

Benin

Benin joined the Coalition in August 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) signed by the President in April 2024 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

All schools in rural areas are now covered by school canteens, increasing national coverage from 75% to 80% in pursuit of the 100% coverage goal by 2026. Analysis is underway to develop an approach for urban and peri-urban areas which make up the other 20%.

The government has strengthened its governance and institutional frameworks through the creation of the National Agency for Food and Nutrition housed in the Presidency of the Republic, which manages the Integrated School Meals Programme since 2024.

A draft school feeding law designed to ensure financial stability and sustainability of the programme is currently being studied by the National Assembly and is expected to be voted on soon. School meals have been included in relevant sectoral policy documents, including a National Food and Nutrition Policy document approved by the Council of Ministers in July 2024.

The government continues to promote local purchasing and reliance on local production, with direct local purchases increasing from 300 tons in 2021 to more than 8500 tons in 2024.

It has integrated complementary activities into its school meal programme, including support for women's groups and nutrition education, based on its learnings from other countries.

Benin has actively advocated for and mobilized financial support from a range of international partners. It also benefits from technical support on Home Grown School Feeding through regional collaboration and is working with the Sustainable Financing Initiative to develop a comprehensive financing strategy.

Benin participates in regional and international advocacy on school meals, including the 9th African Day of School Feeding in Burundi and has become a model for other countries. For instance, it has received a recent delegation from Gabon to learn and raise awareness of its financing model.

Next steps

Priorities moving forward identified by the government include:

- Ensuring the sustainability of the programme.
- Infrastructure, including having drinking water available in all schools with canteens.
- Strengthened governance to reduce theft.
- Improving the capacity of small-scale producers to respond to the market.
- Integration of complementary activities.

Highlights

- Schools in rural areas are now covered by school canteens, increasing national coverage from 75% to 80% toward a 100% coverage goal by 2026. Analysis is underway to develop an approach for urban and peri-urban areas which make up the other 20%.
- Promotes local purchasing and production, with direct local purchases increasing from 300 tons in 2021 to more than 8500 tons in 2024.