

Country Disease Outlook

Benin

August 2023



African Region

Background

The Republic of Benin is a country in West Africa. It is bordered by Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria and Togo. It is a lower-middle income country with a GDP per capita of US\$ 1,319 (2021) and has a population of 13 million (2021).

Key points

- ◆ Benin has a high burden of communicable and non-communicable disease (NCDs), with the latter making up 39% of deaths in 2019.
- ◆ Benin improved its child survival rates between 2015 and 2021, however it is far from meeting the SDG targets for neonatal or under-five mortality rates.
- ◆ Benin had 57,667 people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021 and has not yet achieved the 95-95-95 goals for HIV, reaching 85-98-79 in 2021.
- ◆ Benin is endemic for four of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA). In 2020, 82% of the 5.5 million targeted were reached with MDA.
- ◆ Benin has not yet met the 90% target coverage rates for vaccination in children, reaching 76% with the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine and 68% with the first dose of measles-containing vaccine in 2021. The country should consider implementing catch-up strategies for vaccination to reach its under-immunized and zero-dose children.

UHC/CN

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases
WHO Regional Office for Africa





2019

39%

of deaths due to NCDs

Broad disease outlook

The country has a high burden of both communicable (such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) and non-communicable disease (NCDs). The latter was estimated to have caused 39% of deaths in 2019.

Communicable diseases

Malaria

Malaria remains a public health problem in Benin with an estimated 5 million cases in 2021 (with incidence rate of 383.4 cases per 1,000), resulting in 11,154 deaths. Benin's malaria incidence rate has been fairly steady since 2015 and the country is off track to meet the targets set by the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria.

Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

In 2021, incidence of tuberculosis for Benin was 53 cases per 100,000 people. The mortality rate of TB cases (all forms, excluding HIV coinfection) has remained fairly stable since 2015, increasing from 9.2 to 9.8 per 100,000 population in 2021. The TB mortality rate among HIV-positive people has fallen slightly from 3.1 to 2.9 in the same period.

Progress has been made on the 95-95-95 goals, although treatment rates are relatively low:

- ▲ 85% of people living with HIV that know their status.
- ▲ 98% of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ 79% of people living with HIV and on treatment who are virally suppressed.

Approximately 57,667 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2021.

Neglected tropical diseases

Benin was endemic for five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), namely lymphatic filariasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, schistosomiasis, and trachoma. In 2020, 7.4 million of the 8.5 million targeted (82%) were reached with MDA.

In April 2023, WHO validated Benin as having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem. Other notable NTDs that remain endemic are Human Africa trypanosomiasis (*gambiense*), leishmaniasis (cutaneous and visceral), leprosy, taeniasis and cysticercosis, and rabies.

Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are a significant health problem in Benin. The age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer and Diabetes) was 731 per 100,000 in males and 579 in females in 2021.

Benin has implemented initial efforts on the NCD progress indicators related to NCD policy and plan, NCD guidelines, tobacco taxes, tobacco smoke free/pollution and tobacco advertising bans, however progress has been more limited on tobacco media campaigns, alcohol availability, alcohol advertising restrictions, salt policies, trans fats policies, marketing to children and physical activity guidelines.

Childhood Immunization

Benin's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been suboptimal. In 2021, the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine was 76%, while the measles vaccination coverage for the first dose was 68%. The coverage rates dipped in 2020 but recovered to previous levels in 2021. Benin experienced outbreaks of measles in 2018 and 2019.

In 2021, there were an estimated 109,181 under-immunised children and 72,787 zero-dose children. Benin should consider the implementation of appropriate catch-up vaccination strategies to protect these populations from vaccine-preventable diseases and reduce the probability of outbreaks in the future.

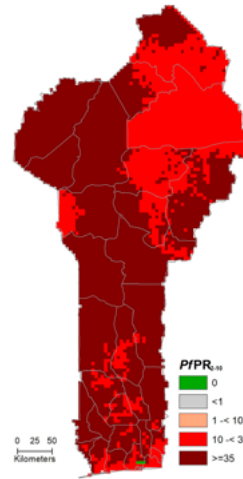
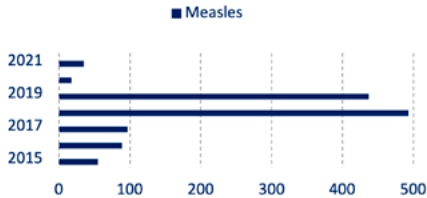
Child survival

Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates, the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 98 to 84 per 1,000 live births between 2015 and 2021, remaining well above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate decreased from 32 to 29 per 1,000 live births in the same period, exceeding the SDG target of 12.

