

3. Country profile: Benin



1. Development profile

Benin has the distinction of being the first country in Africa to successfully transfer power from a dictatorship to a democracy. This feat was achieved in 1991 when former Prime Minister Nicéphore Soglo was elected President.¹ Since that time, Benin has abandoned the Marxist-Leninist system that the Government followed since it gained independence from France in 1960. The country has held several democratic elections and the Government has drastically shifted its focus toward implementing policies of privatisation and capitalism. Since the early 1990's, the political situation has remained relatively stable.

Corruption is one of the most acute problems facing the Government. During the privatisation process that occurred in 2001, several deals were made at significant discounts and at least USD 2 million in bribes were discovered. It has come to be understood that no area of the Government is immune to such practices: in 2004 most members of the judiciary were accused of bribery and embezzlement; in education, grades and degrees can be purchased; in healthcare, bribes to health workers are often necessary to obtain treatment; "in commerce where petty bribes to policemen at road stops is common; in government and private sector contracts; and in employment opportunities".² While there have been no arrests on corruption charges, the Government has employed a strategic plan to combat corruption based on the following principles: "revitalisation of the oversight system through the passage of an anti-corruption law; the promotion of administrative and institutional reforms; strengthening the capacity for action of civil society and the private sector; creation of an environment hostile to corruption; and strengthening of reporting requirements and the obligation to combat impunity. Moreover, to build on the gains made in this area, the Government established an Anti-Corruption Observatory (OLC)".³

Some of Benin's human development indicators are more promising than those of the other West African nations. Life expectancy is at 55 years, while the West African average is 48. Also, the percent of the population living on less than USD 1 per day is 31 percent, as opposed to 60 percent in the rest of the region. Poverty continues to decline in the country as can be seen as the monetary

¹ *Benin*. (2010, February 4). Retrieved from US Government. Central Intelligence Agency: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bn.html>

² *Benin Guide*. (2008, September). Retrieved from OneWorld: <http://uk.oneworld.net/guides/benin/development>

³ *Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction*. (2007, April). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/BENINEXTN/0,,menuPK:322653~pagePK:141132~piPK:141123~theSitePK:322639,00.html>

poverty declined from 37.4 percent in 2006 to 33.3 percent in 2008.⁴ Benin is also benefiting from an increase in the access to safe drinking water and the expansion of water distribution points across the country.

On the other hand, population growth is extremely high, child mortality rates of 152 per 1,000 children are much higher than the regional average of 87 deaths per 1,000 children and malnutrition rates are also high. In 2008, the Government spent 10 percent of the national budget on food subsidies to decrease food prices, but these measures are unsustainable and the government will in all likelihood need to reduce this number in the future. While the HIV/AIDS rate remains low, deaths from malaria are still high at 140 per 1,000 people. The satisfaction of basic nutrition, educational, employment, and health needs is increasingly difficult.

Subsistence agriculture is still the foundation of Benin's economy. The country is also heavily dependent on cotton production and regional trade.⁵ Largely thanks to strong agricultural production, activity in the Port of Cotonou, and high demand from Nigeria, GDP growth increased from about 4.6 percent in 2007 to 5.0 percent in 2008. While growth has remained steady for the past few years, any increases in this statistic are hampered by rapid population growth of 2.977 percent annually.⁶ Poor access to electricity also inhibits economic development, "the investment climate study conducted in 2004-2005 showed that it takes 104 days for a manufacturing enterprise in Benin to be hooked up to the electricity grid, compared to 12 days in Senegal, 32 days in Mali, and 18 days in China. Moreover, brownouts cause output losses in the order of 7.4 percent in Benin, compared to 2.6 percent in Mali, and 1.8 percent in China."⁷

Benin's cotton industry accounts for 2.3 percent of global cotton exports and 40 percent of the country's export revenues.⁸ The industry has declined in recent years due to the fall in cotton prices and decreased output. It has also been negatively affected by subsidies provided by the US and European governments to their own cotton farmers. The Government has thus decided to embark on a series of economic diversification initiatives. In order to boost economic growth, Benin plans to increase foreign investments, encourage tourism, and "facilitate the development of food processing systems and agricultural products, and encourage new information and communication technology."⁹ The economy is benefitting from efforts to increase the production of value-added commodities. Potential growth areas include: shea butter and palm oil, both important exports, being converted into cosmetic products; cotton woven into clothing; food-processing; and pharmaceutical industries for cashews.¹⁰ Inflation has remained under control, although increases in food and fuel prices in 2008 boosted inflation from 3 percent to 8 percent.

