Benin

ACCELERATING HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES THROUGH IMPROVED NUTRITION

Benin has made recent progress against stunting and shown strong political commitment through the adoption of policies like the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. Yet under-five mortality remains among the highest in the world, and stunting affects more than a third of children. To realize the full health, social and economic benefits of improved nutrition, Benin should:

• Adopt the National Nutrition Policy and implement at scale the Strategic Plan for Food and Nutrition Development
• Mobilize more financial resources and allocate a separate budget line for nutrition
• Ensure strong implementation of the common results framework for the fight against chronic malnutrition, including increased coordination between sectors

PROGRESS AGAINST STUNTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHILD NUTRITION INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum dietary diversity (6-23 months)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breastfeeding at 1 year</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum acceptable diet (6-23 months)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusive breastfeeding of infants under 6 months</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breastfeeding at 1 year</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum dietary diversity (6-23 months)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHILD MORTALITY

115 deaths per 1,000 live births which puts Benin seriously off-track to contribute to reducing under-five mortality to 25 per 1,000 live births (Sustainable Development Goal 3).

MATERNAL NUTRITION AND HEALTH

- Women of reproductive age with anaemia: 41%
- Women of reproductive age, thinness: 6%
- Women of reproductive age, short stature: 1%

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY’S GLOBAL NUTRITION TARGETS 2025

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Under-five stunting</th>
<th>Under-five overweight</th>
<th>Under-five wasting</th>
<th>Women of reproductive age, anaemia</th>
<th>Women of reproductive age, thinness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>Off course, some progress</td>
<td>Off course, good progress</td>
<td>Off course</td>
<td>On course</td>
<td>On course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| POLITICAL COMMITMENT FOR NUTRITION

- Maternity Leave: 14 weeks paid
- International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes: Full provisions in law
- Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan: Yes (100%)
- National Nutrition Plan: Yes, $379.5 million
- Separate Nutrition Budget: No (less than 1%)
- SUN Country: Since 2011

CATEGORIZATION OF CODE LEGISLATION

Full provisions in law: country has enacted legislation or adopted regulations, decrees or other legally binding measures encompassing all or nearly all provisions of the Code and subsequent WPA resolutions.

IMPROVING NUTRITION STRENGTHENS NATIONS AS A LEADING CONTRIBUTOR TO:

- Reducing mortality rates
- Promoting optimal growth and development
- Decreasing the risk of infectious diseases

- Protecting against chronic conditions later in life
- Improving future earning potential

1 UNICEF Infant and Young Child Feeding Database 2016
2 UNICEF/WHO/WB 2015
3 HANCI-Africa 2016
4 SUN Costed Plan Summary 2015
5 SUN Benin Annual Progress Report 2016
6 SUN Country Since 2011
7 UNICEF State of the World’s Children 2016
8 UNICEF State of the World’s Children 2016
10 Ghana, Ministry of Health
11 Ghana, Ministry of Health
12 Ghana, Ministry of Health
13 The Lancet, 2013
16 ILO Maternity and Paternity at Work 2013
17 UNICEF, The Lancet

INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING PRACTICES

- Early initiation of breastfeeding within the first hour: 47%
- Exclusive breastfeeding of infants under 6 months: 41%
- Breastfeeding at 1 year: 96%
- Minimum acceptable diet (6-23 months): 16%