April 2023

The P20 in Benin: Data to leave no one behind in Atakora and Donga

report

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ARCH	Insurance for Human Capital Building
COSO	Support Programme for Initiatives in the Livestock Sector and Social Cohesion
CPS	Social Welfare Centre
DGCS-ODD	Directorate General for the Coordination and Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals
DI	Development Initiatives
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EHCVM	Harmonized Survey on Living Conditions of Households 2018-2019
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INStaD	National Institute of Statistics and Demography
INSAE	National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MdSC	Maison de la Société Civile (Civil Society House)
MICS	UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MDC	Ministry of Development and Coordination of Government Action
MND	Ministry of Digital Economy and Communications
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPHI	Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
P20	The poorest 20% of people
PAG	Government Action Programme

PDC   Communal Development Plan

PPP   Purchasing Power Parity

PND   National Development Plan

UN   United Nations

UNDP   United Nations Development Programme

RAVIP   Administrative Census for Population Identification

SDG   Sustainable Development Goal

SIDoFFE-NG   Integrated Data System on Family, Women and Children - Next Generation

SWEDD   Women's Empowerment and the Demographic Dividend in the Sahel

USAID   U.S. Agency for International Development

WAEMU   West African Economic and Monetary Union

Acknowledgements

Executive Summary

A review of the latest data available in Atakora and Donga shows that there are significant challenges to address to ensure that no one is left behind. Analysis of national poverty line data between 2015 and 2018, shows that monetary poverty in both departments increased, contrary to the national trend of a slight decrease. According to best estimates, poverty reduction has improved slightly since 2018.

Municipal-level data indicates that almost all municipalities in Atakora and Donga experienced an increase in monetary and non-monetary poverty between 2011 and 2015. No disaggregated estimates have been available since then. In 2015, the municipality of Copargo in Donga had the highest level of poverty in the country. At the departmental level, Atakora had the highest poverty rate in 2018.

Gender inequalities are a major concern for poverty reduction in Benin. Poverty is measured at the household level; however, women are more likely to live in poor households in Alibori, Donga and Borgou. More data is needed to explore deprivation at the individual level.

Data from the 2018 Harmonized Survey on Living Conditions of Households (EHCVM) shows that people experiencing poverty in Atakora and Donga have identified several key factors as main causes of poverty: lack of land, high cost of living, difficulty selling agricultural products, mismanagement/corruption, and lack of jobs.

Key informants referred to several other factors contributing to poverty in the north, including: a lack of civil registration, school desertion, employability, lack of family planning, emigration, and climate change.

Based on regional workshops, key informant interviews and data analysis, key recommendations include: increased data sharing about vulnerable populations, particularly on primary education; sharing data used for communal development plans and other local planning documents; and data disaggregation. Other important demands were made, such as conducting surveys of people living in poverty and taking their views into account; improving access to social welfare centres; and implementing planned activities to reach those at risk of being left behind.

Introduction

Development Initiatives (DI) collaborated with the consulting firm Le Baromètre, with the support of the Ministry of Development and Coordination of Government Action (MDC), the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INStaD) and the Maison de la Société Civile (MdSC), to better understand the data and their role in leaving no one behind in six municipalities of Benin's Atakora and Donga departments. This work is based on several years of collaboration between these actors, including a study carried out in 2019 on the P20 (people in the poorest 20%) in the departments of Alibori and Borgou.[1]

This report aims to provide an overview of the main observations from the in-depth consultations conducted by Le Baromètre with local government leaders, civil society organisations (CSOs) and local health and education staff in four municipalities of Atakora (Boukombé, Cobly, Kouandé and Tanguiéta) and two municipalities of Donga (Copargo and Ouaké). These municipalities were selected after consultation with the Ministry of Development, INStaD, Le Baromètre, the Maison de la Société Civile and Development Initiatives.

Box 1: Leaving no one behind

The first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) endorsed by all UN Member States in 2015 is to eradicate poverty in all its forms everywhere. The SDGs also commit countries to leave no one behind (LNOB) and to reach the furthest behind first. The Government of Benin has affirmed its commitment to these goals through the UN system, including through voluntary national reviews of its progress on SDGs in 2017, 2018 and 2020.

The UN guidance on "Leaving No One Behind" recommends collecting data to understand which populations are most likely to be excluded from progress measured across multiple dimensions. Data can provide insights into why people are being left behind, what needs to be done to include them, how to measure and track progress, and how to ensure accountability for leaving no one behind.[2]

The commitment to equality, fairness and non-discrimination is at the heart of the promise to "leave no one behind". Certain populations are generally considered to be at greater risk of being left behind, including women and girls, persons with disabilities, religious and ethnic minorities, older persons, people living in poverty and people living in areas subject to environmental shocks, among others. These people may be left behind for social, political, economic or environmental reasons.

Implicit in the LNOB approach is the need to go beyond averages and examine disaggregated data according to the dimensions in which exclusion may occur. This data needs to be discussed with local stakeholders to explore observations and

needs, and policies need to be developed to promote inclusion. Once inclusive policies are in place, disaggregated analysis is needed to monitor their effects.

This report builds on a commitment to better understand data on those at risk of being left behind.

These consultations collectively showed the challenges and opportunities that exist for Benin's commitment to development, the SDGs, and the promise to leave no one behind, as well as the potential of disaggregated data to identify needs and measure progress.

In 2021, the Government of Benin published its second Government Action Programme (PAG), which covers the period 2021–2026. The PAG provides objectives to the government and its partners, and supports the National Development Plan (2018–2025), the targets set by the government for the SDGs, as well as the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The current PAG is based on three main pillars:

- Strengthening democracy, the rule of law and good governance;
- Continuing structural transformation of the economy;
- Improving the social well-being of populations.

The PAG lists the axes and programmes to be implemented to support the three pillars. It estimates that its axes and programmes will reduce the proportion of people living in poverty to 36.5% by 2026, a decrease of two percentage points compared to the 2019 baseline.[3]

This report aims to support the government's commitment to leave no one behind in the context of the SDGs, as well as its efforts under pillar 3 of the PAG, which includes the following axes: "supporting access to basic social services and social protection" and "supporting the sustainable and equitable development of national spaces".

In the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Co-operation Report 2018, Senior Minister Abdoulaye Bio Tchané writes: "Our strategy and partnership for the poorest 20% is one of the pillars of the broader efforts of the Government of Benin to ensure that no one is left behind, both economically and in terms of health and well-being. Several of Benin's policies to reduce inequalities have been in place for many years. However, the government is renewing efforts in these policy areas with a stronger focus on the P20, while new programmes are being designed to reduce development gaps and focus on those most at risk of being left behind."[4]

At the time of this study, several ongoing crises are likely to widen inequality and leave people behind, including the COVID-19 pandemic, global commodity price shocks related to the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, climate change and inflation. Monitoring progress, especially for people living in poverty, is key to identifying ongoing challenges and priorities so that no one is left behind.