⁴ *Benin*. (n.d.). Retrieved from African Economic Outlook: <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/countries/west-africa/benin/>

⁵ *Benin*. US Government, Central Intelligence Agency.

⁶ *Ibid*.

⁷ *Growth Strategy For Poverty Reduction*. World Bank.

⁸ *Ibid*.

⁹ *Benin*. US Government. Central Intelligence Agency.

¹⁰ *Growth Strategy For Poverty Reduction*. World Bank.

In 2005, Benin received debt relief under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative which allowed increased investments in poverty reduction initiatives. There is no general framework for social protection in Benin.

Socioeconomic indicators¹¹	
Population (millions)	8.66
GNI per capita, PPP (current USD)	1,460
GDP (current USD) (billions)	6.68
GDP composition by sector 2005 (%)	Agriculture -32 Industry- 13 Services- 54
GDP growth rate (%)	5.1
Percent below poverty line (%)	29
Inflation (%)	9.4
GINI index	39
Adult literacy rate (%)	59.5
Life expectancy (years)	51
Child dependency ratio	79.7
Elderly dependency ratio	6.1
HIV prevalence (%)	1.2
Overseas development aid per capita (current USD)	54.27
Net official development assistance (USD millions)	469.940
Remittances as % of GDP	4.0
2009 Human Development Index (HDI) ranking	161

2. Vulnerability analysis

2.1 External shocks

The 2008 global economic crisis has had a significant impact on Benin. Customs revenues, an important source of income, fell by 20.4 percent in 2009. Due to a decline in demand for Benin's exports, expected real GDP growth rates fell from 5.7 percent to 3.8 percent.¹² Cotton exports account for 40 percent of Benin's export revenues and the industry took a hit when cotton prices recently declined. Unfortunately, competitiveness of Benin's cotton on the world markets is hampered by subsidies provided by the United States and European governments to their own cotton farmers.

The agricultural sector accounts for one-third of GNP and employs about one-half of the population, including subsistence farmers. Changing rainfall patterns are impacting the industry. The economic capital, Cotonou, is subject to frequent flooding, as it lies at sea level. In the last 4 decades, Benin's

¹¹ *Country Profiles: Benin* (n.d.). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/DATASTATISTICS/0,,contentMDK:20535285~menuPK:1192694~pagePK:64133150~piPK:64133175~theSitePK:239419,00.html>

¹² Ibid.

coastline has retreated 400 meters, decreasing available land and destroying buildings. In the arid northern region, deforestation and soil degradation are major problems. Because of the lack of access to energy in much of the country, millions of old growth trees have been cut down and used as fuel, resulting in vast deforestation.

2.2 HIV/AIDS

While the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is low, at about 1.2 percent, it must be contained as the epidemic can be fuelled by the widespread poverty, poor healthcare, cultural practices, and the increasing flow of Nigerian immigrants.

2.3 Foreign aid and remittances

Average remittances per capita are USD 25, which is on-par with the regional average of USD 26.¹³ Both aid and remittance inflows are expected to be negatively affected by the global financial crisis.

3. Monitoring and evaluation

The 2007-2009 Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction (SCRP) has its own M&E system, “Specifically, this involves: (i) monitoring of program execution in the different pillars by the technical ministries and subordinate units; (ii) coordination of activities for the preparation of progress reports and review of priority strategies and programs; (iii) coordination of the dialogue on policies and programs with the participants, including the sector ministries and development partners; and (iv) holding annual reviews.”¹⁴

The Government’s plan for combating corruption is based on: the passage of anti-corruption laws; the promotion of institutional and administrative reforms; capacity strengthening in the private sector and civil society; fostering an hostile environment for corruption; and the strengthening of reporting requirements. The Anti-Corruption Observatory will track the progress of the Anti-Corruption Strategic Plan

The area of procurement was also addressed, “(i) increasing transparency and efficiency in government procurement; (ii) modernising procurement procedures; and (iii) establishing an independent oversight system in order to combat corruption in government procurement.”¹⁵ Accounting and finance frameworks for local governments were also enhanced.

In order to anticipate and potentially mitigate the effects of external shocks on the economy, “the Government has decided to establish a mechanism for monitoring factors in the domestic and external environments whose fluctuations affect the business cycle. To that end, the Government has decided to (i) promote the mechanism for economic and financial monitoring of the environment for the major economic sectors; and (ii) to coordinate that monitoring process at the national level.”¹⁶

¹³ *Benin: Country Profile of Human Development Indicators*. (2010). Retrieved from United Nations Human Development Programme: <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/BEN.html>

¹⁴ *Growth Strategy For Poverty Reduction*. World Bank.

