



# BENIN'S PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SDGs

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*October 2017 – October 2021*



REPUBLIC OF BENIN  
EMBASSY TO JAPAN  
駐日ベナン共和国大使館  
November 2021

# OVERVIEW

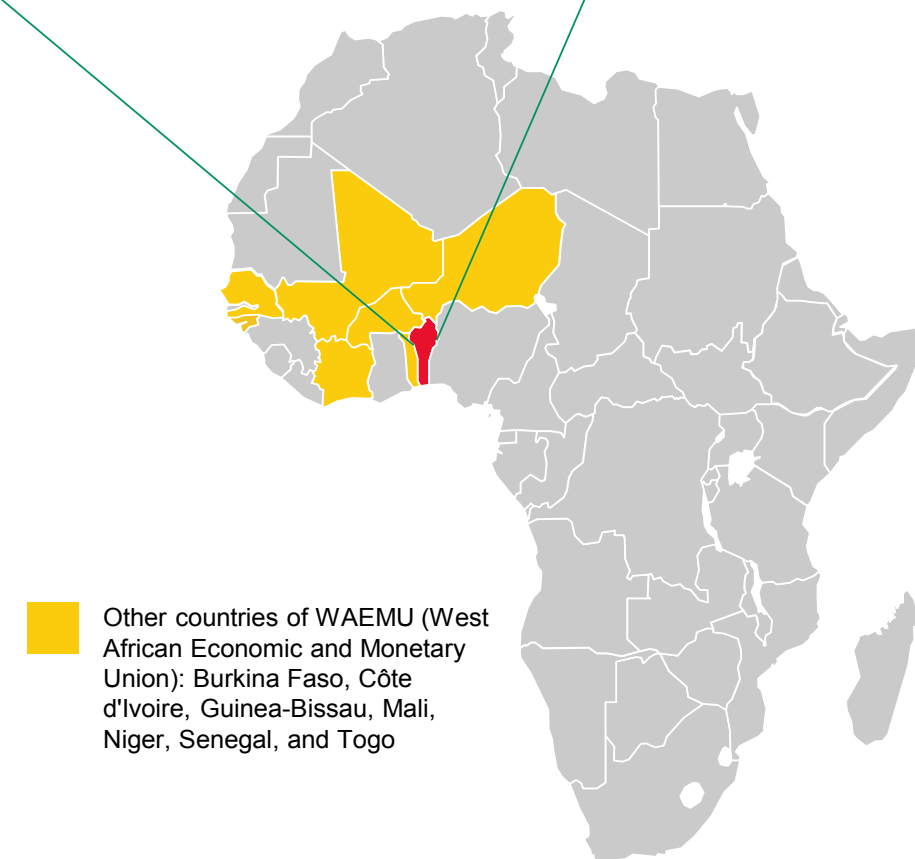
- I. About Benin
  - II. The SDGs / Agenda 2030
  - III. Implementing the SDGs : Institutional Framework, Initiatives and Partnerships, Targets and Pillars
  - IV. Reaching the SDGs : Overall Performance, SDG Dashboards and Trends, Key Results
  - V. Challenges and Lessons
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# COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

## I. ABOUT BENIN (1)



<b>Population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12.2m (2020)</li> </ul>
<b>Pop. growth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.9% (CAGR, 2017-2020)</li> </ul>
<b>Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>114,763 sq. km</li> </ul>
<b>Capital city</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Porto Novo</li> </ul>
<b>Official language</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French</li> </ul>
<b>Main exports (% total exports, 2019)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cotton (18%), Cashew nuts (2%)</li> </ul>
<b>Currency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CFA Franc (XOF) as a member of the WAEMU</li> </ul>
<b>Peg</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fixed peg to the Euro (EUR 1 = XOF 655.957)</li> </ul>
<b>Nominal GDP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€13.7bn (2020e) (XOF 9,009bn)</li> </ul>
<b>GDP per capita</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€1,116.4 (2020e) (XOF 732.3k)</li> </ul>
<b>Real GDP growth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.9% (2019), 3.8% (2020e)</li> </ul>
<b>Inflation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-0.9% (2019), 3.0% (2020e)</li> </ul>
<b>Institutions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presidential democracy</li> </ul>
<b>President</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patrice Talon</li> </ul>
<b>Solicited sovereign credit ratings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S&amp;P: B+, Stable Outlook</li> <li>Moody's: B1, Stable Outlook</li> </ul>





# I. ABOUT BENIN (2)



## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Recent achievements

		Key achievements
1 <b>Covid-19 response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Contained development of the Covid-19 in Benin thanks to a policy of targeted response to the pandemic, allowing to preserve the dynamism of the economy</b></li> <li>• The authorities have also introduced a systematic and compulsory quarantine of all individuals entering Benin, as well as systematic testing at the end of the quarantine, and has adopted a contingency plan amounting to more than XOF 300 bn (€457m eq.) to face the pandemic</li> <li>• Benin aims to vaccinate 60% of the population by December 2022, with a strategy focusing on one-shot vaccines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>IMF programme implementation was deemed "very satisfactory"</b> following the 6<sup>th</sup> review (April-20) (best possible assessment)</li> </ul>
2 <b>Growth performance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prior to Covid-19, GDP growth had accelerated significantly from 1.8% in 2015 to 6.9% in 2019</b></li> <li>• The authorities Covid-19 response has allowed to maintain strong economic momentum                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>In 2020, Benin recorded real GDP growth rate of 3.8%</b>, among the highest GDP growth rates in Africa</li> <li>○ <b>The authorities expect Benin's GDP to grow by 6.0% in 2021</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Benin ranked first for debt transparency</b> among 76 IDA countries by the World Bank (2020)</li> </ul>
3 <b>Fiscal performance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reforms designed to fight fraud and significantly increase the performance of tax collection authorities                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Revenues (excl. grants) have increased by 53% between 2016 and 2020</b> despite the pandemic, driven by a rise in non-tax revenues by 86% (e.g. revenue from Treasury administration, from the Caisse Autonome d'Amortissement<sup>1</sup>, etc.) and in tax revenues by 48%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Sharp decrease in budget deficit</b> from 5.9% of GDP in 2015 to 0.5% of GDP in 2019 (incl. grants)</li> <li>• <b>Due to Covid-19, the fiscal deficit widened to 4.7% in 2020, and should narrow to 2.9%<sup>2</sup> by 2022</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Among the "Most Impressive African Issuers"</b> GlobalCapital awards (2020)</li> </ul>
4 <b>External performance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Significant foreign exchange reserves at a WAEMU level<sup>3</sup>, covering 6.7 months of imports of goods and services at Q1 2021</b> (5.9 months at dec-2020, highlighting external resilience in the face of the pandemic)</li> <li>• External position has continued to be supported by ample access to external financing sources, from multilateral, bilateral and commercial lenders</li> <li>• Full reopening of the border with Nigeria since December 2020</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Longest EUR-denominated Eurobond in Sub-Saharan Africa</b>, issued in Jan-2021 (31-year final maturity)</li> </ul>

Sources Government of Benin, IMF

Notes 1. Body in charge of financing resource mobilization and sound public debt management; 2. Government forecast vs. 3.0% of GDP as per IMF WEO April 2021 3. Benin's foreign exchange reserves are centralized at a regional level by the BCEAO (Central Bank of West African States). See page 28.

## II. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) / AGENDA 2030 (1)

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030 ;**
- The SDGs are a set of 17 interdependent goals. Each goal has a list of targets which are measured with indicators. A variety of tools exist to track and visualize progress towards the goals.**

# II. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) (2)

## 17 GOALS!



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<b>1</b> NO POVERTY 	<b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER 	<b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	<b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION 	<b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY 	<b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 
<b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	<b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	<b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	<b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	<b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	<b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
<b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION 	<b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER 	<b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND 	<b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	<b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	 <b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b>

# III. IMPLEMENTING THE SDGS (1)

## BENIN'S INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Vision Instruments	Acronym	Date	Target
The Government's Action Program	PAG	2016 - 2021 2021 - 2026	Large-scale investments in many areas related to the SDGs: Agriculture, Tourism, Culture, Infrastructure, Digital Economy and Information Technology.
"Leaving no one behind initiative"	/	2018	Structured around programs linked to the SDGs and 20 Projects. These Projects are anchored to the GAP Pillars and linked to the SDGs.
The National Development Plan	PND	2018 – 2025	Achievement of sustained, sustainable and inclusive growth of at least 10% by 2025 based on the development of Agrobusiness, Tourism and Services. Focus on improving Human Capital and Infrastructure.
The Sustainable Development Growth Program	PC2D	2018 – 2021	Short-term implementation of the PND to improve economy competitiveness, reduce inequalities to basic social services, correct geographic disparities and improve management of public affairs.
SDG Bond Framework	SBF	2021	Coherent with Benin Strategic sustainability priorities Costing, Spending, Transparency, Accountability, Sustainable Finance