Methodological approach
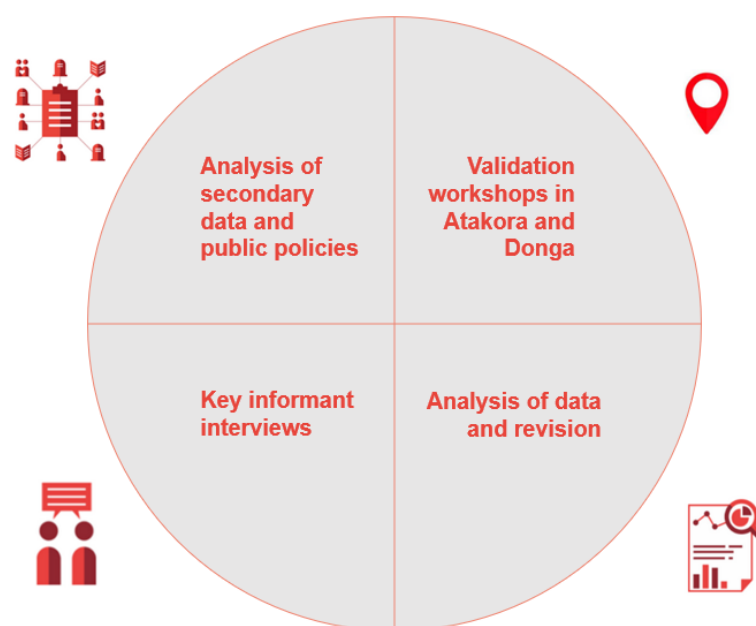
This report is based on an analysis conducted by DI and Le Baromètre. After reviewing publicly available documents and data on poverty and exclusion, Le Baromètre conducted interviews with key informants in four municipalities of Atakora (Boukombé, Cobly, Kouandé and Tanguiéta) and two municipalities of Donga (Copargo and Ouaké). These municipalities were selected after consultation between the Ministry of Development, INStaD, Le Baromètre, the Maison de la Société Civile and Development Initiatives.

Le Baromètre used semi-structured interviews to speak with key informants about the challenges of leaving no one behind in their department and the role of data. Interviewees mainly worked in government offices, including health centres, educational institutions, departmental offices, town halls, social welfare centres; some key informants were stakeholders at the national level, working, for example, at the National Civil Protection Agency.

In March 2023, two one-day workshops were held with local, departmental and national participants in Natitingou and in Djougou to validate the results.

Quantitative analysis was carried out by DI based on data published by INStaD and other sources cited. Unless otherwise stated, references to poverty are based on the national poverty line established by INStaD.

Trends for people at risk of being left behind

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Benin experienced modest improvements in reducing the proportion of its population living in poverty, according to INStaD's analysis. In 2018/19, 38.5% of the population was below the national income poverty line compared to 39.3% in 2015.

According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita growth fell to 1% (adjusted for inflation) in 2020 but rebounded to 4% in 2021. Growth was estimated at 3% in 2022.[5] The World Bank estimates that extreme poverty may have fallen by 0.1 of a percentage point in Benin in 2020, by 0.4 percentage points in 2021 and continued to decline by 0.3 percentage points in 2022. The World Bank cites the impact of the war in Ukraine, security threats from terrorism in the north, and trade disruptions as pressures on the country's fiscal situation.[6]

Focus on Atakora and Donga

In Atakora, the department with the highest poverty rate, 60.5% of its population were living below the national monetary poverty line in 2018/19, an increase from 2015 (53.9%). There was also an increase in the poverty rate in Donga, which rose from 36.4% in 2015 to 43.4% in 2019. Atakora also had the highest non-monetary poverty rate (an index based on housing standards, physical asset ownership and sanitation), rising from 46.9% to 49.6% between 2015 and 2019, while Donga was below the national average of 26.1% in 2018/19 with a rate of 22.9%. However, non-monetary poverty has also increased in Donga since 2015 (18.6%).[7]

Figure 2: Percentage of the population living in income poverty in Donga, Atakora and Benin overall.

Percentage of the population living below the national poverty line

■2015 ■2018
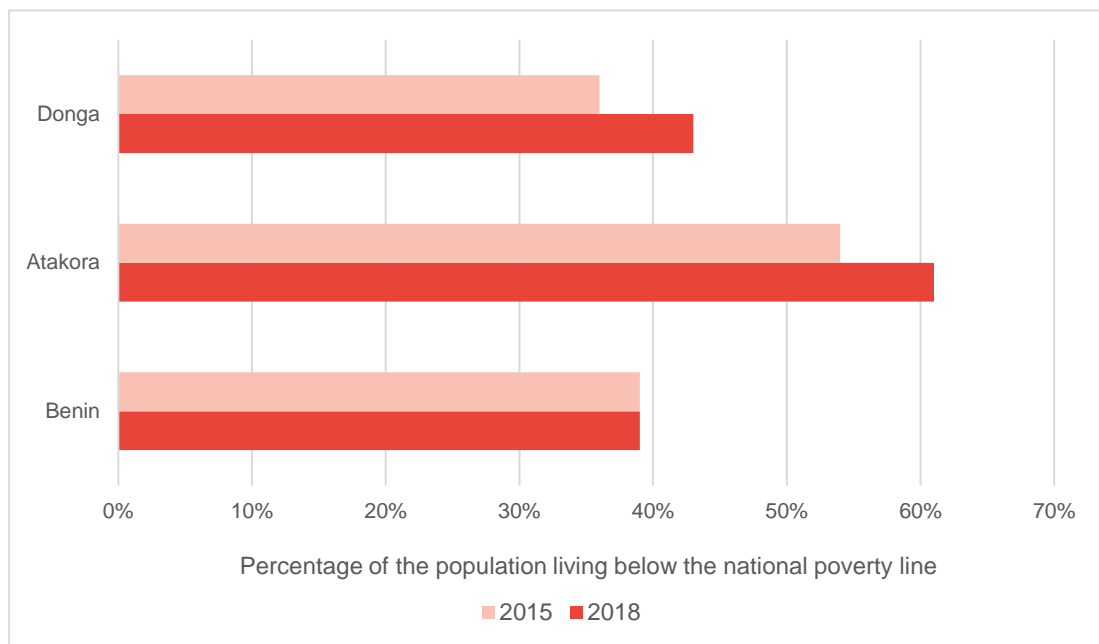
Source: Development Initiatives based on Note on poverty, National Institute of Statistics and Demography of Benin, 2020.

