



Benin



MANDATE

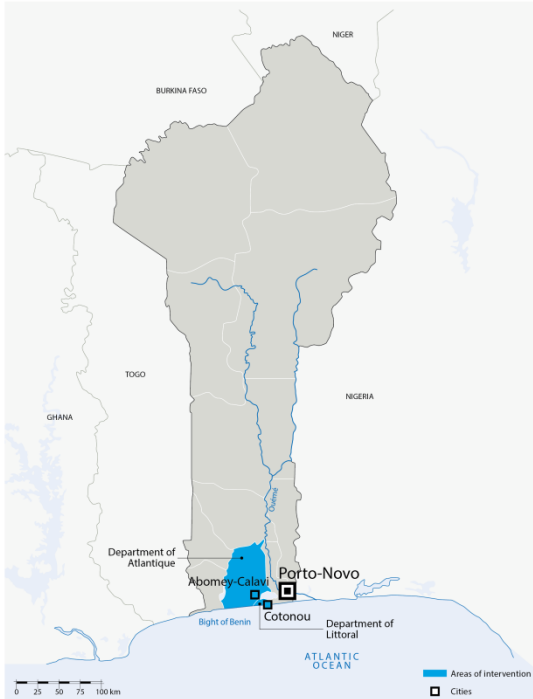
Handicap International aims to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, promote their full participation in the economic and social life of their communities, and prevent the causes of disability in Benin.

SITUATION

Benin has been a stable democracy since 1990, although its economy remains fragile and 45.7% of the population lives in extreme poverty.¹ Care services do not adequately meet the needs of people with disabilities, who tend to be poorly served by development initiatives.

INITIAL ACTIONS

Following a request in 2010 from the Department of Family and National Solidarity of Benin, Handicap International has implemented projects against filariasis² and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in Cotonou and in the departments of Mono and Couffo. The association had already intervened in Benin over the period 1999-2002 in the field of orthopaedics.



STAFF

- National staff: 9
- Expatriate staff members: 1

KEY FACTS

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Human Development Index (HDI) * | 166th/188 classified countries |
| Life expectancy* | 59.6 years |
| Gross National Income per capita * | 1,767 US \$ per annum |
| Population** | 10,6 million |
| Surface area** | 114,763 sq.km. |

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|---|---------------------|
| Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) | Ratified 05/07/2012 |
| Oslo convention on cluster munitions | Signed 03/12/2008 |
| Ottawa mine ban convention | Ratified 25/09/1998 |

* UNDP: Human Development Report 2014
 ** UNSD 2015

¹ UNDP: 2014 human development report

² According to the WHO definition: Lymphatic filariasis is a parasitic infection that can result in an altered lymphatic system and the abnormal enlargement of body parts, causing pain, severe disability and social stigma.

Current projects 2015



Inclusive local development: Promoting community involvement of civil society organisations in Cotonou.

GOAL

The project aims to promote the participation of civil society organisations (CSOs), including Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), in local development in the Cotonou municipality. To achieve this, it is working on building the capacities of the local council and the civil society organisations in the city (training on disability issues in the urban environment, including physical access to public buildings, the translation of documents into braille, and the importance of including children with disabilities in schools etc.). This work aims to promote the participation of vulnerable people, in particular people with disabilities, in dialogue and local governance (for example, so that people with disabilities are taken into account when the local council determines its priorities).

METHOD

The project is implemented through capacity-building for CSOs, training and awareness-raising on inclusive local development, and the involvement of people with disabilities (and vulnerable people in general) in local consultations. This involvement means the specific needs of vulnerable people need to be taken into account in local council development and construction plans.

Furthermore, the local stakeholders, comprised of the elected representatives, managers from the Cotonou local council, and staff from technical departments, as well as staff from the Ministry of the Environment, Housing and Town Planning who are in charge of drawing up construction plans, are given the opportunity to attend awareness-raising workshops and training in the rights of people with disabilities.

BENEFICIARIES

People with disabilities and their families, civil society, particularly people involved in advancing human rights, the local population and authorities in the district of Cotonou, and the Benin government.

PARTNERS

- Cotonou Municipal Corporation
- Organisation for the advancement and social inclusion of blind people and people with amblyopia in Benin (APISAAB)

LOCATION

District of Cotonou



Inclusive education: Promoting the full participation of children with disabilities through education (APPEHL project)

Regional project run in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Benin, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Guinea-Bissau

GOAL

Integrate children with disabilities into the existing educational system within the Benin administrative regions of the Atlantic and Coast.

METHOD

Develop an inclusive pedagogical approach in 42 primary schools (in urban, peri-urban and rural environments). To this end, Handicap International first identifies children in disabling situations, then our teams ensure that these children receive satisfactory care management. We then make sure that 80 of them are supported through the choices that need to be made about their education and that the teachers, and all of the staff in these educational structures, are able to include them (training on the importance of including children in disabling situations in classes, and on adapted teaching methods where necessary).

BENEFICIARIES

- 80 children aged 4 to 14 enrolled in school and their parents (direct beneficiaries);
- 702 children with disabilities, aged 3 to 14 enrolled in school or not and their parents (indirect beneficiaries)
- Primary school teachers and private, public and special education managers in the school districts where the intervention is implemented
- NGOs and organisations working in the education sector in the area targeted by the project
- The 26 Disabled People's Organisations who are members of the Disabled People's Organisation Network for the Atlantique and Littoral (RAPHAL)
- Technical managers of community-based rehabilitation (CBR) contact spaces in Cotonou and Abomey-Calavi;
- Members of the NGO "La Colombe Hibiscus"
- The Ministry for Nursery and Primary Education

PARTNERS

- The NGO "La Colombe Hibiscus"
- The Disabled People's Organisation Network for the Atlantique and Littoral (RAPHAL)
- The Ministry for Nursery and Primary Education

LOCATION

Municipalities of Cotonou and Abomey Calavi (Departments of Atlantique and Littoral)



Support to the Centre for the Development of Post-Conflict Demining and Clearance Actions (CPADD)

GOAL

Improve the access that members of the armed forces in African countries have to specialised training on making munitions stockpiles safe and in managing them.

METHOD

The Centre for the Development of Demining and Clearance Actions aims to provide advice and assistance to African countries affected by mines and explosive ordnance. It notably offers training which responds to the needs of humanitarian demining programmes and peace-keeping operations. In 2013, with support from Handicap International, the centre started up a training project on the specific issue of the proliferation of conventional weapons to provide French language training modules aimed at improving the security and management of weapon stockpiles and conventional munitions in order to limit the risk of accidental explosions and illegal weapons transfers.

Handicap International provides the CPADD with its expertise for two technical and managerial training modules and one training module for trainers.




BENEFICIARIES

- Benin armed forces
- Internal security forces
- French-speaking African countries
- Non-governmental organisations
- International and regional organisations
- The general public

LOCATION

Departments of Atlantique and Littoral.

MAIN FUNDING BODIES

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|--|---|---|
| <p>European Commission</p>  | <p>French Development Agency</p>  | <p>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)</p>  |
| <p>UNSCAR (United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation)</p>  | | |