# III. IMPLEMENTING THE SDGS (2)








## INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Key Dates	Initiatives and Partnerships
Since 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of institutional architecture dedicated to the implementation of the SDGs</li> <li>- Focus of the GAP (2016-2021 / 2021-2026) to large-scale investments in areas such as Agriculture, Tourism, Culture, Infrastructure, the Digital Economy and Information Technology.</li> </ul>
2017	Stakeholders Meetings / Thematic Groups (Public Sector, Civil Society, Private Sector and Technical and Financial Partners) around the SDGs to: (i) prioritize the most pressing SDGs targets and (ii) assess the costs of achieving the SDGs by 2030.
2018	In October, Benin has been selected among five countries in the World (Benin, Rwanda, Indonesia, Guatemala and Vietnam) to benefit from an initiative of the International Monetary Fund to help them achieve the SDGs.
2019	December 6: Publication of the IMF Working Paper WP/19/270: The Spending Challenge for Reaching the SDGs in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons Learned from Benin and Rwanda.
2021	July 12: Launch of a partnership with the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) to monitor and evaluate the efforts of the government of Benin to achieve the SDGs. The SDSN is a global network of Universities, Research Centers and Knowledge institutions.



# III. IMPLEMENTING THE SDGs (3)

## PILLARS AND TARGETS

PILLARS	TARGETS	SDGs
<b>Population / Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a sustainable and productive agriculture</li> <li>• Access to drinking water and wastewater processing</li> <li>• Improving health for All</li> <li>• Decent housing for the poor</li> <li>• Expanding education services and expanding capacity to take on students</li> </ul>	     
<b>Prosperity / Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to low-carbon, reliable and affordable energy</li> <li>• Connectivity and digital inclusion throughout the territory</li> <li>• Supporting employment and financial inclusion of the youth, women and rural entrepreneurs</li> </ul>	       
<b>Planet / Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing living environments and sustainable infrastructure for all</li> <li>• Conservation of lake and coastal areas, reasonable economic exploitation of forest cover and fighting against desertification</li> </ul>	 
<b>Peace – Partnerships / Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting heritage and educational sites</li> <li>• Promoting entertainment infrastructure</li> </ul>	 