¹⁵ *Growth Strategy For Poverty Reduction*. World Bank.

4. Social assistance programmes overview

*All currency conversions are based on 17 February 2010 rates:

- 1 CFA Franc = 0.00204 USD
- 1 CHF = 0.93314 USD
- 1 EUR = 1.369 USD
- 1 GBP = 1.57161 USD.¹⁷

Programme# 1: social insurance	Programme name	Old Age, Disability and Survivors ¹⁸
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old-age pension: The pension is equal to 30% of the insured's average monthly earnings in the first 15 years of coverage. The pension is increased by 2% of average monthly earnings for each 12-month period of coverage exceeding 180 months, up to 80% of the insured's earnings (wage increases above 10% a year during the last 10 years are not taken into account in the calculation). Average monthly earnings are equal to 1/60 of the earnings used for contribution calculation purposes in the last five years of coverage. The minimum pension is equal to 60% of the legal monthly minimum wage. The legal monthly minimum wage is 31,625 CFA francs (USD 64.561 USD). The maximum pension is set periodically by a Decree of the Council of Ministers. ▪ Old-age settlement: lump sum is paid equal to the insured's average monthly earnings in the last 10 years multiplied by the number of 12-month periods of coverage. Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted according to changes in the cost of living, depending on the financial resources of the system. ▪ Disability pension: The pension is equal to 30% of the insured's average monthly earnings in the first 15 years of coverage. The pension is increased by 2% of average monthly earnings for each 12-month period of coverage exceeding 180 months, up to 80% of the insured's earnings (wage increases above 10% a year during the last 10 years are not taken into account in the calculation). For each year that the pension is awarded before the insured reaches age 60, the insured is credited with a 6-month coverage period. Average monthly earnings are equal to 1/60 of the earnings for contribution calculation purposes made during the last five years of coverage. The minimum pension is equal to 60% of the legal monthly minimum wage. The legal monthly minimum wage is 31,625 CFA francs (USD 64.561 USD). The maximum pension is set periodically by a Decree of the Council of Ministers. Constant-attendance supplement: 40% of the pension is paid. The disability pension ceases at age 60 and is replaced by an old-age pension of the same value. ▪ Survivor pension: 40% of the pension the deceased received or would have been entitled to receive is paid to the widow(er). If there is more than one widow, the pension is split equally. A disabled or dependent widower is eligible to receive a pension on behalf of his first deceased spouse only. Remarriage settlement: A lump sum is paid equal to 6 months of pension.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ *Currency Converter*. (2010). Retrieved from Oanda: <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

¹⁸ Table text from *Social Security Programs Throughout the World: Africa 2009*. (2009). Retrieved from US Government, Social Security Administration: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2008-2009/africa/benin.html>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Orphan's pension: 20% of the deceased's pension is paid for one orphan; 40% for two or more orphans; 30% for a full orphan who is an only child. The amount paid may be recalculated if the number of eligible orphans changes. ▪ Survivor settlement: One month of the pension the deceased would have been entitled to with at least 180 months of coverage is paid for each 6-month period of coverage. The settlement is split equally between the eligible spouse and orphans. In the absence of an eligible spouse and orphans, the settlement is paid to the deceased's parents.
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employed persons; managers of companies (under certain conditions). ▪ Voluntary coverage for persons previously insured for at least 6 consecutive months. ▪ Exclusions: Self-employed persons, agricultural workers, cooperative members, informal sector workers, apprentices, interns, and students at technical schools. ▪ Special system for civil servants.
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old-age pension: Age 60 with at least 180 months of coverage. Retirement from covered employment is necessary. A month of coverage corresponds to any month in which the insured works at least 18 days or 120 hours in covered employment, including periods for which cash maternity or work injury benefits are paid. The old-age pension is suspended if the pensioner begins new covered employment. The pension is payable abroad only under reciprocal agreement. ▪ Old-age settlement: Paid at age 60 if the insured is ineligible for the old-age pension, but has at least 12 months of coverage. ▪ Disability pension: The insured must be assessed with a loss of earning capacity of at least 66.7% and have at least 60 months of coverage, including at least 6 months in the 12 months before the disability began (the coverage condition is waived for a disability that is the result of an accident). A month of coverage corresponds to any month in which the insured works at least 18 days or 120 hours in covered employment, including periods for which cash maternity or work injury benefits are paid. Constant-attendance supplement: Paid if the insured requires the constant attendance of others to perform daily functions. The pension is payable abroad only under reciprocal agreement. ▪ Survivor pension: The deceased was a pensioner, satisfied the qualifying conditions for a pension, or had at least 180 months of coverage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A month of coverage corresponds to any month in which the insured works at least 18 days or 120 hours in covered employment, including periods for which cash maternity or work injury benefits are paid. ○ The widow(er)'s pension ceases on remarriage. ○ The pension is payable abroad only under reciprocal agreement. ▪ Survivor settlement: The deceased was ineligible for a pension and had less than 180 months of coverage. Eligible survivors include a widow who was married at least a year before the insured's death or who is pregnant by or who had a child with the deceased; a disabled or dependent widower who was married to the deceased at least a year before the insured's death; and a

