



USAID | WEST AFRICA

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BENIN Country Activity Sheet 2005

GREATER TRADE COMPETITIVENESS

Program Highlights:

- Benin is signatory of the West Africa Gas Pipeline Treaty which made the project possible. USAID technical assistance (TA) facilitated the signing of this treaty by the four member states (Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo).
- The Project provided to TA to decision makers in Benin to pass needed enabling environmental, regulatory and economic legislation so that the final investment decision (FID) to build the pipeline could take place.
- The Project involved Beninois officials in the energy sector in trainings and workshops so they understood the economic, legislative and economic issues.
- The West Africa Gas Pipeline Company is a consortium that will build and operate the 383 mile pipeline.
- The major power utility in Benin will use natural gas instead of oil resulting in a significant cost savings and reduction in greenhouse gas production.
- USAID continues to build the capacity of the West Africa Gas Pipeline (WAGP) Authority which is the regulator based in Abuja (with plans to move to Togo). This includes training staff to manage regulatory functions.
- USAID/WARP's Trade and Investment Advisor met with François Chede on January 25 to discuss progress. Mr. Chede is the Special Advisor to President of Benin for Mining and Energy and is also the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the WAGP Authority. Mr. Chede was satisfied the technical support USAID has been providing and would like to see it being continued beyond the March 31, 2006 when the Nexant contract ends.
- At the end of January, the transport advisor for the West Africa Trade Hub accompanied the World Bank mid-term evaluation team in its evaluation of the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Project aimed at disseminated HIV/AIDS information to transport workers and border communities.
- USAID is developing an Improved Road Transport Governance activity in the context of the West Africa Trade Hub to address delays and corruption on major regional corridors. This activity will be coordinated with the World Bank's activity to address road governance on the Abidjan-Lagos corridor.
- The MISTOWA (Market Information Systems for Trader and Producer Organizations in West Africa) project increased regional trade in agricultural commodities through strengthening trader and producer organizations.
- In January, leaders of trader and producer organizations from Benin and Togo went through an advocacy skills development workshop in Cotonou, Benin.
- In Benin's main cotton-producing region of Banikaora, the MISTOWA project works with local groups to bring market information about commodity prices to producers and traders. Association leaders use the Internet, fax, radio broadcast and SMS messaging techniques. This activity was co-financed by USAID/Benin mission buy-in and is a community-level pilot of MISTOWA's regional methodology.

Implementing Partners:

- The West Africa Gas Pipeline Project (WAGP) – Nexant Corporation
- Market Information Systems for Trader and Producer Organizations in West Africa (MISTOWA) – IFDC
- West Africa Trade Hub/Accra (WATH/Accra) – Carana Corporation

INCREASED ADOPTION OF SELECTED HIGH-IMPACT HEALTH POLICIES AND APPROACHES

Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

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Program Highlights:

- Individuals in health-related fields benefited from the SPECTRUM Epidemic Modeling Tool Training of Trainers, Banjul, The Gambia, February 2005.
- Hosted and participated in the orientation and training on the USAID/WARP Performance Management Plan (PMP) and Action for West Africa Region (AWARE)-HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Systems, Cotonou, Benin, March 2006.
- Hosted and participated in the regional workshop on harmonization of communication strategies for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)/HIV/AIDS prevention on the cross border routes of the West and Central Africa, Cotonou, Benin, March 2005.
- Received training in advocacy for the HIV/AIDS campaign in West and Central Africa, Bamako, Mali, March 2005.
- Participated in the regional workshop on the validation of identified experiences in community-based health financing, Accra, Ghana, April 2005.
- Participated in Network of People Living With HIV/West Africa (NAP+ WA) Regional Consensus Workshop, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, May 2005.
- Benefited from the West Africa Network of AIDS Service Organizations (WANASO) Experience Sharing Workshop, Bamako, Mali, May 2005.
- Received support through WANASO in the development of an inventory of HIV/AIDS service organizations in the country.
- Participated in regional workshop on the harmonization of STI/HIV/AIDS treatment including access to anti-retroviral treatment (ART) along the Abidjan- Lagos Corridor, Accra, Ghana, June 2005.
- Participated in the regional workshop on Cross Border Initiatives for the prevention of STI/HIV/AIDS on the migratory routes in West and Central Africa, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, June 2005.
- Participated in the Regional Network of Journalists' workshop on the implementation of the Regional Policy Agenda on HIV/AIDS in West and Central Africa, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, June 2005.
- Benefited from the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) training in Situational Analysis Workshop, Dakar, Senegal, June 2005.
- Participated in the Promising and Best Practices (PBP) Dissemination Workshop, Accra, Ghana, July 2005
- Received training in STI adapted services for prostitutes, Cotonou, Benin, August 2005.
- Received support with the adaptation and adoption of the HIV/AIDS Law.
- Received support with the identification and documentation of successful experiences in community-based health financing schemes.
- Participated in the workshop for the dissemination of the HIV/AIDS model law to the Society for Women Against AIDS in Africa's (SWAA) membership, Accra, Ghana, September 2005.
- Recipient of training in project development and management and resource mobilization organized by WANASO in Accra, Ghana, September 2005.
- Participated in the NAP+WA Network Management Workshop, Lome, Togo, September 2005.
- Benefited from direct technical support from USAID/WARP for the USAID bilateral mission's new integrated HIV/AIDS and social marketing program design.
- Benefited from the Global Fund To Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) workshop on Procurement and Supply Management (PSM), Accra, Ghana, January 2006.

