



## Saving Lives Through Improved Access to Contraceptives in Benin

Benin's 2019-2023 National Family Planning Budgeted Action Plan was designed to provide greater access to voluntary, safe, and affordable family planning information and services for all.<sup>1</sup> The action plan focuses on five tenets: 1) demand creation; 2) supply and access to services; 3) commodity security; 4) policy, enabling environment, and financing; and 5) coordination, monitoring, and evaluation. Furthermore, the plan recognizes that appropriate systems and staffing must be in place to support and ensure clients can easily access commodities. Since fiscal year (FY) 2017, the USAID-funded Global Health Supply Chain – Technical Assistance (GHSC-TA) Francophone Task Order (TO) project has provided systems strengthening technical assistance in Benin, and supported key priorities for Benin's Directorate of Maternal and Child Health.

The project partnered with Benin's government to improve commodity security by optimizing forecasting and procurement processes, improving policy, and strengthening the enabling environment. To achieve this goal, the project supports the country in three areas: 1) building workforce capacity; 2) improving best practices for distribution, warehousing, and logistics; and 3) improving monitoring and evaluation through enhanced data visibility and stock monitoring.

### USAID Investment

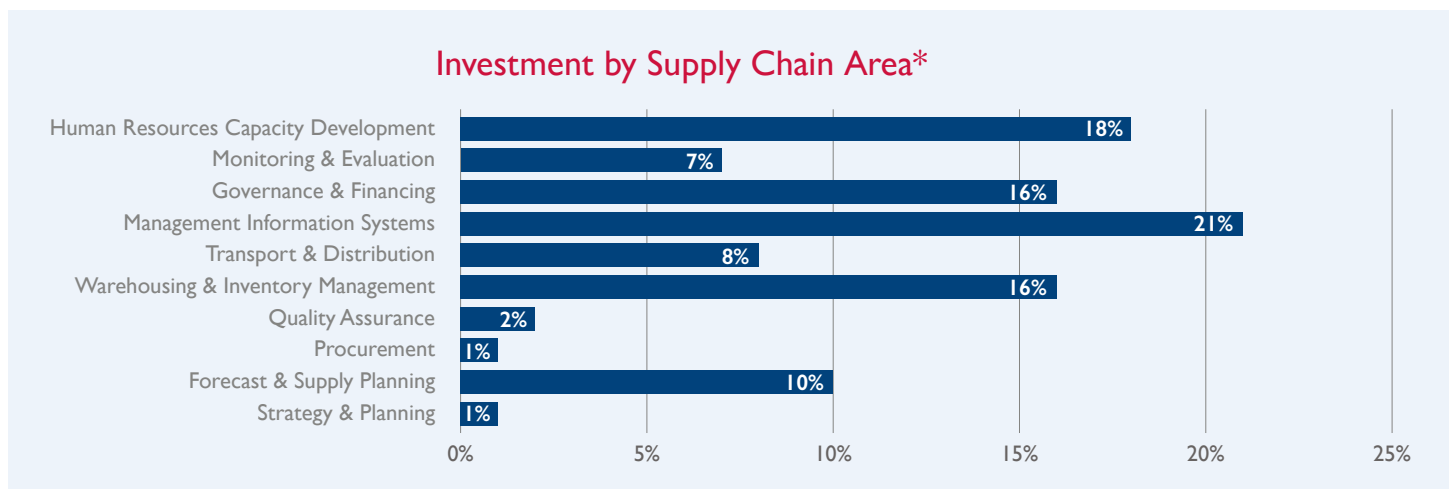
By the end of FY22, USAID had provided technical assistance valued at \$2.7 million in partnership with Benin's government to support family planning. To date, stakeholders have used these investments to transfer technical knowledge,

build skills in key forecasting and supply planning activities, administer the Logistics Management Information System (LMIS), track inventory levels, and collect and report against supply chain performance indicators.

### Key Activities and Achievements

Through the project, USAID has invested in family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) commodities and strengthened the supply chain to help Beninese meet their contraceptive needs. Through this investment, USAID, in partnership with the government of Benin, achieved the following results:

- **30 young logisticians trained<sup>2</sup> in warehousing and distribution support store managers, contributing to a 66% reduction in FP/RH commodity stockouts at service delivery points (SDPs).** The Young Logistician Professionals Program (YLPP) introduced a new professional cadre of supply chain logisticians into Beninese civil service. Through ongoing training and support, young logisticians placed in Benin's health districts provide essential services to the Ministry of Health. According to the national-level data, YLPP participants in health zones improve warehouse stock management performance and support staff for FP/RH commodity management.
- **57% increase in forecast accuracy through optimized processes and technical skill transfer.** With project support, the Ministry of Health improved its knowledge and skills in forecasting and supply planning, reaching technical independence<sup>3</sup>



\*Knowledge management, program management, and office operations costs are allocated across technical subcategories based on the proportion of funding spent in each technical subcategory.

<sup>1</sup> Plan d'Action National Budgetisé de Planification Familiale du Benin 2019-2023

<sup>2</sup> Total number of young logisticians trained: 30 supported by USAID, 77 supported by the World Bank's Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend project.

<sup>3</sup> Technical independence is a project indicator that documents and measures the GHSC-TA Francophone TO's ability in transferring technical capacity to supply chain institutions within the countries in which we work. The indicator measures the percentage of targeted supply chain activities in which the host-country entity has achieved technical independence with project support.



66%

Reduction in service delivery point stockout rate



57%

Increase in forecast accuracy for FP/RH commodities



488 487

Health workforce trained on eLMIS

in the three forecasting and supply planning activities. These activities include developing annual forecasts, developing/ updating supply plans, and monitoring the commodities pipeline. In addition, the project contributed to the demand planning module design for quarterly supply plans of family planning commodities. Moreover, as a top performer, the quality and timeliness of Benin's supply plan submissions have contributed to an annual reduction in FP/RH stockout rates at the SDP level.

- **182% increase in reporting rate through innovative technology solutions that enhanced data visibility and stock monitoring.** The project supported the Ministry's updated standard operating procedures for activities, including warehousing and inventory management, distribution, and the use of the LMIS for health commodities. In addition, the project supported the development, launch, and training of 975 health workers in six departments<sup>4</sup> and the rollout of a comprehensive and interoperable set of electronic logistics management systems. These systems include an electronic LMIS (eLMIS; for daily management of health commodities at the points of distribution and dispensing), District Health Information Software (DHIS2; for logistical data input into the Ministry of Health's health information system), and the Logistics Data Visualization System (to visualize logistical data for higher-level decision-making). These technology solutions facilitate stock-level visibility across the supply chain to inform decision-making and improve data quality. Moreover, USAID's investment in the Global Family Planning Visibility and Analytics Network<sup>5</sup> (VAN), a platform for commodity logistics data, and associated training enabled informed decision-making about stock levels of contraceptive commodity orders, reducing non-compliance errors.

## Future Investment Opportunities

In collaboration with the Beninese government, the project has made significant strides in distribution, warehousing and logistics, data visibility and stock monitoring, and forecasting processes. Additionally, opportunities exist to continue building on these achievements. Benin's anticipated free contraceptive policy offers areas for future investment, including 1) assisting the Agence Nationale des Soins de Santé Primaires in further refining FP/ RH policy, strategic plans, standard operating procedures, and governance; 2) encouraging regulatory product registration and generics in particular; and 3) developing the workforce by building the capacity of staff and staffing systems. Additionally, continued support to strengthen and scale the eLMIS to remaining health facilities in Benin would improve FP/RH commodity access and position the government to meet citizens' FP/RH choices.



A logistician in the Young Logisticians Professional Program (YLPP) assisting in the delivery of health commodities to the commune Sô-Ava in Benin. Photo Credit: GHSC-TA Francophone TO.

## Contact Us

### Glenn Milano

USAID Bureau of Global Health, Office of Population and Reproductive Health, Commodities Security and Logistics Division

Tel: +1 202-916-2166

### Angela Elong

Chemonics International  
GHSC-TA Francophone Task Order

[FrancophoneTOBillable@chemonics.com](mailto:FrancophoneTOBillable@chemonics.com)



SCAN to watch video on YLPP



[WWW.USAID.GOV](http://WWW.USAID.GOV)

[WWW.GHSUPPLYCHAIN.ORG](http://WWW.GHSUPPLYCHAIN.ORG)

<sup>4</sup> Zou, Atlantique, Couffo, Littoral, Atacora, and Borgou

<sup>5</sup> To learn more about the VAN please visit <https://www.rhsupplies.org/microsites/gpvan/>