Country Profile on Disability
Republic of Benin

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Abbreviations

ANPS	Agence Nationale de Protection Sociale	National Social Protection Agency
ARCH	Assurance pour le Renforcement du Capital Humain	Insurance for Human Capital Development
ARTSB	L'Association pour la Réhabilitation Totale des Sourds au Bénin	The Association for the Comprehensive Rehabilitation of the Deaf in Benin
ASUNOES	Association Universelle des Œuvres pour le Développement des Sourds	Universal Association for the Development of the Deaf
CBR	Community-based Rehabilitation	
CPS	Centre de Promotion Social	Social Promotion Center
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	
FAPHB	The Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities of Benin	
FCFA	Franc de la Communauté Financière Africaine	Franc of African Financial Community
GANHRI	Global Alliance of National Rights Institutions	
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	
GUPS	Guichet Unique de la Protection Sociale	One-stop Desk for Social Protection
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	
ILO	International Labour Organization	
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	
MASM	Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de la Microfinance	Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys	
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	
OADCPH	Organisation Africaine pour le Développement et la Communication des Personnes Handicapées	African Organization for the Development and Communication of Persons with Disabilities
OFAB	Organisation des Femmes Aveugles du Bénin	Organization of Blind Women of Benin
OPD	Organization of Persons with Disabilities	
RGPH	Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitation	Key Socio-Demographic and Economic Indicators
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	
SGG	Secrétariat Général du Gouvernement	General Secretariat of the Government
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training	

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WHO	World Health Organization

1. Basic Profile

1-1. Basic Indicators[1]

GDP[2] per capita	USD 1,485.4	2024

Government Expenditures by Sector

Healthcare (% of GDP)	2.68 %	2023
Education (% of GDP)	3.2 %	2024
Social protection (% of GDP)[3]	1.1 %	2023

Population

Total Population	14,462,724	2024
Male (% of total population)	50.1 %	
Female (% of total population)	49.9 %	
Urban population (% of total population)	52.5 %	
Rural population (% of total population)	47.5 %	
Life expectancy (Total)	60.8 years	2023
Male	59.3 years	
Female	62.2 years	

Healthcare

Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)	14.3 %	2023
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	46.4	2023

Education

Education system[4]		
Primary education	6 years	
Compulsory education	6 years	
Adult literacy rate（total）	51.4 %	2022
Male	62.6 %	
Female	41.5 %	

[1] https://data.worldbank.org/indicator（Accessed: 17 January 2026)
[2] Gross Domestic Product (hereinafter referred to as 'GDP')
[3] https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/WSPR_2024_EN_WEB_1.pdf (Accessed: 5 April 2026)
[4] Benin's education system consists of primary school (6 years), lower secondary school (4 years), upper secondary school (3 years) and university (3 years). Children start school at age 6. Based on Ministère des Enseignements Maternel et Primaire (2018) *Plan Sectoriel de L'éducation Post 2015 (2018-2030)*.

Gross Enrolment Rate		
Primary Education (total)	108.0 %	2022
Male	112.1 %	
Female	103.9 %	
Secondary Education (total)	43.6 %	2022
Male	46.7 %	
Female	40.3 %	
Tertiary Education (total)	10.2 %	2022
Male	12.8 %	
Female	7.6 %	

Employment

Unemployment rate(total)	1.7 %	2024
Male (% of male labour force)	1.9 %	
Female (% of female labour force)	1.6 %	

1-2. Definition of Disability and Indicators on Disability

1-2-1. Definition of Disability

The Republic of Benin (hereinafter referred to as "Benin") ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "CRPD") in 2012, and has been developing its domestic legal framework accordingly. The legal definition of persons with disabilities in Benin is based on Act No. 2017-06 of 29 September 2017 (on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[5], hereinafter referred to as the "Disability Rights Act"), which defines a person with a disability as "any person who has a physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others." Article 1 of the law sets out the types of disability and their definitions[6].

1-2-2. Indicators on Disability

In Benin, the first census was conducted in 1979, followed by the second in 1992, the third in 2002, and the fourth (Principaux Indicateurs Socio-Démographiques et Économiques: RGPH-4 2013) in 2013[7]; the fifth was started in 2023, but as of March 2026 its results had not

[5] Secrétariat Général du Gouvernement (2017) *Loi n° 2017-06 du 29 septembre 2017*, https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/loi-2017-06/ (Accessed: 26 March 2026)

[6] *Ibid*. These are legal definitions of the terms and do not represent the disability classifications used in the census or statistics.

[7] 5e Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitation (RGPH5) website, https://rgph5.instad.bj/a-propos-du-rgph5/ (Accessed: 26 March 2026)

yet been published. Disability statistics therefore rely mainly on the fourth census (2013)[8]. That census identified 92,495 persons with disabilities (0.9% of the total population of 10,008,749 as of 2013), of whom 48,059 were men (52.0%) and 44,436 (48.0%) were women. Children with disabilities (under 15) accounted for 17.6% of the population of persons with disabilities. The number of persons with disabilities aged 55 and over was 28.2% of all persons with disabilities, up from 10.8% in 2002. However, the number of persons with disabilities by age and their breakdown by sex are not reported.

Number of Persons with disabilities	92,495	0.9% of total population[9]	2013
Male	48,059		
Female	44,436		

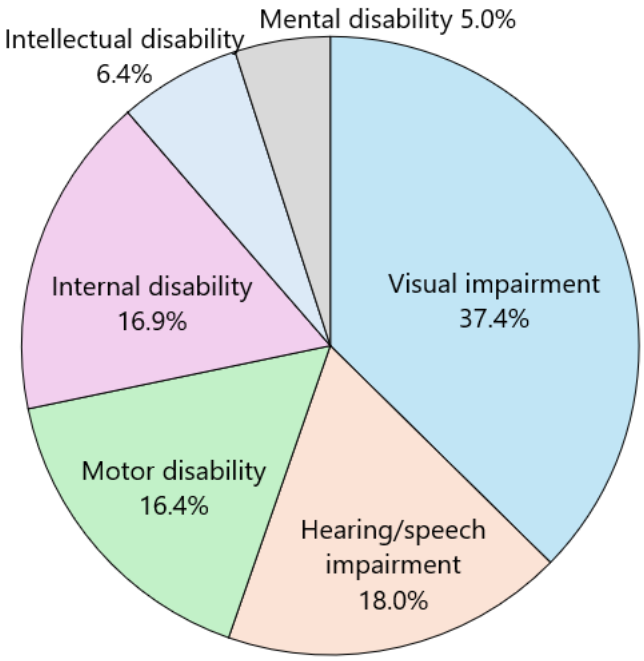


Figure 1 Distribution of persons with disabilities by type of functional impairment[10] (2013)

The highest share is "Visual disability" (37.4%), followed by "Hearing/speech impairment" (18.0%), "Motor disability" (16.4%), "Internal disability" (16.9%), "Intellectual disability" (6.4%), and "Mental disability" (5.0%).

Source: Prepared by the study team based on INSAE (2016) *Principaux Indecateurs Socio Demographiques Et Economiques (RGPH-4 2013)*

[8] In Benin, the Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Économique (INSAE) oversees the main statistics, including the census, and disability statistics are also consolidated within that institution. No other government or aid-agency source comprehensively compiling disability statistics was confirmed. The 2013 census did not use the Washington Group Short Set. The INSAE was renamed the Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INStaD) in 2021 (https://instad.bj/ssn/cadre-institutionnel) (Accessed: 26 March 2026).

[9] Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Économique (INSAE) (2016) *Principaux Indicateurs Socio-Démographiques et Économiques (RGPH-4 2013)* (Accessed: 26 March 2026). According to the survey results, the total population in the 2013 census was 10,008,749.

[10] RGPH-4 2013 records only percentages (%); numbers of persons with disabilities are not compiled.

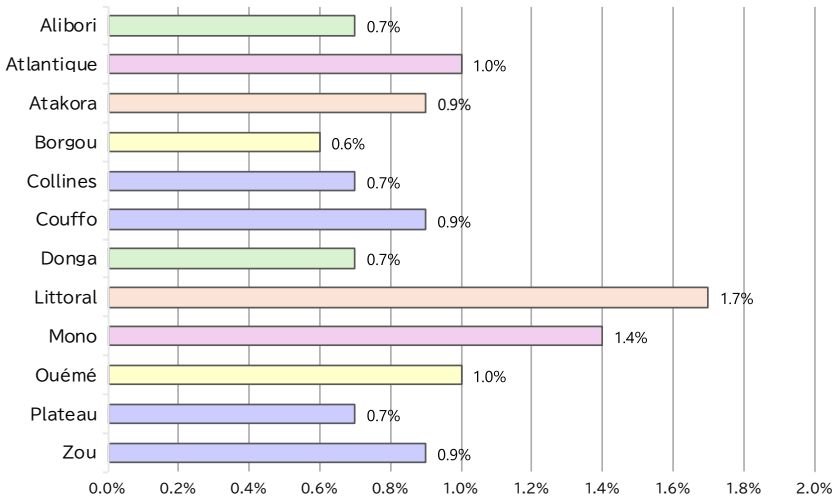


Figure 2 Percentage of persons with disabilities by residential area (2013)

The share ranges from 0.6% to 1.7% across all regions (12 departments); the highest is Littoral Department at 1.7%, and the lowest is Borgou Department at 0.6%.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on INSAE (2016)

In addition, the 2021–2022 Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) were conducted with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (hereinafter referred to as "UNICEF")[11]. The breakdown by age is shown below[12].

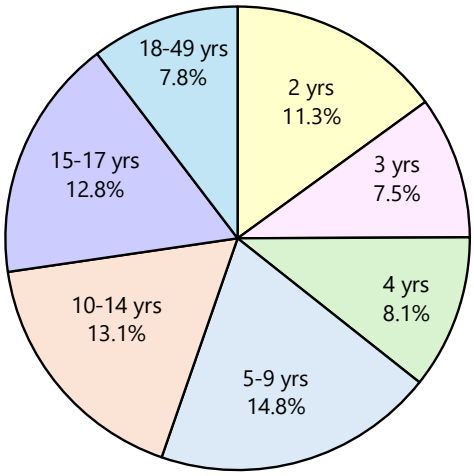


Figure 3 Percentage of persons with disabilities by age group (2021/2022)

The largest share is "5–9 years," at 14.8% of the total. This is followed by "10–14 years" (13.1%) and "15–17 years" (12.8%), showing that school-age children account for a relatively high share.

