



Evaluation Summaries

HIV/AIDS Workplace Education Project in Benin

Quick Facts

Countries: *Benin*

Mid-Term: *2005 July*

Mode of Evaluation: *independent*

Technical Area: *HIV/AIDS*

Evaluation Management: *ILO Aids, Brigitte Zug*

Evaluation Team: *Jona Lai*

Project Code: *BEN/03/50/USA*

Donor: *USDOL*

Executive Summary from report

The democratic system which succeeded the Marxist-Leninist regime has been in place since 1989. It seems that for many people the equation “democracy = total freedom” is the rule and any restriction is unacceptable to them. This “excessive freedom” and “changes in customs” can be difficult to manage in the face of AIDS and risk-taking. There is also certain fatalism with respect to AIDS: “you’ve got to die of something”. Against this background, the ultimate objective of the project which seeks to change risky behaviour to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS is a real challenge.

This challenge is even greater since the project targets both formal enterprises and the informal sector (which covers 95 percent of the country’s working population).

The implementation of the majority of the activities is broadly in accordance with the programme and the project seems to be on the

right track. It has established solid foundations and enjoys the support of the ILO tripartite partners and other national partners. However, at this point, halfway through the project, the project has not yet been able to start work on the actual training of workers at the enterprise level. Taking into account both external factors (social unrest, inefficiency of the UNDP administrative management) and those internal to the ILO/USDOL Programme (BCC instruments to be developed) which led to some delays, the pace of activities must now be stepped up. Training in changing behaviour is to start in September 2005, starting with the most committed enterprises: CIM-Benin and the SBEE.

In fact, it is likely that some of the beneficiaries will be unable or unwilling to complete the planned activities within the deadlines set. The Evaluation Mission recommends that the number and choice of formal enterprises and groups in the informal sector should be quickly reviewed, to ensure both a quantitative (number of male and female workers trained) and qualitative result (partners genuinely committed and convinced).

The success of the project will also depend on consolidating an excellent initiative by the national coordinator which facilitated contact between enterprises and the multi-sectoral Population and AIDS Control Project (PPLS). This programme has the capacity to finance 85 percent of the actions plans of enterprises and this partnership is potentially crucial to the beneficiaries of the project. The enterprises themselves would pay for the remaining 15% of costs for the action plans.

Success will depend ultimately on an improvement in the administrative management of the project, since problems of that nature can impair its efficiency. Current problems in the administrative process have already led to delays in implementation of activities and can continue to cause a problem for the project.