		dependent child younger than age 19 (age 22 if an apprentice, a student, or disabled).
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.4% of gross payroll. The minimum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are equal to the legal monthly minimum wage. The legal monthly minimum wage is 31,625 CFA francs (USD 64.561 USD). Contributions are paid monthly by employers with 20 or more employees or quarterly by employers with 1 to 19 employees.
	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current law passed in 2003 with 2007 amendment.
	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Labour and Public Administration provides general supervision. Managed by a tripartite board and a director, the National Social Security Fund administers the program.

Programme# 2: social insurance	Programme name	Sickness and Maternity ¹⁹
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sickness benefit: No statutory benefits are provided. (The 1998 labor code requires employers to provide paid sick leave.) Maternity benefit: The benefit is equal to 100% of the insured's earnings at the time the maternity leave starts (the employer pays half). The benefit is paid for 6 weeks before and 8 weeks after the expected date of childbirth; may be extended for up to 4 weeks in the event of complications arising from childbirth. Dependents' Medical Benefits: No statutory benefits are provided. (The 1998 labor code requires employers to pay 60% of the cost of health and medical services for employees' dependents. Eligible dependents are the spouse and dependent children.) Workers' Medical Benefits: No statutory benefits are provided. (The 1998 labor code requires employers to pay 60% of the cost of health and medical services for employees.)
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employed women; managers of companies under certain conditions. Exclusions: Self-employed persons, agricultural workers, cooperative members, informal sector workers, apprentices, interns, and students at technical schools.
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash sickness benefits: No statutory benefits are provided. Cash maternity benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The insured must have at least 6 months of coverage. A month of coverage corresponds to any month in which the insured works at least 18 days or 120 hours in covered employment, including periods for which cash maternity or work injury benefits are paid. Benefits are payable abroad only under reciprocal agreement.

¹⁹ Ibid.

	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employer: 0.2% of gross payroll. ▪ The minimum monthly earnings for contribution purpose are equal to the legal monthly minimum wage. ▪ The legal monthly minimum wage is 31,625 CFA francs (USD 64.561 USD).. ▪ Contributions are paid monthly by employers with 20 or more employees or quarterly by employers with 1 to 19 employees.
	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current law passed in 1998 and 2003.
	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Labour and Public Administration provides general supervision. ▪ Managed by a tripartite board and a director, the National Social Security Fund administers the program.

Programme# 3: social insurance	Programme name	Family Allowances²⁰
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family allowances: 2,000 CFA francs (USD 4.083) a month is paid for each child from the first day of the month of birth. ▪ Prenatal allowance: 500 CFA francs (USD 1.021) a month is paid for 9 months. ▪ Some maternity, child health, and welfare services are also provided. ▪ Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted according to changes in the cost of living, depending on the financial resources of the system.
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employed persons, managers of companies (under certain conditions), local authority employees, and some civil servants on secondment. ▪ Exclusions: Self-employed persons, agricultural workers, cooperative members, informal sector workers, apprentices, interns, and students at technical schools.
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family allowances: The child must be younger than age 15 (age 22 if an apprentice, a student, or disabled). The parent must have at least 6 months of coverage and be currently working at least 18 days or 120 hours during the month, including periods for which cash maternity or work injury benefits are paid. The child must not receive an orphan's pension. If one of the parents receives family allowances from the special system for civil servants, only the higher benefit is paid. ▪ Prenatal allowance: The pregnant woman must undergo prescribed medical examinations. The pregnant spouse of an insured worker is also eligible. ▪ Benefits are payable abroad only under reciprocal agreement.
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employer: 8.8% of gross payroll. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The minimum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are equal to the legal monthly minimum wage. ○ The legal monthly minimum wage is 31,625 CFA francs (USD 64.56). ○ Contributions are paid monthly by employers with 20 or more employees or quarterly by employers with 1 to 19 employees

²⁰ Ibid.

