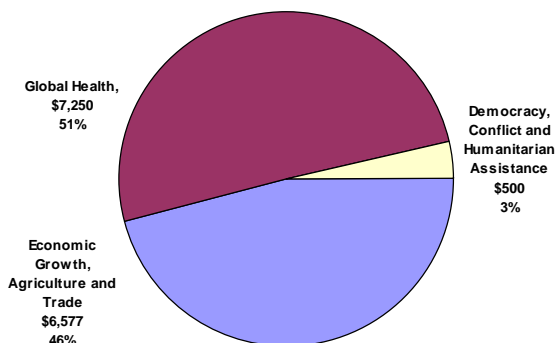
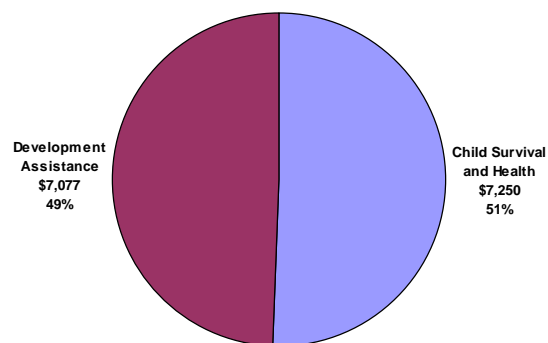


# Benin

**FY 2006 Assistance by Sector**



**FY 2006 Assistance by Account**



## Objectives and Budget

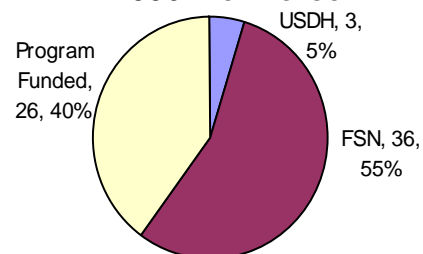
Objective	SO Number	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Reforming Primary Education In Benin	680-001	7,178	6,149	6,077
Benin Integrated Family Health	680-002	7,550	7,750	7,250
Governance Program	680-003	1,031	453	1,000
<b>Total (in thousands of dollars)</b>		<b>15,759</b>	<b>14,352</b>	<b>14,327</b>

Excludes P.L. 480. See Program Annex.

## Administrative Expenses and Workforce

Administrative Expenses	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Mission Allocation	2,468	2,348	2,406
USDH Salaries & Benefits	519	319	326
Program Funds	2,263	2,476	1,737
<b>Total (in thousands of dollars)</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>5,143</b>	<b>4,469</b>

**FY 2006 Workforce**



**Mission Director:** Rudolph Thomas

## Benin

**The Development Challenge:** In a region with notable cases of failed or failing governments, since the early 1990s Benin has been a state that largely respects basic rights and freedoms and has conducted peaceful changes of power between opposing political camps. Presidential elections in 2006 are expected to result in the third peaceful turnover of the presidency since Benin's re-establishment as a democracy. After months of speculation in the press and protests from civil society organizations about a possible constitutional amendment to allow current President Mathieu Kerekou to run for office again, all debate on the issue appears to have ended. Benin was declared one of 16 countries eligible to apply for funds from the U.S. Government's (USG's) Millennium Challenge Account in FY 2004. As one of the few countries in Africa with a vibrant local media, a multitude of private media outlets, print and broadcast, have sprung up and function essentially free from government interference.

Over the past decade Benin has pushed for macroeconomic, fiscal and administrative reforms. Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth averaged about 5% annually from 1993 to 2003. Benin's ability to control inflation and the external current deficit were among the factors that enabled Benin to obtain debt relief amounting to \$265 million in March 2003 under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. Benin has generally successfully met performance criteria and structural benchmarks, enabling it to draw on the resources of the International Monetary Fund through three successive arrangements since 1993.