According to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's (OPHI) Multidimensional Poverty Index, out of all Beninese departments, Atakora had the second largest share of its population (81%) living in multidimensional poverty after Alibori (90%). This index was calculated from the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2017/18. According to this data, 71% of the population in Donga is living in multidimensional poverty, compared to a national average of 66%. These figures show an increase in the rate of people living in multidimensional poverty compared to 2014: 79% in Atakora, 69% in Donga and 63% nationally.[8]

Beyond the income data from INStaD and the multidimensional poverty statistics derived from the DHS, it was not possible to produce another analysis that informs us about the particular dimensions and trends of poverty and inequality in Atakora and Donga. However, a review of recent data and evidence at the national level gives an indication of likely inequalities that can help identify those left behind.

Gender

A mobile-based survey was launched in August 2021 to track the impact of Covid-19 in Benin by UN Women, INStaD, UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Observatory for Family, Women and Children, and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance. In this survey, 82% of women reported losing income due to the pandemic, compared to 71% of men.[9]

In 2022, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Pardee Center for Future Studies and UN Women published estimates of extreme poverty figures for each country.[10]

Their estimates and forecasts suggest that women experience more poverty than men in Benin and that this gap is likely to persist or even widen.

Figure 3: Estimates of the percentage of women and men living below the extreme poverty line ($2.15 per day) in Benin.
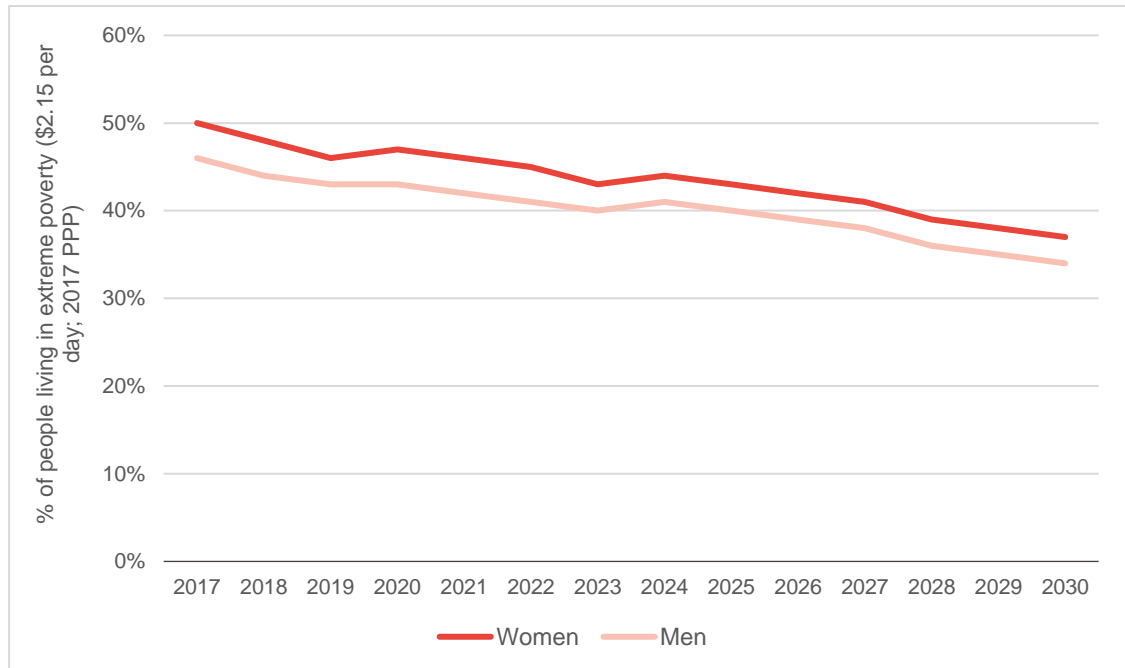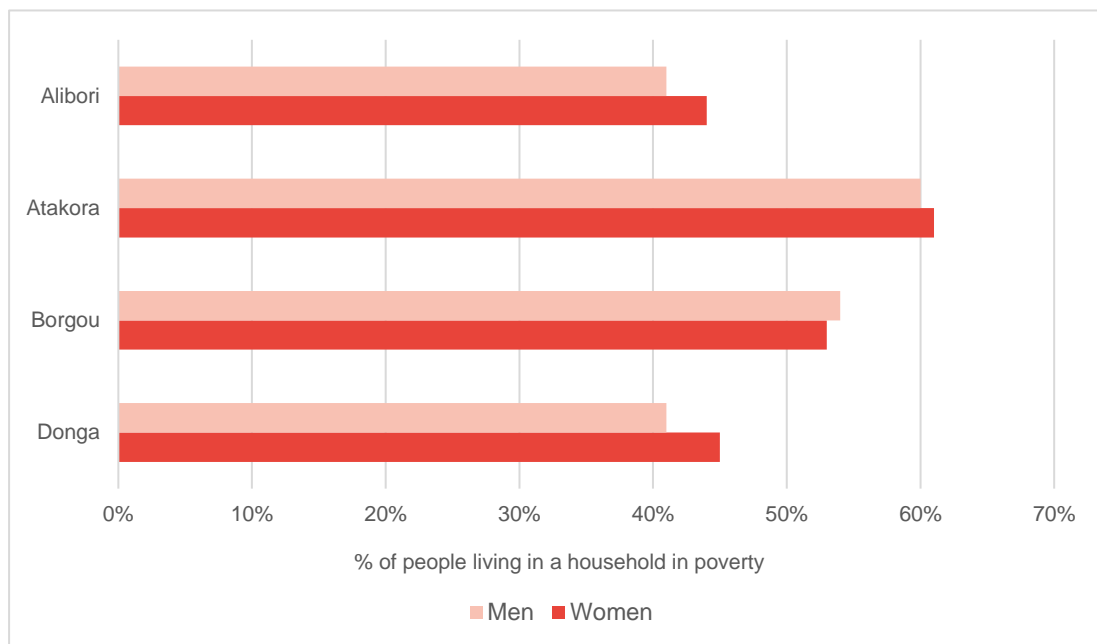

Source: Development Initiatives based on UNDP, Pardee Center for Future Research, UN Women (2022).

