

Benin

The Development Challenge: Benin continues to make progress in building a stable democracy. Outside observers have praised Benin for having organized three legislative elections and three presidential elections that were generally judged to have been transparent, peaceful and fair. Benin is now poised to hold municipal elections for the first time ever. Success with these elections will place financial and political power in the hands of local communities. Benin also is considered to have good records for human rights and freedom of the press. The economic outlook for the country is encouraging. Real GDP growth is forecast at over 5% for 2003 and is expected to continue rising in 2004. Evidence of heightened economic activity abounds. Cotonou, the commercial capital, buzzes with new construction financed both with private funds and donor funds for public works projects. New roads under construction in the interior will link agricultural production areas to markets in larger towns as well as move goods from the port to points further north in Benin and neighboring countries.

Benin still faces formidable challenges to achieving sustainable development. According to the United Nations Development Report for 2002, Benin ranks 153 among 173 countries in terms of overall quality of life. Per capita GDP for 2000 was \$370. An estimated 33% of the population lives below the poverty line. Overall literacy for persons aged 15 to 49 is 37.4%. The literacy rate among men this age is 52.1%. The proportion for women is 23.6%. The mortality rate for children under five years of age is 158 per 1,000. Maternal mortality is 500 per 100,000. According to UNAIDS figures, prevalence of HIV/AIDS among adults is estimated at 4.1%. With an estimated population growth rate of 2.7%, Benin's population is expected to increase from 6.3 to 9.4 million by 2015. This rise in population will make goals for social and economic development even more difficult to achieve.

Economic figures show that debt servicing constitutes 3.5% of GDP for 2000, and accounts for 12.5% of exports of goods and services. Government spending on education and health as a proportion of GDP is 3.2% and 1.6% respectively. With debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, more public funds are expected to be spent on health and education. Benin will also continue efforts to promote private sector development and to improve the policy development process, especially in the agricultural sector, which accounts for 38% of GDP. Despite an encouraging outlook for continued economic growth, Benin must still grapple with problems of ineffective management of public funds in all sectors of the economy, along with corruption and cronyism among public officials. Citizens of Benin also need encouragement to develop the interest and skills needed to play a more active role working with government officials to formulate policies that affect their lives and livelihoods.

Benin continues to be of interest to the United States for the promotion of democracy, stability, and security in the region, as well as the promotion of U.S. exports and investment. Benin is also a strong ally of the United States in the fight against terrorism.

The USAID Program: The Data Sheets that follow below cover three objectives for which USAID is requesting FY 2003 and FY 2004 funds. These programs include: 1) improving the quality of basic education with an emphasis on educating girls; 2) improving family health by preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, encouraging family planning, and promoting children's health; and 3) improving government management in social and productive sectors with special emphasis on health, education and rural economic growth.

Other Program Elements: USAID's centrally funded Program for Innovation in Microenterprise (PRIME) provides financing to complement bilateral resources to increase access to microfinancing for small entrepreneurs, many of whom are poor women. Resources from the West Africa Regional Program (WARP) also continue. WARP activities include trade promotion, both within the region and between Benin and the United States under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), harmonization of commercial law, and support of a public-private sector project to construct a regional gas pipeline. Education for Democracy and Development Initiative (EDDI) resources are used to fund girls' primary and secondary school scholarships. Through centrally funded support to Georgetown University, a new method of natural family planning is being tested in selected public and private health clinics. The

HIV/AIDS bilateral program in Benin is complemented by the WARP health and HIV/AIDS regional activities. This includes activities to strengthen and expand cross-border interventions to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. The WARP cross-border programs are taking place on trade routes from Cote d'Ivoire east through Ghana, Togo and Benin to Nigeria, north to Mali, and from Guinea to Niger. Benin also benefits from P.L. 480 Title II food resources which help to improve nutrition and food security in food deficit areas, and mother and child health activities.

Other Donors: The Government of Benin's 2000 figures on donor contributions show that the United States is the leading bilateral donor, followed by Denmark (agriculture, road construction, water), France (secondary and higher education, institutional reform, rural development, industry, energy), Germany (park management, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, roads), Switzerland (health, adult literacy, rural development, institutional reform), Netherlands (rural development, health, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, natural resources), and Canada (institutional reform, rural development, community development, health).