Benin ranked 161 among 177 countries on the United Nations Development Program's 2004 Human Development Index. Per capita income for Benin's population of 6.7 million is \$440. An estimated 33% lives below the national poverty line. Statistics on the status of health and education, although improving over the past decade, reflect a low level of human development. Life expectancy is 53 years. Mortality among children under five is 151 per 1,000. An estimated 23% of children under five are malnourished. Maternal mortality is estimated at 850 per 100,000 live births. The adult literacy rate, at nearly 40%, is well below the 63% rate for Sub-Saharan Africa. In Benin, adult literacy for women aged 15 and older is just over 25%, far below the rate for all of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Among significant development challenges facing Benin is an increasing perception that the Government is falling behind in its ability to govern effectively. Corruption and ineffective management are widely recognized as significant problems. Reports in the local press also point to a general perception that the robust economic growth mainly benefited politically connected elites. As the 2006 presidential elections approach, succession politics will consume greater attention and political energy. This is likely to curb the pace of government reforms to liberalize the cotton sector, reform customs administration, divest publicly-owned companies, and to establish a merit-based promotion system within the civil service.

The economy continues to be vulnerable due to reliance on agriculture and services which account, respectively, for 36% and 50% of GDP. In 2004 the Government announced that expected revenues had fallen far short of targets for the first half of the fiscal year. Shortfalls in revenues are closely tied to dependence on cotton and trade with Nigeria. Reforms in the cotton sector are not moving forward as planned. Trade with Nigeria is suffering due to its protectionist stance on third country re-exports coming from Benin. Policies necessary to promote economic diversification are moving forward, albeit slowly.

A final critical challenge to Benin's development prospects will be the ability to invest in the health and education of the Beninese people, especially women. At the current population growth rate of 2.5%, Benin's population is expected to reach 9.1 million by 2015. The Government is already hard pressed to meet the needs of its people for access to health care and education. Government expenditures as a proportion of GDP for health and education currently stand at 2.1% and 3.5% respectively. These are low compared to other low-income countries.

The United States and Benin have had an excellent relationship since Benin embraced democracy. The U.S. Government (USG) continues to assist Benin with the improvement of living standards that are key to the success of Benin's democratic government and economic liberalization, and are consistent with U.S. interests in reducing poverty and promoting growth. Benin recently agreed in principle to sign an Article 98 agreement with the USG. A delegation from the Department of State is scheduled to travel to

Cotonou to negotiate final language of the agreement in early calendar year 2005.

Current trade between Benin and the United States is small, but interest in American products is growing. The United States is interested in promoting increased trade with Benin in order to expand U.S. trade with Benin's neighbors, particularly Nigeria, Niger, and Burkina Faso, all receiving large amounts of their own imports through the port of Cotonou. Such trade is facilitated by Benin's membership in the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and in the CFA franc monetary zone. The U.S. Government works to stimulate American investment in key sectors such as energy, telecommunications, and transportation. Benin is eligible for the African Growth and Opportunities Act but has not yet qualified for the Act's apparel provision, which would allow Benin to export apparel to the U.S. with few restrictions.

**The USAID Program:** USAID's programs in Benin include: 1) improving the quality of education with an emphasis on educating girls; 2) improving family health by preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, encouraging the use of more effective modern family planning methods, and promoting health of mothers and children; and 3) improving government management and participation of community groups in governance issues that touch on education, health, and livelihoods.

**Other Program Elements:** The current P.L. 480 Title II program will end in FY 2005. It is anticipated that a proposal for a follow-on program will be submitted this year. Current programs include: microcredit and business training for small businesses, especially those owned by women; food and training to parent organizations to operate school canteens; food and nutrition education for mothers of small children; and an emergency feeding program for orphans and other socially disadvantaged individuals. Benin is a focus country for the "Women's Legal Rights Program" which USAID's Office of Women in Development manages. This program, which began in 2004, focuses on education and training on women's legal rights. Planned activities include a public awareness campaign, paralegal training, developing a manual for legal professionals on the new Family Code, workshops for community leaders, and continuing education for judges and intermediate-level actors in the judicial system. Activities under this initiative will be closely coordinated with interventions in all sectors.

The USAID West Africa Regional Program (WARP) manages activities in Benin in economic integration and trade, energy, health including HIV/AIDS and child survival, conflict prevention, anti-corruption, agriculture and food security. Participants from Benin have attended workshops and training for entrepreneurs interested in benefiting from the African Growth and Opportunity Act. The WARP energy activity is aimed at ensuring that Benin will benefit from plans to complete the West Africa Gas Pipeline Project, as well as plans to improve the electricity grid along countries lining the coast from Cote d'Ivoire to Nigeria under the West Africa Power Pool project. Researchers from Benin who participate in agricultural activities are part of a network of scientists who are working to develop improved varieties and production techniques for crops such as rice, sorghum and maize.

