Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index (HANCI) 2014

Key data for Benin

HANCI compares 45 developing countries for their performance on 22 indicators of political commitment to reduce hunger and undernutrition. All the countries compared in the index have high rates of hunger and undernutrition. Country scores are calculated in relation to the political commitment of the other countries in the index.

HANCI 2014 BJ

**Key data for Benin**

**Strong Performance**

The Government encourages varied agricultural research and extension services, and local farmer organisations are involved in setting policy priorities. The extension system is effective and properly reaches out to poor farmers. Government policies, strategies and mechanisms seek to ensure gender equity in access to extension services.

The National Nutrition Policy/Strategy identifies time bound nutrition targets and a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism has been set up.

Policymakers in Benin benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2011-2012.

The Government has fully enshrined the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into domestic law.

The Government of Benin promotes complementary feeding practices and has achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for 99% of children in 2013.

**Areas for improvement**

Spending on agriculture (6.13% of public spending in 2013), does not meet government commitments set out in the African Union's Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).

**Benin's spending** in its health sector (10.3% of public spending in 2012) does not fully meet (15%) commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration.

In Benin, the law gives women and men equal economic rights and equal legal access to agricultural land. However, these laws are not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.

Benin does not have a separate budget line for nutrition; this prevents transparency and accountability for spending.

Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (14.3% in 2012) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.

In Benin, constitutional protection of the right to food and the right to social security is weak.

Existing rates of: **Wasting:** 4.5%  **Stunting:** 34%  **Proportion of population underweight:** 18%

Source: Gov. of Benin (MICS, 2014)

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**Existing rates of:**

- Wasting: 4.5%
- Stunting: 34%
- Proportion of population underweight: 18%

Source: Gov. of Benin (MICS, 2014)
### Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HRCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending ¹</td>
<td>6.13%</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on health as share of total public spending ¹</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Joint 21st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Policies

- **Access to land (security of tenure) ²**
  - Moderate
  - Year: 2013
  - HRCI Rank: Joint 36th
- **Access to agricultural research and extension services ²**
  - Strong
  - Year: 2013
  - HRCI Rank: Joint 2nd
- **Civil registration system — coverage of live births**
  - 80.2%
  - Year: 2011-2012
  - HRCI Rank: 1st
- **Functioning of social protection systems ²**
  - Weak
  - Year: 2014
  - HRCI Rank: Joint 12nd

#### Laws

- **Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ²**
  - Weak
  - Year: 2011
  - HRCI Rank: Joint 20th
- **Equality of women’s access to agricultural land (property rights) ⁴**
  - In Law, not in Practice
  - Year: 2014
  - HRCI Rank: Joint 4th
- **Equality of women’s economic rights ⁴**
  - In Law, not in Practice
  - Year: 2011
  - HRCI Rank: Joint 5th
- **Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no)**
  - No
  - Year: 2006
  - HRCI Rank: Joint 31st

¹ Possible scores are: ○ <75% of agriculture (Maputo) and health (Abuja) spending pledges  ● >=75% and <100%  ● >=100%

² Possible scores are: ○ Weak  ● Moderate  ● Strong

³ Possible scores are: ○ Weak  ● Moderate  ● Strong

⁴ Possible scores are: ○ Not in Law  ● In Law Not in Practice  ● In Law & Practice

### Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint 28th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Policies

- **Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children**
  - 99%
  - Year: 2013
  - NCI Rank: Joint 1st
- **Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2010
  - NCI Rank: Joint 1st
- **Population with access to an improved water source**
  - 76.1%
  - Year: 2012
  - NCI Rank: 20th
- **Population with access to improved sanitation**
  - 14.3%
  - Year: 2012
  - NCI Rank: 40th
- **Health care visits for pregnant women**
  - 83.5%
  - Year: 2012
  - NCI Rank: 29th
- **Nutrition features in national development policy ¹**
  - Moderate
  - Year: 2011-2015
  - NCI Rank: 18th
- **National Nutrition Policy/Strategy (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2014
  - NCI Rank: Joint 1st
- **Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2014
  - NCI Rank: Joint 1st
- **Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2014
  - NCI Rank: Joint 1st
- **National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2011-2012
  - NCI Rank: Joint 1st

#### Laws

- **ICMBS^ Enshrined in domestic law ²**
  - Fully enshrined
  - Year: 2014
  - NCI Rank: Joint 1st

¹ Possible scores are: ○ Weak  ● Moderate  ● Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).

² Possible scores are: ○ Not Enshrined in Law  ● Voluntary Adoption  ● Fully enshrined.

^ International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

*For full details visit: [www.hancindex.org](http://www.hancindex.org)