

Achievements to date (2022 – 2024)

Figures as of December 2024

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Project Goal:

Contribute to improved food security and the reduction of malnutrition of women of reproductive age and children in Benin.

Objectives:

- i. To increase access to and consumption of healthy diets.
- ii. To increase resilience of household members, particularly women of reproductive age and children, to price and climate change-related shocks and stresses.

Project Reach and Target Groups:

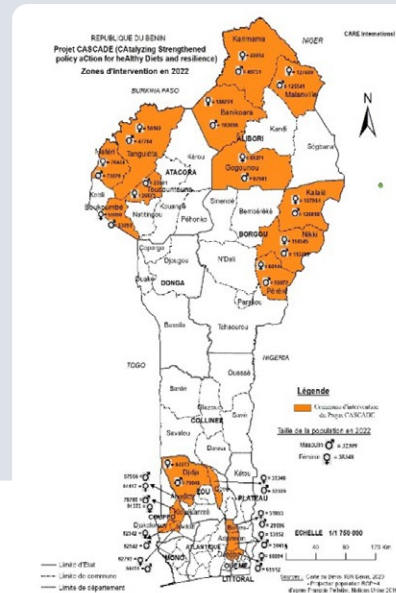
- Total reach – **353,869**
- Women of reproductive age (WRA, 15-49 years) – **19,095**

Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

Funding (EUR): 9.3 million

Term: 2022-2026

Where we work: 20 communes in the departments of Alibori, Atacora, Borgou, Couffo, Ouémé and Zou



Project Description

CASCADE Benin works to support and strengthen national nutrition policies in 20 communes in six of the country's 12 departments. Implemented by CARE and GAIN in partnership with nine local organizations, the project aligns with the priorities identified in Benin's National Food and Nutrition Policy (Politique Nationale de l'Alimentation et de la Nutrition (PNAN)). To achieve its objectives, **CASCADE** Benin engages with national and local stakeholders – in government, technical services, the private sector, civil society, and communities to:

- Support multisectoral food and nutrition coordination, planning and finance;
- Strengthen private sector support for and investments in nutrition;
- Empower women's groups and civil society to advocate for improved policy implementation;
- Strengthen the capacities of women's groups and caregivers in improved agricultural practices, nutrition and hygiene;
- Promote accountability of government service providers to deliver quality health and nutrition services; and
- Promote nutrition research and evidence-based learning and collaboration.

How We Work

CASCADE Benin supports Benin's **National Food and Nutrition Agency (ANAN)** and sectoral ministries to coordinate and operationalize national nutrition policies, while engaging the **Scaling Up Nutrition Business and civil society movements** to support, plan and advocate for nutrition investments and quality service delivery. Key national partners include the Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition in Benin (ASCINB), the National Federation of Women Agriculturalists of Benin, the National Association of Communes in Benin, and the Benin Nutrition Society (SNB). Commune-level partners include ERAD, Autre Vie Benin, SIA N'SON, Afric Mutualité, and GRASID.

Key activities include:

- Strengthening nutrition integration and investments in Communal Development Plans and Annual Investment Plans;
- Promoting joint assessments of nutrition service delivery and action planning;
- Supporting partner-led advocacy strategies and campaigns to promote awareness and support for nutrition;

- Capacity building of women’s grassroots organizations on climate-resilient agricultural production techniques, improved food processing techniques, and preparation of safe, nutritious foods;
- Organizing exchanges and consultations between civil society groups, women leaders and government stakeholders, researchers and Small and Medium Enterprises;
- Establishing and growing the SUN Business Network (SBN) to generate private sector support for nutrition; and
- Engaging households and community members to raise awareness on good nutrition practices and cultural norms.

Key Milestones and Achievements

Key results in 2024 include:

- Facilitated four strategic integration workshops, mobilizing 195 government stakeholders (including 40 women) to strengthen nutrition planning, coordination and investments across 20 municipalities;
- Conducted a study to assess the quality of nutrition governance and national plans of action in Benin, using the Nutrition Governance Index (NGI);
- Developed the SUN Business Network (SBN) strategic framework (2024-2028) and implementation plan (2024-2026) in Benin, followed by the launch of the network;
- Facilitated adoption of the Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS) approach into two national agricultural strategies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP). 958 farmers – including 440 women – received technical training and support;
- Reanimated or created 20 Municipal Consultation Frameworks, critical platforms for government ministries, development partners, and civil society organizations; and
- Organized reflective dialogues and awareness raising sessions for 355 grandmothers, mothers-in-law, husbands, and caregivers focused on promoting optimal feeding practices for women and children.

STORY OF CHANGE

Social Safety Nets for Nutrition: The Case of School Canteens

Strengthening the School Meals Program is a national priority in Benin. **CASCADE** is supporting the National Food and Nutrition Agency (ANAN) to improve the quality of nutrition services provided through its school canteens program, which serves children 5 to 14 of age. The project mobilized community members, school officials, educators, and government officials to jointly assess the quality of services and develop action plans. A total of 1,330 people – including 435 women – took part in the process in 2024, which included Community Performance Mapping and Community Score Cards to promote transparency, social accountability and trust. A key accomplishment was increased public and private investment in the quality of meals provided through the public school system.

IDRISSOU Yazizou, Executive Secretary for Bonou Commune Town Hall –

“The aim of the Community Score Card (CSC) is to act together to positively influence the quality, efficiency and admissibility of the services provided at different levels. The CSC is a tool that allows dialogue with stakeholders and facilitates a common understanding of difficulties and solutions to problems. It also facilitates accountability, transparency, stakeholder accountability, and promotes community participation, open dialogue and improves relations with service users. [Through the CSC process] the action plan will be operationalized gradually in our planning documents. The municipality has provided support for the school canteens in its budget, amounting to 4,892,500 FCFA (7,458 euros) and arrangements are underway for [local nutritious foods] to be provided.”



Further Information



<https://www.care.org/our-work/food-and-nutrition/nutrition/cascade/>

Contact Information

cascade@carenederland.org



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

