



Country card

Benin

(SAHA Programme)





HI's team and where we work

There are 13 staff members on HI's team in Benin.

Benin





General country data

a. General data

Country	BENIN	Neighbouring country TOGO	France
Population	11,801,151	8,082,366	67,059,887
HDI	0.520	0.513	0.891
IHDI	0.327	0.35	0.809
Maternal mortality	350	401	10



Gender Related Development Index	0.88	0.82	0.98
Population within UNHCR mandate	1,174	13,800	368,352
INFORM Index	4.1	4.6	2.2
Fragile State Index	72.5	85.8	30.5
GINI Index ¹	47.8	43.1	31.6
Net official development assistance received	570.27	296.42	0

b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	ratified in 1998
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	ratified in 2012

d. Geopolitical analysis

1. Social, cultural and demographic context

The Republic of Benin is a West African country located in the Gulf of Guinea. Its political capital is Porto-Novo, and the economic capital is Cotonou. The country covers a surface area of almost 114,000 sq.km and has 2,123 km of borders. It is surrounded by Togo to the west, Nigeria to the east and Burkina-Faso and Niger to the north.

2. Political situation

Benin has been a stable democracy since 1990. Parliamentary elections were held in April 2019. A new electoral code banned opposition parties from taking part, leading the opposition to challenge the outcome of the elections.

3. Economic situation

Benin's economy is heavily dependent on informal re-export and transit trade to Nigeria, which accounts for about 20% of GDP, and agriculture. More than 90% of the working-age

¹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI>



population is engaged in the informal economy which is estimated to account for 65% of total activity.

Prior to the coronavirus epidemic, which has had a negative impact on economic activity and government revenues, Benin recorded a strong economic performance between 2016 and 2019 with an average real GDP growth rate of 5.5 percent.

Summary of HI's work in the country

The Benin programme was launched in 1999 in response to a request to train orthoprosthesis technicians at the CNHU (national hospital and university centre) in Cotonou. In 2003, the Benin programme closed due to a lack of funding.

From 2003 to 2010, HI strengthened contact between the national Buruli ulcer control programmes in Togo, Benin and Ghana. During this period, HI only deployed short missions to Benin.

In 2010, the HI office in Cotonou was reopened at the request of the Ministry of the Family and National Solidarity. HI then implemented several projects, including a lymphatic filariasis control project, a project to promote the rights of people with disabilities, a road safety project, and an inclusive local development (ILD) project. The DECISIPH project to promote the rights of people with disabilities re-energised the not-for-profit sector in Benin and became a trusted, reliable contact for the government.

From 2013 to 2017, HI implemented three projects on inclusive education, inclusive local development, and the management of the physical security of weapons and munitions. The local and inclusive development project has had a real impact in Cotonou with the development of notes for minimum accessibility standards for municipalities and the relaunch of the inclusive building code development process. HI is now considered an authority on accessibility.

In 2018, HI launched socio-economic inclusion, road safety and inclusive education projects. These were followed respectively in 2019 and 2020 by a humanitarian mine action (HMA) project and an inclusion project to improve the political and socio-economic situation of people with disabilities.



Current projects

Sectors where HI implements projects, focusing on beneficiaries and partners

Main sectors	Project goals in the sector	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries at the end of the project	Partners	Location	Project start and end date and funding bodies
Prevention & Health	Road Safety Project Improve conditions for road users based on effective road safety management in Benin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft and adopt a new highway code • Empower and engage road safety actors to implement a national road safety action plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26,000 vulnerable young road users • 25 representative s of CSOs and DPOs working in the field of road safety • 20 CNSR managers and employees • 10 trainers and 1000 police recruits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road users including vulnerable young road users (15-29 years old) • Ministries and technical departments in charge of transport and health • Professionals in the road safety sector • Public and private companies • CSOs and DPOs including those active in the field of road safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MTPT) • National Road Safety Centre (CNSR) • National Network of Road Safety Associations (RENASER) • Networks of Journalists and Road Safety Facilitators (REJASER), and the Network of Road Safety 	Littoral and Atlantique departments	January 2018 - December 2021/ DGD



				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The gendarmerie and national police force 	Partners (REPASER)		
Inclusion	<p>Inclusive employment project Develop an inclusive economy and employment for people with disabilities in Benin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local employment access assessment for people with disabilities Capacity -building for job and training centres Disability awareness-raising for companies Implementation of a support fund for companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 620 young people with disabilities 3 training and social development centres 40 company executives 10 companies 5 inclusive employment service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young unemployed people with disabilities (15-34 years old) Inclusive employment service professionals including training centres, IMF and banks Public, private and specialised companies Public institutions including job centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National employment agency (ANPE) Federation of disabled people's organisations in Benin (FAPHB) Training and social development centres 	Littoral and Atlantique departments	January 2018 - December 2021/ DGD



				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social partners • CSOs and DPOs including those active in the field of CSR • Local and national public authorities 			
Inclusion	<p>Project: Health, Education and Livelihoods in Africa: a sustainable inclusion approach</p> <p>Improving disability policies and the socio-economic activity of people with disabilities in Africa through their meaningful involvement in the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPO capacities assessment • Participatory local assessment: community involvement of PWDs and obstacles to accessing basic social services • Organisational empowerment • BRIDGE training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 180 members of 12 DPO networks will be trained • 10 young people will be helped to express their personal needs • 2 social development centres will be provided with support and assistance to refer and advise young people with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people with disabilities • DPO and CSO advocacy • Local and national public authorities • Service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation of disabled people's organisations in Benin (FAPHB) • Cotonou and Parakou town halls 	Cotonou and Parakou municipalities	January 2020 - December 2022/NORAD



	development and implementation of local, national and regional policies and programmes to advance their rights	(CRPD, diversity, disability, public policies, SDGs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPO and CSO advocacy • Accessibility work 	disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 service providers and heads of municipal services • 10 service providers assisted on PWD services quality • FAPHB members will be given BRIDGE training • 20 local elected officials trained • 				
Inclusive education	Inclusive Education Project Tangibly improve the living conditions of people with disabilities and vulnerable people based on an inclusive and participatory approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy to take children with disabilities into account in the country's education policies and strategies. • Organising consultations with care providers for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 children with disabilities • 238 teachers • 4 special schools • 10 decentralised technical service officers • 2 NGOs • 5 CBR centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with disabilities and their families • DPOs • Education actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance • NGO La Colombe - Hibiscus • NGO Equilibre Bénin • Ministry of Nursery and Primary Education 	Littoral and Atlantique departments	January 2018 - December 2021/AFD



		<p>children with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing teachers with inclusive education training and support. 					
<p>Armed Violence Prevention and Reduction</p>	<p>CAPAF SEC Project: "Capacity-Building for African Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA), Weapons and Ammunition Risk Management (WRAM) and the Promotion of Safe Environments" Improving the physical security of African populations through capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving CPADD training services and quality • Technical capacity-building for national authorities and civil society organisations in the quality management of mine actions and weapons and munition stockpile management • Assist armed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Center for Humanitarian Demining Training (CPADD) • State actors (National Mine Action Centres (CNLAM) and National Commissions for Small Arms Non-Proliferation (Com.Nat)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities directly affected by the threat of mines, ERW and IEDs in targeted areas • Team members and partners in the countries where HI works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CPADD (Center for Humanitarian Demining Training) • National commissions for small arms non-proliferation (Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Benin, Niger and Chad) • National Mine Action Commissions (Senegal and DRC) 	<p>Benin; Guinea-Bissau; Niger; DRC; Senegal; Chad</p>	<p>July 2020-December 2021/CDCS</p>



	building in HMA and the management and destruction of weapons and munitions	violence research					
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Funding bodies

<p>Directorate General Development Cooperation (DGD)</p>  <p>Belgique partenaire du développement</p>	<p>Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS)</p>  <p><i>Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité</i> RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE</p>	<p>French Development Agency (AFD)</p> 
 <p>Norad</p>		