The Harmonized Survey of Living Conditions of Households (EHCVM) indicates that female-headed households in Atakora have a poverty rate of 63%, compared to 60% for male-headed households. In Donga, female-headed households are less likely to fall below the national poverty line, with a rate of 34% compared to 44% for male-headed households. Regarding non-monetary poverty, female-headed households in Donga have a slightly higher poverty rate than male-headed households, with rates of 24% and 23% respectively. In Atakora, the gap is much wider, with 64% of female-headed households experiencing non-monetary poverty, compared with 48% of male-headed households.[11] The analysis of household heads has limitations because household structure is closely linked to many factors that may not reflect the experience of poverty by household members.

Figure 4: Percentage of the population living in a household experiencing income poverty (national poverty line 2011–2015), by sex.

Source: Development Initiatives based on EHCVM, 2018.

It is also possible to disaggregate within households based on EHCVM microdata. In Donga, 45% of women live in a household experiencing poverty, compared to 41% of men. Similarly, 44% of women in Alibori live in a household experiencing poverty compared to 41% of men. In Borgou, women (53%) are slightly less likely to live in a household below the poverty line than men (54%). While the gap is just as narrow in Atakora, the trend is the other way around, with 61% of women and 60% of men living in households below the poverty line. It is worth noting that these figures always depend on the definition of poverty at the household level and do not consider inequalities within households.

Figure 5: Percentage of women who have been married and live in poverty, by age at first marriage.

% of women who have ever been married living in a household below the national poverty line

■ First marriage after age 18   ■ First marriage before age 18
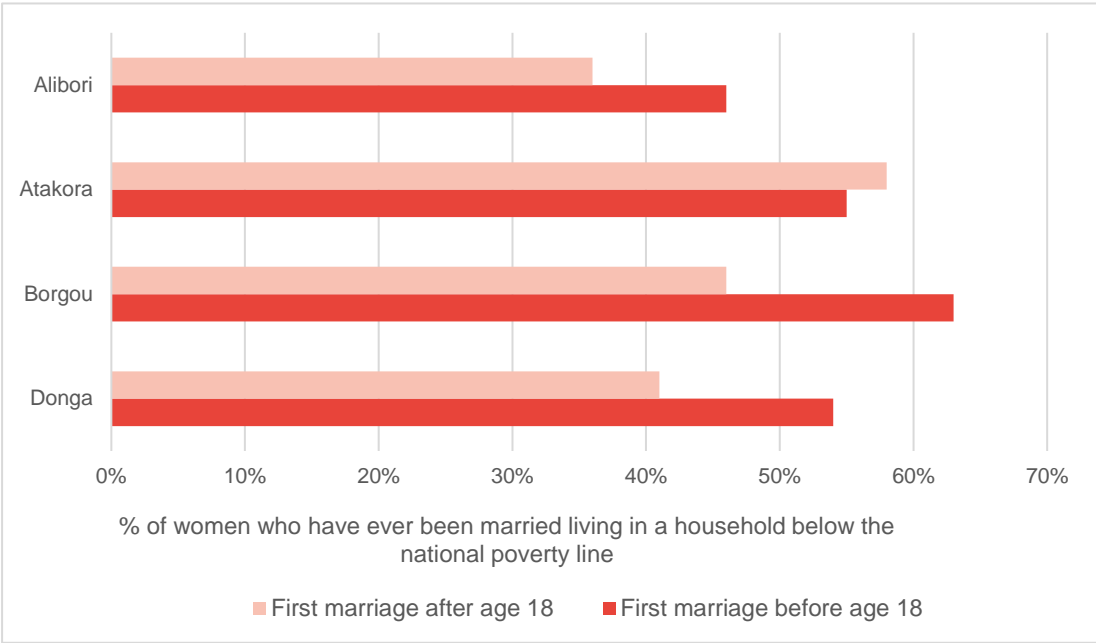
Source: Development Initiatives based on EHCVM, 2018.

Early marriage and pregnancy were cited by key informants as important causes of poverty. An analysis of the EHCVM microdata suggests that there is a correlation between a woman being married before the age of 18 and poverty. Figure 5 shows this in three of the four northern departments.

Municipal-level data

Figure 6: Percentage of the population living in income poverty (national poverty line 2011–2015) in Atakora, by municipality.
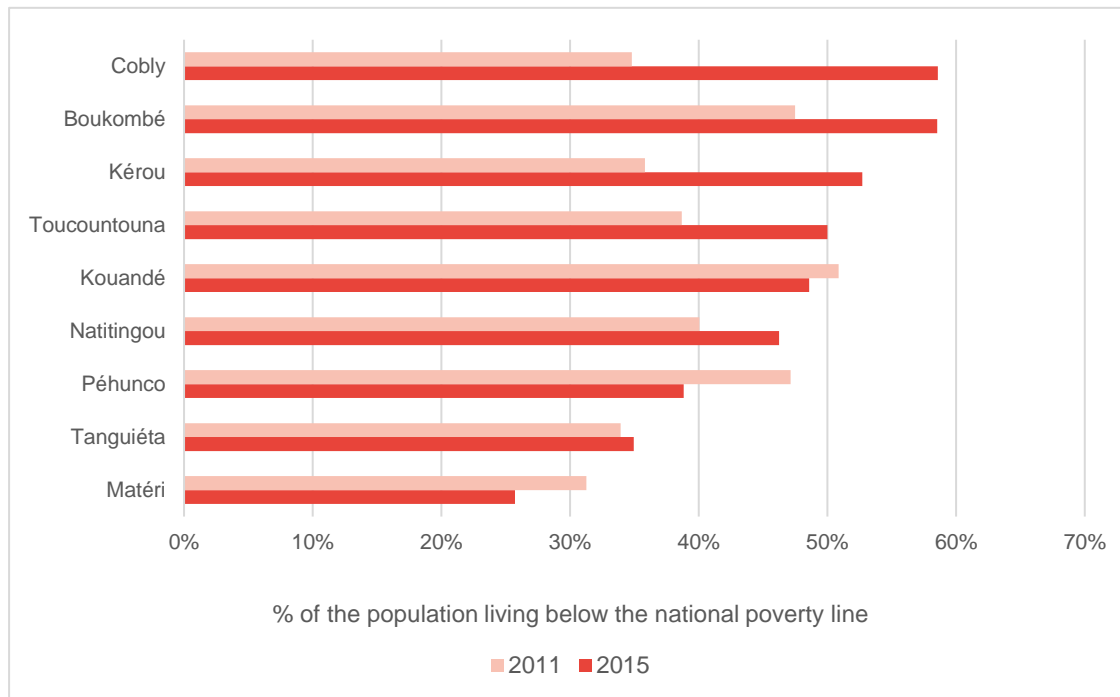
% of the population living below the national poverty line

■ 2011 ■ 2015

Source: INSAE, UNDP, Benin-European Union Cooperation, UNICEF, GIZ, German Cooperation, May 2015, Integrated Modular Survey on Living Conditions of Households 3rd Edition (Emicov-2015) Preliminary Report.