	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current law passed in 2007.
	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Labour and Public Administration provides general supervision. ▪ Managed by a tripartite board and a director, the National Social Security Fund administers the program.

	Programme name	Work Injury²¹
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Temporary disability benefits: The benefit is equal to 66.7% of the insured's average daily earnings in the last month before the month in which the disability began. The minimum monthly earnings for benefit calculation purposes are equal to the legal monthly minimum wage. The legal monthly minimum wage is 31,625 CFA francs (USD 64.561). The benefit is paid from the day after the disability began, up to 12 months; thereafter, the benefit paid is based on the insured's yearly earnings in the year before the disability began, up to 10 times the legal minimum wage multiplied by 1.4, according to the assessed degree of disability. The benefit is paid until full recovery or certification of permanent disability. The disability is assessed by an approved doctor. ▪ Permanent disability pension: If the insured has a total disability, the pension is equal to 100% of the insured's annual earnings in the year before the disability began, up to three times the legal minimum wage, plus 50% of the portion of earnings between this limit and 10 times the legal minimum wage. ▪ Partial disability: For an assessed degree of disability of at least 20%, the pension is equal to the insured's annual earnings in the year before the disability began multiplied by 0.5 times the assessed degree of disability for the portion of disability between 1% and 50% and by 1.5 times the assessed degree of disability for the portion greater than 50%. ▪ Disability allowance: For an assessed degree of disability of less than 20%, a lump sum is paid equal to 5 years of pension, according to the assessed degree of disability ▪ Workers' medical benefits: Benefits include medical and surgical care, hospitalisation, medicines, appliances, prostheses, rehabilitation, and transportation. ▪ Survivor pension: 30% of the deceased's earnings taken into account for the calculation of the permanent disability pension are paid to a spouse who married the deceased before the disability began (a divorced spouse who received alimony may also receive a pension equal to up to 20% of the deceased's earnings). If there is more than one widow, the pension is split equally. ▪ Orphan's pension: 15% of the deceased's earnings taken into account for the calculation of the permanent disability pension are paid to each of the first two orphans and 10% for each additional orphan. ▪ Dependent parent's and grandparent's pension: Each receives 10% of the deceased's earnings taken into account for the calculation of the permanent disability pension.

²¹ Ibid.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funeral grant: Funeral costs are reimbursed up to five times the legal monthly minimum wage.
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employed persons, managers of companies (under certain conditions), apprentices, interns, students at technical schools, cooperative members, non-salaried managers of cooperatives and their assistants, local authority employees, and some civil servants on secondment. ▪ Exclusions: Self-employed persons, agricultural workers, and informal sector workers
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work Injury Benefits: There is no minimum qualifying period. Accidents that occur while commuting to and from work are covered.
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employer: 1% to 4% of gross payroll, according to the assessed risk. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The minimum monthly earnings for contribution purpose are equal to the legal monthly minimum wage. ○ The legal monthly minimum wage is 31,625 CFA francs (USD 64.561).
	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current law passed in 2007.
	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Labour and Public Administration provides general supervision. ▪ Managed by a tripartite board and a director, the National Social Security Fund administers the program.

Programme# 5: social services and welfare	Programme name	Supporting the Education of Girls²²
	Programme objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce gender inequalities in the workforce and in managerial training programmes.
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The improvement of access to secondary and tertiary education levels for girls from disadvantaged families. ▪ Allows girls from 3 communities in the northern part of the country to attend secondary school and helps girls from 5 communities of the same region to attend an institution of higher education. ▪ Generally increase the awareness of the benefits of gender equality in education and ways in which to bring this about.
	Programme duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The programme started 1 May 2005 and will end 31 October 2012.
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 communities in the northern part of the country will send girls to secondary school and 5 communities will be able to send girls to institutions of higher learning.
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Girls from disadvantaged families in the communities in question.
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CHF 4,065,000 (USD 3,793,220).
	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Benin's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper outlines an emphasis of gender

²² Table text from *Benin: Supporting Education of Girls*. (n.d.). Retrieved from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation: http://www.sdc.admin.ch/en/Home/Projects/Supporting_Education_of_Girls

		equality in education.
	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representative: Laboratoire d'analyse régionale et d'expertise sociale (LARES). ▪ Local actors: communities, parents associations, school and university administrations, teachers, female pupils and students. ▪ National actors: Ministries of Primary, Secondary and Higher Education.
	Socioeconomic impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3000 girls have been given access to education since the start of the programme. ▪ 169 girls from the region have attended university where 65 were awarded a diploma and 29 were accepted to a one-year internship in a municipal administration.