



INDEPENDENT COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION

Benin

EVALUATION PERIOD: 2019-2022

COUNTRY PROFILE

Economic growth
7% in 2021



Poverty Rate
38.5%



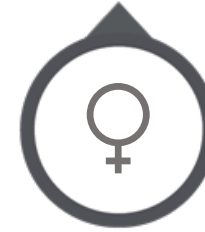
National electrification rate
30.4%



Ranked 21st in Africa
Democratic governance



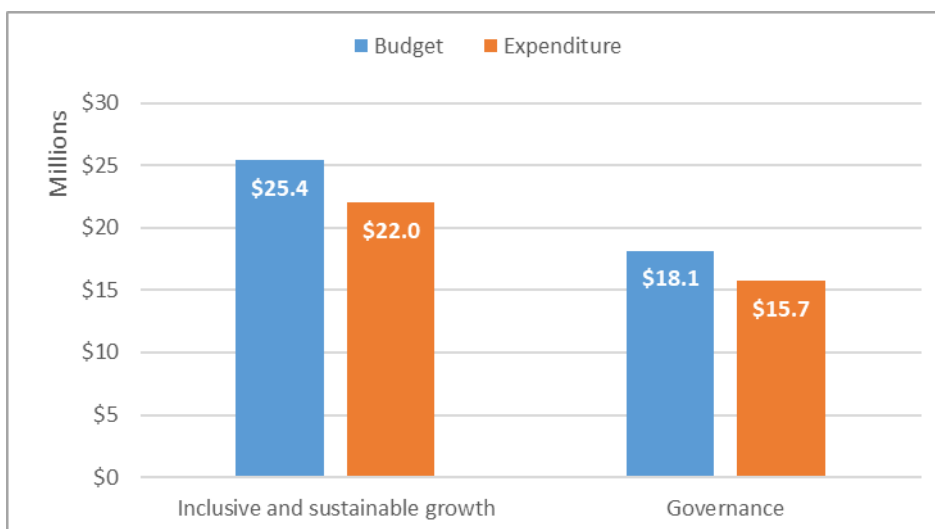
0.525 in 2021, ranked 166/191
Low human development category



0.602
Gender inequality index

PROGRAMME OUTCOME AREAS

Country programme budget and expenditure by thematic area (2019-2021) in Millions US\$



CONCLUSIONS

1. Tangible results achieved in the areas of inclusive and sustainable growth but the pathways to macro-level impact are unclear.
2. Appreciable results were made towards national institutions functioning, compliance with international commitments, digitalization and the fight against corruption.
3. UNDP's technical expertise and ability to respond to emerging needs appreciated but perceived by partners as spread too thinly across a wide range of themes.
4. A wide range of key partnerships established but challenges remain in the mobilization of government co-financing and private sector finance.
5. UNDP lacks an operational system for systematically collecting and reporting data on the contribution of portfolio achievements to outcome level objectives.
6. Inadequate and intermittent financial support and weak commitment by local authorities represent socio-political and institutional risks to sustainability.
7. UNDP Benin programme is gender responsive but not transformative given its limited focus on the underlying drivers of inequality.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNDP

1. Focus on a limited number of themes such as environment and climate, renewable energies, human rights, governance, consolidation of peace and security where UNDP's comparative advantage is recognized as well as in geographical areas where it can demonstrate added value. This strategy should be based both on an analysis of the factors hindering performance of the current programme and on an analysis of risks, including on the issue of violent extremism.
3. Strengthen engagement with the beneficiaries, civil society and local authorities in the design, implementation and monitoring of projects and programme to enhance ownership and sustainability of results.



2. The Theory of Change should demonstrate clearly how the projects collectively contribute to the programme and be accompanied by a system to demonstrate the effects of the programme at the macro level. UNDP should strengthen dialogue with partners and private sector for resource mobilization and scaling up.
4. Improve strategy and strengthen efforts to address the underlying drivers of inequality - the social norms, attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate this situation, in partnership with other UN agencies. Provide greater support to strengthen the capacities of women and youth as agents of development and change.

ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE

By generating evaluative evidence, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) supports UNDP to achieve greater accountability and facilitates improved learning from experience. The IEO enhances UNDP's development effectiveness through its programmatic and thematic evaluations and contributes to organizational transparency.

ABOUT ICPEs

The IEO of UNDP conducts Independent Country Programme Evaluations (ICPEs) to assess UNDP's performance at the country level. These evaluations support the formulation of a new UNDP country programme strategy in facilitating and leveraging national efforts to advance inclusive and sustainable development.