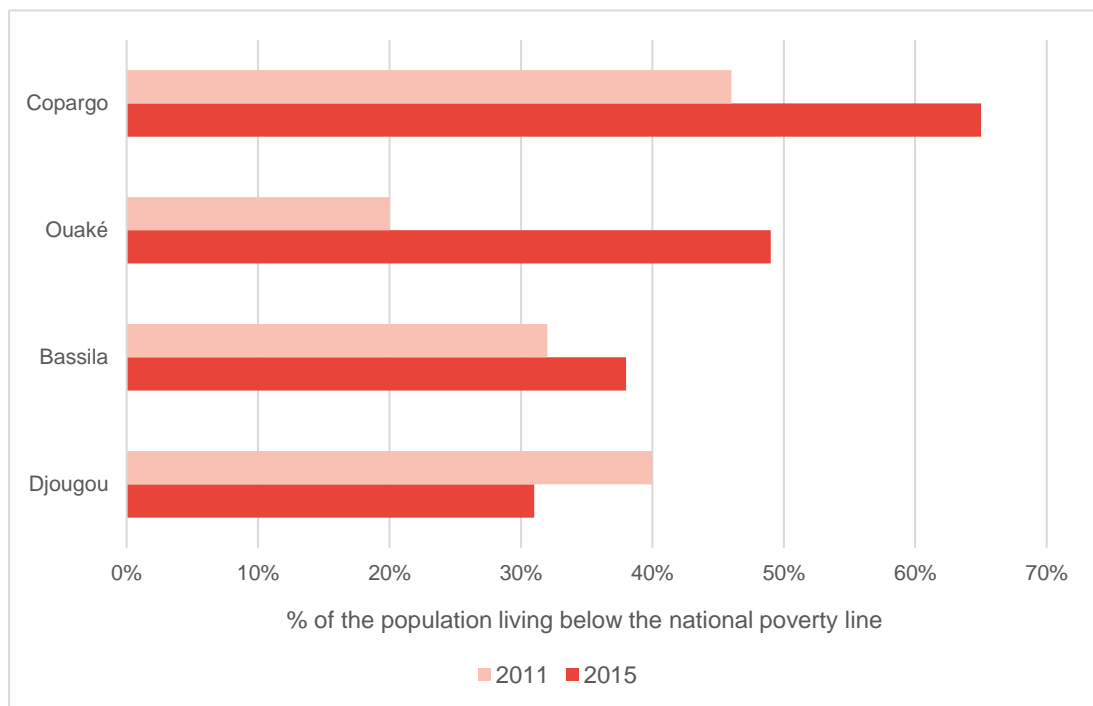Source: INSAE, UNDP, Benin-European Union Cooperation, UNICEF, GIZ, German Cooperation, May 2015, Integrated Modular Survey on Living Conditions of Households 3rd Edition (Emicov-2015) Preliminary Report.

No official poverty estimates at the municipal level have been published with the 2018 data. However, data published for the 2011 and 2015 surveys suggest that Copargo had a higher share of its population experiencing poverty in 2015 (65%) than any other municipality in the country.[12]

Disability

Data on disability in Benin is limited. The Ministry of Social Affairs has data on some indicators concerning the services sought by persons with disabilities and this may be the case for other social protection programmes. However, there is no solid data for disaggregation by disability. The imminent release of the 2021 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey is expected to include data on disability among children.

Religion

With respect to religion, key informants indicated that people belonging to particular religious groups may be more likely to experience poverty. It should be noted that these perceptions do not constitute evidence, since the people best able to enlighten us on the drivers of poverty are those who live in poverty and have the lived experience. An analysis of the EHCVM microdata indicates that religion is correlated with poverty in some dimensions. In Alibori and Borgou, Christian households are much less likely to live in poverty than Muslims or Animists. In Atakora and Donga, Christians are more likely to be in poverty than Muslims, but Animists are most likely to live in poverty. This data does not indicate that religions are

the source of poverty, nor that cultural practices associated with the interpretation of these religions are the source of poverty. Discrimination and prejudice against certain religions could certainly increase a household's risk of poverty. Therefore, this data simply indicates a correlation.

Figure 8: Percentage of the population living in income poverty (national poverty line), by religion.
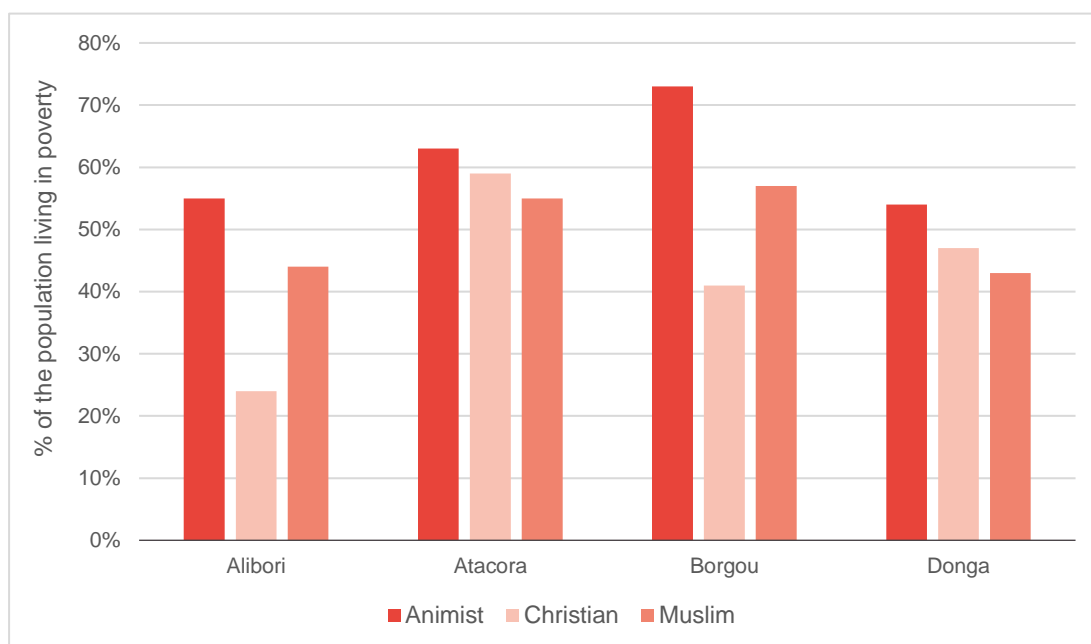
Source: Development Initiatives based on EHCVM, 2018.
Note: the percentage of people with no religion or belonging to other religions is too small to make a precise disaggregation, therefore these categories are not included in this analysis.