Source: Prepared by the study team based on UNICEF (2022)

[11] Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INStaD). (2023) E*nquête par Grappes à Indicateurs Multiples, Bénin, 2021-2022, Rapport des résultats de l'enquête*. Cotonou, Bénin: INStaD., https://instad.bj/images/docs/insae-statistiques/enquetes-recensements/MICS/Rapport%20d%27analyse%20de%20l%27enqu%C3%AAte%20MICS%20B%C3%A9nin.pdf (Accessed: 27 March 2026)

[12] According to the report, the sample comprised 17,448 households. The total number aged 2–4 was 7,918; aged 5–17, 29,892; and aged 19–49, 22,739.

2. Administration and Policy on Disability

2-1. Administration on Disability

In Benin, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance (Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de la Microfinance; hereinafter referred to as "MASM") leads the disability field.

<Central Government>

Table 1 Disability-related organizations in Benin

Name	Overview
Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance (MASM)[13]	・Established in 2018 as a ministry comprehensively responsible for social affairs and microfinance. It plays a role in coordinating the government's efforts on "strengthening social protection within basic social services" through the strengthening of social protection, gender equality and women's empowerment, and the promotion of microfinance[14], and it also has overall responsibility for disability-related policy in the country. ・It is also responsible for implementing the Disability Rights Act and handles the protection, social inclusion and reintegration of persons with disabilities and the operation of support measures. ・The issuance of the equal opportunities card in 2024 (described below) is also led by the ministry. ・The department responsible for disability matters is the Department for the Social Inclusion and Integration of Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons (le Département de l'Inclusion et de l'Insertion Sociale), established under MASM's Directorate-General for Social Affairs (Direction Générale des Affaires Sociales)[15.] ・Following the inauguration of the Wadagni administration in May 2026, the ministry was reorganized into the "Ministry of Family and Social Action (Ministère de la Famille et de l'Action Sociale)" pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 2026-314[16].
Ministry of Health (Ministère de la Santé)[17]	The central administrative body responsible for promoting public health and providing medical services, with responsibility for formulating and implementing health policy. Emphasising primary healthcare, it works on infectious disease control, maternal and child health, and the strengthening of community health services. Through the development of the health system, the training of medical personnel, and cooperation with

[13] MASM website, https://social.gouv.bj (Accessed: 27 March 2026)
[14] MASM (2022) Plan Stratégique 2022-2026 (https://social.gouv.bj/rapport) (Accessed: 27 March 2026)
[15] MASM website, https://social.gouv.bj/affaires-sociales/dgas/dpsiphpa (Accessed: 10 April 2026)
[16] https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2026-314/ (Accessed: 20 August 2026)
[17] Ministère de la Santé website, https://sante.gouv.bj/ (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

	international organizations, it promotes the improvement of the quality of and access to healthcare.
Ministry of Pre-school and Primary Education[18] (Ministère des Enseignements Maternel et Primaire)	・Responsible for the planning, implementation and supervision of pre-school and primary education policy and for the dissemination of and promotion of access to basic education. ・It is also the institution responsible for promoting inclusive education in primary education, and is the core institution for promoting the schooling and school integration of children with special needs.
Ministry of Secondary, Technical and Vocational Education [19] (Ministère des Enseignements Secondaire, Technique et de la Formation Professionnelle)	・Responsible for formulating, supervising and evaluating the State's general policy on secondary education, literacy, and technical and vocational training. Together with the other ministries responsible for primary and higher education, it supports the country's education system in a three-tier structure. ・Under the Education Sector Plan (2018–2030) (described below), the ministry is responsible for promoting the participation of persons with special needs in post-basic education opportunities, conducting teacher training (inclusive education), and providing assistive devices. It is also designated, in its remit, as the ministry responsible for implementing Decree No. 2023-323 of 21 June 2023. ・With the formation of the new government, it was reorganized into the “Ministry of Secondary Education” and the “Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Technical Education[20].”
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research[21] (Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique)	・Responsible for university education, research, and science and technology policy; the government body responsible for the development of Benin's higher education policy and scientific research. Through the oversight of universities and research institutions and the implementation of the national science and technology strategy, it plays a central role in human resource development and the promotion of a knowledge economy. ・Under the Education Sector Plan (2018–2030), the ministry is responsible for “developing the provision of inclusive education and training that enhances the employability of learners.” It is also designated, in its remit, as the ministry responsible for implementing Decree No. 2023-323 of 21 June 2023.

[18] Ministère des Enseignements Maternel et Primaire website, https://memp.gouv.bj/accueil (Accessed: 7 April 2026)
[19] Ministère des Enseignements Secondaire, Technique et de la Formation Professionnelle, https://enseignementsecondaire.gouv.bj/ (Accessed: 7 April 2026)
[20] https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2026-314/ (Accessed: 20 August 2026)
[21] Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique website, https://enseignementsuperieur.gouv.bj/ (Accessed: 7 April 2026)

	・With the formation of the new government, it was reorganized into the "Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Technical Education."
Benin Human Rights Commission (Commission béninoise des droits de l'homme)	An independent institution established for the promotion and protection of human rights[22]. Established in conformity with the international "Paris Principles," it plays a role in ensuring respect for human rights in national policy and all areas of society. Established in 1989, its independence and powers were strengthened by the 2012 reorganisation law. As a human rights institution, it monitors the human rights situation in Benin and conducts improvement activities on the basis of domestic law and international human rights conventions. It is also a member of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)[23] and has been accredited with A status[24].

National Coordination Committee

To promote the implementation of the Disability Rights Act, Benin has established the "Interministerial Commission for the Implementation of Measures for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (Commission interministérielle de mise en œuvre des mesures d'inclusion des personnes handicapées)," which advances inclusion measures for persons with disabilities, and has determined its powers, composition and operation by Decree No. 2023-322 of 21 June 2023[25]. The implementation status of the commission could not be confirmed in this study.

Table 2 Overview of the interministerial commission

Committee Name	Interministerial Commission for the Implementation of Measures for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities
Purpose of establishment	Established as the core body responsible for the concrete implementation of the 2017 Disability Rights Act and for implementing inclusion measures for persons with disabilities.
Members	Executive: ・ Chair: a representative of the ministry responsible for persons with disabilities ・ Vice-Chair: a representative of the ministry responsible for finance

[22] Human Rights Watch, https://www.hrw.org/reports/2001/africa/benin/benin.html (Accessed: 5 April 2026)

[23] An international network bringing together national human rights institutions, established in 1993. Based on the "Paris Principles" adopted by the UN General Assembly, it supports international standards for the establishment and operation of national human rights institutions. It plays a role in supporting the promotion, protection and strengthening of human rights in coordination with the UN human rights system. https://ganhri.org/history-of-ganhri-and-nhris/ (Accessed: 5 April 2026)

[24] Organizations complying with the "Paris Principles" are granted A status. The Paris Principles are UN principles setting the international standards that a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) should meet.

[25] République du Bénin (2023) *Décret n° 2023-322 du 21 Juin 2023*, https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2023-322/ (Accessed: 26 March 2026)

	・ Rapporteur: a representative of the ministry responsible for health Members: ・ A representative of the ministry responsible for labour (1) ・ A representative of the ministry responsible for secondary education (1) ・ A representative of the ministry responsible for primary education (1) ・ A representative of an OPD[26] (1)
Functions and roles	・ To examine applications for the issuance of the "equal opportunities card" and propose preferential measures according to the degree of disability. ・ To examine grant applications from institutions providing care, education and training for persons with disabilities and propose appropriate subsidies. ・ To examine applications for support for the entrepreneurial activities of persons with disabilities and propose appropriate support measures.

<Local Government>

Disability-related agencies

Name	Overview
Departmental Directorates of Social Affairs and Microfinance (Directions Départementales des Affaires Sociales et de la Microfinance)	・ The departmental-level field offices of MASM, which ensure the implementation of the ministry's mandate in the areas of family, social protection and microfinance within their jurisdiction[27]. ・ Their main responsibilities include promoting the implementation of measures on social protection and solidarity regarding the social reintegration of families, women, gender, older persons and persons with disabilities; coordinating, supervising and evaluating the activities of Social Promotion Centres (Centre de Promotion Sociale; hereinafter referred to as "CPS") and similar institutions; ensuring the application of current social legislation; and providing advisory support to local authorities. ・ In 2024, the Directorates led awareness activities targeting OPDs and others on the Disability Rights Act and related decrees, in addition to dissemination activities on the application procedure for and use of the equal opportunities card. Through the Directorates' outreach activities combined with the distribution of cards, the system is being publicised and its use

[26] Organization of Persons with Disabilities; hereinafter referred to as "OPD."

[27] MASM website, https://social.gouv.bj/ministere/ddasm (Accessed: 7 April 2026)

	promoted[28][29].
Social Promotion Centre (CPS)[30]	・A multipurpose facility to support the development of local communities (grassroots communities). Its organizational mission is to ensure the implementation of MASM's policies and strategies in each municipality. It also aims to work on the prevention of and response to the social risks faced by residents, particularly socially vulnerable people. ・Through advice, awareness raising and psychosocial support for local residents and socially vulnerable people (including persons with disabilities), it seeks to improve living conditions, and it also oversees related facilities and conducts survey work. Through support for women and the poor and the coordination and secretariat functions of community activities, it promotes the implementation of social welfare measures at the local level. ・About 85 centers are established in the main communes of the country's 12 departments.
Vocational Training Centres[31] (Centres de Formation Professionnelle)	・The vocational training centers under MASM are specialised facilities dedicated to the education and training of persons with disabilities. They are responsible for the education and vocational training of persons with disabilities. According to the official website, the four centers are located in the Atlantique, Borgou, Ouémé and Atacora departments of Benin. Their specific locations are Akassato, Parakou, Sègbèya and Pèpèrèkou, respectively.

2-2. Laws and Policies on Disability

In Benin, against the backdrop of economic crisis and political instability in the late 1980s, demands for democratisation grew, and in 1990 a "National Conference (Conférence nationale)" was held. Triggered by that conference, the country abolished the one-party system and shifted to a system emphasising the separation of powers and fundamental human rights, and the Constitution of 11 December 1990 (Loi n° 90-32) was enacted. The constitution proclaims broad guarantees of fundamental human rights, and was subsequently amended in 2019 and 2025. The rights of persons with disabilities are provided for therein as follows.

