

## Benin

1) What work, reports or other contributions have been produced?

- The Long Term Prospects National Studies entitled: Benin-2025 ALAFIA which presents the desiderata of the Benin people for the next twenty-five years, together with the directions to be taken to achieve them.
- The Poverty Reduction Strategy Document PRSD (*Document de Stratégie de Réduction de la Pauvreté (DSRP)*) (2003-2005) which has been used since then as a reference strategic, programming and budgeting framework for the actions of the Government and for the dialogue with the Technical and Financial Partners.
- The Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction GSPR (*Stratégie de Croissance pour la Réduction de la Pauvreté (SCRP)*) for the three-year period 2007-2009. It is aimed at consolidating the knowledge from the previous document while emphasising the diversification of the economy and intensification of the growth in order to accelerate the combat against poverty and the progress of Benin toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

An implementation and monitoring-assessment system was established for these different programmes in order to measure the performances achieved in the different areas with a view to refining and/or adjusting the strategies and policies implemented.

- There are also documents which the organisations of the United Nations system and other Technical and Financial Partners have drafted on the economic and social development of Benin.

2) What topics are your ESC currently working on?

- The contribution of the tourism sector to the Benin economy;
- The problem of feeding the people of Benin;
- The problem of medical evacuations outside the republic of Benin.

Moreover, it is working on the combat against poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals in relation with the Ministerial Departments.

3) What topics will your ESC be working on in the future?

The work on the combat against poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals will continue

In addition, however, the Benin ESC intends to carry out other work on:

- The population's access to potable water;
- The development of traditional medicine;
- The contribution of the ESC to the determination of the optimum conditions of the Benin economy faced with the international financial crisis;
- National forum on the retirement system in Benin;
- Development of prices, salaries and the purchasing power of the Benin people;
- Fifty (50) years of independence and the problem of prosperity in Benin.

4) What is the interest of your institution in the different topics?

The Benin ESC attaches a great interest to this work because it considers that:

- a) It resolves the problem of the relevance of the choice of indicators and that posed by the reliability of their measurement systems in the field of statistical information.

In fact, there is often a variance between the report presented by the statistical information on economic performances, progress, development and well-being and the situation in which the Benin people actually live (informal economy of over 90%).

This work enables, without doubt:

- The determination of the limits of the indicators used to perform different assessments,
- To analyse the system implemented to measure economic performance, progress, development and well-being.
- To identify the improvements that may be necessary to have more relevant socio-economic indicators and a more reliable measurement system.

b) They also enable the resolution of the prickly problem encountered in the management of information on the informal sector. This work can help correct the inadequacies noted in the publication of statistics on the informal sector.

5) Which of the fields referred to interest you most, either currently or in the future?

- Progress/well-being/happiness/quality of life/sustainable development indicators.
- Relations between societal progress and individual conditions.
- Going beyond the simple logic of GDP.
- Preparation of indicators on the Benin informal sector.

6) What is the interest of civil society in the different topics?

They enable civil society to strengthen its capabilities with a view to best playing its role as a strategic intelligence gatherer; to better invest in safeguarding the interests of citizens and improve their living and working conditions.

7) What are the main challenges and what are the main practical applications you expect?

1. Having a device capable of ensuring the monitoring and assessment of policies aimed at progress, development and well-being.
2. Being able to rely on a statistical information system that is reliable, updated and powerful, focused on progress, development and well-being.
3. Implement a systematic and regular results distribution system.

The expectations are to have relevant indicators enabling the design of appropriate policies and the taking of beneficial decisions in favour of the populations.

8) What are the dimensions you consider to be especially important?

- The choice of indicators;
- The collection and processing of statistical information;
- The determination of the system for the measurement of indicators;
- The choice of measurement equipment;
- The selection of human resources.

9) Have you suggestions, proposals or good practices to present?

It is necessary to:

- a) Develop a Social Management Chart which will regularly publish the indicators used in the context of the monitoring and measurement of Progress, development and well-being.
- b) Develop complete documentation on these indicators in a manner to enable the user to understand and interpret them meaningfully, taking account of the informal sector.

10) Suggestions, proposals and good practices from the Benin ESC to ensure consultation with or participation by civil society in moving this work forward.

Implement an efficient device placing a particular emphasis on: institutional organisation, training, logistics and the determination of indicators.

1. Institutional organisation

- Implement a plan that encourages correct circulation of information;
- Implement a participative process including consultation structures at the national, departmental, commune and local levels (public administration, private sector, civil society);
- Develop precise specifications for all the structures.

2. Training

- Strengthen the capabilities of the people implementing the plan

3. Logistics

- The design of collection, processing and analysis tools and tools for data distribution;
- The identification of relevant indicators (by reference to the informal sector);
- The design of an appropriate system of monitoring and assessment.

## Indicators

GDP growth rate	Proportion of the population with access to potable water
GDP/per head	
Household/per head average expenditure	Education rate
Development in purchasing power	Education rate in primary level
Own consumption	
Social inequalities	Political governance
Tourism share of GDP	Voluntary work
Share of informal sector in GDP	Index on the participation of women
Human Development Index	
Human Poverty Index	Life expectancy
WBI Poverty Index	Nutritional consumption
Monetary poverty index	Number of doctors/1000 inhabitants
Monetary poverty threshold	
Human Development gender Specific Index	