



# Benin

Cotonou

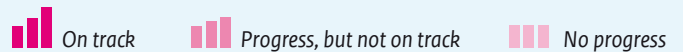
## Overview of main development results in 2015

### Context

The Netherlands' development cooperation with Benin, a transition country, focuses on three priorities - food and nutrition security, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and water - and on economic diplomacy. Benin is one of the more stable countries in the region, with political diversity, a strong civil society and reasonable governance indicators. Unfortunately, serious fraud at the water ministry led to the early termination of the Dutch water programme and to the temporary suspension of other programmes.

After Benin took adequate measures as had been conditioned, these programmes were reinstated under strict conditions. By publicly denouncing the fraud and applying zero tolerance, the Netherlands has put the fight against corruption, impunity and bad governance at the top of the political and civil society agenda in Benin, and has inspired the government of Benin to make tough political choices and implement measures for improvement.

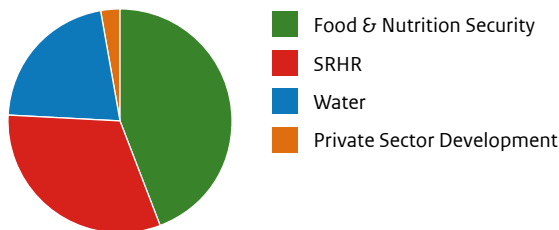
### Developments in Benin



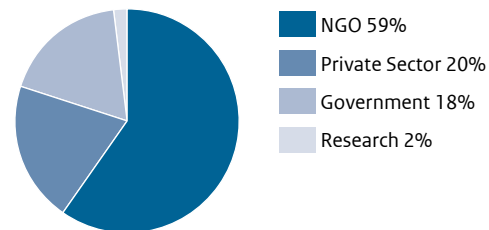
- Young people are better informed and are thus able to make healthier choices regarding their sexuality
- Improved access to contraceptives, anti-retroviral drugs and other sexual health commodities
- Greater private sector involvement in water and sanitation services and resources management through an improved enabling environment
- Improved access to sustainable drinking water and sanitation facilities
- Increase in sustainable food production

### Expenditures 2015 per theme

Total expenditure Embassy € 16.004.544



### Expenditures 2015 per channel



*"The strong Dutch stance in the water fraud affair of 2015 generated a lot of attention in Benin and led to strong feelings of indignation. This resulted in a united call from Beninese society for transparent governance and the fight against corruption and impunity".*

- Martin Assogba, President ALCRER

## Key results of the embassy in Benin



### Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

- Services offered in 18 youth centres reached 90,000 young people (57% of them girls). School-based peer education programmes reached 206,000 students (69% of them girls). A further 129,000 young people (53% of them girls) were reached by out-of-school peer education programmes.
- Almost 300,000 couples practiced family planning thanks to services offered at public and private clinics, and campaigns supported by the embassy. Services are gradually being extended.



### Water

- Dutch aid has contributed to greater private sector and civil society involvement in water and sanitation service delivery and water resources management, creating an improving enabling environment for business development, participative management of water resources, and improved governance.
- The suspension of the water programme has resulted in a lower outcome than anticipated. Nonetheless, the programme has helped achieve the delivery of rural water services to 43,750 people and helped connect a further 382,000 urban people to piped systems in urban areas. The delivery of sanitation services delivery was lower than expected.



### Food & Nutrition Security

- Almost 18,500 farmers (48% of them women) are involved in Dutch-supported post-harvest supply chain improvement, leading to a 9% increase in revenues. 390 business services have been made available to local small and medium-sized enterprises in the agricultural sector.

## Interpretation of the results in context

Temporary suspension of bilateral aid to Benin impacted results in all sector programs and had significant influence on spending. Moreover the capacity of central government - involved in the SRHR

programme - was lower than expected due to preparations for the presidential elections in 2016. These factors have affected technical assistance and activities implemented by NGOs to a lesser degree.

## Glimpse into the future

Greater focus on collaboration with large NGOs involved in SRHR that work directly with private/public health services in the regions. A possible new water and sanitation programme will focus on the opportunities presented by the growing capacity of local authorities

to increase access to water and sanitation services. Other key themes may be (financial) governance, private sector involvement in service delivery and investment, climate change, gender, youth issues, and improved water use in agriculture.