[28] MASM website, https://social.gouv.bj/actualite/actualites-du-ministere/ddasm-mono--gups-d-athieme----sensibilisation-des-personnes-handicapees-sur-les-mesures-preferentielles-du-gouvernement (Accessed: 7 April 2026)
[29] MASM website, https://social.gouv.bj/actualite/actualites-du-ministere/ddasm-mono---renforcement-de-linclusion-avec-la-distribution-des-cartes-degalite-des-chances--cec (Accessed: 7 April 2026)
[30] MASM website, https://social.gouv.bj/ministere/cps?departement=4 (Accessed: 7 April 2026)
[31] MASM website, https://social.gouv.bj/ministere/cfp (Accessed: 7 April 2026)

Title	Constitution of 11 December 1990 (Loi n° 90-32)[32]
Year of Enactment	1990
Overview	A constitution proclaiming the fundamental human rights of Benin. The constitution, with a presidential system, separation of powers and a multi-party system as its framework, proclaimed strong powers for the Constitutional Court and broad guarantees of fundamental human rights. Article 26 provides: "The State shall guarantee equality before the law to all, without distinction of origin, race, sex, religion, political opinion or social status. Men and women shall be equal under the law. The State shall protect the family, and particularly the mother and child. The State shall watch over (Veille sur) persons with disabilities and older persons." In this constitution, persons with disabilities are addressed only with the expression that the State "watches over (Veille sur)" them.

Title	Constitution of 7 November 2019 (revised) (Loi n° 2019-40)[33]
Year of Enactment	2019
Overview	The main amendments are the reform of the electoral system, the restructuring of the party system (rationalisation of the number of parties) and the introduction of the President-Vice President system. Article 26 was also amended to read: "The State shall guarantee equality before the law to all, without distinction of origin, race, sex, religion, political opinion or social status. Men and women shall be equal under the law. However, the law may provide for special measures to improve the representation of women. The State shall protect the family, and particularly the mother and child. It shall also provide assistance to persons with disabilities and older persons." Thus, persons with disabilities moved from being an object of the State's care to an object of assistance (Il porte assistance). The revised constitution still does not explicitly set out the rights of persons with disabilities, but the Disability Rights Act was enacted in 2017 (described below), forming a legal system that protects the rights of persons with disabilities through a specific law.

Title	Constitution of 17 December 2025 (revised) (Loi n° 2025-20)[34]
Year of Enactment	2025
Overview	The 2025 constitutional amendment focuses on reforms of the governance structure, such as the introduction of a bicameral system (a Senate), the revision of the presidential term, restrictions on political

[32] République du Bénin (1990) *Loi n° 90-32 du 11 Décembre 1990,* https://sgg.gouv.bj/recherche/?type=loi&begin=1990-01-01&end=1990-12-31&keywords= (Accessed: 29 March 2026)
[33] République du Bénin (2019) *Loi n° 2019-40 du 07 Novembre 2019,* https://sgg.gouv.bj/recherche/?type=loi&begin=2019-01-01&end=2019-12-31&keywords= (Accessed: 29 March 2026)
[34] République du Bénin (2025) *Loi n° 2025-20 du 17 Décembre 2025,* https://sgg.gouv.bj/recherche/?type=loi&begin=2025-01-01&end=2025-12-31&keywords= (Accessed: 29 March 2026)

	activity, and the strengthening of the Senate's political oversight function; no revision or expansion of human rights provisions was carried out.

Thus, although Benin's national constitution provides for the protection of fundamental human rights, with respect to the rights of persons with disabilities, the 2019 Constitution goes only so far as to position persons with disabilities as objects of State assistance. Meanwhile, the rights of persons with disabilities are provided for in a specific law, the Disability Rights Act, described next.

(2) Legislation

1) Disability-related laws and decrees

To advance the protection of the rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities, the Government of Benin enacted the Disability Rights Act (Loi n° 2017-06 du 29 septembre 2017) in 2017 and, treating it as the basic law, is developing the institutional framework in the disability field.

Title	Act No. 2017-06 of 29 September 2017 (on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)[35]
Year of Enactment	2017
Overview	A specific law that codifies the prohibition of discrimination against persons with disabilities and reasonable accommodation, and comprehensively provides for the guarantee of access to education, employment and healthcare. It is the basic disability law that gives concrete form to the constitutional provisions regarding persons with disabilities and ensures the protection of their rights. The law is structured in four layers — principles (definitions and principles), prevention, the guarantee of rights, and penalties — and provides for the rights of persons with disabilities across sectors. In particular, building on a disability certification system, it systematically organises concrete rights in each field, including healthcare, education, employment and social participation. Specifically, it comprises 5 chapters and 79 articles. Chapter 1 General provisions Definitions, purpose, scope, principles Chapter 2 Prevention Medical prevention, social prevention Chapter 3 Rights Certification system, healthcare, education (inclusive education), employment, accessibility (transport, buildings), protection of family

[35] République du Bénin (2017) *Loi n° 2017-06 du 29 septembre 2017*, https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/loi-2017-06/ (Accessed: 26 March 2026)

	and private life, protection from violence and abuse, access to culture, sports and information, political participation Chapter 4 Penalties Employment discrimination, refusal of education, false applications, violence and abuse Chapter 5 Final provisions

Subsequently, to enhance the effectiveness of the Disability Rights Act by sector, five implementing decrees were adopted on 21 June 2023, institutionalising the implementation structure for disability inclusion, support for education and vocational training, support for employment and entrepreneurship, tax preferences, and preferential measures in public transport and cultural facilities. As a result, disability-related administration came to be positioned, in addition to conventional welfare support, as a cross-cutting policy area encompassing employment, education, mobility and social participation.

Title	Decree No. 2023-322 of 21 June 2023 (decree establishing the Interministerial Commission for the Implementation of Measures for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and determining its powers, composition and operation)[36]
Year of Enactment	2023
Overview	See "2-1. Administration on Disability: National Coordination Committee"

Title	Decree No. 2023-323 of 21 June 2023 (decree establishing the methods of support for the promotion of the education and vocational training of persons with disabilities)[37]
Year of Enactment	2023
Overview	As an implementing decree giving concrete form to the provisions of the 2017 Disability Rights Act, this decree clarifies support measures concerning the education and vocational training of persons with disabilities. It codifies the provision of reasonable accommodation for learners with disabilities as a system, setting out concrete measures to ensure equal educational opportunity. It also provides for the granting of subsidies to education and training institutions by national and local administrations and for the capacity building of teachers and instructors at public and private institutions that educate and train persons with disabilities, indicating a direction that treats the education of persons with disabilities not as individual support but as an issue for the education

[36] République du Bénin (2023) *Décret n° 2023-322 du 21 Juin 2023*, https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2023-322/ (Accessed: 26 March 2026)
[37] République du Bénin (2023) *Décret n° 2023-323 du 21 Juin 2023*, https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2023-323/ (Accessed: 26 March 2026)

	system as a whole. In addition, it provides for economic support to students with disabilities, strengthening the social-protection dimension that underpins expanded participation in education.

Title	Decree No. 2023-324 of 21 June 2023 (decree establishing tax measures concerning the import, manufacture and sale of means of transport and devices for persons with disabilities)[38]
Year of Enactment	2023
Overview	This decree sets out tax preferences for the means of mobility and assistive devices of persons with disabilities, and is an important policy supporting the promotion of the freedom of movement and social participation of persons with disabilities in Benin. Because Benin depends on imports for many of the vehicles and assistive devices for persons with disabilities, this measure to reduce the tax burden can be said to contribute to improving physical accessibility.

Title	Decree No. 2023-325 of 21 June 2023 (decree establishing special measures for the promotion of the employment and entrepreneurship of persons with disabilities)[39]
Year of Enactment	2023
Overview	This decree sets out comprehensive measures aimed at promoting the employment and entrepreneurship of persons with disabilities, and is positioned as one of the core policies promoting the economic independence and labour-market inclusion of persons with disabilities in Benin. It clearly provides for a 5% employment quota in public-sector recruitment and introduces measures such as the relaxation of age limits, institutionally securing improved access to employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. It also introduces a measure whereby the State bears the employer's social insurance contributions for enterprises that employ persons with disabilities, and provides for entrepreneurship support for persons with disabilities, setting out multi-layered support measures such as support for business establishment, securing access to funding, tax preferences and exemption from establishment costs. In addition, the decree goes beyond creating employment opportunities to explicitly prohibit discriminatory criteria in the recruitment process, strengthening the legal framework that guarantees the labour-market participation of persons with disabilities from a rights perspective.

[38] République du Bénin (2023) *Loi n° 2023-324 du 21 Juin 2023*, https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2023-324/ (Accessed: 26 March 2026)

[39] République du Bénin (2023) *Loi n° 2023-325 du 21 Juin 2023*, https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2023-325/ (Accessed: 26 March 2026)

Title	Decree No. 2023-326 of 21 June 2023 (decree establishing preferential measures in public transport and public cultural and leisure facilities for the benefit of persons with disabilities)[40]
Year of Enactment	2023
Overview	This decree sets out preferential measures for persons with disabilities in public transport and cultural and leisure facilities, institutionalising "mobility as a right," and is positioned as part of social-inclusion policy in Benin. Specifically, it provides for facilitating access by persons with disabilities to these services and for consideration on fares, thereby expanding opportunities for mobility and social participation and redressing disadvantages in the use of public services.

2) Education-related laws and decrees

Title	Act No. 2003-17 of 11 November 2003 (law on the guidelines for national education in the Republic of Benin)[41]
Year of Enactment	2003
Overview	Sets out the principles of national education in Benin. The law positions education as a top national priority and provides for the basic philosophy and institutional structure of education. Article 3 ("special consideration shall be given to persons and children in difficult situations and to vulnerable groups"), Article 5 ("schools shall guarantee equal opportunity for all") and Article 12 ("the State shall progressively achieve free public education and guarantee equal opportunity, equality between men and women, and balance among regions") provide for equality and inclusion in education, from which it can be read that the law in principle aims at inclusive education.

3) Laws and decrees on the protection of women

Title	Act No. 2011-26 (law on the prevention and punishment of violence against women — Loi N° 2011-26 du 9 janvier 2012 portant prévention et répression des violences faites aux femmes)[42]
Year of Enactment	2012
Overview	The first specialised law comprehensively criminalising domestic violence, intimate-partner sexual violence, sexual harassment, forced prostitution, forced marriage, honour killings, female genital mutilation and the like. It

[40] République du Bénin (2023) *Loi n° 2023-326 du 21 Juin 2023*, https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2023-326/ (Accessed: 26 March 2026)

[41] République du Bénin (2003) *Loi n° 2003-17 du 11 Novembre 2003*, https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/loi-2003-17/ (Accessed: 26 March 2026)

[42] République du Bénin (2012) *Loi n° 2011-26 du 09 janvier 2012*, https://assemblee-nationale.bj/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/loi-portant-prevention-et-repression-des-violences-faites-aux-femmes.pdf (Accessed: 30 May 2026)

	comprehensively criminalises physical, sexual, psychological, economic and property-related violence in the family, society and workplace, and institutionalises victims' rights to social assistance, continued employment and free legal aid, as well as prevention systems in the education, media, health and justice sectors. Meanwhile, the Concluding Observations (2024) point out that this law does not contain provisions reflecting the specific characteristics of women and girls with disabilities, and recommend that it be amended. They also call for legislative measures to explicitly prohibit forced sterilisation and forced abortion of women and girls with disabilities based on third-party consent.

