

Table 1. Benin: Summary and Timetable for Macroeconomic and Structural Policies, 2000-03

Areas	Strategy and Policies	Schedule
<b>Poverty Reduction</b>	<b>Prepare a poverty reduction strategy</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP).</li> <li>• Create the committee responsible for preparing the PRSP.</li> <li>• Organize consultations within the framework of the PRSP.</li> <li>• Define objectives and indicators, adopt a monitoring system for outcome indicators, and implement an evaluation system.</li> <li>• Formulate and update sectoral poverty reduction strategies.</li> <li>• Prepare the draft PRSP.</li> <li>• Finalize the PRSP.</li> <li>• Adopt the PRSP.</li> </ul>	<p>June 2000</p> <p>June 2000</p> <p>July-Sept. 2000</p> <p>Sept. 2000</p> <p>Oct.-Nov. 2000</p> <p>Dec. 2000-Jan. 2001</p> <p>Feb.-March 2001</p> <p>April 2001</p>
<b>Government Finance</b>	<b>Implement a sustainable fiscal policy through fiscal reforms, and improvement of government resources management</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete computerization of the tax department.</li> <li>• Prepare an action plan for strengthening the fight against fraud in tax administration and customs.</li> <li>• Prepare quarterly reports comparing customs and preinspection data.</li> <li>• Transfer automatically import declarations to customs.</li> <li>• Regularly update a database on import values.</li> <li>• Complete computerization of custom offices in charge of petroleum products.</li> <li>• Complete computerization of customs procedures.</li> <li>• Complete computerization of the main border customs offices.</li> <li>• Ensure use of data from the port computer system by customs.</li> <li>• Impose penalties in cases of fraud.</li> <li>• Strengthen budget execution and control procedures:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Adopt a decree to reform budget procedures.</li> <li>➤ Prepare quarterly execution reports of the budget programs.</li> <li>➤ Strengthen the administrative capacity of the treasury and the budget directorate: select and train users of the computerized budget management system.</li> <li>➤ Prepare annual budget execution reports and draft a law certifying budget execution (<i>loi de règlement</i>).</li> <li>➤ Implement the training plan on new budget procedures.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Implement program and performance budget management:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Prepare medium-term expenditure frameworks by ministry</li> <li>➤ Prepare budget programs for 2001 by selected ministries</li> <li>➤ Implement a budget management and performance-based monitoring system</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Dec. 2000</p> <p>Oct. 2000</p> <p>Aug. 2000</p> <p>June 2000</p> <p>Aug. 2000</p> <p>Sept. 2000</p> <p>Dec. 2000</p> <p>Dec. 2000</p> <p>Dec. 2000</p> <p>2000-03</p> <p>June 2000</p> <p>Aug. 2000</p> <p>Oct.-Dec. 2000</p> <p>Sept. 2000</p> <p>May-Sept. 2000</p> <p>Sept. 2000</p> <p>Sept. 2000</p> <p>Sept. 2000</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Submit budget programs to the National Assembly</li> </ul>	Oct. 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computerize government accounting systems.</li> </ul>	Aug. 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve domestic and external debt management:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Transfer the accounts managed by the Autonomous Debt Agency (CAA) to the treasury</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Dec. 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce external debt burden and maintain a prudent debt policy.</li> </ul>	2000-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all new external debt is concessional.</li> </ul>	2000-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt a plan for settling domestic arrears.</li> </ul>	June 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a monthly report on treasury accounts.</li> </ul>	Sept. 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a table of treasury operations consistent with budgetary classification.</li> </ul>	March 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitate the Ministry of Finance inspectorate (<i>Inspection Générale des Finances, IGF</i>):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Implement recommendations of IGF's audit reports</li> <li>➤ Create a structure to follow up on the implementation of IGF's recommendations</li> <li>➤ Prepare a report on exemptions</li> <li>➤ Increase IGF's personnel</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2000-03 August 2000 Sept. 2000 2000-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up an external audit capacity (<i>Chambre des Comptes</i>):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Prepare and adopt a work program</li> <li>➤ Submit draft law certifying 1999 budget execution to the National Assembly</li> <li>➤ Adopt and implement a program to strengthen capacity</li> <li>➤ Complete an external audit of 2000 budget execution with the assistance of an external auditing firm.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Oct. 2000 Nov. 2000 2000-03 June 2001
<i>National Pension Fund (FNRB)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computerize the FNRB database.</li> <li>• Adopt an action plan to eliminate the FNRB deficit.</li> </ul>	Nov. 2000 Dec. 2000
<b>Monetary Policy and Financial Sector</b>	<b>Implement a monetary and credit policy that will contribute to maintaining the parity of the CFA franc</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the Banking Commission recommendations and place institutions not complying with prudential ratios under close surveillance.</li> </ul>	2000-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure commercial bank compliance with new prudential ratios.</li> </ul>	Jan. 2002
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor, on monthly basis, the financial situation of the local savings institutions experiencing difficulties.</li> </ul>	April–Oct. 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess, on a quarterly basis, the financial situation of branches of local savings institutions in difficulty.</li> </ul>	Sept. 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place local branches of savings institutions not complying with the recovery plan under temporary management.</li> </ul>	Sept.–Dec. 2000