Social protection

One of the government's main priorities is to reduce poverty and inequality through social protection systems. The country's largest social protection scheme is the Insurance for Human Capital Building (Beninese acronym: ARCH). This programme includes support for households living in extreme and non-extreme poverty and persons with disabilities, training and retirement programmes for artisans, access to health care and access to credit for people in informal employment. It also includes the creation of biometric identity cards for people living in extreme poverty with the aim of developing a digitised social register of beneficiaries through the recently created National Agency for Social Protection (Beninese acronym: ANPS). This programme was piloted in seven municipalities, including Copargo and Ouaké, which were visited as part of this study. By the end of 2023, the PAG aims to distribute one million identification cards to people living in extreme poverty. By 2025, the goal is to enable four million people to access health insurance through the programme.[13]

In addition, the PAG includes objectives to promote gender equality. These include activities such as the construction of centres for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). The government is also participating in the Women's Empowerment and the Demographic Dividend in the Sahel (SWEDD), which provides information on reproductive health and

services, as well as training for young women in and out of school, and conditional cash transfers for girls in school.[14]

To monitor the services provided by social services, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance has created the Integrated Data System on Family, Women and Children – Next Generation (SIDoFFE-NG).[15] Access to the web portal of this system is limited to social workers. Some key informants expressed concerns about the system, noting that it only includes people who go to social welfare centres (CPS), potentially missing people who could benefit from services but do not go to a CPS.

Challenges for poverty eradication

Figure 9: Perceptions of the key causes of poverty according to people in Atakora living in poverty and the rest of the population in Atakora.
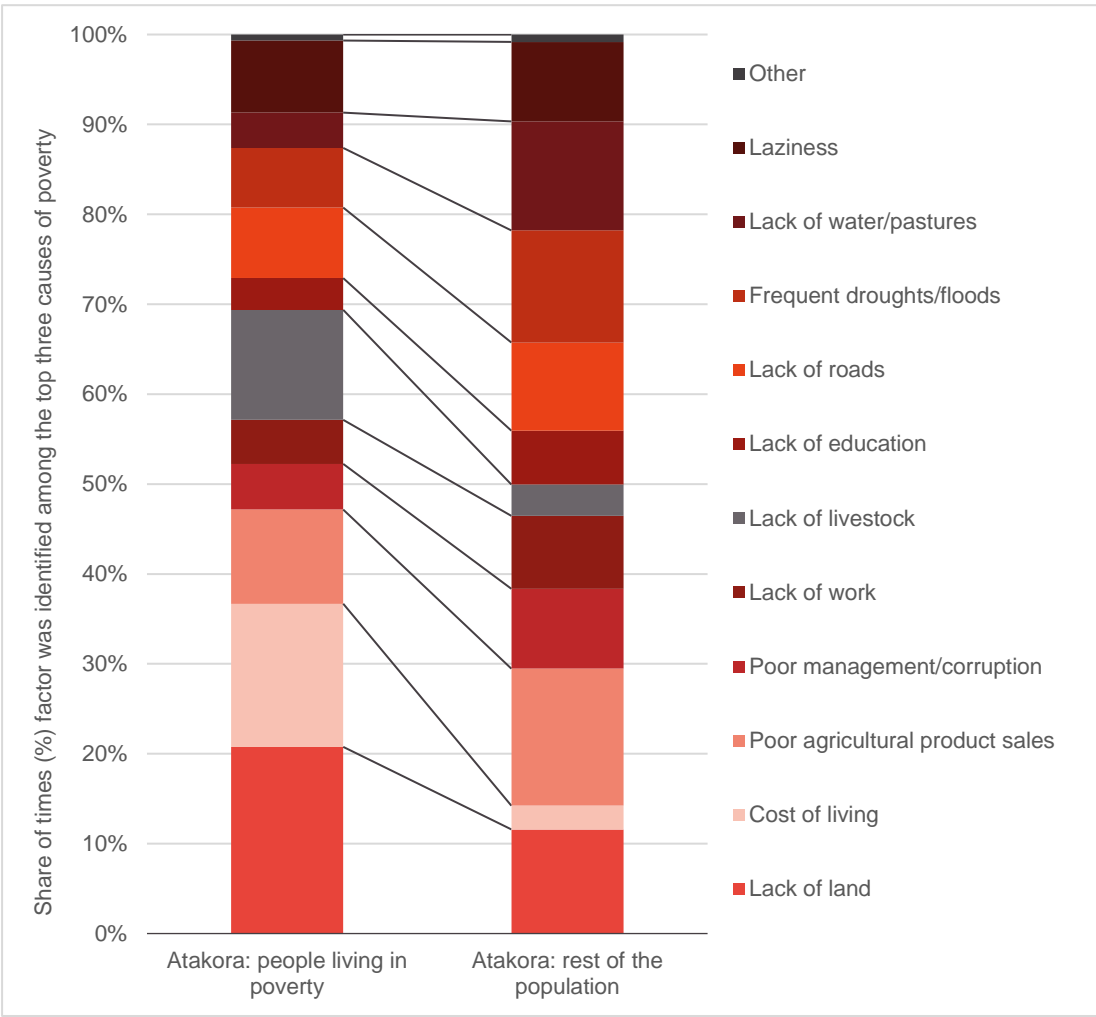
Source: Development Initiatives calculations based on EHCVM, 2018.
Notes: The subcategories listed in the legend are shown in the same order in the bars of the chart. Grey trend lines show the differing proportional representation of categories across the two groups surveyed.

People living in poverty in Atakora and Donga identify lack of land, high cost of living, poor sales of agricultural products, and lack of jobs as key reasons for poverty.

Figures 9 and 10 show that perceptions of the key reasons for poverty differ depending on whether survey respondents live in poverty or not.

