

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Benin
Program Title:	Reforming Primary Education In Benin
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	680-001
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$6,680,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$7,000 DA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$5,977,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1996
Year of Final Obligation:	2005

Summary: USAID's basic education Strategic Objective emphasizes improving the quality of basic education and ensuring that more children, particularly girls, have access to primary education in Benin. The program pursues the following results: improving the quality of teaching and learning; increasing girls' enrollment in and completion of primary school; improving the involvement of communities in the management of the education sector; and improving planning and management skills of staff within the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Improve the Quality of Teaching and Learning in Primary School Classrooms (\$3,050,000 DA). With USAID support, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education will continue its program of introducing the new curriculum in primary school classrooms throughout the country. Thus far, the new curriculum has been introduced to grades one to four. In 2004 it will be introduced to grade five. A total of 100,000 math textbooks, 100,000 French textbooks, and 60,000 teacher guides will be printed and distributed. About 12,000 teachers and school directors will be trained to use the new teaching strategies, 6,000 of them with funding received through the African Education Initiative (AEI). Principal contractors and grantees: Creative Associates (prime) and CARE International (sub).

Provide In-service Teacher Training (\$1,100,000 DA). Training provided to primary school inspectors and directors will enable them to better train and supervise teachers in the use of the new curriculum. They will receive training on techniques to encourage girls' participation and performance in the classroom, ethics, and HIV/AIDS. This assistance will cover 36 school districts and 5,500 teachers and directors. With AEI funds, about 9,000 teachers and school directors will receive in-service training on techniques to improve students reading skills. Principal grantee: International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH).

Increase Girls' Access to Primary School (\$1,200,000 DA). Activities that will be supported include: raising communities' awareness on sending and keeping girls in school and supporting peer tutoring and group work to improve performance in classroom. Principal contractors and grantees: Creative Associates, Care International and World Learning.

Involve Communities in the Management of the Education System (\$1,030,000 DA). Members of parents' associations will receive training on skills such as accounting, project identification, design, and implementation. Parents will receive training to increase their advocacy skills and their ability to work with local decentralized governments in education. On a pilot basis, mothers will benefit from specific assistance to encourage their participation in school management. This is intended to reinforce efforts to promote girls' schooling. Newly elected local government representatives will receive skills training for the design and implementation of development plans and in financial management. Principal grantees: World Education and Research Triangle Institute.

P.L. 480 Title II resources will be used to assist communities in northern Benin to establish and operate school canteens. Principal grantee: Catholic Relief Services.

Improve Planning and Management Capacities within the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (\$300,000 DA). USAID will continue to support the development of a ten-year plan that will ensure the supply of education services to all Beninese school-aged children by 2015. USAID will continue assistance to further improve skills in planning and resource management for staff of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. Principal contractors: Creative Associates (prime) and EMI Systems (sub).

FY 2005 Program:

Improve the Quality of Teaching and Learning in Primary School Classrooms (\$3,277,000 DA). The new curriculum will be introduced to the sixth grade. This will mark the completion of the extension of the new curriculum to all the grades in primary school. About 12,500 teachers and school directors will be trained on use of new teaching materials, 5,500 of them with AEI funds. Sixth grade teachers will be trained on the use of textbooks and teaching materials. Teachers will also be re-trained with focus on reading techniques. Textbooks for sixth grade will be printed and distributed. A total of 100,000 math textbooks, 100,000 French textbooks, and 60,000 teacher guides will be printed and distributed to teach sixth grade. Up to 9,000 teachers are expected to be trained. Same implementer as FY 2004.

Provide In-service Teacher Training (\$800,000 DA). Activities will be a continuation of those conducted in 2004. With AEI funds, about 9,500 teachers and school directors will also be retrained with focus on reading techniques. Same implementer as FY 2004.

Increase Girls' Access to Primary School (\$600,000 DA). Activities will be a continuation of those conducted in 2004. Same implementers as FY 2004.

Involve Communities in the Management of the Education System (\$1,000,000 DA). Activities will be a continuation of those conducted in 2004. The program will expand to cover more parents and communities. Same implementers as FY 2004.

P.L. 480 Title II resources will be used to assist communities in northern Benin to establish and operate school canteens. Same implementer as FY 2004.

Improve Planning and Management Capacities within the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (\$300,000 DA). Activities will be a continuation of those conducted in 2004. Same implementer as FY 2004.

Performance and Results: As in previous years, Benin continues to make progress in improving access of Beninese children to primary school. Gross enrollment rate has increased from lows of 60% in the early 1990s to 93% in 2002 and 98% in 2003. Targets for enrollment have been met. Girls' access to primary education has progressed from 40% in 1991 to its present day rate of 81% in 2003. Important milestones for introducing the curriculum through each successive year of the primary school system have been met. These include targets for teacher training as well as printing and distribution of textbooks. Parents' participation in school management is growing. About 1,200 parents' associations have received training that will contribute to a quality education system in Benin.

The Government of Benin (GOB) is well on its way to successfully undertaking a massive systemic reform of the primary school system with USAID assistance. However, this achievement is tempered by the fact that frequent teacher strikes during the past years have severely hampered classroom learning. The GOB's slowness in responding to teacher demands is further fueling discontent. A recent comprehensive evaluation of the education reform program showed that not only are teacher strikes affecting learning, but also that many teachers have not fully mastered the skills needed to teach the new curriculum. USAID is now consulting closely with its partners on ways to address these findings.

Expected principal outcomes at the end of this program: 1) the access of children, particularly girls, to primary education will increase; 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

680-001 Reforming Primary Education In Benin	CSH	DA	DFA
Through September 30, 2002			
Obligations	32,294	13,635	28,474
Expenditures	29,149	6,545	28,458
Unliquidated	3,145	7,090	16
Fiscal Year 2003			
Obligations	0	7,424	0
Expenditures	2,672	5,841	13
Through September 30, 2003			
Obligations	32,294	21,059	28,474
Expenditures	31,821	12,386	28,471
Unliquidated	473	8,673	3
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	7	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA			
Obligations	0	6,680	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004			
Obligations	0	6,687	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA			
Obligations	0	5,977	0
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	32,294	33,723	28,474