

FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Civil Society Strengthening in India

India



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**FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
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Center for Civil Society and Governance
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Summary

This report details the progress under Cooperative Agreement GDG-A-00-02-00014, Civil Society Strengthening in India, for the entire performance period of the project (Sept. 27, 2002 to March 31, 2003). The activities completed relate to the design of a new activity under USAID/India Strategic Objective #5, Intermediate Result #2, "Increased Access to Justice by Vulnerable Populations." The final New Activity Document (NAD) constitutes the final product under this Cooperative Agreement (CA), but this report summarizes all accomplishments under the CA.

Accomplishments

Management Systems International (MSI) accomplished the following during the six month project:

- A desk study was completed of the problems and issues confronting the Indian legal system, concentrating particularly on formal dispute resolution institutions and processes (written by Prof. Marc Galanter of the University of Wisconsin).
- A stakeholders' workshop on access to justice was held in New Delhi in October 2002.
- Three design team field visits were made - two of 3.5 weeks in length and one of five days' duration. Field work was carried out in New Delhi, Bangalore, Mysore district, Gulbarga district, Kota district, Udaipur, Jodhpur district, Pune and Mumbai. Telephone interviews were held with informants in other cities, such as Calcutta. Field work included document collection and review, key informant interviews, focus groups, and observation of courts, all women police stations, and NGO activities. The team interviewed academics, law faculty, journalists, judges, prosecutors, court staff, advocates, NGO staff, government officials (elected and non elected), donors, and rural and urban women.
- A preliminary procurement plan for FY 03 was drafted.
- Assistance was provided to the American Bar Association (ABA) in developing a program for the Malimath Committee working on the criminal justice system.
- A study of women's rights issues in selected districts in Karnataka (conducted by Dr. PD Kaushik of the International Policy Network) was completed and submitted to USAID.
- A desk study of district profiles in Rajasthan written by Dr. Bibek Debroy of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (and full design team member) was completed and submitted to USAID.
- An access to justice program strategy/concept note was drafted and submitted to USAID in early December 2002.
- A Women's Legal Rights Program New Activity Design document (NAD) was completed and submitted to USAID in March 2003.

- Ideas were generated for research studies that could be funded on a pre-implementation basis.
- Assistance was provided in introducing program components to state level government officials and the NHRC.