The principal multilateral donors are the World Bank (HIV/AIDS prevention, girls' education, construction of primary schools, judicial reform, government decentralization), the West African Development Bank (communications, roads, rural and community development), the World Health Organization (technical advisor to the Ministry of Health), UNICEF (child survival, primary education), UNFPA (population, family planning), UNDP (environment, women in development, HIV/AIDS prevention, communications) and the European Union. The European Union chairs donor meetings that include effective policy dialogue with the Minister of Health on substantive health issues.

Benin PROGRAM SUMMARY

(in thousands of dollars)

Accounts	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Actual*	FY 2003 Prior Request	FY 2004 Request
Child Survival and Health Programs Fund	10,158	7,743	6,343	7,529
Development Assistance	3,723	8,982	7,923	6,892
Economic Support Fund	0	350	0	0
PL 480 Title II	3,994	4,687	4,023	4,699
Total Program Funds	17,875	21,762	18,289	19,120

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SUMMARY

680-001 Reforming Primary Education In Benin				
CSH	5,720	0	0	0
DA	0	7,500	7,000	6,030
680-002 Benin Integrated Family Health				
CSH	4,438	7,743	6,343	7,529
DA	2,238	0	0	0
680-003 Governance Program				
DA	1,485	1,482	923	862
ESF	0	350	0	0

* FY 02 appropriated CSH excludes \$100,000 in polio funds programmed under Africa Regional.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Benin
Program Title:	Reforming Primary Education In Benin
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	680-001
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$7,000,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$6,030,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1996
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2005

Summary: USAID's Basic Education Program focuses on improving the quality of basic education and ensuring that more children, especially girls, have access to a primary education. The major emphasis areas are: improving teaching and learning, increasing girls' enrollment and encouraging them to complete primary school, encouraging communities to be more involved in the management of their schools, and working with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education to improve its policy formulation, planning and management.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Improve Teaching and Learning in Primary School Classrooms (\$3,250,000 DA). USAID's assistance will enable the Ministry to continue introducing a new curriculum to primary school classrooms. In 2003, the new curriculum will be introduced to the fourth grade throughout the country. A total of 130,000 math textbooks and 130,000 French textbooks will be produced and distributed. Approximately 10,000 teachers and school directors will be trained to use the new teaching strategies. Principal contractors, grantees, or agencies: To be determined.

In-service Teacher Training (\$1,050,000 DA). School directors and inspectors will receive training to enable them to more effectively train and supervise teachers. This classroom based training complements basic training of teachers described above. Other training topics include methods to encourage girls' participation and performance, as well as HIV/AIDS prevention and ethics. About 7,400 teachers of all grades, teacher supervisors, and school inspectors in 36 school districts, covering about half the country, will participate in this training. Principal grantee: International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH).

Increase Girls' Enrollment and Retention at School (\$1,130,000 DA). USAID will continue to fund grants to local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in 13 school districts with the lowest enrollment and achievement rates for girls. The focus will be on raising community awareness of the importance of primary education for girls. Activities cover a broad range including: contests with prizes, peer tutoring, and encouraging full application of laws that protect girls in schools against various types of abuse. In addition, teachers will be trained to apply equity principles to encourage girls to remain in school. Principal contractors, grantees, or agencies: CARE, World Learning and a contractor (To be determined).

Involve Communities in the Management of Schools (\$870,000 DA). Members of district, regional and national federations representing all 4,500 school-level parents' associations in the country will receive training to help them become effective advocates for policy changes to improve basic education. A total of 1,200 associations already participate actively in the management of school operations, and the federations will play an essential role in working with newly established local governments to address local education issues. Newly elected representatives of local governments will also receive training in

topics such as project design, financial management and record keeping. Principal contractors, grantees, or agencies: 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 (\$700,000 DA). Ministry staff will be trained to improve skills in planning, data management, policy design, and financial management. The planning priorities include preparing two key strategic plans. The Education for All action plan addresses making education accessible to all Beninese children by 2015. The Government of Benin (GOB) is also being urged to develop a comprehensive sector plan that will address primary through tertiary education. If well developed, this plan would allow the GOB to be eligible for the next round of the World Bank Fast Track Initiative funding to implement the Education for All action plan. Principal contractors, grantees, or agencies: To be determined.

