

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Benin
Program Title:	Governance Program
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	680-003
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$453,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$1,000,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	1996
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	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
Through September 30, 2003			
Obligations	12,885	861	1,150
Expenditures	9,777	838	764
Unliquidated	3,108	23	386
Fiscal Year 2004			
Obligations	1,600	0	0
Expenditures	1,351	16	145
Through September 30, 2004			
Obligations	14,485	861	1,150
Expenditures	11,128	854	909
Unliquidated	3,357	7	241
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA			
Obligations	453	0	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005			
Obligations	453	0	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA			
Obligations	1,000	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	15,938	861	1,150