Figure 10: Perceptions of the key causes of poverty according to people in Donga living in poverty and the rest of the population in Donga.
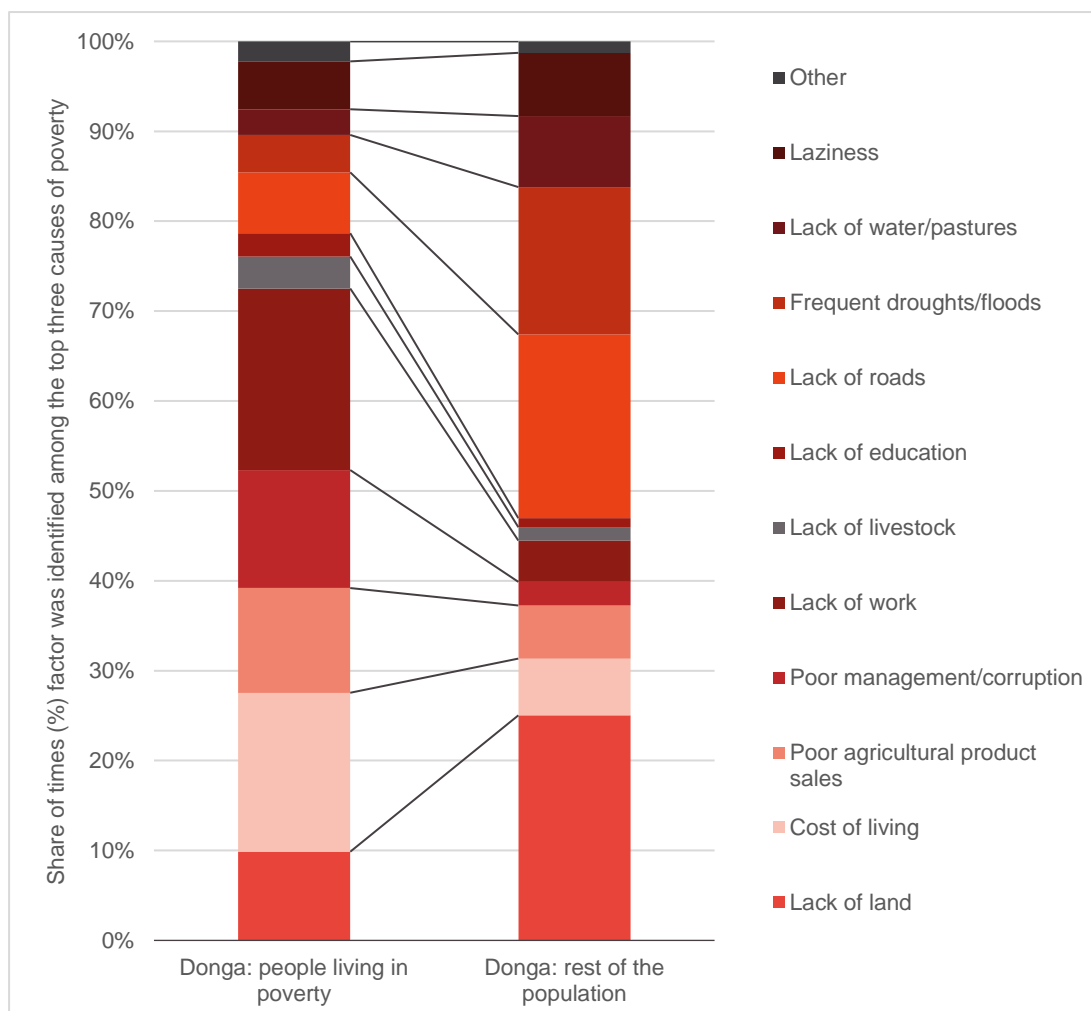

Source: Development Initiatives calculations based on EHCVM, 2018.
Notes: The subcategories listed in the legend are shown in the same order in the bars of the chart. Grey trend lines show the differing proportional representation of categories across the two groups surveyed.

Those who participated in the validation workshops in Atakora and Donga expressed several concerns related to poverty eradication:

- Lack of civil registration documents
- Education system and student retention
- Employability and socio-professional integration, especially of young people and women
- Gender inequality and GBV
- Lack of family planning
- Emigration

- Inefficient agricultural practices
- Climate change and environmental challenges.

Environmental challenges

Key informants identified soil depletion as a major issue in Atakora and Donga. Climate change was also discussed, with respondents reporting delayed, infrequent and brief rainfall. Pockets of drought and high winds cause damage and create new obstacles for farmers. These environmental phenomena pose a threat to food security and livelihoods.

In addition, natural barriers have been observed as a challenge when they isolate certain populations, especially during the rainy season, due to the overflow of some riverbeds. This can reduce access to government services and markets for certain populations.

Challenges related to the design and implementation of public policies and actions

Key informants and workshop participants also identified other public policy challenges:

- Access to agricultural inputs and other productive resources is not timely enough.
- Limited public policies in relation to the specific needs of populations, especially the P20.
- Financial resources mobilised for the benefit of people experiencing poverty and made available to decentralised government services are poorly evaluated and therefore insufficient according to the actors.
- The amounts allocated to those in poverty in social welfare centres are unable to meet demand.
- Unequal income distribution (social justice).
- The social protection system provides a low coverage rate of existing needs.
- Land reform and other sensitive issues that directly affect the lives of people living in poverty are partially addressed from an overly technical perspective.
- Low synergy of actions.
- Scarcity of rigorous and systematic monitoring, evaluation and implementation of public policies and actions.

Data landscape

The national statistics office, formerly known as the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE), was renamed the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INStaD) in 2021. Previously housed by the Ministry of Development, it now sits under the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Figure 11: An ideal data ecosystem.
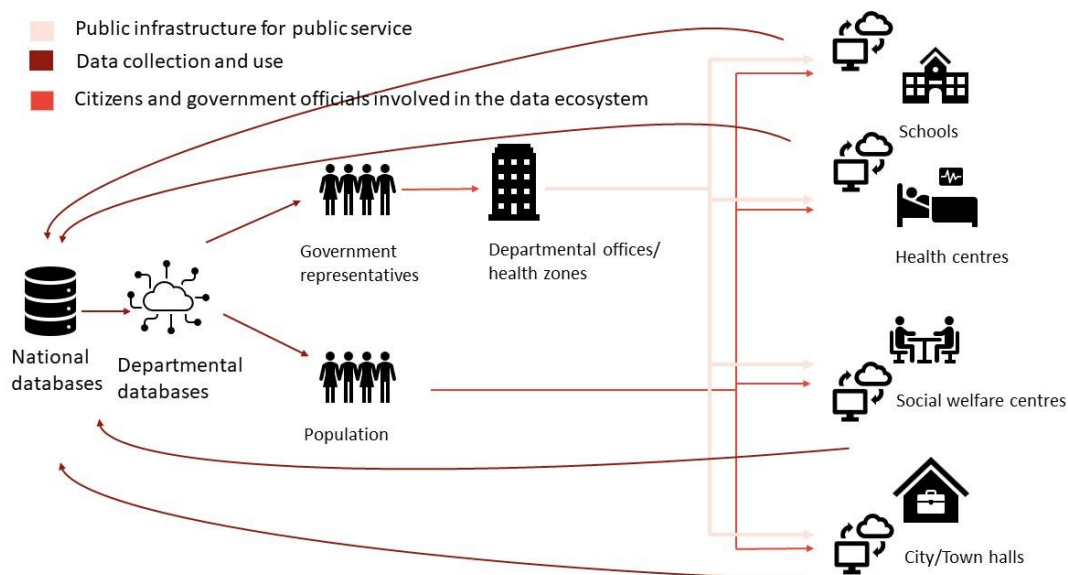
Source: Development Initiatives, adapted from Figure 2 in Development Initiatives, The data side of leave no one behind, 2021, p.10. Available at: https://www.devinit.org/resources/data-side-leaving-no-one-behind/

