

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Namibia
Program Title:	Basic Education Support
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	673-006
Status:	New in FY 2004
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$2,720,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$2,920,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2009

Summary: A recent regional education report indicated that only a third of Namibia's sixth grade students had acquired the needed literacy and numeracy competencies. USAID is helping the Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture (MBESC) to improve the delivery of quality primary education to students in grades 1-7 in the six northern regions of Namibia. This program builds on earlier USAID efforts to promote the sustained use of effective teaching methodologies; enhance professional development of teachers through training and institutional support; improve the management and administration of schools by training principals and education system managers; promote decentralized management of education services; and increase parental and community involvement. In addition, USAID supports enhanced awareness of HIV/AIDS among students, teachers and other staff and increased school attendance by orphans and vulnerable children. USAID also supports an ongoing pilot activity to enhance teachers' ability to effectively use information and communication technology as a teaching tool.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Improve the Quality of Basic Education (\$2,720,000 DA). USAID's Basic Education Support (BES) III program focuses on the achievement of three objectives. First, USAID is assisting the MBESC to improve the quality of education at the primary level by enhancing teacher instructional skills in English, math, and science, and by expanding the use of student-centered education and continuous assessment techniques. An assessment tool is being developed to track student performance. USAID is providing technical assistance to regional staff and advisory teachers who conduct in-service training, and to instructors at teacher training colleges who provide pre-service training to teachers.

The program's second objective is to support MBESC's efforts to devolve resources and responsibilities to the regional level. USAID is assisting MBESC in developing procedures to implement decentralization policies and in training regional and school administrators to carry out their new responsibilities. USAID also is providing support for expanded parental and community involvement in school decision-making.

See the State Department Congressional Budget Justification, Global HIV/AIDS Initiative section, for a discussion and more details of the program to reduce transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS. The program's third objective is to increase the capability of those in the basic education sector to cope with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. USAID is helping to increase the capacity of the MBESC and its HIV/AIDS Management Unit to implement effective HIV/AIDS policies and programs, with an emphasis on increasing the numbers of orphans and vulnerable children attending school and completing primary school. USAID is funding the development of a database to be used in conjunction with the Education Management Information System. The database will assist with school-level identification of orphans and vulnerable children, will monitor access to resources specifically meant to benefit these children, and will collect school/grade retention data. USAID also is helping to expand and improve HIV/AIDS prevention and support programs for the education sector workforce, the largest segment of government employees. USAID is assisting with the development of strategies to decrease teacher absenteeism due to HIV/AIDS and minimize its impact on learners, and USAID will support the Ministry with implementation. Students are being provided with information to increase their knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS and life skills training. Activities in this area are being implemented in close coordination with the President's

Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief in Namibia. Principal grantee: Academy for Educational Development (prime).

FY 2006 Program: Improve the Quality of Basic Education (\$2,920,000 DA). Activities initiated in FY 2005 to improve the quality of education will continue in FY 2006. USAID will support MBESC's efforts to provide decentralization training to managers at the regional and local school levels. The program also will assist the Ministry to capture and analyze information needed for decentralized management. See the State Department Congressional Budget Justification, Global HIV/AIDS Initiative section, for a discussion and more details of the program to reduce transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS. USAID will support the Ministry's efforts to incorporate age-appropriate HIV/AIDS information into the primary curriculum; conduct a study on how the education system can continue to meet learners' needs in spite of lengthy HIV/AIDS-related teacher absences; and the collection and analysis of data on the school attendance of orphans and vulnerable children. USAID will continue to support the MBESC's HIV/AIDS unit in the design, implementation, and evaluation of HIV/AIDS interventions in the basic education sector. Modest support will be provided for the continuation of pilot testing information and communication technology activities that will enhance the availability of teaching resources for teachers. Principle grantee: Academy for Educational Development (prime)

Performance and Results: This program builds on USAID's previous education activity, which ended in FY 2004. Through the Basic Education Support II activity, USAID provided technical assistance, training, and limited commodities to implement a pilot school improvement program in six regions in northern Namibia that were disadvantaged under the apartheid regime. A comparative survey conducted in the six northern regions found that the pass rates of students in grades 1-4 improved from 2002 to 2003 in schools implementing the school improvement program. The 410 pilot schools also performed on average 20% better than non-pilot schools in three areas: teachers' usage of a variety of learner-centered education and continuous assessment; the active engagement of learners in the classroom as a result of using a variety of teaching aids and methods; and teachers' ability to monitor learners and to provide immediate feedback. Other results included the training of 4,000 teachers in learner-centered education methodologies and the training of 1,440 principals and education officials in HIV/AIDS management in the schools. The Ministry of Basic Education has indicated its intent to replicate the USAID-funded school improvement program nationwide.

Principal outcomes expected by the end of the Basic Education Support III program are an increase in the performance of primary school learners in language, math and science; development of life skills and livelihood knowledge among primary school learners; increased institutional capacity at the regional levels; and an improved ability to prevent and deal with the impact of HIV/AIDS.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Namibia

673-006 Basic Education Support	DA
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	2,713
Expenditures	0
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	2,713
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	2,713
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	2,720
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	2,720
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	2,920
Future Obligations	4,500
Est. Total Cost	12,853