# IV. BENIN'S PROGRESS IN REACHING SDGS (1)

## OVERALL PERFORMANCE

# BENIN

Sub-Saharan Africa

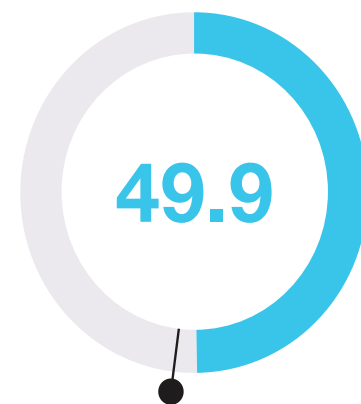
### OVERALL PERFORMANCE

COUNTRY RANKING

**Benin**

**155** / 165

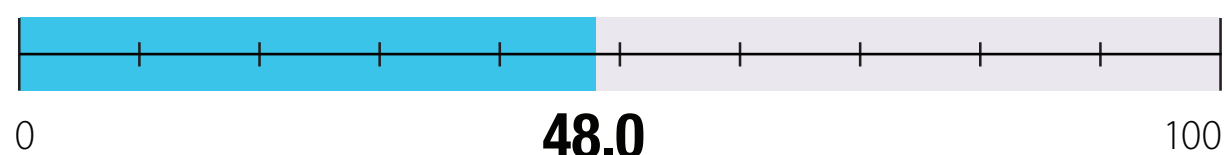
COUNTRY SCORE



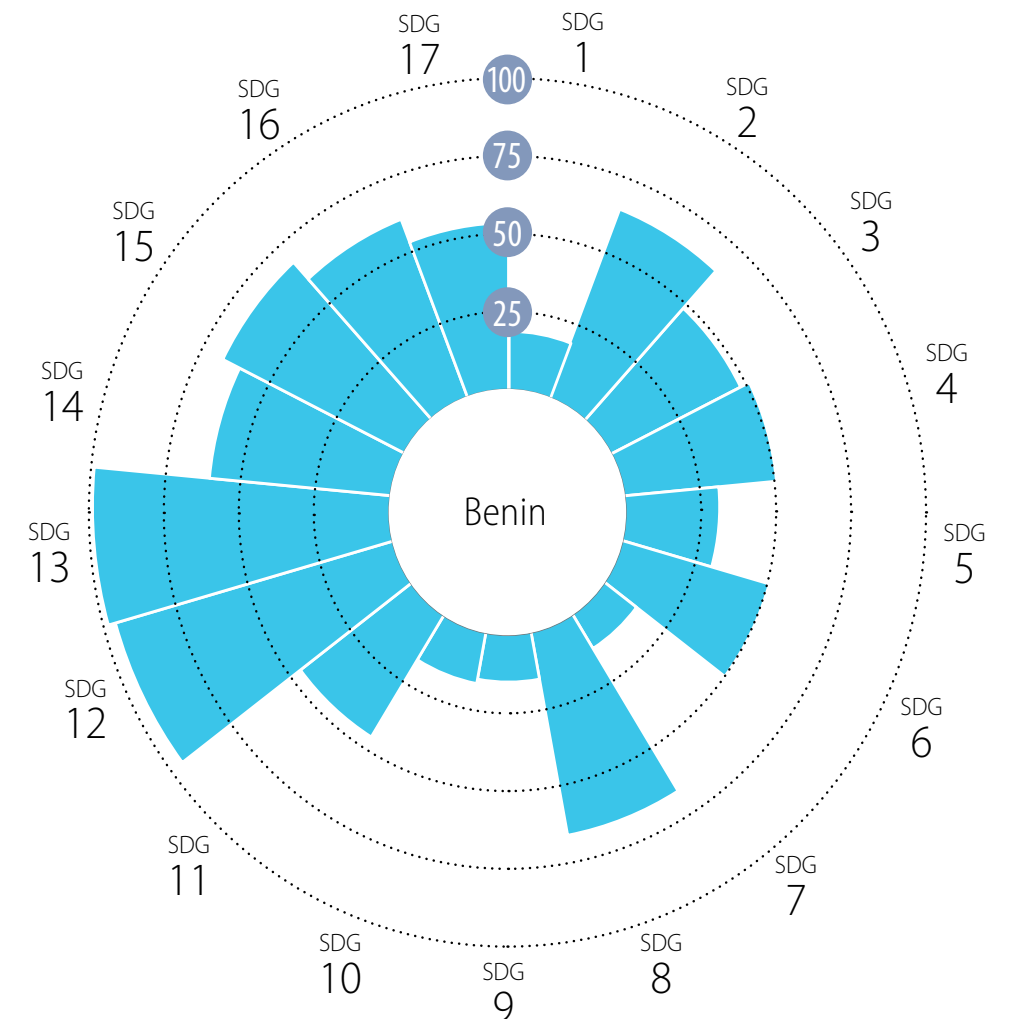
REGIONAL AVERAGE: 51.9

STATISTICAL PERFORMANCE INDEX

0 (WORST) TO 100 (BEST)



### AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG



# IV. BENIN'S PROGRESS IN REACHING SDGS (2)

## DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS

### ▼ SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS



■ Major challenges   
 ■ Significant challenges   
 ■ Challenges remain   
 ■ SDG achieved   
 ■ Information unavailable  
↓ Decreasing   
 → Stagnating   
 ↗ Moderately improving   
 ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement   
 ● Information unavailable

Notes: The full title of Goal 2 "Zero Hunger" is "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture".