FY 2004 Program:

Improved Teaching and Learning in Primary School Classrooms (\$2,830,000 DA). Assistance will enable the Ministry to continue introducing the new curriculum to primary school classrooms. The new curriculum will be introduced to the fifth grade throughout the country. A total of 100,000 math textbooks and 100,000 French textbooks will be produced and distributed. About 8,000 teachers and school directors will be trained to use the new teaching strategies. Principal contractors, grantees, or agencies: To be determined.

In-Service Teacher Training (\$1,150,000 DA). FY 2003 activities will continue in FY 2004. Principal grantee: IFESH.

Increase Girls' Enrollment and Retention at School (\$780,000 DA). FY 2003 activities will continue in FY 2004. However, the school districts covered may change based on a study to review the list of beneficiaries. Principal contractors, grantees or agencies: CARE and a contractor (To be determined).

Involve Communities in the Management of School (\$870,000 DA). District, regional and national federations representing school-level parents' associations will continue advocating for policy changes and will support newly established local governments to address local education issues, such as the high drop out rate (especially among girls) and low enrollment rates. Officials of local governments will also receive training and institutional support. Principal contractors, grantees, or agencies: World Education and Research Triangle Institute.

Improve Planning and Management Capacities within the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (\$400,000 DA). Assistance will help improve the Ministry's capacity to take over USAID-funded reform activities as of 2005. USAID will also continue to assist in implementing plans to achieve Education for All and the preparation of a sector plan. Principal contractors, grantees, or agencies: To be determined.

Performance and Results: As in previous years, Benin continues to make progress in improving teaching and learning and access to basic education. Targets for enrollment have been met. The enrollment rate increased from 88% of school-aged children in 2001 to 93% in 2002. Girls' enrollment improved from 72% to 77% for the same period. Targets for the promotion rate have also been met. Despite a decrease from 73% in 2000, the 2001 rate of 71% is still above the target of 66%. Targets for printing and distribution of textbooks along with training of teachers and school directors have also been met. Twelve hundred parents' associations participate actively in the management of school operations. By program completion, the enrollment rate is expected to reach 99% (83% for girls), with nearly 1.5 million children in primary schools. The reform program will be extended to grades five and six over the next two years. It is expected that targets for reducing the numbers of primary school students who share textbooks will be met for all six primary school grades when the reform reaches grade six in 2005.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Benin

	CSH	DA	DFA
680-001 Reforming Primary Education In Benin			
Through September 30, 2001			
Obligations	32,294	6,200	28,474
Expenditures	21,810	6,164	28,440
Unliquidated	10,484	36	34
Fiscal Year 2002			
Obligations	0	7,435	0
Expenditures	7,339	381	18
Through September 30, 2002			
Obligations	32,294	13,635	28,474
Expenditures	29,149	6,545	28,458
Unliquidated	3,145	7,090	16
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA			
Obligations	0	7,000	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003			
Obligations	0	7,000	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA			
Obligations	0	6,030	0
Future Obligations	0	6,633	0
Est. Total Cost	32,294	33,298	28,474

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Benin
Program Title:	Benin Integrated Family Health
Pillar:	Global Health
Strategic Objective:	680-002
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$6,343,000 CSH
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$7,529,000 CSH
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1997
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2005

Summary: USAID program funds are used for national and regional health activities in Benin. National interventions focus on improving the health policy environment. Regionally, 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. Regional activities also focus on developing skills for policy implementation, strengthening community capacity to manage health centers, and delivering community-based services.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Child Survival and Maternal Health (\$1,500,000 CSH). USAID will continue to assist the Ministry of Health in implementing its decentralization policy. USAID will also support the dissemination of the FY 2001 Demographic Health Survey (DHS) results released in June 2002. These results inform decision-makers of the changes occurring in the health sector and provide them with relevant information for improved decision-making. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, USAID will continue to support health district teams and health facility teams to apply quality assurance in targeted zones.

