



EDDATA II

Core Task Order Annual Report, Year 2

Oct. 2005–Sept. 2006

**EdData II Technical and Managerial Assistance, Task Number 1
Contract Number EHC-E-00-04-0004-00
Strategic Objective 3
RTI Project No. 09354.001.001**

October 2006

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by RTI International.

Core Task Order Annual Report, Year 2

Oct. 2005–Sept. 2006

Prepared for
John Hatch, Cognizant Technical Officer
Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT/ED)
United States Agency for International Development

Prepared by
Amy Mulcahy-Dunn
RTI International
3040 Cornwallis Road
Post Office Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194

RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

**EdData II Core Task Order
Annual Report Year 2
October 2005–September 2006**

EdData II Defined

Since 1997, a program called DHS EdData has supplied household survey-based data on education enrollment, repetition, dropout, demand, and satisfaction. The data are used for planning, monitoring, and evaluating education policies and programs in countries worldwide. DHS EdData initially began as an add-on to the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) that has been conducted in more than 70 countries over the past 20 years. The education component has evolved into a complete, separate survey but, when possible, maintains a link to the DHS, allowing researchers to view health and education factors for sampled households simultaneously.

EdData II has the potential for a much broader scope of education survey work than that originally envisioned under DHS EdData. Among the many options for special surveys are (1) national or subnational surveys (including community-based surveys); (2) school-based surveys; (3) rapid school-based assessments for sector analysis; and (4) small school surveys to validate and improve education management information system (EMIS) reporting.

The EdData II core task order provides funding for RTI to collaborate with EdData II stakeholders to increase the usability, dissemination, and usage of EdData-generated information.

Annual status review

Energies again focused on marketing EdData II to USAID missions. RTI home office staff continued to develop illustrative applications of EdData II activities. RTI field staff, in turn, worked with home office staff to identify potential roles for EdData in their countries. In addition, staff focused on the design and pre-development of new tools that will allow missions and ministries to rapidly and relatively inexpensively evaluate the education sector in their country. Effort also focused on increasing the usability of the EdData II website. Membership registration and use have increased in recent months.

Activities October–December 2005

- For the Education Sector Reform Assistance (ESRA) EdData activity in Pakistan: Completed school, student, provincial, and district questionnaires; submitted to subcontractor for pilot testing, questionnaire revisions, and enumerator and supervisor training. Data entry work began once questionnaires were finalized.
- November – New Uganda EdData II scope of work (SOW) was developed and submitted to Kampala mission in response to mission request which focused on the issue of orphans and other vulnerable children.
- Luis Crouch traveled to Uganda November 27, 2005. Scope of work was to visit Uganda briefly en route to Kenya and South Africa to further discuss Ed Data II application in Uganda, in light of the second-round discussion note submitted to USAID/Uganda. Key was to meet with the most important potential partners, at a higher level than had been done in a previous visit, and also with the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Community Development.

- Jennifer Spratt traveled to Benin December 12–22, 2005, to establish basic education data survey scope and design parameters for Benin with USAID/Benin and other concerned parties. Ms. Spratt subsequently developed and submitted a menu of potential EdData II applications based on mission and ministry data needs.
- Luis Crouch presented at USAID’s New Officers Training in Hagerstown, Maryland, in October.
- Luis Crouch and Helen Abadzi gave a presentation to USAID/EGAT regarding rapid assessment and reading issues.
- EdData staff held ongoing discussions with missions and/or RTI field staff regarding possible EdData II applications in Benin, Ghana, Liberia, Zambia, Uganda, Indonesia, and Peru.

Activities January–March 2006

- Luis Crouch gave a presentation at USAID regarding various levels and types of assessment. This presentation was organized by EQUIP 2 but supported by EdData II.
- EdData staff held ongoing discussions with missions and/or RTI field staff regarding possible EdData II applications in Benin, Zambia, Uganda, and Indonesia.