4) Laws and decrees on the protection of children

Title	Act No. 2015-08 of 8 December 2015 (law establishing provisions concerning children in the Republic of Benin)[43]
Year of Enactment	2015
Overview	A basic law comprehensively setting out the definition of the child, the guarantee of rights, protective measures, and the responsibilities of parents and the State. The law clearly positions children with disabilities as objects of protection; in particular, Articles 33 and 42 designate children with disabilities, together with other vulnerable children, as objects of special protection and support. Specifically, children with disabilities are guaranteed access to medical services, education, vocational training and opportunities for social participation, and measures should be taken to promote their autonomy and enable their active participation in social life.

(3) Policies and Plans

1) National plans

Title of plan	Benin National Development Plan (PLAN NATIONAL DE DÉVELOPPEMENT, hereinafter referred to as "PND") 2018-2025[44]
Year implemented	2018
Overview	The PND 2018–2025 is a medium-term development strategy, grounded in "Vision Benin 2025 (Bénin 2025 Alafia)," aiming for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and improved national welfare. It takes the strengthening of human development (human capital) as its central issue and aims to achieve structural transformation through improved economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability and

[43] République du Bénin (2015) *Loi n° 2015-08 du 08 Décembre 2015,* https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/loi-2015-08/ (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

[44] République du Bénin (2018) *PLAN NATIONAL DE DÉVELOPPEMENT 2018-2025,* https://www.nepad.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/NDP_Benin_0.pdf (Accessed: 9 April 2026)

	strengthened governance. It is a comprehensive framework consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter referred to as "SDGs") and Africa's Agenda 2063, emphasising the "leave no one behind" development philosophy. The plan comprises the following four strategic objectives: 1. Developing healthy, capable and competitive human capital 2. Sustainably improving the productivity and competitiveness of the economy 3. Sustainably managing the environment and living environment and promoting local development 4. Strengthening the rule of law and good governance The PND itself does not deal with the disability field in detail as an independent pillar, but positions it within the framework of "inclusive growth," "protection of socially vulnerable people" and "leave no one behind." In related policies, persons with disabilities are explicitly identified as a "group at risk of being left behind" and are made the object of employment, social integration and improved access.

2) Disability policies

Title of policy	National Policy for the Protection and Integration of Persons with Disabilities (Politique Nationale de Protection et d'Intégration des Personnes Handicapées 2012–2021)[45]
Year implemented	2012
Overview	A policy document combining the character of a basic plan and an implementation plan for efforts on the protection and inclusion of persons with disabilities. The policy sets as its vision a society in which persons with disabilities enjoy their rights without discrimination and participate fully in national development, with the broad goal of "promoting human rights, equity and gender and integrating the needs of persons with disabilities into all policies," and four specific objectives: "improvement of the legal system," "access to basic services," "social and occupational integration," and "participation in culture and sports." The policy comprises seven strategies: 1) Strengthening the legal and social sphere (developing the Disability Rights Act and disseminating rights) 2) Access to education (inclusive education, special needs education) 3) Health and rehabilitation (community-level rehabilitation) 4) Employment and economic participation (vocational training, financing support) 5) Social participation (elimination of discrimination, attitudinal change)

[45] Medbox website, https://www.medbox.org/document/politique-nationale-de-protection-et-dintegration-des-personnes-handicapees (Accessed: 2 April 2026)

	6) Accessibility (access to buildings and information) 7) Institutional and capacity strengthening (capacity building of administrations and non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as "NGOs")) The officials responsible for implementing the policy are the ministers responsible for each matter, including the Minister responsible for the Family, Social Affairs, National Solidarity, Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons; the Minister of Justice, Legislation and Human Rights; the Minister of Development, Economic Analysis and Forecasting; the Minister of Health; the Minister of Pre-school and Primary Education; and the Minister of Secondary, Technical and Vocational Education.

3) Education policy

Title of policy	Post-2015 Education Sector Plan (2018-2030)[46]
Year implemented	2018
Overview	This sector plan is a national strategy aiming to shift from the dissemination stage of education toward an emphasis on quality, equity and inclusion, with the vision of building a comprehensive, high-quality education system by 2030. The plan sets objectives and strategies by dividing the education system into three blocks[47]: 1) basic education, 2) post-basic education, and 3) higher education and research, with inclusive education incorporated into each block. For "1) basic education," it sets as objectives the improvement of access to and retention in basic education in an equitable and inclusive manner and the improvement of educational quality, and includes among its strategies the expansion of the inclusion of children with disabilities — addressed as "children with special needs[48]" — in basic education. It also sets numerical targets to progressively increase the proportion of children with disabilities enrolled in primary education from 1.5% in 2016 to 13.29% in 2021, 25.2% in 2025 and 40% in 2030. The concrete measures planned for primary education that relate to persons with disabilities are as follows. 1) Promoting the schooling and school integration of children with special needs; standardising effective measures for supporting children with special needs and existing support facilities

[46] Ministère des Enseignements Maternel et Primaire (2018) *Plan Sectoriel de L'éducation Post 2015 (2018-2030),* https://www.globalpartnership.org/fr/content/plan-sectoriel-de-leducation-2018-2030-du-benin (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[47] 1) Basic education: for ages 3–15, covering pre-school, primary and lower-secondary education; 2) Post-basic education: upper-secondary education, vocational education, and adult education/literacy; 3) Higher education and research: covering university education and research and innovation.

[48] In the plan, children with special needs include persons with disabilities, talibés (see the footnote 48) and herder children.

	2) Evaluating, strengthening, continuously implementing and expanding to other departments the "School Integration Programme for Children with Disabilities[49]" 3) Formulating and implementing a programme on the integration of children with severe disabilities into basic education 4) Formulating and implementing a programme to support the integration of talibés[50], herder children and others into basic education (including the standardisation of existing support facilities) 5) Training specialised teachers and technical managers of Community-Based Rehabilitation (hereinafter referred to as "CBR") management units for the support of children with severe disabilities 6) Training teachers with expertise in Braille and sign language, or providing training to teachers (for the support of children with special needs). For "2) post-basic education," the target is set to "reduce the drop-out rate of persons with disabilities receiving support at special needs facilities from 2.2% in 2016 to 0% between 2021 and 2030." For "3) higher education and research," it sets as one objective to "develop the provision of high-quality, inclusive education and training that enhances the employability of learners," stating only that special measures need to be taken to eliminate disparities by sex and disability.

4) Social security policy

Title of policy	Strategic Plan of the Benin Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance (2022–2026)[51]
Year implemented	2022
Overview	This strategy is a five-year plan (2022–2026) formulated to integrally advance the protection of socially vulnerable people, poverty reduction, women's empowerment and the promotion of microfinance in Benin. In particular, the low access to social protection of vulnerable groups such as children, persons with disabilities and older persons are recognised as an important challenge. In the social welfare field, in addition to ensuring access of vulnerable groups to basic social services and promoting gender equality, emphasis is placed on enabling people, including persons with disabilities, to access general schemes substantively. Specifically, it sets out the strengthening of social protection benefits and the provision of needs-based support services for persons with disabilities. Through

[49] According to the sector plan, this programme was "implemented in 9 communes of Zou Department through the Project to Support the Education Sector in Benin (Projet d'Appui au Secteur de l'Éducation au Bénin: PASEB), under the NGO Équilibre Bénin." See "2-3. Measures on Disability"

[50] Talibés are children (mainly boys) who study at Qur'anic schools (daara) in West African countries such as Senegal and Benin. In some areas, they are reportedly forced by their teachers to beg and do not receive adequate formal primary education. https://www.antislavery.org/what-we-do/senegal/ (Accessed: 3 April 2026)

[51] Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de la Microfinance (2022) *Plan Stratégique 2022-2026,* https://www.social.gouv.bj/public/medias/plan-strategique-du-masm-1676299122.pdf (Accessed: 27 March 2026)

	cooperation with relevant institutions in the health field and in psychosocial support, comprehensive support is sought for vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities. Additionally, in the microfinance field, it aims to promote the financial inclusion of economically vulnerable people including persons with disabilities and to improve access to appropriate financial and non-financial services.

2-3. Measures on Disability

1) Healthcare

Healthcare system

Benin operates the Insurance for the Strengthening of Human Capital (Assurance pour le Renforcement du Capital Humain; hereinafter referred to as "ARCH"), a social protection programme combining health insurance, vocational training, low-interest microcredit and a pension scheme. Its institutional framework was established by Decree No. 2018-518 of 6 November 2018 (decree establishing the institutional framework for the implementation of the "Insurance for the Strengthening of Human Capital" project)[52], and after several years of a trial period it has been implemented since 2021 to support socially vulnerable people including persons with disabilities, with a budget of CFA francs (Franc de la Communauté Financière Africaine; hereinafter referred to as "FCFA") 183.8 billion (approximately USD 321.6 million)[53]. Health insurance is a scheme for the entire population; vocational training targets the informal sector; and low-interest microcredit targets economically disadvantaged groups in the informal sector[54]. However, according to the government's replies to the list of issues from the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2024 (hereinafter referred to as the "Replies to the List of Issues (LOI)")[55], the pension scheme has not yet started. As the implementing body of ARCH, the National Social Protection Agency (Agence Nationale de Protection Sociale: ANPS) was established by Decree No. 2019-008 of 9 January 2019 (decree approving the statutes of the National Social Protection Agency)[56]. According to the decree, the agency is placed under the supervision of MASM. To promote ARCH, a "One-stop Desk for Social Protection (Guichet Unique de la Protection Sociale; hereinafter referred to as "GUPS")" has been established within the existing CPS as a one-stop service desk providing

[52] République du Bénin (2018) *Décret n° 2018-518 du 06 novembre 2018,* https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2018-518/ (Accessed: 7 April 2026). The decree uses the term "project," which is translated as such here, but other documents use the term "programme."

[53] MASM website, https://social.gouv.bj/arch (Accessed: 8 April 2026). JICA exchange rate, April 2026: 1 FCFA ≒ 0.00175 USD

[54] *Ibid.*

[55] Government of Benin (2023) *CRPD Replies of Benin to the list of issues in relation to its initial report*

[56] République du Bénin (2019) *Décret n° 2019-008 du 09 Janvier 2019*, https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2019-008/download (Accessed: 7 April 2026)

social protection at the local level[57]. The GUPS functions as a common access point that integrally handles the identification and registration of beneficiaries, needs assessment, the determination of benefit eligibility, service provision and complaint handling.

In Benin, the basic law on healthcare is established by "Act No. 2020-37 of 3 February 2021 (law on the protection of human health in the Republic of Benin)," but the Concluding observations (2024) express concern about the insufficient access of women and girls with disabilities and persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities to sexual and reproductive health services and to HIV/AIDS-related information, as well as the lack of community-based mental health services and the lack of protective products needed by persons with albinism. They also raise concern about the insufficient training of medical personnel (including traditional medicine practitioners) on the rights of persons with disabilities. In response, they recommend ensuring accessible, high-quality health services, strengthening community mental health, providing necessary supplies, and implementing decision-making support and training for professionals.

Specific information or figures showing the access of persons with disabilities to medical services could not be confirmed in this study.

2) Education[58]

In the education field, as shown in "2-2. Laws and Policies on Disability," measures to improve the educational access of persons with disabilities are being implemented on the basis of various laws and decrees. In particular, "Decree No. 2023-323 of 21 June 2023 (decree establishing the methods of support for the promotion of the education and vocational training of persons with disabilities)" provides for concrete methods of providing technical, human and material support to inclusive education institutions, as well as needs-based support measures for learners with disabilities and measures granting additional time to complete assessments (examinations, etc.) throughout the period of study[59].

The central measure in the education field is the "Post-2015 Education Sector Plan (2018-2030)," and the status of efforts for children with special educational needs at the time the plan was formulated in 2018 is reported as follows[60].

[57] World Bank (2023) *Program Appraisal Document for a Social Safety Nets Program,* https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099182003072321568/pdf/BOSIB15693b85f0b31bde21db77c0138a68.pdf (Accessed: 7 April 2026)

[58] UNESCO GEM Report, Profiles Enhancing Education Reviews (PEER), www.education-profiles.org (Accessed: 2 April 2026)

[59] Replies to the LOI (2023)

[60] Ministère des Enseignements Maternel et Primaire (2018) *Plan Sectoriel de L'éducation Post 2015 (2018-2030),* https://www.globalpartnership.org/fr/content/plan-sectoriel-de-leducation-2018-2030-du-benin (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

Implementation of the "School Integration Programme for Children with Disabilities": with the cooperation of the NGO Équilibre Bénin[61], the "School Integration Programme for Children with Disabilities (Programme Intégration scolaire des enfants handicapés)" was implemented in 9 communes of Zou Department through the Project to Support the Education Sector in Benin (Projet d'Appui au Secteur de l'Éducation au Bénin: PASEB). This project focused mainly on special needs education and provided school supplies, functional recovery training and surgery to 300 children with severe disabilities or cerebral palsy. Similar efforts have also been implemented by religious schools and private training centers in Natitingou, Cotonou, Porto-Novo and Bohicon. This programme has contributed to improving the enrolment rate of children with special needs.

The Replies to the LOI (2023) report on education measures related to persons with disabilities as follows.

- Reforms are being advanced toward realising the vision of "education for all," with a particular emphasis on inclusive education. The measures taken include making 3,000 classrooms accessible, providing inclusive education to 700 children with disabilities, and providing university accommodation and economic support to students with disabilities. As of 2023, a pilot of model inclusive schools is being conducted.
- As a measure to support children with special educational needs, the strengthening of educators' capacity is also being promoted, and 20 teachers received training in sign language.
- As measures taken to provide accessible teaching materials, adapted learning environments and sufficient individualised reasonable accommodation, lecture rooms and other classrooms are arranged so that students with disabilities can use them. These students are also provided with economic support and appropriate university accommodation.

Meanwhile, the Profiles Enhancing Education Reviews (PEER) of the Global Education Monitoring Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reports that the "School Integration Support Programme for Children with Disabilities" was established within the Ministry of Pre-school and Primary Education but has carried out almost no activities since its establishment[62].

[61] The organization provides education and sponsorship support and vocational training for children with disabilities.
[62] UNESCO, Global Education Monitoring Report, https://education-profiles.org/sub-saharan-africa/benin/~benin (Accessed: 29 March 2026)

The Concluding observations (2024) point out that children with disabilities are excluded from mainstream education, that special education continues, and that the implementation of inclusive education is limited, and recommend the nationwide implementation of high-quality inclusive education, the promotion of the transition from special education to mainstream education, the provision of reasonable accommodation, and ensuring the accessibility of the educational environment and teaching materials[63].

3) Gender

In the State Party's Report submitted by the Government of Benin to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2019 (hereinafter referred to as the "State Party's Report") [64], it is stated that in Benin, the response to women with disabilities is addressed through general legislation such as the law on the prevention of violence against women and the family law. Inclusion is also pursued in the national action plan and disability protection policy. Specifically, the following efforts have been implemented.

- The economic empowerment of women with disabilities is promoted under the microcredit scheme for the poorest, social protection policy and the government action programme aimed at improving living conditions; in 2017, through the Women's Economic Empowerment and Gender Promotion Project, equipment for agricultural processing and horticulture/livestock activities was provided to groups of women with disabilities, and 10 groups of women with disabilities (250 people in total) received support.
- Support was provided through the disability integration policies (2007–2016 and 2012–2021) and, within the policy framework for the protection of socially vulnerable people, support also targeting women with disabilities was implemented.
- Several women with disabilities hold leadership positions (although no details are given).
- Focal points responsible for gender and inclusion have been established in all ministries.

Meanwhile, the report states that, while the inclusion and empowerment of women is a priority area of major public policy, there are no concrete measures specific to women and girls with disabilities.

The Concluding observations (2024) point out that Benin's gender-equality legislation (e.g., the law on the prevention of violence against women) does not sufficiently reflect the

[63] UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2024)
[64] République du Bénin (2018) *Initial report submitted by Benin under article 35 of the Convention, due in 2014,* https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/countries.aspx?CountryCode=BEN&Lang=EN (Accessed: 18 March 2026)

situation of women and girls with disabilities, and recommend incorporating the disability perspective into all relevant laws and policies. Specifically, they call for legal amendments to clearly recognise the discrimination intersecting disability and gender (multiple discrimination) and to position the denial of reasonable accommodation as discrimination, the development of systems to mainstream the rights of women with disabilities (such as establishing focal points in each ministry), and the setting of clear targets, deadlines and indicators to measure progress. They also call for strengthened legislative measures to protect bodily autonomy, such as the clear prohibition of forced sterilisation and forced abortion.

4) Vocational Training and Employment

In Benin, institutional development and support measures are being advanced to promote the employment of persons with disabilities. First, a review of the Labour Code (the current law is the 1998 Labour Code: Code du Travail) is under way[65], and to enhance the effectiveness of the Disability Rights Act, Decree No. 2023-323 of 21 June 2023 (decree establishing the methods of support for the promotion of the education and vocational training of persons with disabilities) has been established.

According to the Replies to the List of Issues (LOI) (2023), the recruitment of persons with disabilities is encouraged in the public sector, a policy of eliminating discrimination on the grounds of disability is adopted with respect to promotion and demotion, and efforts are being made to increase the participation of persons with disabilities in public-sector competitive examinations. Labour inspection is also being strengthened, and improved employment opportunities for persons with disabilities are being advanced through an increased frequency of audits of enterprises. In addition, awareness activities targeting business managers are conducted to promote the employment of persons with disabilities. Economic empowerment measures targeting women with disabilities are also implemented. Through financial support such as the microcredit scheme (Alafia) of the Insurance for the Strengthening of Human Capital, and income-generation support projects in cooperation with international organizations, the employment opportunities of women with disabilities are being expanded. The government also implemented, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as "UNDP"), income-generating activities for 44 women with disabilities in four departments (Atlantique, Zou, Borgou and Alibori). These women were provided with more modern equipment (sewing machines, knitting machines, looms, condiment grinders, oil presses, freezers, electric tricycles, higher-

[65] As of April 2026, no information confirming the adoption of an amendment to the Labour Code could be found.

quality cooking stoves, etc.) in order to improve working conditions, shorten working hours and maximise the growth of income-generating activities. Meanwhile, concrete guidelines on the promotion of the employment of persons with disabilities have not been developed, and their institutionalisation is regarded as a future challenge.

The Concluding observations (2024) point out, as one of the challenges concerning the employment of persons with disabilities, the lack of access to vocational training and the inadequacy of skills training. Specifically, low levels of education and the lack of appropriate skills training are said to be constraints on employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. To address these challenges, they call for strengthening measures to enable persons with disabilities to access vocational training, and point out the need to expand apprenticeships and employment opportunities not only in education but in other fields as well.

5) Social Security, Social Service for Persons with Disabilities

Equal opportunities card

Articles 17 and 18 of the Disability Rights Act provide for issuing an equal opportunities card (carte d'égalité des chances) to persons with disabilities and for protecting their rights and benefits.

[Article 17] Disability is confirmed by an accredited specialist who specifies its nature and degree. Certification of disability, on the application of a person with a disability, confers the right to obtain an equal opportunities card.

Under the law, the equal opportunities card was issued in December 2024[66]. Detailed information on its outline was not available as of April 2026, but it is provided in Decree No. 2023-322 of 21 June 2023 that the "Interministerial Commission for the Implementation of Measures for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities" (see "2-2 Laws and Policies on Disability") shall "examine applications for the issuance of the equal opportunities card and propose preferential measures according to the degree of disability."

Within the framework of ARCH, a pension scheme targeting informal-sector farmers, traders, transport operators, artisans and artists is also included, but according to the Replies to the LOI (2023) this scheme has not yet been implemented, and no statement explicitly indicating that persons with disabilities are included in its scope could be confirmed in this study.

[66] https://www.gouv.bj/article/2900/remise-cartes-egalite-chances-personnes-handicapees-benin-gouvernement-honore-promesse/ (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

Social housing programme

In Benin, a social housing programme is implemented for all citizens, with its institutional framework developed by Decree No. 2022-658 of 23 November 2022 (decree on the allocation of social housing)[67]. According to the Replies to the LOI (2023), a process to adopt a draft decree establishing conditions for priority access of persons with disabilities to social housing was underway, but as of March 2026, the adoption of a decree providing for priority access of persons with disabilities could not be confirmed.

Rehabilitation

With respect to CBR, Benin has formulated and implemented a national CBR programme (Programme National de Réadaptation à Base Communautaire: PNRBC) in line with the World Health Organization (hereinafter referred to as "WHO") CBR strategy. The programme was started in 1989 by the then ministry responsible for social affairs[68], and the latest plan, the "2020–2024 Strategic Plan"[69], has been formulated and implemented under MASM. The strategic plan sets as its vision that "by 2024, all persons with disabilities who need CBR will access services and participate fully in Benin's development."

The overall objective of the strategic plan is to "contribute to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities in Benin," with three specific objectives: 1) strengthening the intervention capacity of public and private institutions that support persons with disabilities, 2) strengthening support measures for persons with disabilities, and 3) developing high-quality rehabilitation services. The strategic plan reports that, although the service area has been expanded since the national CBR programme was implemented in 1989, as of 2018 it still covered only 33 of the country's 77 communes (with 4,068 beneficiaries). The numerical targets set include increasing the number of CBR service-delivery areas from 37 in 2019 to 49 in 2024, creating at least 12 new CBR service-delivery areas among them, creating 500 jobs for persons with disabilities by 2024, and making all stakeholders involved in disseminating the Disability Rights Act agents of dissemination. As of December 2022, rehabilitation programmes were being implemented in 39 communes, and expansion to all areas is being advanced[70].

A management unit responsible for supervising CBR activities (Unité de Gestion de la

[67] République du Bénin (2022) *Décret n° 2022-658 du 23 novembre 2022,* https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2022-658/ (Accessed: 7 April 2026)
[68] State Party's Report (2019)
[69] MASM (2019) *Plan Stratégique de la Réadaptation à base communautaire au Bénin 2020-2024,* https://www.afro.who.int/sites/default/files/2022-06/Plan_strat%C3%A9gique_RBC_20_24_final.pdf (Accessed: 8 April 2026)
[70] Replies to the LOI (2023)

stratégie de Réadaptation à Base Communautaire des Personnes Handicapées) is established within MASM. District units are established in each CBR service-delivery area and provide services on the ground. Meanwhile, the central-level unit makes unannounced quarterly visits to rehabilitation facilities to check compliance with relevant standards[71].

The total budget of the plan's action plan is FCFA 1,806 million (approximately USD 3.16 million)[72], of which FCFA 841 million (approximately USD 1.47 million[73]) is allocated to strengthening the intervention capacity of public and private institutions that support persons with disabilities, FCFA 230 million (approximately USD 0.4 million[74]) to strengthening support measures for persons with disabilities, and FCFA 735 million (approximately USD 1.29 million[75]) to developing high-quality rehabilitation services. However, the national budget and the like are on a downward trend, and a funding shortage is also reported as a challenge.

With respect to social protection and disability welfare services in Benin, the Concluding observations (2024) point out that persons with disabilities do not sufficiently benefit from national programmes on improving living standards and social protection, that their participation is limited, and that local support services and rehabilitation services are insufficient, and recommend developing a comprehensive social protection system covering all persons with disabilities, improving access to living infrastructure including housing, water and sanitation, strengthening community-based support services, and ensuring the participation of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies.

6) Transportation and Urban Development (including accessible urban planning)

In Benin, to enhance the effectiveness of the Disability Rights Act, Decree No. 2023-324 of 21 June 2023 (decree establishing tax measures concerning the import, manufacture and sale of means of transport and devices for persons with disabilities) was enacted, institutionally establishing tax preferences for the means of mobility and assistive devices of persons with disabilities.

Urban development (accessible urban planning)

According to the Replies to the LOI (2023), minimum accessibility standards for public and private buildings have been introduced in Benin, and where they are not met, measures such

[71] *Ibid.*
[72] JICA exchange rate, April 2026: 1 FCFA ≒ 0.00175 USD
[73] *Ibid.*
[74] *Ibid.*
[75] *Ibid.*

as the non-issuance of completion certificates and exclusion from public procurement are taken. Furthermore, it is reported that some public buildings are being improved in line with international standards. It is also reported that institutional development is being advanced, such as a draft decree under consideration to grant priority access to persons with disabilities within the social housing programme.

Meanwhile, the Concluding observations (2024) point out that significant barriers to access to the physical environment still exist and that the implementation of the existing legal framework and budget measures are insufficient. Because of accessibility barriers in public facilities and the built environment, they recommend improvements in the following points.

- Formulate and implement an action plan to remove barriers in the environment, including public and private buildings.
- Formulate an improvement plan that assesses existing infrastructure and clarifies deadlines for achieving targets.
- Incorporate accessibility standards into public procurement, and make compliance with standards mandatory with the introduction of sanctions.

Transport

In Benin, Decree No. 2023-324 of 21 June 2023 (decree establishing tax measures concerning the import, manufacture and sale of means of transport and devices for persons with disabilities) and Decree No. 2023-326 of 21 June 2023 (decree establishing preferential measures in public transport and public cultural and leisure facilities for the benefit of persons with disabilities) have been enacted, and by codifying preferential measures for improving accessibility in the mobility and transport of persons with disabilities and the right to mobility as a system, they are positioned as providing a basis for shifting from conventional discretionary responses to rights-based access guarantees.

The Replies to the LOI (2023) also report that wheelchairs and tricycles are distributed as mobility support for persons with disabilities, positioned as an effort to improve transport access through both individual and institutional support. Meanwhile, the Concluding observations (2024) point out that barriers to persons with disabilities accessing transport still exist and that accessible transport services are not sufficiently secured in either urban or rural areas, and call for the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive accessibility action plan including the transport field.

7) Information Accessibility

According to the Replies to the LOI (2023), media information is provided accessibly through sign language, captioning, Braille and audio description, and a bill to make sign

language an official language is under deliberation[76], with efforts being advanced to improve access to information. In addition, improvements to means of communication are also planned.

Meanwhile, the Concluding observations (2024) point out that access to information and communication technology (hereinafter referred to as "ICT") and to information and communication remains insufficient, and that the lack of accessibility in public information, websites and media services is a challenge, recommending a more systematic and comprehensive response as follows.

- Ensuring the digital accessibility of public information and services needs improvement.
- Barriers also need to be removed in the field of information and communication, including ICT.
- ICT accessibility standards need to be introduced in public procurement.
- Information provision such as websites and television should be provided in accessible formats (captioning, sign language, etc.).

8) Disaster Risk Management

Disaster management policy and legislation in Benin are constituted not by a single basic disaster management law as in Japan, but by a combination of multiple decrees (décret) and policy documents. At their core is Decree No. 2023-334 of 21 June 2023 (decree establishing measures and procedures for disaster risk reduction, public health emergencies and civil protection)[77], which comprehensively sets out the framework for disaster risk reduction, emergency response and civil protection. Institutionally, the 2011 decree establishing the national disaster management platform (Decree No. 2011-834 of 30 December 2011 (decree on the establishment, composition, powers and operation of the national platform for disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change in the Republic of Benin))[78] and the 2012 decree establishing the National Civil Protection Agency (Agence Nationale de Protection Civile: ANPC) (Decree No. 2012-426 of 6 November 2012, which is a decree on the establishment, powers, organization and operation of the National Civil Protection Agency))[79] set out the roles of the implementation structure for disaster response and civil protection.

[76] As of April 2026, the law in question had not been confirmed in the government's official legislative database (SGG), and is therefore considered not to have been promulgated or to have entered into force.
[77] République du Bénin (2023) *Décret n° 2023-334 du 21 Juin 2023,* https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2023-344/ (Accessed: 7 April 2026)
[78] République du Bénin (2011) *Décret n° 2011-834 du 30 Décembre 2011*, https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2011-834/ (Accessed: 5 April 2026)
[79] République du Bénin (2012) *Décret n° 2012-426 du 06 Novembre 2012,* https://sgg.gouv.bj/doc/decret-2012-426/ (Accessed: 5 April 2026)

In recent years, a 2024 decree reorganising civil protection bodies and a national contingency plan[80] have also been formulated.

Meanwhile, the decrees and plans contain almost no explicit provisions or concrete plans concerning persons with disabilities. For example, the 2023 decree broadly targets affected populations (populations touchées) and affected residents, without adopting a form that enumerates specific social groups. Similarly, the decrees on the national disaster management platform and the National Civil Protection Agency contain no provisions specifically identifying persons with disabilities. However, these decrees presuppose the concept of "vulnerability" in implementation processes such as risk assessment, needs assessment and relief activities, and in practice have a structure that incorporates consideration for groups particularly requiring support. The positioning of persons with disabilities in Benin's disaster management system is therefore thought to be indirect inclusion as part of "vulnerable groups (groupes vulnérables)" rather than explicit provision as rights-holders. In particular, emergency response plans include, among "affected persons with special needs," persons with disabilities as well as older persons, pregnant and post-partum women and children, and provide for comprehensive support including healthcare, food and protection. In addition, disaster-management-related project documents (e.g., the Adaptation Fund[81], etc.) explicitly position persons with disabilities as a target group, pointing out the need to ensure access at each stage of early warning, evacuation and relief.

The Concluding observations (2024) point out the lack of evacuation procedures and guidelines for persons with disabilities, the lack of accessibility of warnings and information provision, and the inadequacy of reasonable accommodation in shelters and relief support, and recommend the formulation of evacuation protocols responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities, the development of accessible early-warning systems, and ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities at all stages of disaster risk reduction and disaster recovery.

[80] Agence Nationale de Protection Civile (2023) *Plan National de Contingence,* https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/ben229812.pdf (Accessed: 3 April 2026)

[81] The Adaptation Fund is an adaptation support fund operated within the UN climate change framework, supported operationally by the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility and funded by contributions from various countries. For the project document, see the Fund's website: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/3_AFB.PPRC_.36.13-Proposal-for-Benin.pdf (Accessed: 3 April 2026)

3. International Treaties and International Cooperation

3-1. Response to the ratification of the CRPD[82]

The Government of Benin signed the CRPD on 8 February 2008 and ratified it on 5 July 2012. It also ratified the Optional Protocol on the same day. It submitted the State Party's Report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2019. A parallel report was submitted by an NGO called "Changement Social Bénin." Following the constructive dialogue, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities issued its concluding observations in 2024. The next State Party's Report is due in 2034.

3-2. Status of Implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty

As of April 2026, the Government of Benin has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty. There is also no domestic system substituting for the functions of the Marrakesh Treaty.

The principle of access to information is established in the Disability Rights Act, Article 53 ("persons with disabilities have the right to receive information and education concerning health"), Article 58 ("the State shall provide persons with disabilities with information services, education and other means") and Article 62 ("public and private communication services shall take persons with disabilities into account in their provision"), but means of realisation such as making works available in accessible formats for persons with visual impairments and persons with reading disabilities, as under the Marrakesh Treaty, are not provided for.

3-3. Initiatives on Disability Issues within SDG-related Policies[83]

At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, the "Disability and Development Report 2024," the UN flagship report summarising the progress of disability inclusion, reports Benin's situation as follows.

Table 3 SDG indicators in Benin

SDG target	Indicator	Category	Rate
5.4. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and	Rate of women over age 15 engaged in unpaid work (2021)	Women with disabilities	5%

[82] https://tbinternet.ohchr.org (Accessed: 15 March 2026)

[83] United Nations (2024) *Disability and development report 2024: accelerating the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities,* https://indico.un.org/event/1010238/attachments/20948/59724/DDR%202024%20Full%20report%20-%20Unedited.pdf (Accessed: 5 April 2026)

SDG target	Indicator	Category	Rate
social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.		Women without disabilities	7%
5.5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.	Rate of women working as managers or legislators (2021)	Women with disabilities	0.3%
		Women without disabilities	0.2%
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Rate of access to water and sanitation (2021)	Persons with disabilities	33%
		Persons without disabilities	37%
6.1. By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	Rate of access to safe drinking water inside and outside the home for persons with disabilities (2021)	Rural	21%
		Urban	55%
6.2. By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.	Rate of access to improved sanitation facilities inside the home (2021)	Persons with disabilities	5%
		Persons without disabilities	6%
	Rate of access to improved sanitation facilities for persons with disabilities (2021)	Rural	1%
		Urban	13%
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Rate of households of persons with disabilities with access to electricity (2021)	Rural	16%
		Urban	53%
	Rate of households cooking with firewood/charcoal (2017)	Households with persons with disabilities	93%
		Households without persons with disabilities	92%

Source: United Nations (2024). *Disability and Development Report 2024.*

Overall, Benin can be said to belong to the group of surveyed countries with low levels of indicator achievement on many indicators.

In addition, Benin has conducted Voluntary National Reviews (hereinafter referred to as "VNR") three times, in 2017, 2018 and 2020. In VNR 2020[84], in order to realise the commitment to "leave no one behind," Benin states that it will advance key initiatives aimed at strengthening the self-reliance of all people, regardless of age, sex, situation, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic status, and promoting their social, economic and political integration. Persons with disabilities are not explicitly identified as a distinct target. Nor is there any reported information that OPDs participated in the various meetings and provided feedback on the draft report.

Apart from the VNR, the "Benin SDGs Report 2025"[85] has been prepared as an SDG monitoring report, but disability-related indicators are not compiled.

3-4. Ratification of and Initiatives regarding Other International Treaties related to Disabilities and Development

The Government of Benin ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1992. The most recent concluding observations were issued in 2024[86], positioning women with disabilities, alongside rural women and migrant women, as a particularly vulnerable group affected by multiple discrimination, and pointing out that the lack of awareness of rights in access to justice and the shortage of sign language interpretation, Braille and accessible facilities are barriers. They also note that women with disabilities are a group at high risk of gender-based violence and trafficking and call for strengthened protection services, and point out, in education, the lack of access to inclusive education, and in employment, the constraints on access to employment opportunities and vocational training. They further note barriers to access to medical and sexual and reproductive health services and the lack of opportunities to participate in sports and cultural activities. In light of these, the Committee recommends the need to strengthen accessibility and inclusiveness across sectors.

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[84] République du Bénin (2020) *Contribution nationale volontaire à la mise en œuvre des Objectifs de développement durable au Forum politique de haut niveau,* https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26283VNR_2020_Benin_Report.pdf (Accessed: 6 April 2026)

[85] UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2026) *Benin Sustainable Development Report 2025: Green Transition Agroecology and Renewable Energy*, https://sdgtransformationcenter.org/reports/benin-sustainable-development-report-2025 (Accessed: 3 April 2026)

[86] UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2024) *Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Benin,* https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2FC%2FBEN%2FCO%2F5&Lang=en (Accessed: 11 April 2026)

The Government of Benin ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990. The most recent concluding observations were issued in 2016[87], pointing out the lack of information on children with disabilities, the inadequacy of access to inclusive education and health services, and the existence of social exclusion and stigma. In light of these, they recommend adopting a human-rights approach to disability, formulating a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities, developing a data-collection system on children with disabilities, prioritising the promotion of inclusive education, and ensuring access to health services including early detection and intervention. The strengthening of awareness-raising to eliminate prejudice and discrimination is also raised as an important challenge.

The Government of Benin has not ratified International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 159 (Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Convention)[88], the international convention requiring each country to formulate and implement a national policy so that persons with disabilities can receive appropriate vocational rehabilitation and access employment opportunities on an equal basis with others[89].

In addition, with respect to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa (African Disability Protocol; adopted in 2018, entered into force in 2024), which is a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities that maintains the principles of the CRPD while reflecting Africa's own context, Benin has not signed it[90].

3-5. International Cooperation on Disability[91]

• The Government of Japan[92]

Grant aid

[87] UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2016) *Concluding observations on the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Benin, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2FC%2FBEN%2FCO%2F3-5&Lang=en* (Accessed: 11 April 2026)

[88] Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, which entered into force in 1985.

[89] ILO NORMLEX, https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:11200:0::NO:11200:P11200_COUNTRY_ID:103028 (Accessed: 11 April 2026)

[90] https://www.chr.up.ac.za/latest-news/28-units/dru-unit/4157-status-of-ratification-on-the-protocol-to-the-african-charter-on-human-and-peoples-rights-of-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-africa (Accessed: 10 March 2026)

[91] Project names are listed exactly as they appear in the original text. However, this does not apply in cases where there is no English name or the English name is unknown.

[92] Prepared based on the JICA ODA visualisation site (https://www2.jica.go.jp/ja/oda/index.php) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' development cooperation with Benin (https://www.bj.emb-japan.go.jp/j/cooperation.html) (Accessed: 11 April 2026).

- Project for Construction of Public Primary Schools in Benin (Phase V)[93] (from December 2012, Grant amount 1.227 billion yen)
- Project for Construction of Allada Hospital in Atlantique Region[94] (March 2015, Grant amount 1.9 billion yen)

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

- Assigned to the Sègbèya Social Promotion Centre for Persons with Visual Disabilities, support for children and persons with disabilities (from 10 July 2018, approximately 1 year and 9 months)[95]

• Other donors

[International organizations]

United Nations Global Disability Fund (Global Disability Fund)

- Delivering as One programme[96] for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in Benin (2018–2021)[97] (a joint project with WHO, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund and UNDP)

World Bank

- Benin Social Safety Net Programme (2023–2027)[98]

[Bilateral agencies]

Embassy of France

- Project to promote the inclusion of students with disabilities in Benin's public universities (in cooperation with the Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities of Benin (hereinafter referred to as "FAPHB"))[99]

French Development Agency (AFD)

- European Union–AFD research facility on inequality (2020)[100]

[93] ODA visualisation site, https://libopac.jica.go.jp/images/report/12087375_01.pdf (Accessed: 20 April 2026)
[94] ODA visualisation site: https://libopac.jica.go.jp/images/report/12232773.pdf (Accessed: 20 April 2026)
[95] JICA website, https://www.jica.go.jp/domestic/kansai/activities/volunteer/report/202007_01.html (Accessed: 20 April 2026)
[96] An approach in which UN agencies act as one (Delivering as One).
[97] The funding source is UNPRPD / the Global Disability Fund. GDF website, https://globaldisabilityfund.org/programme/benin/ (Accessed: 2 April 2026)
[98] World Bank website, https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099110625120737812/pdf/P176680-86eba186-8ada-462f-a762-d92eab1c3bbe.pdf (Accessed: 3 April 2026)
[99] Educación website, https://media.eduactions.bj/inclusion-des-etudiants-en-situation-de-handicap-lup-et-luac-premieres-beneficiaires/ (Accessed: 7 April 2026)
[100] https://www.afd.fr/sites/default/files/2024-07-04-54-44/AFD_S%C3%A9rie%20grise_7_Mapping_Inequalities.pdf

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

- Programme to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities in Africa (BRIDGE Africa) (2024–2028)[101]
- Project to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities (2023–2026)[102]

[International NGOs]

Humanity & Inclusion (HI)

- Project to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and support their socio-economic participation (Droits, Égalité, Citoyenneté, Solidarité, Inclusion des Personnes Handicapées: DECISIPH) (2010–)[103]
- Three projects in the fields of inclusive education, community-based inclusive development, and physical security and stockpile management of weapons and ammunition (2013–2017)[104].
- Inclusive employment (2021–2024)[105]
- "Making it Work" project (2020–2025)[106]
- Project to strengthen the emergency response system and address basic needs in northern Benin (2023–2024)[107]

African Organization for the Development and Communication of Persons with Disabilities (Organisation Africaine pour le Développement et la Communication des Personnes Handicapées: OADCPH)[108]

- 3D workshop development project (a joint project with Humanitarian Prosthetists and Orthotists)

(Accessed: 11 April 2026)

[101] GIZ website, https://www.giz.de/en/projects/boosting-rights-individuals-disabilities-africa-bridge-africa (Accessed: 11 April 2026)

[102] GIZ website, https://www.giz.de/en/projects/inclusion-persons-disabilities-0 (Accessed: 11 April 2026)

[103] HI website, https://www.hi.org/en/country/benin (Accessed: 11 April 2026)

[104] HI website, https://www.hi.org/sn_uploads/federation/country/pdf/2023-12-Country-Sheet-External-Long-BENIN-EN.pdf (Accessed: 11 April 2026)

[105] *Ibid.*

[106] *Ibid.*

[107] *Ibid.*

[108] OADCPH website, https://en.oadcph.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Rapport-semestriel-2025_ENG.pdf (Accessed: 11 April 2026)

4. Disability-related Organizations and Activities

The activities of OPDs in Benin focus mainly on awareness raising, inclusive education, vocational training and the promotion of social participation, and in many cases depend on project-based funding from international NGOs and donor agencies[109]. The national federation, the Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities of Benin, plays a central role in advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities and in policy dialogue. The State Party's Report (2019) states that "this report was prepared incorporating information from national institutions and civil society, particularly organizations involved in the rights of persons with disabilities," but the names of the organizations that specifically participated are not given.

4-1. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)

Organization Name	Overview
Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities of Benin (FAPHB)[110]	FAPHB is a national-level federation bringing together multiple OPDs and is the representative OPD in Benin. Its organizational mission is to enhance the operational capacity of the network of organizations of persons with disabilities so that disability associations can themselves actively participate in development, through information, education, communication and advocacy activities. Its activities include advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities and engagement with the legal system, dialogue with the government, participation in projects, support for OPDs, and training and awareness activities. In 2025, as part of the "Inclusion of students with disabilities of Benin" project supported by the Government of France, it conducted training for administrative staff and teachers at the University of Abomey-Calavi in cooperation with the French Embassy, with the aim of improving the learning environment for students with disabilities[111].
Universal Association of Works for the Development of the Deaf (Association Universelle des Œuvres pour le Développement des Sourds: ASUNOES)[112]	An OPD working on the promotion and protection of the rights of deaf persons. It conducts advocacy, education and vocational training for deaf persons and operates a center for the education and integration of deaf persons. It provides vocational training (sewing, beauty, etc.), educational opportunities and social integration support.

[109] Analysed based on the results of a review of the activities of OPDs.
[110] FAPHB website, https://faphb.org/ (Accessed: 7 April 2026)
[111] FAPHB website, https://faphb.org/2025/02/24/inclusion-des-etudiants-handicapes-du-benin-la-faphb-outille-la-communaute-universitaire/ (Accessed: 7 April 2026)
[112] ASUNOES website, https://asunoes.onlc.be/ (Accessed: 10 April 2026)

Benin Deaf Solidarity Association (Solidarité-Sourds-Bénin)[113]	An organization established by deaf persons themselves, focusing on employment promotion and vocational training. Its main activities are vocational training (hairdressing and beauty, sewing, etc.), employment support and the establishment of educational facilities.
Organization of Blind Women of Benin (Organisation des Femmes Aveugles du Bénin: OFAB)[114]	One of the representative OPDs in Benin, an organization of blind and partially sighted women that conducts advocacy for the rights of women and girls with visual impairments, promotion of their social participation (including participation in decision-making), and responses to the intersectional discrimination of gender and disability.

4-2. Disability Support Organizations

Organization Name	Overview
Association for the Total Rehabilitation of the Deaf in Benin (L'Association pour la Réhabilitation Totale des Sourds au Bénin: ARTSB)[115]	An NGO supporting the education, vocational training and social participation of deaf persons, conducting activities aimed at the empowerment of persons concerned. Whether it is an organization led by persons concerned is not clear from publicly available information.
Équilibre Bénin[116]	An NGO operating in Benin that aims to support children and youth with disabilities, provide rehabilitation (particularly community-based support), and provide social integration and self-reliance support. It implements its activities in cooperation with its French partner (Equilibre Bénin France).

[113] Solidarité-Sourds-Bénin website, http://solidarite-sourds-benin.wifeo.com/ (Accessed: 11 April 2026)
[114] Organisation of Blind Women of Benin and NGO Dédji (2025) Hear us out! - Voices of women with disabilities from Benin, https://www.makingitwork-crpd.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/REPORT%20Hear%20us%20out%20EDID_OFAB-DEDJI_20Feb2026_0.pdf (Accessed: 1 April 2026)
[115] ARTSB website, https://arts-benin.com/ (Accessed: 7 April 2026)
[116] Association Equilibre Benin France website, https://www.equilibrebeninfrance.fr/ (Accessed: 11 April 2026)

5. Barriers and Needs Faced by Persons with Disabilities[117]

5-1. Barriers to and Needs regarding Healthcare Services

In Benin, while the institutional foundation for access to healthcare is being developed through the introduction of the compulsory health insurance scheme (Decree No. 2023-327), several challenges are pointed out regarding its effectiveness. First, although the provision of basic medical services is progressing, access to supported decision-making and sexual and reproductive health services for persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities and persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, is said to be insufficient. Second, community-based mental health services are lacking, and the shift from facility-centered care to community living support has not progressed sufficiently. Third, disability-specific medical responses are inadequate, such as shortages of medicines and protective products for persons with albinism. Fourth, training on the rights of persons with disabilities for medical and traditional medicine practitioners is lacking, and improving the quality of services is a challenge. Fifth, the existence of out-of-pocket payments and the lack of physical and informational accessibility of medical facilities are pointed out as barriers to the use of healthcare. In sum, although institutional development is progressing, challenges remain in responding to disability-specific needs and in ensuring accessibility and the quality of services.

In Benin, persons with disabilities also face many barriers in access to medical and social services[118]. Specifically, in addition to a shortage of medical facilities that can provide appropriate care, rehabilitation services for functional recovery and maintenance are extremely limited, which in turn constrains the social participation of persons with disabilities. A cross-sectional study on the social participation of persons with disabilities in areas of Benin and Côte d'Ivoire endemic for neglected tropical diseases (NTD)[119] found that 65.9% of the 841 persons with disabilities surveyed experienced some restriction on social participation, confirming a situation of serious social exclusion. Many of these persons with disabilities are of low income (about 90% have a monthly income of FCFA 50,000 or less, approximately USD 87.45) and low education (about 60% have no education), placed in a vulnerable socio-economic situation. Restrictions on social participation were associated with increasing age, low education level and being out of work, while education and employment tended to contribute to reducing restrictions. These results suggest that the social participation of

[117] Unless otherwise noted, based on the Concluding observations (2024).

[118] Tossou et al. (2024)

[119] A survey conducted in 2021–2022 in the two countries of Benin and Côte d'Ivoire by the "Interdisciplinary Centre for Environmental Formation and Research for Sustainable Development" of the University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin. It covered 841 persons with disabilities (418 in Benin / 421 in Côte d'Ivoire) and 90 community members and stakeholders (57 in Benin / 33 in Côte d'Ivoire). Source: Tossou et al. (2024)

persons with disabilities and their access to medical and social services are strongly constrained by economic and social factors.

5-2. Barriers to and Needs regarding Employment

A survey of 841 persons with disabilities in Côte d'Ivoire and Benin shows that, while persons with disabilities can establish independent livelihoods with their skills and initiative, barriers such as restricted access to finance (microfinance), the lack of social protection services, and discrimination hinder the expansion and stabilisation of employment outcomes[120].

5-3. Barriers to and Needs regarding Transportation

In Benin, assistive devices such as canes, wheelchairs and prostheses are often difficult to obtain for persons with disabilities who also face poverty, significantly constraining their mobility and safety inside and outside the home[121].

5-4. Barriers to and Needs regarding Information Access

According to Kamei (2016)[122], with respect to information accessibility for deaf persons in Benin, there is a marked shortage of sign language interpreters, and systems and institutions to train interpreters are not in place. Opportunities for hearing people to learn sign language are also limited, and the training and dispatch of interpreters by the government and local authorities are not sufficiently carried out. Under these circumstances, a linguistic disconnect exists between sign language and spoken language, creating barriers to access to information and social participation.

5-5. Barriers and Needs regarding Gender

According to a survey by Benin's organizations of women with disabilities (OFAB and the NGO Dédji) that clarified the realities, challenges and needs of 50 women with disabilities in the southern region[123], women with disabilities have the will to participate in society but their political participation and involvement in decision-making are restricted by a lack of information and by physical and communication barriers. Social discrimination such as

[120] Tossou et al. (2024)

[121] The Borgen Project website, https://borgenproject.org/disability-and-poverty-in-benin/ (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

[122] Kamei, N. (2016)“A Basic Model of Human Development among Deaf People: A Case from the History of Deaf Education in Africa,”[In Japanese]. *Disability and Development in Africa: Towards the SDGs*, Institute of Developing Economies

[123] Organisation of Blind Women of Benin and NGO Dédji (2025) *Hear us out! - Voices of women with disabilities from Benin,* https://www.makingitwork-crpd.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/REPORT%20Hear%20us%20out%20EDID_OFAB-DEDJI_20Feb2026_0.pdf (Accessed: 1 April 2026)

prejudice, stigma, ridicule and isolation is also reported to remain widespread. Economically, the lack of access to funds, training and markets and the unsuitability of support systems are pointed out as factors hindering independent economic activity. Furthermore, there is inequality in access to basic services such as education, vocational training and healthcare, with cost burdens and the lack of accessibility being major barriers. In addition, although gender-based violence exists, it is reported not to be sufficiently visible owing to difficulties in reporting and constraints on access to systems. In family relationships, overprotection and restrictions on involvement in decision-making are also pointed out as factors that can hinder autonomy. Behind these challenges are structural factors such as poverty, the lack of accessibility and inadequate institutional implementation.

5-6. Other

[Barriers and needs concerning the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in detention settings[124]]

Although efforts toward realising the rights of persons with disabilities are being advanced, there is still room for improvement in the response in detention settings. In a 2023 human rights monitoring exercise by "Changement Social Bénin," individual interviews were conducted with 1,156 persons (1,055 men and 101 women) across all 11 prison facilities in the country. As a result, 85% of respondents recognised that persons with disabilities were present in the detention facilities, of whom 95% replied that no special consideration or measures were taken for persons with disabilities. The monitoring also confirmed the presence of detainees with physical and visual disabilities, but reported that no physical-environment arrangements or support measures suited to the characteristics of their disabilities were provided. In addition, the suspension of visits at detention facilities on grounds of the COVID-19 epidemic, based on a circular of the Minister of Justice and Legislation dated 18 March 2020, continued as of 2024, when the parallel report was submitted. This measure may affect opportunities for outside support and oversight. These situations present challenges from the standpoint of providing reasonable accommodation to detainees with disabilities and ensuring equal access to the detention environment. Rule 5 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) requires that reasonable accommodation and necessary adjustments be made for detainees with disabilities so that they can participate in prison life on an equal basis. Therefore, the current situation can be said to require strengthened institutional

[124] Based on the parallel report, Info from Civil Society Organization. ONG Changement Social Bénin, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRPD%2FCSS%2FBEN%2F58793&Lang=en (Accessed: 26 March 2026)

operation, from the standpoint of providing reasonable accommodation and developing the environment, regarding the situation of persons with disabilities in detention facilities.

[Barriers and needs concerning participation in political and public life[125]]

With respect to the political participation of persons with disabilities, although the principle of formal equality exists, there are challenges in ensuring substantive equality. According to human rights monitoring of the legislative elections of 8 January 2023, it was confirmed that in several areas, voters with physical disabilities faced difficulties in accessing polling stations and in voting procedures. Cases were also reported in which the physical environment and operating arrangements of polling stations were not considerate of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, inappropriate responses and discriminatory treatment by electoral officials were also confirmed, with cases in which necessary support was not provided and cases in which persons with visual impairments were refused the right to vote. In some cases, support was provided by party officials, but this leaves challenges from the standpoint of the neutrality and fairness of the vote. These situations show challenges in institutional operation for persons with disabilities to exercise their electoral rights on an equal basis with other voters.

[125] Based on the parallel report, Info from Civil Society Organization. ONG Changement Social Bénin

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