The full title of each SDG is available here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

# IV. BENIN'S PROGRESS IN REACHING SDGS (3)

## KEY RESULTS (1)

- ❑ Benin has defined 4 pillars to achieve SDGs by addressing both social and environmental issues: Population, Prosperity, Planet and Peace;
- ❑ Key Results are analyzed by Pillars.
  - Pillar 1: Population / Social
- Agriculture : Improved organization of high added value product industries such as pineapple, cashews, cotton, table eggs, vegetable crops, corn, manioc and rice;
- Drinking Water and Waste Water Processing : Improving access to drinking water: From 45% in 2016 to 70% in 2020 to 100% by 2023;
- Health for All: Building a strong and sustainable health systems through health infrastructure (New and modern hospitals and equipment). Launching of a welfare program known as “Insurance for Reinforcing Human Capital (IRHC) including a universal social coverage;
- Education Services: Focus on technical and vocational training in Agriculture, transformation and digitalization.



# IV. BENIN'S PROGRESS IN REACHING SDGS (4)

## KEY RESULTS (2)

### ▪ Pillar 2: Prosperity / Economy

- Improving access to Electricity and clean Energy: From 0% in 2016 to 60% in 2020 to 100% by 2024;
- Strong digital Economy: Information and communication technologies as a catalyst of economic growth and modernization and to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet;
- Financial inclusion: Better access to financial services for Youth, Women and Entrepreneurs.

### ▪ Pillar 3: Planet / Environment

- Integration of climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

### ▪ Pillar 4: Peace - Partnerships / Governance

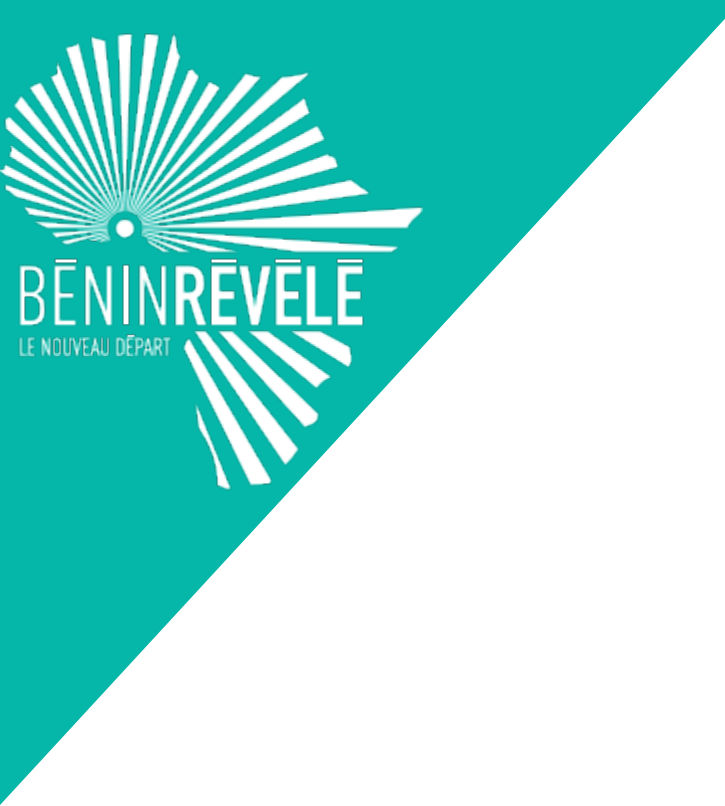
- Construction of cultural centre dedicated to Voodoo and reconstruction of historical sites throughout the country.

## V. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS

- ❑ **Despite the available setting and institutional frameworks and the government commitments, Benin is still far from reaching the SDGs.**
- ❑ **Many challenges are to be taken in consideration in some key sectors such as Education, Health, Electricity, Infrastructure, Water and Sanitation.**
- ❑ **One of the challenges is related to the spending: Additional Spending is critical to reaching the SDGs.**
- ❑ **On July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Benin successfully launched its inaugural Sustainable Development Goals Bond (“SDG Bond € 500 million 12.5 years), the first SDG issuance from an African Sovereign. Specialists consider that Benin’s issuance has opened a new page in the history of the Sustainable finance / SDG Finance in Africa. It’s expected to accelerate the SDGs achievement.**

## USEFUL LINKS AND DOCS

- ❑ <https://www.un.org>
- ❑ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>
- ❑ **The Spending Challenge for Reaching the SDGs in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons learned from Benin and Rwanda, WP/19/270, IMF Working Paper**
- ❑ **SDG Bond Framework 2030 Agenda: July 2021**



**ARIGATOGOZAIMASU!**