In addition, support for the social marketing program will continue to ensure distribution and promotion of family health products: condoms, insecticide-treated mosquito nets and oral rehydration salts. Training will continue in IMCI and family health standards of care. Funds will also be used to reinforce the supervision of health care providers. Community-based health workers will continue receiving training, educational materials to be used as tools for teaching their clients, and a supply of family health products. Principal contractors, grantees, or agencies: University Research Corporation (URC), Population Services International (PSI), Africare, University of North Carolina (INTRAH/PRIME), JHPIEGO Corporation, Abt Associates, and CARE.

Prevention of HIV/AIDS (\$2,005,000 CSH). USAID will fund training to strengthen the capacity of the national HIV/AIDS control program and support the promotion of condom use through national social marketing. Funds will also be used to implement a national HIV/AIDS prevention activity that was launched in FY 2002. The activity will reinforce epidemiological and behavioral surveillance and strengthen prevention and case management of sexually transmitted infections. The activity will also develop educational materials and programs targeting vulnerable groups: adolescents, prostitutes, and truck drivers. The HIV/AIDS educational programs will draw from local cultures and traditional means of communication. USAID will also use a peer educators strategy coupled with the publication of a quarterly magazine, "Love and Life" to advise young people to avoid risky behaviors. Principal contractors, grantees, or agencies: URC, PSI, Africare, Abt Associates, CARE, and John Snow Inc.

Infectious Diseases Control (\$600,000 CSH). USAID will support the Ministry of Health's efforts to control malaria and replicate use of IMCI methods in the Oueme region, where the approach was initially piloted, to other regions. This includes: distribution of chloroquine by community health agents to households; training community health workers in appropriate referral to health facilities; promoting malaria prevention

in communities; training health workers and household members in IMCI methods; producing reference materials for IMCI methods; and developing health communication materials. USAID will also work with the Ministry of Health to promote the production of insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets at the community level. Principal contractors, grantees, or agencies: URC, PSI, and Africare.

Family Planning/Reproductive Health Services (\$2,238,000 CSH). Funds will be used to reinforce reproductive health teaching in professional schools for doctors, nurses and midwives. Funds will also support the Ministry of Health in implementing its action plan for improving case management of complications arising from unsafe abortions, updating standards of care for emergency obstetrical and neonatal care and training nurses, nurse midwives and nurse assistants in the use of family health standards of care. Principal Contractors, Grantees, or Agencies: URC, PSI, Africare, University of North Carolina (INTRAH/PRIME), JHPIEGO Corporation, Abt Associates, CARE, John Snow Inc.

FY 2004 Program:

Child Survival and Maternal Health (\$1,900,000 CSH). Activities will be a continuation of those undertaken in FY 2002/03. Principal Contractors, Grantees, or Agencies: URC, PSI, Africare, INTRAH/PRIME, JHPIEGO, BASICS, Abt Associates, CARE, John Snow Inc.

Prevention of HIV/AIDS (\$2,005,000 CSH). FY 2002-2003 activities will continue in FY 2004. Principal contractors, grantees, or agencies: URC, PSI, Africare, Abt Associates, CARE, and John Snow Inc.

Infectious Diseases Control (\$1,500,000 CSH). FY 2003 activities will continue in FY 2004. Principal contractors, grantees, or agencies: URC, PSI, and Africare.

Family Planning/Reproductive Health (\$2,124,000 CSH). FY 2003 activities will continue in FY 2004. Principal contractors, grantees, or agencies: URC, PSI, Africare, INTRAH/PRIME, JHPIEGO, Abt Associates, CARE, and John Snow Inc.

