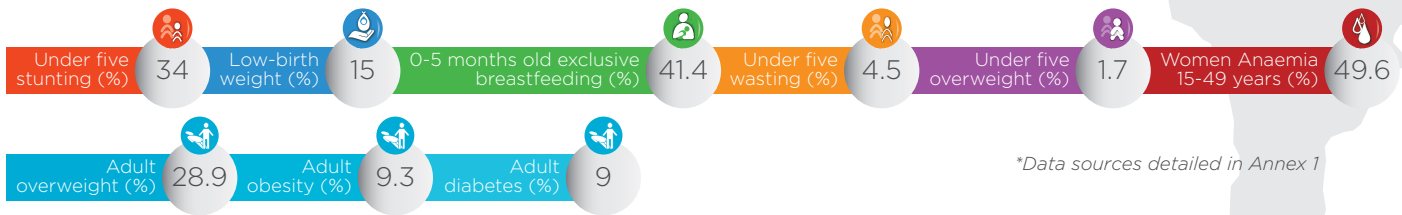




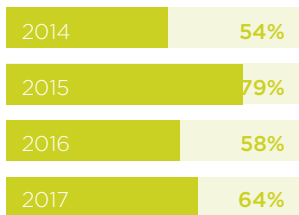
Joined: December 2011
Population: 10.58 million

Benin



*Data sources detailed in Annex 1

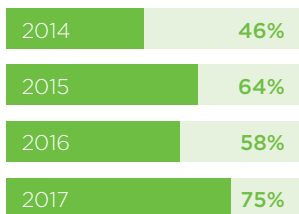
Institutional transformations in 2016-2017



Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The Food and Nutrition Council, the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platform (MSP), has so far been decentralised to 21 of Benin's 77 communes. An institutional evaluation of this Council took place in November 2016. However, the MSP does not have an annual workplan. A multi-stakeholder group specialising in communication has been established and

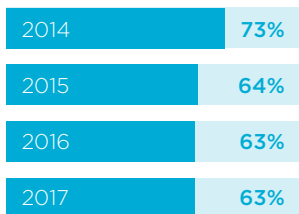
other technical groups (gender, micronutrients, hygiene, etc.) are in the process of being set up. The civil society, donor and UN agency networks participate in implementing the platform's nutrition priorities. Commune-level consultation frameworks for nutrition are in place in 21 of Benin's 77 communes, each with performance indicators.



Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Although there is no ongoing analysis of legislation, there are a number of provisions that protect nutrition (iodised salt, vitamin-enriched wheat flour) and agricultural and health policies take nutrition into account, particularly in the adolescent and youth health care strategy and the agricultural strategy. A national nutrition policy is currently being produced. The national protocol for treating acute malnutrition has been updated and a plan to promote breastfeeding has been launched. A cooperation agreement has

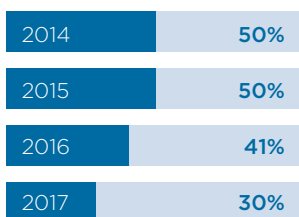
been signed between the Ministries of Health and Agriculture to implement interventions aimed at promoting good food and nutritional practices. A national communication strategy document for social and behavioural change has been validated, aimed at promoting nutrition. The Department for Food and Applied Nutrition (Ministry of Agriculture) and the Benin Food Safety Agency are responsible for ensuring that texts on food safety are applied although the guidelines are implemented.



Aligning actions around a common results framework

The 2016-2025 common results framework to combat chronic malnutrition was validated in 2016 but has not yet been costed. The Food and Nutrition Council is being extended to the commune level. For the moment, feedback of information is therefore being done on a sectoral level. The Food and Nutrition Council is

supporting the mainstreaming of nutrition into the third-generation commune-level development plans, with aligned contributions from donors and the UN. It should be noted that the strategic food and nutrition development plan will be updated.



Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

During the vote on the 2017 budget, parliamentarians ensured that funds were allocated to nutrition. The agriculture component of the Commune Development Support Fund (the main objective of

which is to provide infrastructure capable of supporting the development of agricultural activities) includes nutrition, in order to support actors in the value chains and encourage good production practices.



2017-2018 PRIORITIES

- Operationalise the common results framework at the commune level;
- Establish a joint operational monitoring and evaluation system for the common results framework, disseminate and publish implementation reports;
- Produce the national nutrition policy;
- Update the Strategic Food and Nutrition Development Plan, and provide a cost estimate;
- Establish a network of parliamentarians on nutrition;
- Begin work on an analysis of the annual funding for all nutrition stakeholders.