

BENIN

SUN Country Summary | September 2012

Benin joined the SUN Movement September 2011

‘Notre vision dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du Plan Stratégique pour le Développement de l’Alimentation et de la Nutrition: “ Faire du Bénin un pays où chaque individu jouit d’un état nutritionnel satisfaisant afin de participer pleinement au développement d’un Bénin émergent’
- Dr. Boni Yayi, Président de la République du Bénin

MEASURING PROGRESS IN BENIN

	Indicator 1	Indicator 2	Indicator 3	Indicator 4
BENIN	4 bars (yellow)	4 bars (green)	2 bars (orange)	2 bars (brown)

Indicator 1: Bringing people into a shared space for action (the multi-stakeholder platform)

The convening body, the “**Conseil National de l’Alimentation et de la Nutrition**” (**CAN**) is located at the level of the President of the Republic, and is composed of 2 bodies: the CAN itself as the orientation and decision body and the permanent secretariat (PS) as the executive body. The CAN is composed of government representatives who are: the President of the Republic or his representative, 7 Ministers (or their representatives) including the Minister of Finance, and 8 Representatives from diverse structures such as academic institutions, Civil Society organizations and the Private Sector. The CAN, which is a multisectorial multi-stakeholder platform, meets at least two times each year. In addition, the National Food Fortification Alliance (*Commission Béninoise de Fortification des Aliments - CBFA*) is specifically involved in fortification issues.

The SUN Focal Point is the technical advisor of the President of the Republic of Benin for agriculture.

The three priorities of the Sun Focal Point to ensure the scaling up of nutrition are: ensuring the functioning of CAN, mobilizing resources of the national budget and mobilizing external resources for the implementation of the “Plan Stratégique de Développement de l’Alimentation et de la Nutrition” (PSDAN). The objective of SUN-Bénin is to prioritize nutrition in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by covering 100% of communes from 2013 to 2017 with high impact nutrition interventions.

A **platform of technical and financial partners** has been created in 2012 under the joint initiative of the World Bank and Unicef. This platform is inclusive. Bilateral and multilateral partners, engaged in the food and nutrition sectors, are included. The **donor convener** is the representative of UNICEF in Benin for 2012, and the World Bank is an identified donor in the country.

Indicator 1 Status: 4

Indicator 2: Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Benin has a Strategic Plan for the Development of Food and Nutrition (PSDAN, 2009) supported by a wide range nutrition-specific policies and provisions. The government's Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS: 2011-2015) takes into account food and nutrition.

The PSDAN has two parts, namely the long and short roads.

Nutrition direct interventions ("Short road") have a focus on the **1000 days** "window of opportunity", with Infant and young child feeding interventions, the control of micronutrients deficiencies and the management of acute malnutrition, hygiene and maternal nutrition. The national legislation on nutrition is wide and also includes food fortification laws (salt, oil, wheat flour). Noteworthy, maternal breastfeeding is promoted, encouraged and protected through a national policy (2009). In addition, the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes (BMS) is fully into law with an aging scope of 0-12 months and the maternity protection law ensures maternity leave of 14 weeks therefore matching the minimum recommended length (ILO).

Nutrition-sensitive policies ("Long road") **and strategies** (updated after 2005), cover all key sectors including agriculture and food security (newly five-years Strategic Plan for Boosting the Agricultural Sector 2011-2015), as well as public health and education sectors (national strategies for the achievement of health and education related MDGs) and social protection (Holistic Social Policy 2012).

Indicator 2 Status: 4

Indicator 3: Aligning programmes around a Common Results Framework

The **Result-based Food and Nutrition Program (PANAR)** which focuses on direct nutrition interventions or "short road" has 5 national sub-programs. These sub-programs are implemented by local governments with the technical support of health, social and agriculture extension systems. The program will cover the 2013- 2017 period and is expected to be implemented nationwide. The 5 sub-programs are described below:

1. The **Infant and Young Child Feeding sub-program** aims to improve breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, and to control micronutrient deficiencies in children under-five.
2. The **Adolescent Girl, Pregnant and Lactating Women nutrition sub-program** aims to improve macro and micronutrients intake at both facility (ante and post natal care) and community levels. However, these actions, along with school health services need to be intensified.
3. The **Management of Acute Malnutrition sub-program** will allow at least 90% of children suffering from severe and moderate acute malnutrition to be detected. Already, 16 out of 34 health districts in Benin have been trained and equipped on the management and prevention of acute malnutrition. This is done on an outpatient basis with the support of community workers who provide screening, counseling and monitoring.
4. The Hygiene sub-program aims to improve hygiene practices at community level.
5. Others nutrition actions are also included in the PANAR such as the **School-Aged Children Sub-program** which aims to scale up the nutrition-friendly school initiative in 80% of public schools as well as the **Promotion of local foods sub program**.

Regarding the long-road, the **National Food Security Program** is comprised of two programs: the **Support Program for Food Security through Agricultural Intensification (PSAIA)** and the **Support Program for Agricultural Diversification (PADA)**. These are both delivered through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP) and supported by external technical and financial partners. They are already implemented and will be covering the period from 2011 up to 2017, for the whole country.

Indicator 3 Status: 2

Indicator 4: Financial tracking and resource mobilization around a Common Results Framework

The cost of the five PANAR sub-programs (“short road” or direct interventions”) is about 72 billion FCFA or 144.1 million US dollars. It is expected that:

- 13 % will be supported by the national budget (9.36 billion FCFA or 18.72 million US dollars).
- 8 % will be supported by local government (5.76 billion FCFA or 11.52 million US dollars).
- About 79 % of the budget still need to be mobilized (56.88 billion FCFA or 113.76 million US dollars).

Although there is no specific budget line for nutrition, a special budget allocation of 100,000 USD was specifically allocated by the government for nutrition in 2012. A budget line for nutrition is currently being negotiated for 2013. The current government and the external partner’s allocated budgets are being evaluated, and the search for fundraising is underway.

Regarding the long road, the total estimated budget for PSAIA is 4041 million francs CFA, the government allocated budget is 1301 million francs CFA, and the external partner allocated budget through Government budgetary instruments is 2740 million francs CFA. The total estimated budget for PADA is 27630 million francs CFA, the government allocated budget is 3915 million francs CFA, and the external partner allocated budget through Government budgetary instruments is 23715 million francs CFA.

Indicator 4 Status: 2 (costing validated but funding is being mobilized)