

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Bangladesh
Program Title:	Education
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	388-010
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$2,000,000 DA; \$1,500,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$2,000,000 DA; \$1,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2003
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2007

Summary: The USAID education program in Bangladesh improves performance at the early childhood and primary education levels through innovative learning models. To attain this objective, USAID works with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and with Sesame Workshop to achieve performance differences in 1st and 2nd grades between those who attend and those who do not attend preschool; produce a high-quality children's television program that fosters a desire for learning; improve literacy and numeracy skills for preschool-aged children throughout Bangladesh, including those in hard-to-reach and underserved areas; and improve the percentage of primary teachers in program areas who effectively use new learning tools and methods to promote literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking skills. Given the limited coverage of television broadcasting in Bangladesh, this program incorporates several innovative outreach strategies to maximize dissemination and access. For instance, a system of mobile, solar-powered televisions mounted on rickshaws has been developed to broadcast the Sesame Street program in areas not served by the electrical grid, thereby greatly expanding prospective viewership. The program also reduces corruption in the education sector by increasing community involvement in school management, particularly at the local level.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Improve the Quality of Basic Education (\$2,000,000 DA, \$1,500,000 ESF). Through a new early childhood initiative, USAID will provide early childhood educational services in five of the six territorial divisions in Bangladesh, ultimately reaching 147,000 children with home-based and school-based pre-school programs run by educators and caregivers trained in early childhood development and innovative teaching methodologies. As Bangladesh has no tradition of preschool programming, this initiative will constitute the first-ever large-scale offering of preschool activities that will aim to both increase performance and retention at the primary school level and beyond by fostering a positive learning environment and a tradition of community support for quality education. USAID will also work with Sesame Street Bangladesh to develop original programming in Bangla, thereby providing preschool and young students with access for the first time to a high-quality and educationally-sound program that delivers and reinforces literacy and numeracy learning. A total of 26 half-hour programs will be produced with the first programs to be broadcast in April/May 2005. Outreach resources (books and other materials) and rickshaw delivery of the television program will address the traditional access roadblock caused by limited availability of electricity and televisions in some outlying areas of the country. Grantees and contractors include: Save the Children U.S., Sesame Workshop, and local NGOs.

FY 2006 Program: Improve the Quality of Basic Education (\$2,000,000 DA, \$1,000,000 ESF). USAID plans to expand the number of preschools reached by the early childhood learning initiative. Training for educators and caregivers will continue in order to meet the needs resulting from increased coverage of schools. Innovative learning tools and methods will be more broadly circulated and used. Sesame Street Bangladesh will produce 26 additional episodes of the program and run it for 52 weeks. Viewership among preschool aged children should increase to at least 20% of the targeted population. Outreach efforts will continue, and new materials will be produced in order to reflect and support the content of the second year of broadcasting. Grantees and contractors include: Save the Children U.S., Sesame Workshop, and local NGOs.

Performance and Results: Major accomplishments of the early childhood education initiatives in 2004 include a substantial overall rise in enrollment rates, an increase of children enrolled in targeted schools beyond the predicted levels, and improved physical facilities at schools. Under USAID-funded school activities, attendance rates have increased significantly over the last year. The teacher-student ratio has improved, and many long-vacant teacher positions have been filled. Additionally, teachers are being trained in active learning pedagogy, a break with ineffective teaching methodological norms of the past. Teacher attendance in targeted schools has improved, moving closer to international standards. USAID's implementing partners administered pre-, mid-, and post-tests on participating students which showed improvements. Large numbers of community tutors and primary school teachers were trained in reflective pedagogy. Innovative learning kits, instructional materials, and educational aids were produced and distributed. Early childhood education activities also improve the general population of students in the 1st and 2nd grades since children exposed to early education programming perform better in subsequent classes. Students commonly referred to as the back benchers -- that group of students who have been deemed uneducable for a variety of reasons (slow learners, students who do not thrive in rote learning environments, students with mild disabilities, and so on) -- have increasingly been brought into the mainstream through outreach activities. These activities take nonformal, child-centered approaches to help both mainstream and back-bench students succeed in formal education through one-on-one attention and meaningful community involvement that has never before been an element of their educational experiences.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

388-010 Education	CSH	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2003			
Obligations	0	1,350	1,500
Expenditures	0	479	0
Unliquidated	0	871	1,500
Fiscal Year 2004			
Obligations	750	2,482	1,500
Expenditures	1,261	1,943	0
Through September 30, 2004			
Obligations	750	3,832	3,000
Expenditures	1,261	2,422	0
Unliquidated	-511	1,410	3,000
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA			
Obligations	0	2,000	1,500
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005			
Obligations	0	2,000	1,500
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA			
Obligations	0	2,000	1,000
Future Obligations	0	3,000	2,000
Est. Total Cost	750	10,832	7,500