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

Performance and Results: Family health in Benin has significantly improved since the country's first Demographic Health Survey (DHS) in 1996. Results from the second DHS, conducted in FY 2001, show an increase in the use of contraception nationwide from 3.4% in 1996 to 7.2% in 2001. In the Borgou-Alibori region, USAID's target zone in northern Benin, contraception use rose from 2.5% to 8.3%. The average number of births per woman decreased nationwide from 6.3 to 5.6 and from 7.35 to 6 in the Borgou-Alibori region. The mortality rate for children under five is down from 166 deaths per 1,000 live births, to 160 per 1,000. Use of key family health services and preventive measures also increased since 1996, as evidenced by the increase in the percentage of the fully immunized children from 56% to 59% nationwide, and from 40.6% to 48.8% in Borgou-Alibori. The percentage of women who had at least one antenatal consultation during their last pregnancy rose from 80% to 87% nationally and from 61.2% to 75% in the Borgou-Alibori. Exclusive breastfeeding for infants up to 6 months increased nationwide from 14% to 38%.

In addition, sales of social marketing commodities, including condoms, oral and injectable contraceptives, insecticide-treated mosquito nets, reimpregnation kits for mosquito nets and oral rehydration salts packages were higher in FY 2002, indicating increased use of these products. In FY 2002, a total of 8.1 million condoms were sold in Benin, up from 6.5 million condoms in FY 2001. Sales are expected to be on-track to achieve targets for the end of the strategy in FY 2005.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Benin

	CSH	DA
680-002 Benin Integrated Family Health		
Through September 30, 2001		
Obligations	12,833	4,818
Expenditures	6,392	2,672
Unliquidated	6,441	2,146
Fiscal Year 2002		
Obligations	7,543	0
Expenditures	4,672	1,156
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	20,376	4,818
Expenditures	11,064	3,828
Unliquidated	9,312	990
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA		
Obligations	6,343	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	6,343	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	7,529	0
Future Obligations	8,081	0
Est. Total Cost	42,329	4,818

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Benin
Program Title:	Governance Program
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	680-003
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$923,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$50,000 ESF
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$862,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1996
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2005

Summary: USAID promotes better governance by providing training and technical assistance to members of local government, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community groups. This assistance supports decentralization and devolution of authorities to local communities to strengthen the fight against corruption, improve the productivity of small farmers and producers in targeted areas of Benin, and reinforce the capacities of local microfinance institutions.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Increase Participation and Management Capacities of Local Governments and Civil Society (\$94,000 DA; \$50,000 ESF). USAID will train local NGOs in four regions of Benin to enhance their advocacy skills so that they will have more influence on the delivery of health and education services in communities. Locally elected officials and their staff will receive training on topics such as effective decision-making processes, budget planning and management. Local NGOs will receive small grants to organize civic education campaigns to prepare Beninese citizens to participate more actively in community development projects. USAID will also support activities to encourage Beninese women to participate in decision-making within their communities. Principal Contractors, Grantees or Agencies: National Democratic Institute, International Foundation for Election Systems, Research Triangle Institute.

Enhance the Fight against Corruption (\$244,000 DA). USAID will provide public auditors from Government of Benin (GOB) audit institutions with computer equipment and training in six specialized areas, including a course on U.S. Government audit standards, to enable them to better audit public accounts. In addition, 22 public auditors will receive English language training to enable them to audit U.S.-funded projects. Three auditors will take a study tour to the United States. To keep up the anti-corruption momentum, local NGOs will receive grants to undertake civic education campaigns, public and school debates and dissemination of information on the negative effects of corruption on the nation's economy. Principal Contractors, Grantees or Agencies: GOB Office of the Inspector General of Finance, the Chamber of Accounts of the Supreme Court, and local NGOs to be determined.

Increase Productivity of Small-scale Farmers and Traders (\$585,000 DA). Technical assistance will be provided for the construction and use of farming and food processing equipment to improve production of many small-scale farmers. USAID will promote a partnership between a U.S. NGO and a Beninese edible oil manufacturing company to promote production of sunflower oil. This activity will benefit at least 1,500 small farmers. USAID will provide computers and training to the GOB microfinance unit and two local microfinance institutions that reach out to more than 100,000 small-scale traders. This support will enable the two institutions to offer better services and technical assistance to their clients and improve their oversight skills so they can advocate for a better micro-finance regulatory and policy environment. Principal Grantee: Enterprise Works Worldwide. Local microfinance institution - To be determined.