**Other Donors:** USAID is a member of the donor group comprised of heads of diplomatic missions which meets monthly. USAID also participates in technical sector working groups led by donor chairs. These working groups include: health (the European Union (EU)), basic education (USAID), trade (the EU), cotton (the Netherlands), gender (the Canadian International Development Agency), elections (the Danish Embassy) and trafficking in persons (the EU). Development assistance to Benin totals approximately \$248 million annually. The two largest bilateral partners are France (justice and rule of law, urban and rural development, environment, education) and the United States. Other major bilateral donors and their principal areas of focus include Denmark (civil society, water, agriculture, administrative reform), Germany (environment, agriculture, health, water), Belgium (civil society and democracy, agriculture, health, biodiversity and aquaculture, higher education), the Netherlands (agriculture, rural development, environment, government administration), Canada (administrative reform, water, urban sanitation), and Switzerland (health, education, micro-enterprise, community development). The World Bank (education, health, government administration, roads), the African Development Fund (rural development, poverty reduction, education, forestry, fisheries), and the International Monetary Fund (government administration, macroeconomic and policy reform) are the largest multilateral programs operating in Benin.

## Benin PROGRAM SUMMARY

(in thousands of dollars)

Accounts	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Current	FY 2006 Request
Child Survival and Health Programs Fund	6,638	7,550	7,750	7,250
Development Assistance	9,403	8,209	6,602	7,077
Economic Support Fund	250	0	0	0
PL 480 Title II	4,292	4,701	2,668	3,067
<b>Total Program Funds</b>	<b>20,583</b>	<b>20,460</b>	<b>17,020</b>	<b>17,394</b>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SUMMARY				
680-001 Reforming Primary Education In Benin				
DA	7,480	7,178	6,149	6,077
680-002 Benin Integrated Family Health				
CSH	6,638	7,550	7,750	7,250
680-003 Governance Program				
DA	1,923	1,031	453	1,000
ESF	250	0	0	0

Mission Director,  
Rudolph Thomas

## Data Sheet

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

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

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Benin
<b>Program Title:</b>	Benin Integrated Family Health
<b>Pillar:</b>	Global Health
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	680-002
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$7,750,000 CSH
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$7,250,000 CSH
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	1997
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2006

**Summary:** The objective of USAID's integrated family health program is to increase the use of family health services within a supportive policy environment. National interventions focus on improving health policies. Regional activities focus on implementing nationally adopted programs and policies, such as family health standards of care, integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI), and emergency obstetrical and neonatal care. USAID also works with the Ministry of Health to effectively implement the Government of Benin's decentralization policy for the health sector.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

**FY 2005 Program:** Reduce Transmission and Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$1,550,000 CSH). As part of the abstinence, be faithful, and condom promotion (ABC) approach, USAID will support the National HIV/AIDS Control Unit within the Ministry of Health which works to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and organizes awareness campaigns about HIV/AIDS prevention. The Unit is also responsible for improving epidemiological surveillance to monitor the progression of HIV/AIDS and for training health workers in the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections. USAID will provide funding for the national condom social marketing program. USAID will train health workers to design and disseminate prevention messages for groups most at risk of becoming infected. Principal contractors and grantees: Africare, Population Services International (PSI), University Research Corporation (URC), and Abt Associates (primes); and others to be determined.

Prevent and Control Infectious Diseases of Major Importance: (\$1,500,000 CSH). USAID will continue to work with the Ministry of Health to implement its nationwide malaria control strategy. USAID will also partner with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to promote the use of insecticide treated bednets (ITNs) in the Donga-Atacora region of northwestern Benin. Principal contractors and grantees: URC, Africare, UNICEF, and PSI (primes); and others to be determined.

Build Health Systems Capacity (\$1,400,000 CSH). USAID will fund training for health workers to: appropriately manage childhood illnesses; care for obstetric emergencies and newborns; apply family health standards of care; and prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections, especially among groups most at risk of infection. Additional training will teach staff the principles of a planning process designed to ensure that community needs and priorities are taken into account in regional and national planning. USAID will also assist the Ministry of Health to expand a recently piloted approach for preventing post-partum hemorrhage. Principal contractors and grantees: Africare, URC, and EngenderHealth (primes).

