



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

Source: Gov. of Benin (MICS, 2014)

### 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.

## Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

| Public spending  | Score*  | Year      | HRCI Rank of 45 |
|--|---|-----------|-----------------|
|  Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending <sup>1</sup>  |  6.13%                   | 2013      | 17th            |
|  Public spending on health as share of total public spending <sup>1</sup>       |  10.3%                   | 2012      | Joint 21st      |
| <b>Policies</b>  |   |           |                 |
|  Access to land (security of tenure) <sup>2</sup>                               |  Moderate                | 2013      | Joint 36th      |
|  Access to agricultural research and extension services <sup>2</sup>            |  Strong                  | 2013      | Joint 2nd       |
|  Civil registration system — coverage of live births                            |  80.2%                   | 2011-2012 | 11st            |
|  Functioning of social protection systems <sup>2</sup>                          |  Weak                    | 2014      | Joint 12nd      |
| <b>Laws</b>  |   |           |                 |
|  Level of constitutional protection of the right to food <sup>3</sup>           |  Weak                    | 2011      | Joint 20th      |
|  Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) <sup>4</sup> |  In Law, not in Practice | 2014      | Joint 4th       |
|  Equality of women's economic rights <sup>4</sup>                               |  In Law, not in Practice | 2011      | Joint 5th       |
|  Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no)                  |  No                      | 2006      | Joint 31st      |

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

<sup>2</sup> Possible scores are:  Weak  Moderate  Strong

<sup>3</sup> Possible scores are:  Weak  Moderate  Strong

<sup>4</sup> Possible scores are:  Not in Law  In Law Not in Practice  In Law & Practice

## Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

| Public spending  | Score*  | Year      | NCI Rank of 45 |
|--|---|-----------|----------------|
|  Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)           |  No              | 2014      | Joint 28th     |
| <b>Policies</b>  |   |           |                |
|  Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children                |  99%             | 2013      | Joint 1st      |
|  Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)             |  Yes             | 2010      | Joint 1st      |
|  Population with access to an improved water source             |  76.1%           | 2012      | 20th           |
|  Population with access to improved sanitation                  |  14.3%           | 2012      | 40th           |
|  Health care visits for pregnant women                          |  83.5%           | 2012      | 29th           |
|  Nutrition features in national development policy <sup>1</sup> |  Moderate        | 2011-2015 | 18th           |
|  National Nutrition Policy/Strategy (yes/no)                    |  Yes             | 2014      | Joint 1st      |
|  Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)  |  Yes             | 2014      | Joint 1st      |
|  Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)                          |  Yes             | 2014      | Joint 1st      |
|  National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)             |  Yes             | 2011-2012 | Joint 1st      |
| <b>Laws</b>  |   |           |                |
|  ICMSB <sup>^</sup> Enshrined in domestic law <sup>2</sup>      |  Fully enshrined | 2014      | Joint 1st      |

<sup>1</sup> Possible scores are:  Weak  Moderate  Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).

<sup>2</sup> Possible scores are:  Not Enshrined in Law  Voluntary Adoption  Fully enshrined.

<sup>^</sup> International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes