



PROJECT PROFILE

Developing Strategy Across Key Governance Areas in Benin



PROJECT NAME

Benin Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA)

CLIENT

USAID/Benin

PRIME CONTRACTOR

Resonance Global

COUNTRY

Benin

TIME PERIOD

Jun. 2018 – Jun. 2021

Challenge

Benin ranks 166 out of 187 countries on the Human Development Index. More than a third of the population lives in poverty, and nearly half of all children under five years old are stunted due to malnutrition. USAID investments in Benin primarily center on the health sector, with a focus on reducing maternal and child mortality. But for long-term, widespread, and sustainable change in Benin's health outcomes, key governance challenges – including corruption and a lack of transparency and accountability – must also be addressed. Advancing good governance in Benin is critical to the success of broader humanitarian investments.

Solution

Through the Benin Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA), USAID/Benin has engaged Resonance to help promote good governance, with institutions and processes that are transparent, accountable, and responsible to the people of Benin. We provide technical assistance, conduct research and analysis, and facilitate improved dialogue between the Government of Benin and local civil society.

We work with USAID/Benin to develop strategy and advance activities across a range of key governance areas, including: public management and capacity-building, public financial management, national audit and internal control systems, public procurement, government transparency, and mechanisms through which civil society can exert pressure to demand government accountability.

Key Results

Resonance has implemented four Call Orders under the Benin BPA:

Call Order 1: Risk Management and Audit/CNLS-TP Support (Sept. 2018 – Feb. 2019)

Resonance provided technical assistance to the Government of Benin to:

- Operationalize a new risk management system in Benin, designed to support the Government of Benin to reorganize and restructure its operations and programming. Resonance fielded an administrative/operational expert who worked across several Government of Benin units to evaluate operational standards and make recommendations to improve government capacity and efficiency within day-to-day operations.
- Host a national workshop on targeted issues promoted by the Presidential Commission on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Hepatitis, STIs and Epidemics (CNLS-TP). Resonance worked with various health foundations and local organizations to design and implement a national workshop on an evaluation of the Government of Benin's 2017 mosquito net mass distribution campaign, as part of the national strategy to combat malaria. In Vietnam, TCA co-hosted two workshops on Women in the Economy to bring together policymakers and private sector representatives to discuss means of advancing women in the workforce and the digital economy.

Call Order 2: Workshops for Budget Controllers (Sept. 2019 – Mar. 2020)

Resonance hosted two dynamic, two-week workshops in Benin's capital city, Cotonou, for budget controllers and auditors, to promote awareness and adherence to Benin's new financial legal framework and to help the Ministry move toward results-based management.

- Resonance supported Benin's Ministry of Economy and Finance by hosting two workshops in November and December 2019 to convey new budgetary practices to local financial controllers. The workshops, which drew from case studies and a "learn by doing" design, resulted in 59 Beninese budget controllers and auditors gaining an improved understanding of budgetary principles and new budget control practices.

- With Benin's Ministry of Economy and Finance, Resonance produced a comprehensive Guide to the Law on Public Finance No. 2013-14 (LOLF) to share with workshop participants. The Guide highlighted the LOLF's strengthening of parliamentary decision-making power to effectively implement and manage public finances in Benin.
- Based on participant survey results, 62% of participants considered their knowledge of budget control preparation and tools to be "fairly good" after the conclusion of the workshop, compared to a 16.5% benchmark rate from pre-workshop calculations.

Call Order 3: Political and Economic Advisor (PEA) Consultancy Services (Dec. 2018 – Apr. 2019)

Resonance fielded a Political and Economic Advisor to work with USAID/Benin to identify and address key governance challenges that limit the impact of broader development investments. The Advisor examines how poor governance affects bilateral programs to expand health service delivery, strengthen health sector governance, and improve protection of vulnerable populations. The Advisor also looks at how local governance impacts regional development programs focused on agriculture, trade, and water and sanitation. The Advisor, backed by Resonance's home office team, provides on-demand support to USAID/Benin with a focus on political economy analysis to enhance the Mission's understanding of power dynamics and economic and social forces that affect its programming.

- Resonance has produced 20 analytical documents, on issues ranging from constitutional reforms to political parties to the impact of border closures. These analyses help to shape and inform USAID/Benin's strategic approach and programming across a range of development challenges and sectors.

Call Order 4: Combatting Counterfeit Medicines (Aug. 2019 – Aug. 2020)

Resonance is working with USAID/Benin and the Government of Benin in the national fight against counterfeit medicine trafficking. [Read more here](#)