P.L. 480 Title II Assistance. Private funds and proceeds from sales of commodities will be used to provide small loans to 4,400 clients of village banks. Literacy lessons will be made available to 2,640 clients to enable them to better manage their loans. Principal grantee: Catholic Relief Services.

FY 2004 Program:

Increase Participation and Management Capacities of Local Governments and Civil Society (\$452,000 DA). USAID will train more local NGOs in four regions of Benin to enhance their advocacy skills so that they will have more influence on the delivery of community health and education services. Local NGOs will receive small grants to organize civic education campaigns to increase Beninese citizen participation in local development projects. Funding will continue for activities to encourage women to participate in decision-making within their localities. Local communities and development groups will receive computers and Internet connection to help them conduct research on community development initiatives elsewhere. Principal Contractors, Grantees or Agencies: To be determined.

Enhance the Fight against Corruption (\$260,000 DA). USAID will continue to provide training to public auditors from GOB audit institutions. Local NGOs will receive grants to conduct civic education campaigns and other activities aimed at curbing corruption. Principal Contractors, Grantees or Agencies: Office of the Inspector General of Finance and the Chamber of Accounts of the Supreme Court.

Increase Productivity of Small-scale Farmers and Traders (\$150,000 DA). Technical assistance to local farmers to improve production will continue. USAID will encourage public-private alliances with Beninese businesses to promote collaboration between large-scale transformation businesses and small-scale farmers. Agricultural groups will receive technical assistance for the promotion of market opportunities. Local farmers associations will receive computer equipment and training to enable them to conduct research on methods of food production. FY 2003 activities to support the GOB microfinance unit and four local microfinance institutions will be continued in 2004. Principal contractors, grantees or agencies: Enterprise Works Worldwide (U.S. PVO) and locally based NGOs (to be determined).

P.L. 480 Title II Assistance. Private funds and proceeds from sales of commodities will be used to provide small loans to 5,000 village bank clients. Three thousand of these clients will receive training that enables them to better manage their loans. Principal contractors, grantees or agencies: Catholic Relief Services.

Performance and Results: To promote greater transparency and accountability within the public service, USAID trained auditors of Supreme Audit Institutions. These government institutions have recruited 22 additional public auditors. It is estimated that by the end of December 2002 a total of 210 accounts had been audited. Public auditors verified the level of reliability of data collected through the National Health Information System and evaluated procurement and property management systems of USAID-funded projects. To support the promotion of local development, USAID funded civic education campaigns on the advantages of local governance. These activities resulted in local NGOs leading citizens to successfully press the government to conduct much-delayed municipal elections in December 2002. In addition, the local media lobbied for Benin's media regulatory body to relax stringent controls over broadcasting of political debates during elections. In the small business development sector, USAID grantees provided small loans to more than 8,000 poor women. Small-scale farmers had access to more modern technologies. More poor rural people received small loans under the USAID-funded food aid program. Village banking activities reached 4,952 clients of 35 village banks and 2,807 clients received training in financial management. The empowerment and security of increased family income, access to better technology, and banking and financial management skills provided more women and men with the confidence and means to engage and influence local leaders with their issues and positions on local development agendas.

Targets for microfinance, transparency, governance and small business development are expected to be met by the end of the strategy in FY 2005.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Benin

680-003 Governance Program	DA	DFA	ESF
Through September 30, 2001			
Obligations	9,479	813	450
Expenditures	7,123	813	356
Unliquidated	2,356	0	94
Fiscal Year 2002			
Obligations	1,982	0	350
Expenditures	1,422	0	78
Through September 30, 2002			
Obligations	11,461	813	800
Expenditures	8,545	813	434
Unliquidated	2,916	0	366
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	50
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA			
Obligations	923	0	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003			
Obligations	923	0	50
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA			
Obligations	862	0	0
Future Obligations	3,000	0	0
Est. Total Cost	16,246	813	850