

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Jamaica
Program Title:	Improving Education Quality in Jamaica
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	532-004
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$4,878,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$0
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2000
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2004

Summary: USAID's educational program is improving the numeracy and literacy skills of targeted students in 72 of Jamaica's lowest performing primary and all-age schools and providing remedial education to 6,200 at-risk youth in non-government organization (NGO) sites across the island. Through formal school-based and informal NGO-based interventions, teachers, parents, and administrators are being trained in how best, school staff, and parents, supply learning materials, improve the management capabilities of schools and give nutritional support to the children. To improve the prospects of many of Jamaica's estimated 110,000 young people between the ages of 12-24 living in poverty, a youth-at-risk program supports NGO services that are designed to promote self esteem, reduce teenage pregnancy, increase literacy, reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS, and reinstate drop-outs into schools.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Improved quality of teaching (\$2,578,000 DA). FY 2004 funds will be used to train 24 mathematics and language arts part-time teachers to assist the four teaching specialists who have been contracted to train teachers on innovative teaching strategies. Thirty-three additional mathematics and literacy resource teachers will also be trained in the use of child-centered methodologies and in implementing cooperative learning techniques. These teachers will serve as a resource to other teachers to provide information in the aforementioned skill areas. Similar training, via workshops, will reach 750 classroom teachers. Five schools using a curriculum that focuses on technology will receive additional computers, software, and other equipment to enhance their capacity to deliver state-of-the-art primary education. A technology resource center will be equipped with new high-tech equipment for use by primary school teachers on the eastern side of the island. Principal implementing contractors, grantees, and partners include Juarez & Associates, the Ministry of Education Youth and Culture's Professional Development Unit, and the National Center for Youth Development.

Increased school attendance (\$200,000 DA). Limited FY 2004 funds will be directed toward the on-going breakfast program, providing incentives for improved school attendance, and continuing capacity-building training of parents and teachers in the areas of fund raising and income generation and communication skills. The primary implementor will be Juarez and Associates.

Improved management of schools (\$650,000 DA). To complement the 364 parents who were trained in FY 2003 in organizational development, planning, and management, USAID will support the training of an additional 400 parents, 115 principals and vice principals, and 286 school board members on these same topics during FY 2004. The principal implementation partner will be the National Council on Education.

NGO sites meeting literacy teaching standards (\$1,450,000 DA). USAID will continue to expand the reach of the remedial education services activity, which provides basic literacy classes and life skills training to out-of-school youth. Principal grantees will include the Peoples Action for Community Transformation and 12 other NGOs.

FY 2005 Program:

No new funds will be obligated into this program in 2005. During this fiscal year, the program will focus on ensuring the sustainability of program impacts and facilitating a smooth transition into the Mission's new country strategic plan.

Performance and Results: After making somewhat steady progress over the last few years, this program fell short of meeting expectations with regard to key indicators at the end of this reporting period. However, students in targeted schools have improved over the 1998 baseline in both the third and sixth grades and the improvements have been greater than those of children in the education system as a whole. Furthermore, targeted schools have been successful in improving the "near mastery" levels of mathematics and language arts on the Grade Six Achievement Test. Again, the improvement has been greater than that of students in the system as a whole. Data indicate that there has been a reduction of underweight students from a baseline of 7.3% to 2.7% and an increase in attendance from a baseline of 65% to 86%. The percentage of NGO sites meeting literacy teaching standards is currently 94%, up from 70% in 2002.

By 2005, the project will have integrated technology into teaching methodologies throughout project schools and introduced selected best-practice to improve the promise for sustainability.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Jamaica

	CSH	DA
532-004 Improving Education Quality in Jamaica		
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	7,442	4,218
Expenditures	7,165	1,536
Unliquidated	277	2,682
Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	0	4,868
Expenditures	247	2,694
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	7,442	9,086
Expenditures	7,412	4,230
Unliquidated	30	4,856
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	0	4,878
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	0	4,878
Proposed Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	0	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	7,442	13,964