Although significant progress has been made since the previous DI study conducted in Alibori and Borgou in 2019, many barriers to obtaining and using data for public policies in Benin remain. Figure 11 illustrates the ideal flow of data from local to national actors, and vice versa. According to key informants, in reality much of the data tends to flow one way only, and data producers are frequently unaware of the impact of their data. Respondents often expressed a desire for better access to data or analysis.

There are several key datasets that can provide insights into who is being left behind in Benin. The table below provides some details on these datasets and the challenges that local key informants and the authors of this report have identified with these sources.

Table 1: Key datasets providing information to support leaving no one behind

Data source	Description	Challenges
ACCESS	Database to target municipalities for infrastructural interventions.	Data can be shared on request.
Insurance for Human Capital Building (ARCH)	Database for the social protection programme with a list of each household identified as extreme poor or non-extreme poor.	Not shared with stakeholders.
Routine health data (DHIS2)	Digitised system for collecting, validating and sharing health data.	Key informants did not identify any issues with the data system. Data is generally updated and disaggregated. Sharing analysis could be helpful.
Harmonized Survey of Living Conditions of Households (EHCVM) 2018–2019	Main source of data to measure income and non-monetary poverty.	A brief analytical report and microdata are available, but few key informants know how to find these resources. A longer analytical report has not been published.
Harmonized Survey of Living Conditions of Households (EHCVM) 2021–2022	Part of the same series as EHCVM 2018 but no results have yet been published.	Not yet published.
MICS 2014	Data source on multidimensional poverty.	The results disseminated have been little used by local actors.
MICS 2021	Results not yet published.	
Routine data on primary education	The system for collecting and sharing data exists, but details are not available.	There is no website for the Ministry of Primary Education. There is no statistical yearbook. The latest published data precedes the Covid-19 pandemic.
Integrated Data System for the Family, Women and Children-New Generation (SIDoFFE-NG)	National electronic database for social protection. Includes case management and data on violence against children and women, interventions for	As of 2023, access to all data is limited to social workers.

the elderly, etc. The
dashboard provides detailed
and disaggregated data.

There is still significant potential to improve the collection and sharing of administrative data. For example, the Ministry of Primary Education does not currently have a website, which severely limits the amount of information available from a critical ministry to ensure that no one is left behind.

The creation of the SIDoFFE-NG, digitised by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance, means that there is a digitised national system for monitoring people seeking social services, with specific modules on GBV, disability and child protection. While some interviewees welcomed this innovation, others regretted that the system was not easier to access or complete. In addition, access to this database is limited to persons who are authorised to do so because they enter data into the system. An open data platform could increase the use of the data while protecting the anonymity of individuals.

Potential data users also noted that access to microdata and aggregate data is limited. In addition, little is known about the production, access and use of data. For example, the Harmonized Survey of Household Living Conditions 2018–2019 (EHCVM) has been used in World Bank reports for over a year but only a brief analysis has been published. However, data may be downloaded from a World Bank or West African Economic and Monetary Union (French-language acronym: UEMOA) website[16] if users disclose their intended use and agree to the terms and conditions.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, INStaD, in collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank, conducted four rapid mobile phone surveys to track trends and needs, a significant technological advance. Although potential users can request access to microdata from these studies,[17] little information has been published about them on INStaD's website. At the time of publication of this report, the website was not functioning.

Several interviewees spoke about the ARCH database and the usefulness such a resource could provide for their work. However, for reasons of confidentiality, the central government does not share the data with them. A question remains as to the extent to which aggregated data could be shared with stakeholders or published in a way that would protect the privacy of individuals while providing useful information to local government officials and other actors.

Most of the data is directed to national sources and little analysis or information is shared with the people who contributed to the data. A robust data dissemination policy and increased exchanges with users could solve much of this problem.

Recommendations from the workshops

Atakora

- Publish data produced at the primary and secondary education level to facilitate user access.
- Facilitate collaboration between INStaD, DGCS-ODD and Le Baromètre for the provision of information to characterise vulnerable populations in order to support decision-making at the decentralised level.
- Liaise with Atakora's Departmental Directorate for Development for the municipal diagnostic reports to be shared with consultants.
- Systematically consider the disaggregation of data in collection operations.

Donga

- Conduct surveys that incorporate the voices and perspectives of marginalised people to understand the drivers of poverty.
- Strengthen partnerships with actors at decentralised levels (CSOs, local elected officials and religious leaders, for example).
- Operationalise the recommendations contained in the report by establishing an action plan.
- Increase the number of social welfare centres in Donga based on the geographical position of the localities.
- Implement actions related to the orientations of projects such as COSO, SWEDD, ACCESS, etc.

Conclusion

Benin faces significant challenges to achieve its goal of improving the well-being of its population. On several indicators, progress has been slow in the years leading up to the Covid-19 pandemic. In fact, conditions may have even worsened in Atakora and Donga. However, the impact of Covid-19 has been significantly mitigated, thanks in part to a robust social protection programme. Nevertheless, the country faces additional barriers, especially in its northern departments, including price shocks related to the war in Ukraine, migration, potential spillovers from conflicts in neighbouring countries, and climate change. Gender and other forms of inequality are also risk factors.

Many of the challenges observed in the data landscape are similar to what DI has found in other contexts.[18] Lessons learned from data landscaping in Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Uganda and Zimbabwe show that in different contexts, many people in government wish to have a sustainable data infrastructure and engage with users, but resources are limited and obstacles remain.[19] Benin's recent progress in parts of its data systems should provide an additional incentive to allocate increasing resources to empower decision-makers in town halls, schools and ministries to provide better support to those most likely to be excluded from progress.

Notes

[1] Development Initiatives, The P20 in Benin: from consultation to consensus, 2020. Available at: https://www.devinit.org/resources/p20-benin-consultation-consensus/

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