Reproductive Health (RH), Child Survival (CS) & Infectious Diseases (ID)**Program Highlights:**

- Hosted and participated in the annual RAOPAG (Réseau d'Afrique de l'ouest contre le Paludisme pendant la grossesse) meeting
- Hosted and participated in HIV/AIDS meeting on Family Planning integration into HIV/AIDS programming on migratory routes
- Received technical assistance to carry out National Health Account Survey
- Received technical assistance to develop and implement a malaria in pregnancy (MIP) plan
- Hosted and participated in annual SAGO (Society for African Gynecologists and Obstetricians) meeting special session on obstetric fistula.

- Benefiting from ongoing technical assistance in capacity building to the Regional Institute for Public Health (IRSP), including teaching modules for project management, marketing plan, and reproductive health and commodities management
- Benefiting from ongoing technical assistance in capacity building to RAOPAG (Réseau d'Afrique de l'ouest contre le Paludisme pendant la grossesse)
- Benefiting from ongoing technical assistance to PSI/Benin on social franchising, including integration mutual health organizations (MHOs) with social franchising of private family planning providers
- Benefiting from ongoing technical assistance on National Health Accounts (NHAs), including preparing tables, data sets, gathering national data, data mapping, interpretation, and reinforcing skills of the Benin NHA team

Other Health Capacity Building

- Two participants from Benin participated in AWARE-supported WANASO board meeting.
- One participant from Benin participated in the AWARE-supported NAP+ meeting in Burkina Faso.
- One person from Benin was among the first cohort of six interns who took part in Young Professional Internship program (YPIP).

Implementing Partners:

- Action For West Africa Region (AWARE-HIV/AIDS)---PRIME: Family Health International
- Action For West Africa Region (AWARE-RH)---EngenderHealth
- Center For Research Studies on Population & Development (CERPOD)
- John Snow Incorporated (JSI/DELIVER)
- Population Services International (PSI)
- NetMark---PRIME: Academy For Educational Development (AED)
- Other Regional Partners as listed above

PROMOTE CONFLICT MITIGATION AND STABILITY

Program Highlights:

- Benefited from WANEP's active involvement in to promote dialogue between the new Government of Faure Gsembe and civil society.
- Benefited from WANEP's network strengthening activity.
- The ECOWAS conflict monitoring zonal bureau for Benin, Nigeria and Ghana is located in Cotonou.
- Benefited from the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Mechanism capacity building training
- ECOWAS' zonal bureau in Benin received conflict training

Implementing Partners:

- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- West African Network For Peace Building (WANEP)

AGRICULTURE PRODUCTIVITY AND FOOD SECURITY ENHANCED

Program Highlights:

- Recipient of maize, sorghum and rice technologies and training of national scientists and technicians through participation in the West and Central Africa Cereal Networks (ROCARCE)
- Received assistance to implement the Food Security Monitoring System

Implementing Partners:

- Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control on the Sahel (CILSS)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

CONSERVING PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES AND LIVELIHOODS

Program Highlights:

- Received technical assistance and training on the Land/Use Land/Cover Activity

Implementing Partners:

- Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control on the Sahel (CILSS)