**Oral Trials in Chihuahua Advance**

The Government of the State of Chihuahua has started the process of selecting the first candidates to implement the new code on criminal procedure which includes oral trials.

USAID is collaborating with the selection committee responsible for examining and interviewing all candidates. The new procedural code will begin in January 2006 within the city of Chihuahua and implementation will gradually be expanded to the various zones outside of the city based on the criminal indexes.

Ciudad Juarez will start its reforms in July 1st of 2007, once their infrastructure is completed.

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**New USAID Health Grants Announced**

Based on proposal submissions from a request for application in March 2006, USAID approved new grant awards to the following organizations:

- **Doctors of the World:** “Communication, Social Mobilization and Advocacy for Tuberculosis Control in High Burden Communities”: A two-year project to reduce the burden of tuberculosis in Chiapas through community-based communication, social mobilization and advocacy.
- **University of California, San Diego:** “PreveTB - Mobile Screening and Diagnosis for High Risk Populations in Tijuana, Mexico”: A two year project to provide tuberculosis and HIV screening, referral and diagnostic services to high risk communities in Tijuana, Mexico through the use of a mobile clinic.
- **Fundación Mexicana para La Planeación Familiar, A.C. (MexFam):** “Increasing prevention of HIV/AIDS among male migrant populations in ten selected sites of México”: A two-year project to increase awareness about HIV/AIDS infection and access to services among present and potential male migrant populations in ten Mexican states with high outward migration.

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**Mexico and Central America Collaborate on Fire Prevention**

Twenty-one representatives from five Central American countries and Mexico attended an introductory work shop in the Mexican biosphere reserve of Manantlán to learn concepts of how management of forest debris (fuels) relates to reducing fire risk and more effectively controlling fires.

The work shop was jointly sponsored by USAID/Mexico and our regional program. The course was developed from information from research under USAID’s Fire Management Program that is adapting technologies used in the US to help characterize forest fuels in Mexican forests.

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**Oaxaca Submits New Juvenile Justice Code**

Last Thursday, the Governor of the State of Oaxaca submitted to State Congress the new Juvenile Justice Code which focuses on holding adolescents responsible for their delinquent conduct and provides rehabilitation mechanisms similar to that in the United States. Under this legislation, adolescents will be adjudicated using oral trials and addressing juvenile rehabilitation. USAID provided technical assistance in the drafting of this new code in preparation for addressing the youth gang problems in Oaxaca. The new juvenile justice code decreases the possibilities of adult drug traffickers using juveniles in their activities.