



RESTRUCTURING PAPER
ON A
PROPOSED PROJECT RESTRUCTURING
OF
EARLY YEARS NUTRITION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
APPROVED ON FEBRUARY 21, 2019
TO
REPUBLIC OF BENIN

HEALTH, NUTRITION & POPULATION

AFRICA WEST

Regional Vice President:	Ousmane Diagana
Country Director:	Coralie Gevers
Regional Director:	Dena Ringold
Practice Manager/Manager:	Gaston Sorgho
Task Team Leader(s):	Menno Mulder-Sibanda, Yacinthe Gbaye



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CERC	Contingency Emergency Response Component
ECD	Early Childhood Development
PDO	Project Development Objective
SDR	Special Drawing Rights
SOP	Series of Projects
SP-CAN	<i>Secrétaire Permanent du Conseil de l'Alimentation et de la Nutrition</i> / Permanent Secretary of the Food and Nutrition Council



BASIC DATA

Product Information

Project ID P166211	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing
Original EA Category Not Required (C)	Current EA Category Not Required (C)
Approval Date 21-Feb-2019	Current Closing Date 31-May-2024

Organizations

Borrower Republic of Benin	Responsible Agency Permanent Secretariat of the national Food and Nutrition Council (SP CAN)
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Project Development Objective (PDO)

Original PDO

S-PDO is to reduce stunting and improve ECD outcomes in children under five years of age in targeted communes

The PDO (SOP-1) is to improve the delivery of early nutrition and childhood development interventions and services in targeted areas of benefiting Communes in the Recipient's territory.

Current PDO

The PDO (SOP-1) is to improve the delivery of early child nutrition and development interventions and support emergency services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in targeted Communes in the Recipient's territory.

Summary Status of Financing (US\$, Millions)

Ln/Cr/Tf	Approval	Signing	Effectiveness	Closing	Commitment	Net Disbursed	Undisbursed
IDA-D4250	21-Feb-2019	25-Mar-2019	16-Jul-2019	31-May-2024	50.00	27.57	23.25



Policy Waiver(s)

Does this restructuring trigger the need for any policy waiver(s)?

No



I. PROJECT STATUS AND RATIONALE FOR RESTRUCTURING

1. The Benin Early Years Nutrition and Child Development Project was approved on February 21, 2019 and declared effective in a timely manner on July 16, 2019. The project's closing date is set on May 31, 2024. The project has four components including an initially dormant Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) that has been activated on April 24, 2020 in response to the national emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Project implementation, in line with the work and procurement plans agreed upon with the World Bank, has recently slowed down as a result of: (i) the COVID-19 related restrictions on movements and gatherings; (ii) the focus on the emergency response as a result of the CERC activation; and (iii) changes in the management team at a critical time of project implementation. In the last Implementation Status and Results Report (ISR), dated February 2021, the project is rated moderately unsatisfactory on progress towards the Project Development Objective (PDO) as well as on overall implementation progress. The main concern relates to the pending integration of early stimulation and learning activities in the minimum package of activities at community level. The disbursement rate is a healthy 54 percent as of July 21, 2021. The project is implemented by the Permanent Secretary of the Food and Nutrition Council (*Secrétaire Permanent du Conseil de l'Alimentation et de la Nutrition, SP-CAN*) which reports to the President's Office.
3. In December 2020, the Bank conducted an early mid-term review mission to anticipate the lowering of performance ratings, better comprehend the bottlenecks and identify potential solutions. During the mission, the two parties identified key actions to turn the project's performance around, including a restructuring in response to the COVID-19-induced slow down of the project's core activities. These recommendations have been reviewed and taken up by the Government which accordingly submitted a request for restructuring on July 12, 2021. The proposed changes will: (i) lower selected indicator targets that now prove unrealistically high following the past pandemic year; (ii) drop some activities that do not contribute to the PDO (and have essentially been replaced by the CERC activities), thereby allowing the project to focus more on the PDO; and (iii) accordingly reallocate resources towards achieving PDO results. The PDO, which was modified in response to the CERC activation, remains highly relevant and therefore unchanged. The team fully supports the proposed changes and expects that together with the implementation of other recommendations of the December 2020 mission which is closely monitored through virtual meetings every two to three weeks, the project will return to satisfactory performance within the new fiscal year.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES

4. The restructuring recommends: (i) dropping Component 3 on Integrated Primary School Feeding and Nutrition which does not contribute to the PDO; and (ii) reallocate the remaining resources of US\$2.4 million under Component 3, which had already been significantly reduced following the reallocation of resources, to Component 2 (US\$2 million) and Component 4 (US\$0.4 million). The associated changes in the disbursement table in Special Drawing Rights (SDR) are shown in Table 1.
5. In addition, the restructuring recommends the following changes to the results framework: (i) lowering the target for two of the five PDO indicators; (ii) lowering target for five intermediate indicators; (iii) dropping four intermediate indicators of which three refer to Component 3 which is to be dropped, and one refers to a survey dependent indicator of Component 2 which is proving to be too complicated to measure. The changes are summarized in the table 2.



Table 1: Proposed changes to the disbursement table

Category		Amount in SDR		
		Current	Revised	Change
1	Works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, Training and Operating Costs for the Project	10,440,000	10,440,000	No change
2	NGO Financings for Communal Subprojects under Part 2(a) of the Project	16,550,000	17,975,000	+1,425,000
3	Service Provider Payments under Part 3 of the Project	1,730,000	0	-1,730,000
4	Emergency Expenditures under Part 4 of the Project	7,190,000	7,495,000	+305,000
5	Refund of Preparation Advance	90,000	90,000	No change
Total		36,000,000	36,000,000	

Table 2: Proposed changes to the results framework

PDO Indicator	Original target	Revised Target
Percentage of children 0-24 months who benefit from a package of nutrition and child stimulation services (percentage)	30	10
Caregivers with children 0-59 months who have received education on parenting practices that promote ECD within the previous three months (percentage) / of which male (percentage)	70 / 40	30 / 20
Intermediate Indicator	Original target	Revised target
<i>Component 1: Management and Coordination of Early Years Interventions</i>		
Communes that have put in place a feedback mechanism for citizen beneficiaries (number)	45	22
Regional and national reviews held to evaluate progress (number)	20	7
<i>Component 2: Community-based Interventions for the Early Years</i>		
Communes that have an advanced strategy to provide community-based prenatal and post-natal services, according to a checklist (number)	40	20
Functional community spaces for child learning and play (number)	185	77
Community leaders who participated in community radio programs on new themes and approaches to ECD (number)	800	320
	Observation	Action
Children 36-59 months with adult member engaged in at least 4 learning activities in last 3 days (percentage)	Irrelevant	Drop
<i>Component 3: Integrated Primary School Feeding and Nutrition</i>		
School-going children who received at least one meal per day within the previous three months (number)	Component to be dropped	Drop
Local producers engaged in associations for the provision of food to school (number)	Component to be dropped	Drop
Primary school-age children dewormed (number)	Component to be dropped	Drop



III. SUMMARY OF CHANGES

	Changed	Not Changed
Results Framework	✓	
Components and Cost	✓	
Reallocation between Disbursement Categories	✓	
Overall Risk Rating	✓	
Implementing Agency		✓
DDO Status		✓
Project's Development Objectives		✓
PBCs		✓
Loan Closing Date(s)		✓
Cancellations Proposed		✓
Disbursements Arrangements		✓
Disbursement Estimates		✓
Safeguard Policies Triggered		✓
EA category		✓
Legal Covenants		✓
Institutional Arrangements		✓
Financial Management		✓
Procurement		✓
Implementation Schedule		✓
Other Change(s)		✓
Economic and Financial Analysis		✓
Technical Analysis		✓
Social Analysis		✓
Environmental Analysis		✓

