**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.
- Benin has introduced a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism to support delivery of the National Nutrition Policy/Strategy.
- Policymakers in Benin benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2017.
- 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 95% of children in 2015.

**Areas for improvement**
- Spending on agriculture (9.3% of public spending in 2016) is close to, yet not fully meeting government commitments set out in the African Union’s Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- Benin’s spending in its health sector (3.4% of public spending in 2015) 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.
- Benin does not yet have a National Nutrition Policy/Strategy.
- Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (13.9% in 2015) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.
- In Benin, constitutional protection of the right to social security is weak.
- Social safety nets in Benin are basic and only cover few risks for a limited number of beneficiaries.

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

Source: Government 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>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>12th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on health as share of total public spending</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Joint 38th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HRCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to land (security of tenure)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Joint 37th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to agricultural research and extension services</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Joint 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil registration system — coverage of live births</td>
<td>84.8%</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functioning of social protection systems</td>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Joint 22nd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Laws

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Law</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HRCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level of constitutional protection of the right to food</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint 10th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality of women’s access to agricultural land (property rights)</td>
<td>In Law, not in Practice</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality of women’s economic rights</td>
<td>In Law, not in Practice</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Joint 34th</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index (HNCI-Global) - 2017

#### Key data for Benin

**Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)**

- **Public spending**:
  - Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending: 9.3% (2016, 12th)
  - Public spending on health as share of total public spending: 3.4% (2015, Joint 38th)

**Policies**

- Access to land (security of tenure): Moderate (2016, Joint 37th)
- Access to agricultural research and extension services: Strong (2013, Joint 2nd)
- Civil registration system — coverage of live births: 84.8% (2014, 8th)
- Functioning of social protection systems: Weak (2016, Joint 22nd)

**Laws**

- Level of constitutional protection of the right to food: Moderate (2014, Joint 10th)
- Equality of women’s access to agricultural land: In Law, not in Practice (2014, Joint 4th)
- Equality of women’s economic rights: In Law, not in Practice (2014, Joint 1st)
- Constitution recognises the right to social security: No (2006, Joint 34th)

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**Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)**

- **Public spending**: Separate budget for nutrition (no/sectoral only/yes): No (2017, Joint 35th)

**Policies**

- Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children: 95% (2015, 12th)
- Government promotes complementary feeding: Yes (2010, Joint 1st)
- Population with access to an improved water source: 75.5% (2015, 30th)
- Population with access to improved sanitation: 13.9% (2015, 42nd)
- Health care visits for pregnant women: 82.8% (2014, Joint 30th)
- Nutrition features in national development policy: Moderate (2011-2015, 20th)
- National nutrition policy/strategy: No (2017, Joint 42nd)
- Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination: Yes (2017, Joint 1st)
- Time bound nutrition targets: Yes (2016, Joint 1st)
- National nutrition survey in last 3 years: Yes (2017, Joint 1st)

**Laws**

- ICMBS* enshrined in domestic law: Fully Enshrined (2016, Joint 1st)

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*Possible scores are: Weak, Moderate, Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries)
*Possible scores are: Not enshrined in law, Few/Many aspects enshrined, Fully enshrined

*International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes