

## 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>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$750,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:</b>	\$1,100,000 DA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 1996
<b>Year of Final Obligation:</b>	2005

**Summary:** USAID/Benin promotes better governance in social and productive sectors by providing training and technical assistance to members of local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community groups. USAID interventions in this sector include 1) supporting decentralization and devolution of authority to local communities; 2) strengthening the fight against corruption and child trafficking; and 3) improving the productivity of small farmers and producers in targeted areas of Benin, and reinforcing the capacities of local microfinance institutions.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2004 Program:

Increase Participation and Management Capacities of Local Governments and Civil Society (\$488,000 DA). Locally elected councils as well as local development groups will receive training and technical assistance to improve participation in decision-making processes and to improve skills in budget planning and management. Local NGOs in four regions of Benin will receive grants enabling them to work closely with communities to exercise greater influence over the delivery of health and education services. These NGOs, in partnership with local governments, will organize awareness campaigns aimed at encouraging citizens to participate more actively in local development projects. USAID will also continue to support activities that promote greater participation of Beninese women in decision-making. Principal grantee: Research Triangle Institute.

Enhance the Fight against Corruption and Trafficking in Persons (\$75,000 DA). Auditors working for Supreme Audit Institutions will receive training in specialized audit processes and English language so they can better monitor public accounts. They will also audit USAID-funded projects. Activities aimed at curbing child trafficking in Benin are an additional aspect of anti-corruption activities. USAID will collaborate with the Ministry of Family Affairs, Social Welfare and Solidarity to return children to their families. NGO awareness raising activities will include campaigns to curb child trafficking in Benin. Local NGOs will receive grants to work on anti-corruption campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the negative effects of corruption on the nation's economy and encouraging citizens to denounce corrupt behavior. Principal contractors, grantees or agencies: Office of the Inspector General of Finance and the Chamber of Accounts of the Supreme Court, Ministry of Family Affairs, Social Welfare and Solidarity, and local NGOs to be determined.

Increase Productivity of Small-scale Farmers and Traders (\$187,000 DA). USAID will fund study tours for staff members of the Government of Benin's (GOB's) microfinance unit to learn about experiences within the microfinance sector in other countries. The experiences of other countries will be useful in crafting regulations and policies that govern the microfinance sector in Benin. In addition, approximately nine local institutions, including a consortium that services microfinance institutions, will receive technical assistance aimed at improving client services and broadening their client base. The consortium and targeted institutions have an estimated client base of more than 100,000 small-scale traders. USAID will also provide technical assistance for the production and use of farming and food processing equipment to improve production of many small-scale farmers. USAID will support involvement of local farmers in the

cultivation of sunflowers. This supports the GOB's efforts to diversify agricultural production away from dependence on cotton. Principal grantees: Enterprise Works Worldwide and Care International.

P.L. 480 Title II Assistance. Proceeds from sales of commodities and private funds will be used to assist communities in northern Benin to operate school canteens, improve nutrition, and provide loans for clients of village banks. This program serves approximately 17,000 beneficiaries. Principal contractors and grantees: Catholic Relief Services.

**FY 2005 Program:**

Increase Participation and Management Capacities of Local Governments and Civil Society (\$243,000 DA). Members of locally elected councils and local development groups will receive training to develop planning and decision-making skills. Staff of local NGOs in four regions of Benin will receive training to enhance their advocacy skills so that they will have more influence on the delivery of health and education services in communities. Funding will continue for activities to encourage Beninese women to participate in decision-making within their localities. Same implementer as FY 2004.

Enhance the Fight against Corruption: (\$400,000 DA). Funds are to be used to continue activities from FY 2004 to provide training to public auditors from Supreme 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 and other local NGOs to be determined.

Increase Productivity of Small-scale Farmers and Traders: (\$457,000 DA). USAID plans to provide more technical assistance to local farmers for the production and use of farming and food processing equipment to improve production. Funds will be used to promote public-private alliances between large-scale transformation businesses and small-scale farmers. The Mission plans to support producers' organizations to increase their productivity. Local farmers' associations will receive computer equipment and training to enable them to conduct research on methods of food production. Same implementers as FY 2004.

P.L. 480 Title II Assistance. Members of communities in northern Benin will receive skills training and commodities enabling them to operate school canteens and improve nutrition. Clients in disadvantaged areas will receive micro-loans through the village banking program. Same implementer as FY 2004.

**Performance and Results:** USAID has met or exceeded program targets over the past seven years. Government auditors who received training have met targets for numbers of public accounts audited. This part of the USAID program has made a significant contribution toward fostering a climate of increased transparency and accountability. Partners' campaigns against corruption have also had an effect. The mounting number of reports in the press and other media on cases of corruption is an indication of increasing public interest. The decentralization process took an important step forward when municipal elections finally took place in December 2002 after a long period of delays. USAID supported a radio program on decentralization issues which generated a wide response among listeners who gained better understanding of the expectations for local governance.

Principal outcomes expected at the end of this program are: 1) civil society organizations form a critical mass within their communities and advocate for accountable and transparent management of local development programs; 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 enables them to be more productive.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Benin

680-003 Governance Program	DA	DFA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>			
Obligations	10,961	860	800
Expenditures	8,545	813	434
Unliquidated	2,416	47	366
<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>			
Obligations	1,923	0	350
Expenditures	1,232	25	330
<b>Through September 30, 2003</b>			
Obligations	12,884	860	1,150
Expenditures	9,777	838	764
Unliquidated	3,107	22	386
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>			
Obligations	0	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>			
Obligations	750	0	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004</b>			
Obligations	750	0	0
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA</b>			
Obligations	1,100	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	14,734	860	1,150