IV. DETAILED CHANGE(S)



COMPONENTS

Current Component Name	Current Cost (US\$M)	Action	Proposed Component Name	Proposed Cost (US\$M)
Management and Coordination of Interventions for the Early Years	9.80	No Change	Management and Coordination of Interventions for the Early Years	9.80
Community-based Interventions for the Early Years	27.80	Revised	Community-based Interventions for the Early Years	29.80
Integrated Primary School Feeding and Nutrition	2.40	Marked for Deletion	Integrated Primary School Feeding and Nutrition	0.00
Contingent Emergency Response Component	10.00	Revised	Contingent Emergency Response Component	10.40
TOTAL	50.00			50.00

REALLOCATION BETWEEN DISBURSEMENT CATEGORIES

Current Allocation	Actuals + Committed	Proposed Allocation	Financing % (Type Total)	
			Current	Proposed
IDA-D4250-001 Currency: XDR				
iLap Category Sequence No: 1	Current Expenditure Category: Wrks, Gds, Ncs, Cs, Tr, OC			
10,440,000.00	2,466,135.54	10,440,000.00	100.00	100.00
iLap Category Sequence No: 2	Current Expenditure Category: NGO Financing sub proj prt 2a			
16,550,000.00	5,234,417.02	17,975,000.00	100.00	100.00
iLap Category Sequence No: 3	Current Expenditure Category: Servc Prov payments prt 3			
1,730,000.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
iLap Category Sequence No: 4	Current Expenditure Category: Emergency Exp under Part 4			



	7,190,000.00	7,483,585.53	7,495,000.00	100.00	100.00
iLap Category Sequence No: 5		Current Expenditure Category: Refund of Preparation Advance			
	90,000.00	85,542.24	90,000.00		
Total	36,000,000.00	15,269,680.33	36,000,000.00		

SYSTEMATIC OPERATIONS RISK-RATING TOOL (SORT)

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Current Rating
Political and Governance	● Moderate	● Low
Macroeconomic	● Moderate	● Moderate
Sector Strategies and Policies	● Substantial	● Low
Technical Design of Project or Program	● Substantial	● Low
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	● Substantial	● Substantial
Fiduciary	● Moderate	● Moderate
Environment and Social	● Low	● Low
Stakeholders	● Low	● Low
Other		
Overall	● Substantial	● Moderate



Results framework

COUNTRY: Benin

Early Years Nutrition and Child Development Project

Project Development Objectives(s)

The PDO (SOP-1) is to improve the delivery of early child nutrition and development interventions and support emergency services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in targeted Communes in the Recipient's territory.

Project Development Objective Indicators by Objectives/ Outcomes

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	End Target
PDO (SOP-1): Improve the delivery of early nutrition and childhood development interventions			
Children 0-24 months who benefit from a package of nutrition and child stimulation services (Percentage)		0.00	10.00
Action: This indicator has been Revised	Rationale: <i>In line with the December 2020 mission recommendations (see overall comments), the target of this indicator is revised from 30 to 10 percent to reflect the contextual and project changes.</i>		
Household visits by GrACE members in the past one month (Number)		0.00	150,000.00
Caregivers with children 0-59 months who have received education on parenting practices that promote ECD within the previous three months (Percentage)		0.00	30.00
Action: This indicator has been Revised	Rationale: <i>In line with the December 2020 mission recommendations (see overall comments), the target of this indicator is revised from 70 to 30 percent to reflect the contextual and project changes.</i>		
Of which % male (Percentage)		0.00	20.00



Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	End Target
<i>Action: This indicator has been Revised</i>	<p>Rationale: <i>In line with the December 2020 mission recommendations (see overall comments), the target of this indicator is revised from 40 to 20 percent to reflect the contextual and project changes.</i></p>		
Women with children 0-59 months trained and practicing household gardens, small animal raising, or transformation of diverse foods rich in nutrition within the last 6 months (Number)		9,000.00	20,000.00
COVID-19 isolation sites made functional (Number)		0.00	5.00

Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	End Target
Management and Coordination of Early Years Interventions			
Validation of manuel of harmonized package of services (Yes/No)		No	Yes
Communes that have conducted joint missions to support implementation at community level in the last 6 months (Percentage)		20.00	80.00
Communes that have put in place a feedback mechanism for citizen beneficiaries (Number)		0.00	22.00
<i>Action: This indicator has been Revised</i>	<p>Rationale: <i>In line with the December 2020 mission recommendations (see overall comments), the target of this indicator is revised from 45 to 22 communes to reflect the contextual and project changes, in particular the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on in-country mission travels.</i></p>		



Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	End Target
People who have received essential health, nutrition, and population (HNP) services (CRI, Number)		0.00	1,000,000.00
Number of women and children who have received basic nutrition services (CRI, Number)		0.00	1,000,000.00
Regional and national reviews held to evaluate progress (Number)		0.00	7.00
<p>Action: This indicator has been Revised</p>	<p>Rationale: <i>In line with the December 2020 mission recommendations (see overall comments), the target of this indicator is revised from 20 to 7 communes to reflect the contextual and project changes, in particular the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on in-country mission travels.</i></p>		
<p>Community-based Interventions for the Early Years</p>			
Children aged 0-24 months receiving monthly growth monitoring and promotion (Percentage)		75.00	80.00
Children followed by GrACE in targeted communes with a verified certification of birth (Percentage)		0.00	85.00
Communes that have an advanced strategy to provide community-based prenatal and post-natal services, according to a checklist (Number)		0.00	20.00
<p>Action: This indicator has been Revised</p>	<p>Rationale: <i>In line with the December 2020 mission recommendations (see overall comments), the target of this indicator is revised from 40 to 20 communes to reflect the contextual and project changes, in particular the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on in-country mission travels.</i></p>		
Functional community spaces for child learning and play (Number)		0.00	77.00



Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	End Target
Action: This indicator has been Revised	<p>Rationale: <i>In line with the December 2020 mission recommendations (see overall comments), the target of this indicator is revised from 185 to 77 community spaces for child learning and play to reflect the contextual and project changes.</i></p>		
GrACE members trained to deliver services (Number)		20,000.00	30,000.00
Households with children 0-5 years of age with a hand washing station with soap and water (Number)		15,000.00	70,000.00
Children 36-59 months with adult member engaged in at least 4 learning activities in last 3 days (Percentage)		28.00	70.00
Action: This indicator has been Marked for Deletion	<p>Rationale: <i>In line with the December 2020 mission recommendations (see overall comments), this indicator is marked for deletion. The indicator is dependent on household surveys which have been postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but more importantly, has become irrelevant in measuring the early stimulation activities in the project.</i></p>		
Community leaders who participated in community radio programs on new themes and approaches to ECD (Number)		0.00	320.00
Action: This indicator has been Revised	<p>Rationale: <i>In line with the December 2020 mission recommendations (see overall comments), the target of this indicator is revised from 800 to 320 community leaders to reflect the contextual and project changes, in particular the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on in-country mission travels.</i></p>		
Integrated Primary School Feeding and Nutrition (Action: This Component has been Marked for Deletion)			
School-going children who received at least one meal per day within the previous three months (Number)		0.00	3,000.00
Action: This indicator has been Marked for Deletion	<p>Rationale:</p>		



Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	End Target
	<i>In line with the December 2020 mission recommendations (see overall comments), this indicator is marked for deletion following the cancelation of the component from the project.</i>		
Local producers engaged in associations for the provision of food to school (Number)		0.00	20.00
Action: This indicator has been Marked for Deletion	Rationale: <i>In line with the December 2020 mission recommendations (see overall comments), this indicator is marked for deletion following the cancelation of the component from the project.</i>		
Primary school-age children dewormed (Number)		0.00	10,000.00
Action: This indicator has been Marked for Deletion	Rationale: <i>In line with the December 2020 mission recommendations (see overall comments), this indicator is marked for deletion following the cancelation of the component from the project.</i>		
Contingent Emergency Response Component			
Locally manufactured face masks procured (Number)		0.00	2,564,595.00



The World Bank

Early Years Nutrition and Child Development Project (P166211)