Activities April–June 2006

- Luis Crouch gave an informal presentation at USAID’s Education Sector Council (ESC).
- An EdData consultant prepared a paper summarizing the successful use of rapid student testing and the media in raising the awareness of early grade literacy in Peru. The “Data to Video” report on Peru policy dialogue was completed. This report has been useful in furthering USAID’s and other donors understanding of policy dialogue.
- As EdData II representative, Amy Mulcahy-Dunn attended an Early Childhood Learning Workshop sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) in June 2006.
- Luis Crouch provided support to the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI) Capacity Development team in working through capacity development assessment in FTI countries, at USAID request.
- Luis Crouch established contact with USAID HIV/AIDS office to see how EdData II might be of service. However, no particular areas have been identified as of yet.
- The idea of developing an “Education Scan” instrument was approved in principle. This involves the development of a questionnaire for assessing school-level indicators in countries where USAID is reestablishing presence or would like to change directions or evaluate its programs.
- The World Bank expressed interest in collaborating with EdData II and USAID in development of a simple reading assessment. Conversations have continued and the World Bank continues to be interested.

- Benin mission again expressed interest in an EdData buy-in.
- Luis Crouch collaborated with the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) bureau by speaking at the LAC education officers seminar in Miami, Florida, in early May 2006, on the issue of educational inequality and its measurement. The talk was well received.
- Work/revisions on the EdData II website continued in an effort to increase usability of the site.
- The EdData II website was revised to ensure compliance with USAID branding guidelines:
 - Registering on the website was made much easier and streamlined
 - Entire content (documents, folders) in the Library was reorganized to reflect a more structured view
 - “Ask the Expert” forum’s functionality was improved
 - All Macro Country profiles were transferred to website following request from USAID.
 - Assistance was provided to users wishing to download and use EdData Macro datasets.

Activities July–September 2006

- EdData II website activity:
 - Transferred remaining Macro EdData datasets to website (documents and datasets)
 - Added Guinea dataset link
 - Updated new content under Website News
 - Uploaded supporting documents for news items
 - Created new folders, such as the EdData II Working Paper Series and Country Profiles
- Luis Crouch gave an informal presentation to USAID (ESC).
- EdData staff designed a proposed survey instrument (Snapshot of School Management Effectiveness, or SSME) to quickly and accurately evaluate a countries education system, for use by donors and local governments. The following SSME activities were carried out during this quarter. Under the leadership of Jennifer Spratt, RTI staff
 - Conducted an in-depth study of existing school assessment instruments
 - Developed a draft question bank derived or inspired from these instruments pulled these together
 - Organized a panel of internationally recognized experts to evaluate the draft version of SSME—scheduled for early November
 - Invited USAID missions to express interested in participating as pilot SSME countries. The following 11 missions expressed interest in the pilot:
 - ❖ Guatemala
 - ❖ Peru
 - ❖ Jamaica
 - ❖ Armenia
 - ❖ Yemen
 - ❖ Namibia
 - ❖ Central Asian Republics
 - ❖ Indonesia

- ❖ South Africa
- ❖ Philippines
- ❖ Nicaragua
- John Hatch made the final pilot country selection. The selection criteria he applied in his decision included ease of carrying out the pilot throughout the country, and missions' answers to our questions, and cost. Peru and Jamaica were selected for the SSME. The pilot survey will take place in spring 2007.

PROPOSED Changes in Key Personnel and Reallocation of Level of Effort (LOE) Across Staff

Diana Selezeanu to replace Lily Valle as Project Administrator (Quarter 1).
 Mary Peña to replace Diana Selezeanu as Project Administrator (Quarter 3).
 Stephen Willott to replace Mary Peña as project administrator (Quarter 4).

Obstacles

Our continuing challenge is to identify missions that are willing to buy in to EdData II. Missions appear very interested in EdData designs but funding and negotiation (priority-setting by the client) constraints hamper our efforts.

| Key Countries | Purpose | Funding Requested | Status |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Uganda | In negotiations | TBD | Draft SOW submitted to David Bruns at USAID/Uganda. Awaiting official SOW. |
| Benin | Initial discussions regarding potential SOW | TBD | New, more detailed timelines were provided to the Mission to help inform their decision-making process. |
| Sudan | Initial inquiries | TBD | Information regarding EdData was provided to Mission representative. |
| South Africa | Explored potential EdData applications | TBD | Information regarding EdData was provided to Mission representative. |
| Peru | Explored potential EdData applications | TBD | Peru has been selected as an SSME pilot country. |
| Haiti | Explored potential EdData applications | TBD | Need to recontact Mission. |
| Indonesia | Explored the potential of using EdData to measure household contribution to education and resource allocation within the education sector | TBD | Assistance was not deemed necessary at this time. |
| Jordan | Informally Explored potential EdData applications (via David Sprague) | TBD | |

Budget update [Financial data redacted for DEC submission]