Improve Child Survival, Health and Nutrition (\$1,360,000 CSH). USAID will fund communication activities to promote the prevention and treatment of childhood illnesses through immunization, breastfeeding, and the social marketing of oral re-hydration salts and mosquito nets. USAID will also continue to fund a community-based health insurance program. Principal contractors and grantees: PSI, URC, Africare, Abt Associates (primes); and others to be determined.

Improve Maternal Health and Nutrition (\$340,000 CSH). Improving maternal health is an integral part of the major USAID activity in the Borgou-Alibori region. The geographic scope of this activity will be expanded. USAID will also provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health to expand a recently



piloted approach for preventing post-partum hemorrhage to other regions in Benin. Principal contractors and grantees: PSI, URC, Africare, Abt Associates (primes); and others to be determined.

Reduce Unintended Pregnancy and Improve Healthy Reproductive Behavior (\$1,600,000 CSH). Activities to achieve this objective are an integral part of the USAID family health program to promote maternal and child health in the Borgou-Alibori region. USAID will continue to train health workers in standards of care and will also fund awareness campaigns to promote contraceptive use nationwide. Principal contractors and grantees: Engender Health, PSI, URC, and Abt Associates (primes); IntraHealth (sub); and others to be determined.

**FY 2006 Program:** Reduce Transmission and Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$1,724,000 CSH). USAID will continue to support national social marketing campaigns to promote prevention messages, including the use of condoms by at-risk groups. USAID will provide assistance to the National HIV/AIDS Control Unit to enable it to conduct a Behavioral Surveillance Survey to obtain information about the practice of behaviors that prevent HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Prevent and Control Infectious Diseases of Major Importance (\$1,724,000 CSH). USAID will continue to work with the Ministry of Health to implement a nationwide malaria control strategy. USAID will also work with UNICEF to promote the use of ITNs. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Build Health Systems Capacity (\$1,474,600 CSH). In order to improve maternal and child health, USAID plans to continue support for the training of health workers in family health standards of care. Assistance to the Ministry of Health for training health workers in HIV/AIDS prevention will also continue. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Improve Child Survival, Health and Nutrition (\$646,500 CSH). Social marketing activities to promote child health, such as the use of oral re-hydration salts and mosquito nets, will continue. USAID will continue to support the expansion of a community-based health insurance program. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Improve Maternal Health and Nutrition (\$646,500 CSH). USAID assistance will continue to enable the Ministry of Health to geographically expand interventions, including the encouragement of safe pregnancy and delivery and the use of mosquito nets during pregnancy. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Reduce Unintended Pregnancy and Improve Healthy Reproductive Behavior (\$1,034,400 CSH). USAID will continue assistance to encourage use of more effective, modern contraceptives and other healthy reproductive behaviors as part of an integrated package of family health services. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

All family planning assistance agreements will incorporate clauses that implement the President's directive restoring the Mexico City policy.

**Performance and Results:** In FY 2004 targets for the sale of condoms and oral and injectable contraceptives were exceeded. Sales for insecticide treated bednets and re-treatment kits in the social marketing program fell short of targets due to competition from government subsidized bednets sold at lower prices. Targets will be revised. New sales campaigns were launched in late 2004 and sales are expected to grow again in 2005. Expected principal outcomes by program completion are: 1) targets for use of contraceptive methods will be met in the Borgou-Alibori; 2) targets for maternal and child health will be met - treatment of diarrhea, malaria, exclusive breastfeeding - in the Borgou Alibori; and 3) targets for the use of safer sexual practices within target groups will be met (includes reported use of condoms with occasional partners).

