

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Bangladesh
Program Title:	Education
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	388-010
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$750,000 CSH; \$2,500,000 DA; \$1,500,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$300,000 CSH; \$2,200,000 DA; \$1,500,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2003
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2007

Summary: The USAID basic education objective in Bangladesh seeks to improve performance at the early childhood and primary education levels by increasing early learning opportunities, primarily through a new Sesame Street Bangladesh co-production focused on literacy, numeracy and critical thinking skills; by developing and disseminating innovative materials that make learning fun and productive; and by fostering system change through the strengthening of champions and reformers within and outside the educational system.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Increase early learning opportunities (\$250,000 CSH, \$900,000 ESF). USAID support to three grantees and their partners will continue for the second and final year, based on funding provided in the previous year. The activity will increase school readiness, improve reading and math skills and expand primary school access in targeted areas of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Sylhet and Dhaka. By working with school management committees and establishing parent teacher associations, the program will also mobilize parent and community support for quality learning, as well as reduce corrupt and unethical practices at the schools. An evaluation of the three projects will be conducted upon their completion. USAID's major new initiative, Sesame Street Bangladesh, will complete the design phase and begin development of a national half-hour television program in Bangla. This new program will target an audience of six to nine million preschoolers, including disabled children, and will improve literacy, numeracy and critical thinking skills and prepare children for success in school. Principal grantees: Sesame Workshop, CARE, SAVE the Children, and Plan International.

Develop and promote use of innovative learning tools by children and teachers (\$1,800,000 DA, \$500,000 CSH, \$600,000 ESF). Training, technical assistance, and subgrants to NGOs will promote innovation in the formal and non-formal education system. USAID will fund activities that inspire and prepare children and teachers to improve skills and performance in the classroom and other settings through development of new learning tools and technical assistance in their use. A major outreach initiative will be launched under the Sesame Street Bangladesh program, in cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh. This initiative will target Bangladeshi children under the age of six with disabilities. Principal grantees: Sesame Workshop, CARE, SAVE, and Plan International. An additional principal contractor/grantee under a new project called SUCCEED is TBD.

Increase capacity to foster education system change (\$700,000 DA). Limited activities to promote leadership capacity will bring together and strengthen champions and leaders of educational reform in Bangladesh and expose them to best practices and lessons learned elsewhere. USAID will also initiate an Education Data Program, tied to its Demographic Health Survey, to ensure that trends and achievements under the education program can be measured in an objective, systematic manner. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD.

FY 2005 Program:

Increase early learning opportunities (\$1,000,000 DA, \$750,000 ESF). Under SUCCEED, USAID plans to initiate follow-on projects to those completed in 2004, and to finance the production, launch and broadcast of the Sesame Street Bangladesh educational program nationwide on the government television channel, with 52 half-hour segments focusing on literacy, numeracy and critical thinking. Principal contractor/grantee: Sesame Street Workshop and others TBD.

Develop and ensure use of innovative learning tools by children and teachers (\$1,200,000 DA, \$300,000 CSH, \$500,000 ESF). Activities to strengthen learning through innovative tools and methodologies are expected to continue, in conjunction and coordination with the Sesame Street Bangladesh outreach program, including disabled children. Principal contractor/grantee: Sesame Street Workshop and others TBD.

Increase capacity to foster education system change (\$250,000 ESF). USAID intends to continue funding for limited activities that promote leadership and motivate change in primary education at the local and national levels. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD.

Performance and Results: Approved on December 12, 2002, USAID's new education objective got a jumpstart by awarding three grants in August 2002 for pilot programs under the Mission's democracy program. Based on their proven success with past initiatives in basic education in three regions, the project implementers quickly ramped up and refined their efforts, reaching 40,715 students, in 337 formal and non-formal primary schools as well as 72 home-based preschools by the end of 2003. In the post-conflict region of Chittagong Hill Tracts, children and teachers have benefited from technical assistance and training in a simplified methodology of teaching Bangla, the tribal children's second language. In addition, 56 mothers' groups were also established to monitor their children's and teachers' performance. The groups have kept a close watch on absenteeism, false enrollment and performance deficiencies and send regular written reports to local and national education authorities, documenting abuses and problems. In rural areas of Sylhet, 72 home-based preschools were established, along with kindergartens in 28 government schools. A recent innovation was the creation of a "reading buddy" program, in which fourth and fifth graders mentor first and second graders in reading and math. The total number of "reading buddy" pairs is 3,191. Preschools were also established in rural areas outside Dhaka, serving 14,248 children. The program also established after-hours "learning camps," using unemployed teenagers to tutor under-performing students in core subjects and exam-taking skills. Finally, in June 2003, USAID signed a three-year cooperative agreement with Sesame Workshop to replicate its world-renowned educational television program with a co-production in Bangladesh, using Bangla-speaking characters and local themes to teach literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking. The design phase will end in March 2004, with production beginning shortly afterwards.

By program completion in 2007, USAID anticipates that the following will have been accomplished:

- Early childhood development programs that enhance school readiness will be available nationwide through mass media and in targeted rural communities;
- Improved learning tools and methodologies will be employed in all types of schools to improve performance; and
- Parents, communities and local leaders will be more active advocates of quality education, contributing to the education reform agenda.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

388-010 Education	CSH	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2002			
Obligations	0	0	0
Expenditures	0	0	0
Unliquidated	0	0	0
Fiscal Year 2003			
Obligations	0	1,350	1,500
Expenditures	0	479	0
Through September 30, 2003			
Obligations	0	1,350	1,500
Expenditures	0	479	0
Unliquidated	0	871	1,500
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA			
Obligations	750	2,500	1,500
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004			
Obligations	750	2,500	1,500
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA			
Obligations	300	2,200	1,500
Future Obligations	0	3,000	2,000
Est. Total Cost	1,050	9,050	6,500