

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Benin
Program Title:	Reforming Primary Education In Benin
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	680-001
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$6,149,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$6,077,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	1998
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: USAID's education program focuses on improving the quality of basic education and children's, particularly girls', access to primary education. Program activities are geared to create an environment that promotes quality teaching and learning; increases girls' enrollment, retention, and completion of primary education; promotes greater community involvement in primary education; increases HIV/AIDS awareness among students, parents, teachers, and education officials; and develops effective planning and management practices within the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Improve the Quality of Basic Education (\$5,249,000 DA). The extension of the new curriculum to all the grades of all the primary schools in Benin will be completed during the 2004-2005 school year. During the 2005-2006 school year USAID will work with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education to revise and improve the first and second grade curricula (which were initially developed with the assistance of USAID). The primary education system in Benin is facing a critical lack of trained teachers; estimates place the gap at 5,000 teachers. Benin intends to reopen teacher training centers in 2005. USAID will assist the ministry to develop training modules and procure materials for these teacher training centers.

USAID will use Africa Education Initiative funds to continue building skills in teaching, planning and management. About 5,000 sixth grade teachers will be trained in the techniques, teaching approaches, and strategies of the new study program that is being extended to all the grades of the primary schools in Benin. Teacher supervisors and inspectors who are heads of school districts will also receive training to improve their skills in planning and coaching teachers in primary schools. Under this component activities will expand to include an additional 30 school districts. These training and support activities will contribute to improving the performance of the teacher workforce in Benin.

Awareness raising activities to promote girls' education will continue. USAID will focus its activities in the 19 districts with the lowest girls' enrollment rates. Activities will include working with local authorities and communities to identify and alleviate obstacles to girls' education. Mothers will be specifically targeted with training that not only encourages them to send their daughters to school but also equips them with the necessary skills to increase their participation in school management. Principal contractors and grantees: Creative Associates, CARE, World Education, World Learning, and International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH) (primes); and EMI Systems (sub).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$500,000 DA). As Benin continues with the process of decentralizing government authority to local communities, USAID will work closely with local elected officials as they implement the education programs that were included in local development plans. Local governments will receive small grants which allow them to practice their newly acquired skills in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of local development activities. Principal contractors and grantees: Research Triangle Institute and World Education (primes).

Reduce Transmission and Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$400,000 DA). USAID will provide sensitization training on HIV/AIDS and its risks to parents, students, teachers and education officials. USAID will train central

and local staff of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education to use improved planning and management tools. Principal contractor: Creative Associates (prime); and Care International (sub).

Increase Food Security of Vulnerable Populations. P.L. 480 Title II resources will be used to assist communities in northern Benin to establish and operate school canteens. This program will end in FY 2005. Principal grantee: Catholic Relief Services.

FY 2006 Program: Improve the Quality of Basic Education (\$5,177,000 DA). USAID will provide technical assistance to revise the third and fourth grade curricula. USAID will also provide financial and technical assistance to the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education to enable it to re-open teacher training centers. Funding will also support the development of training modules and the procurement of teacher training materials. USAID will continue activities related to the promotion of girls' education, the involvement of communities in education, and HIV/AIDS awareness. Principal contractors and grantees: Creative Associates and CARE (primes); and others to be determined.

USAID will also continue to provide technical assistance to improve teacher performance, especially for those teachers who have not received training on the new teaching approaches and strategies in force with the new curricula. USAID will continue to work with teacher supervisors and inspectors in selected school districts. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$500,000 DA). USAID plans to continue working with local elected officials as they implement the education programs that were included in local development plans. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Reduce Transmission and Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$400,000 DA). USAID plans to continue activities within the primary education system to educate and sensitize parents, students, teachers and education officials on the impact and risks of HIV/AIDS. Principal contractors and grantees: Creative Associates (prime); CARE (sub); and others to be determined.

Performance and Results: Benin continues to successfully improve access to primary education. The gross enrollment rate has increased from 88% in 2001 to 93% in 2004. Girls' enrollment rates increased from 72% in 2001 to 81% in 2004. With USAID assistance, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education is implementing an education reform program for the entire primary education system that includes the writing and production of textbooks and teacher manuals. In support of this reform program, USAID trained 10,462 teachers in the use of the new teaching approaches and strategies and has helped to roll out the new curriculum (through the fifth grade) to each primary school grade in the country. A total of 100,000 math textbooks and 100,000 French textbooks have been printed and distributed.

Expected principal outcomes at the end of this program: 1) children, especially girls, will have increased access to primary education; 2) the new curriculum will be in place in all six primary school grades throughout the country; 3) the gross enrollment rate will be nearly universal, and the enrollment gap between girls and boys will diminish significantly.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Benin

680-001 Reforming Primary Education In Benin	CSH	DA	DFA
Through September 30, 2003			
Obligations	32,294	21,058	28,474
Expenditures	31,821	12,385	28,470
Unliquidated	473	8,673	4
Fiscal Year 2004			
Obligations	0	7,163	0
Expenditures	171	8,518	-2
Through September 30, 2004			
Obligations	32,294	28,221	28,474
Expenditures	31,992	20,903	28,468
Unliquidated	302	7,318	6
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA			
Obligations	0	6,149	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005			
Obligations	0	6,149	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA			
Obligations	0	6,077	0
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	32,294	40,447	28,474