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Benin

	CSH	DA
680-002 Benin Integrated Family Health		
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>		
Obligations	27,014	4,818
Expenditures	19,045	4,565
Unliquidated	7,969	253
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>		
Obligations	7,550	0
Expenditures	5,600	78
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>		
Obligations	34,564	4,818
Expenditures	24,645	4,643
Unliquidated	9,919	175
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>		
Obligations	7,750	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005</b>		
Obligations	7,750	0
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>		
Obligations	7,250	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	49,564	4,818

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Benin
<b>Program Title:</b>	Governance Program
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	680-003
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Planned FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$453,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:</b>	\$1,000,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	1996
<b>Estimated Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2006

**Summary:** USAID promotes good governance in the social and economic sectors by providing training and technical assistance to local governments, non-governmental organizations and community groups. The major focus for USAID's interventions include: supporting decentralization and devolution of authorities to local communities; promoting greater transparency and accountability in government management and in combating trafficking in children; improving the productivity of producers and traders; and working with microfinance institutions to improve the services and products they offer to their clients.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

**FY 2005 Program:** Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$81,000 DA). USAID will provide technical assistance to members of locally elected councils and local development groups to help them develop their planning, decision-making, and advocacy skills and enable them to have more influence on decisions that affect the delivery of health and education services in their communities. Activities will include an emphasis on the role of women in decision-making within their communities. Principal contractor: Research Triangle Institute (prime).

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$350,000 DA). USAID will continue to provide training in specialized audit processes and English to auditors from Benin's Supreme Audit Institutions to enable them to effectively monitor public accounts, including government activities that benefit from USAID assistance. USAID will provide technical assistance to the National Procurement Verification Commission to improve its oversight of government procurements. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Strengthen Financial Sector's Contribution to Economic Growth (\$22,000 DA). USAID will train the staff of local microfinance institutions to enable them to comply with basic legal requirements and norms governing the sector. Training will also equip them with the skills needed to expand their services and develop products, such as microloans and health insurance that are adapted to the needs of people living in rural areas. USAID will also provide services in business development and market information to organizations of producers and traders. Principal grantee: CARE (prime).

Increase Food Security of Vulnerable Populations. Under the P.L. 480 Title II activity, members of communities in northern Benin will receive skills training and commodities that will enable them to operate school canteens and improve nutrition. Clients in disadvantaged areas will receive micro loans through the village banking program. Principal grantee: Catholic Relief Services.

**FY 2006 Program:** Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$150,000 DA). USAID plans to fund small-scale community health and education projects managed by local governments within four selected regions of Benin. Activities will also promote the participation of women's groups in community development. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$350,000 DA). USAID will continue to provide training to public auditors from Benin's Supreme Audit Institutions, the Office of the Inspector General of Finance and the Chamber of Accounts of the Supreme Court. Training will also be provided to staff of the National

Procurement Verification Commission. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

Increase Private Sector Growth (\$500,000 DA). USAID plans to fund business development services and training for organizations of producers and traders in order to promote development of agribusiness and trade services. To strengthen the financial sector's contribution to economic growth, USAID will continue support to local microfinance institutions to improve their ability to comply with basic requirements and norms governing the sector while expanding their services and developing products adapted to the needs of people in rural areas. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

**Performance and Results:** Public officials, including members of local councils in 13 of 26 targeted communes, have actively sought the involvement of civil society organizations in drafting their development plans. Audits conducted by Inspectors from the Office of the Inspector General of Finance and the Chamber of Accounts of the Supreme Court were instrumental in trials and convictions of 30 judges on charges of misappropriation of funds. Improved access to credit has benefited 1,898 clients in rural areas. Another 1,225 clients are new members of health insurance cooperatives.

Principal outcomes expected at the end of this program are: 1) civil society plays a more prominent role in influencing local development and local elected government officials are more effective planners and managers; 2) public officials increasingly follow through on formulating and implementing measures aimed at reducing corruption and child trafficking; and 3) small-scale farmers and traders have access to tools, technologies and information that enable them to be more productive.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Benin

680-003 Governance Program	DA	DFA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>			
Obligations	12,885	861	1,150
Expenditures	9,777	838	764
Unliquidated	3,108	23	386
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>			
Obligations	1,600	0	0
Expenditures	1,351	16	145
<b>Through September 30, 2004</b>			
Obligations	14,485	861	1,150
Expenditures	11,128	854	909
Unliquidated	3,357	7	241
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>			
Obligations	0	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>			
Obligations	453	0	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005</b>			
Obligations	453	0	0
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA</b>			
Obligations	1,000	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	15,938	861	1,150