

MOMENTUM

Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity



February 2024

BENIN

Strengthening Routine Immunization

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity in Benin		
	Where we work Departments: Atlantique, Couffo, Mono, Plateau Communes: 25 Country-level stakeholders: Ministry of Health, National Agency for Primary Health Care, Department of Vaccination and Logistics, Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance, National Immunization Technical Advisory Group	Population Country: 13.7 million ¹ Project-supported areas: 4.1 million

BACKGROUND

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity (the project) applies best practices and explores innovations to increase equitable immunization coverage in USAID-supported countries. The project is USAID's flagship technical assistance mechanism for immunization in 18 countries around the world. It builds countries' capacity to identify and overcome barriers to reaching zero-dose and under-immunized children and older populations with life-saving vaccines and other integrated health services, including rebuilding immunization systems adversely affected by the pandemic. It also supports COVID-19 vaccine rollout across countries with a wide range of circumstances and needs.

The project's technical assistance in Benin focuses on increasing access to and demand for vaccination services by strengthening the capacity of the health care system. The project reinforces data management for improved decision making at national and sub-national levels and establishes systems for calculating and tracking achievement toward immunization targets. The project improves supply chain data management and the cold chain maintenance system to ensure vaccines are available when and where needed.

¹ Population Reference Bureau, 2022. <https://www.prb.org/international/geography/benin/>

The project will collaborate closely with the Department of Vaccination and Logistics and local non-government organizations. It will complement the work of other USAID implementing partners and technical support mechanisms, as well as the World Health Organization, United Nations Children’s Fund, The Vaccine Alliance, Clinton Health Access Initiative, Preventive Medicine Agency, and other immunization partners in Benin.

AREAS OF SUPPORT

DEMAND GENERATION

As decided during community co-creation workshops, the project will provide evidence-based information on vaccination to underscore the importance of routine immunization (RI) for maintaining healthy communities. The project will engage community-based actors, including civil society organizations, community radio stations, and religious leaders to increase demand for RI. It will also strengthen community health worker skills in interpersonal communication, immunization message and materials development, community mobilization techniques, group discussion facilitation, and communication, response and reporting of adverse events following immunization.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Another critical component of the project’s work is strengthening the capacity of the health system at various levels. It is working with the Department of Vaccination and Logistics to update and disseminate national directives on vaccination and the National Immunization Strategy. At the health facility level, the project will organize workshops, coaching, and supportive supervision to build the capacity of health workers to deliver high-quality vaccination services. It will also build health workers’ knowledge and understanding of how to handle multi-dose vials in alignment with national policies and directives.

SUPPLY CHAIN STRENGTHENING

The project will support improved supply chain data management and cold chain best practices, including the establishment of a preventive maintenance system to ensure the availability of functional cold chain equipment. It will also support the adaptation of vaccine waste management and environmental mitigation plans.

IMPROVED DATA MANAGEMENT

The project will collaborate with health system actors to identify needed improvements to site-level data entry tools and processes. The project will support processes related to the transition to District Health Information Software to improve data management and availability. As the Government of Benin prepares for an anticipated national electronic immunization registry, the project will work with the DVL and key partners to provide technical guidance on a mix of short-term solutions coupled with longer-term roadmaps and strategic plans to ensure that Benin’s digital health ecosystem is adequately strengthened.