MALARIA

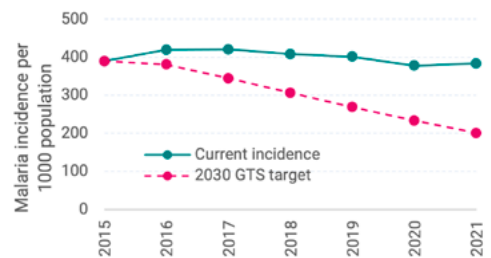
POPULATION AT RISK IN 2022	TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2021	TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2021
13.0 million people	5.0 million	11,154

ITN use in children under five years (**76.3%**) and **18.7%** use of ACTs among those with fever for whom care was sought and received a finger or heel prick.

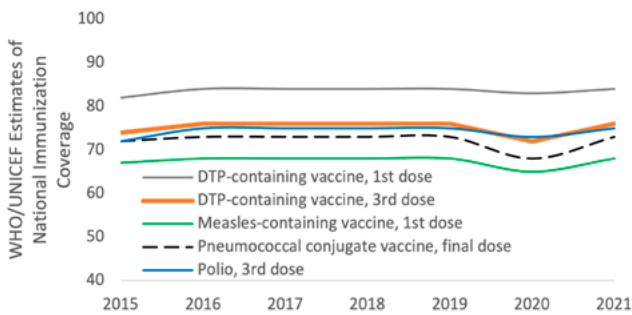


Plasmodium falciparum malaria prevalence in children in Benin 2020. Estimates from the Malaria Atlas project

Malaria incidence in Benin since 2015 compared to GTS targets shows that the country is off track on GTS targets



EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN



Zero dose 72,787

Under-immunized 109,181

WUENIC estimates show that, for most basic antigens, coverage is less than 80%.

Benin experienced outbreaks of measles most recently in 2019.

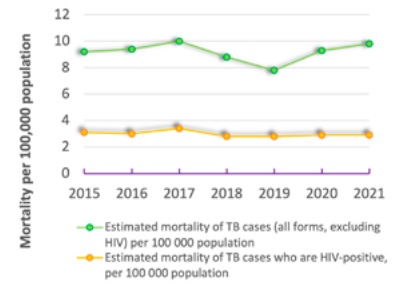
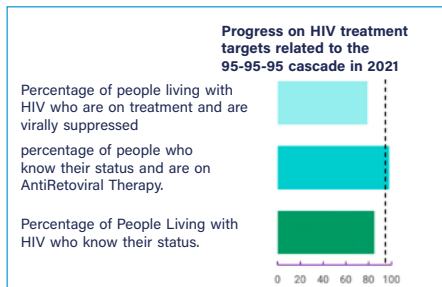
HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS

57,667 people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021

56% Treatment success rate for HIV-positive TB cases

73% of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment

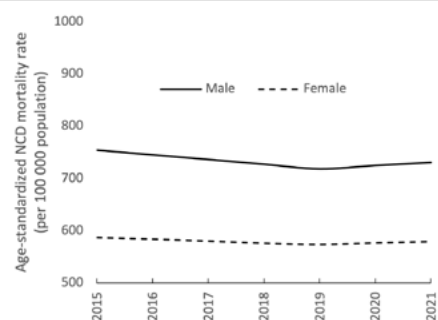
20% Domestic funding for TB
Unknown Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/polution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictions
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS

- Achieved
- Partially achieved
- Not achieved/Unknown



NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)

- Lymphatic filariasis
- Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
- Schistosomiasis
- Trachoma
- Onchocerciasis (non-endemic)

PC-NTDs treatment in 2021
5.5 Million targeted for MDA
4.5 Million treated with MDA

OTHER MAJOR NTDS

- Human Africa trypanosomiasis (*gambiense*)
- Leishmaniasis (cutaneous and visceral)
- Taeniasis and cysticercosis
- Leprosy
- Rabies

