensure that everybody has access to systems which dispense justice fairly, speedily and without discrimination. This strategy enables

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<sup>1</sup> Dakolias, M. 2005. *Methods for Monitoring and Evaluating the Rule of Law. Paper presented at the Center for International Legal Cooperation's 20th Anniversary Conference.* Applying the "Sectoral Approach" to the Legal and Judicial Domain. The Hague. The Netherlands. Available: [http://www.cilc.nl/Conference\\_publication\\_2005.pdf](http://www.cilc.nl/Conference_publication_2005.pdf). Details of the 24 loan projects are from Major World Bank Judicial Reform Projects approved on August 2004, Available: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTLAWJUSTINST/Resources/MajorStandAloneJudicialReformProjects.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Biebesheimer, C. and J. M. Payne. 2001. *IDB Experience in Justice Reform: Lessons Learned and Elements for Policy Formulation.* Inter-American Development Bank. Washington, D.C.

<sup>3</sup> Information on value of USAID's rule of law projects is not easily accessible through its website.

<sup>4</sup> United States Agency for International Development. 2002. *Achievements in Building and Maintaining the Rule of Law: MSI's Studies in LAC, E&E, AFR, and ANE.* Occasional Papers Series. Washington D.C. November.

DFID to work on both the demand (citizens and civil society) and supply (legislation and administration) of law and justice reform—legal frameworks, judiciary, administrative justice and alternative dispute resolution, public safety, police and penal systems.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Department for International Development. 2000. *Justice and Poverty Reduction: Safety, Security and Access to Justice for All*. London. Available <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/justice.pdf>. Stone, C. J. Miller, M. Thornton, and J. Trone. 2005 *Supporting Security, Justice, and Development: Lessons for a New Era*. Department for International Development. London. Available <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/security-justice-development.pdf>, identify lessons from recent public safety and justice reform programs in seven countries.