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<b>Structural Reform</b>	<b>Ensure sustainable, higher, and balanced economic growth</b>	
a. Institutional Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt an action plan for implementing the devolution policy. July 2000</li> <li>• Evaluate the financial position of local governments. Oct. 2000</li> <li>• Implement a system for monitoring local government budgets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure preparation by local governments of a quarterly budget execution report 2000–03</li> <li>➤ Ensure preparation by treasury of a quarterly report on local budget execution 2000–03</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Strengthen the judicial system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Adopt an integrated plan for strengthening and modernizing the judicial system Dec. 2000</li> <li>➤ Prepare a plan for redeploying the judges in the courts. 2000</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Adopt a law for harmonizing the budget laws in the WAEMU. June 2001</li> <li>• Adopt regional government accounting standards. July 2000</li> <li>• Improve governance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Assess the activities of the anticorruption agency (<i>Cellule de moralisation de la vie publique</i>) for the 1996-99 period and prepare a medium-term action plan. 2000</li> <li>➤ Prepare and adopt an anticorruption strategy Oct. 2000</li> <li>➤ Collect fines determined by courts for embezzlement June 2000–June 2001</li> <li>➤ Adopt a law against the illegal acquisition of wealth Dec. 2000</li> <li>➤ Ensure preparation by departments of a procedural manual and users' guide Dec. 2000</li> <li>➤ Establish audit controls for budget monitoring management Dec. 2000</li> <li>➤ Implement the WAEMU code of good governance. June 2001</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
b. Civil Service Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a new promotion and compensation system for the civil service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Adopt a new salary scale consistent with the new compensation system Aug. 2000</li> <li>➤ Implement the performance assessment system. Nov. 2000</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Create a single civil service database: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Complete the updating of the administrative status of civil servants in payroll department and Ministry of Civil Service databases July 2000</li> <li>➤ Computerize the Ministry of civil service database Sept. 2000</li> <li>➤ Merge the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of civil service databases. Dec. 2000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
c. Pricing policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petroleum product sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Implement the new mechanism for retail price adjustments 2000–03</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cement sector:</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Liberalize imports</li> <li>➤ Liberalize prices</li> </ul>	<p>June 2000</p> <p>June 2001</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telecommunications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Announce the new pricing policy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Sept. 2000</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water and electricity sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Announce the new pricing policy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Dec. 2000</p>
d. Private Sector Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a new investment code in cooperation with other WAEMU countries.</li> <li>• Define a strategy for the development of vocational training</li> <li>• Conduct a study on Benin's competitiveness</li> </ul>	<p>2000-02</p> <p>2000-02</p> <p>Dec. 2000</p>
e. Agriculture		
<i>Cotton</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt a new mechanism to guarantee crop credits.</li> <li>• Eliminate SONAPRA's monopsony on seed cotton purchasing.</li> <li>• Adopt a strategy to privatize SONAPRA.</li> <li>• Privatize SONAPRA.</li> </ul>	<p>June 2000</p> <p>June 2000</p> <p>Dec. 2000</p> <p>2001</p>
<i>Forests</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize the program for restructuring forestry institutions.</li> <li>• Privatize the commercial and industrial activities of ONAB (National Timber Office).</li> </ul>	<p>2000</p> <p>Dec. 2000</p>
f. Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize and adopt the implementation decrees related to the environment legislation.</li> <li>• Control air pollution.</li> <li>• Set up an urban transportation system.</li> <li>• Implement the strategy for urban public investment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Organize a roundtable with donors</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>2000</p> <p>2000-01</p> <p>2000</p> <p>2000</p>
g. Transport and Port Infrastructure		
<i>Port</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a financial audit of 1998 and 1999 operations and the temporary billing system.</li> <li>• Implement a new computerized port management system.</li> <li>• Connect all public operators involved in port activities to the computerized port management system and make its use effective.</li> <li>• Decide on the private sector role in port management.</li> <li>• Involve private sector in port management.</li> <li>• Computerize the monitoring of port performance indicators.</li> <li>• Adopt new status for the national council for shipping agencies (CNCB).</li> </ul>	<p>Nov. 2000</p> <p>Dec. 2000</p> <p>March 2001</p> <p>Nov. 2000</p> <p>Dec. 2001</p> <p>Dec. 2000</p> <p>July 2000</p>
<i>Road Transportation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversify the financing of the road fund.</li> <li>• Encourage the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in road work by improving contracting procedures.</li> <li>• Transform the department of equipment and public works into a semipublic enterprise:</li> </ul>	<p>2000-03</p> <p>2000-03</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Adopt an action plan</li> <li>➤ Create a semipublic enterprise for renting public works equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>July 2000</li> <li>Dec. 2000</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the strategy for rehabilitating and managing rural roads and mobilize financing for their maintenance.</li> </ul>	2000-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement an action plan negotiated with carriers and other users for reducing roadblocks.</li> </ul>	2000
Railroad ( <i>OCBN</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dismantle the transport-sharing arrangement.</li> <li>• Place the OCBN under concession.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2000</li> <li>2001</li> </ul>
h. Mining and Energy		
<i>Mining</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out a mining sector assessment.</li> <li>• Formulate a development strategy for the mining sector.</li> <li>• Revise the mining code in accordance with international standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sept. 2000</li> <li>Dec. 2000</li> <li>2000-02</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a property register.</li> <li>• Implement geological information system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2000</li> <li>2000</li> </ul>
<i>Water/Energy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reform the water and electricity sectors and disengage the government from these activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Adopt a strategy for government divestiture</li> <li>➤ Invite bids according to the divestiture strategy</li> <li>➤ Select successful bidder</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oct. 2000</li> <li>Dec. 2000</li> <li>March 2001</li> </ul>
i. Postal Services and Telecommunications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit the draft laws on the postal and telecommunication sectors to the National Assembly.</li> <li>• Recruit a consortium in charge of separating the two sectors and privatizing the telecommunication sector.</li> <li>• Establish a regulatory institution.</li> <li>• Adopt a decree on splitting the two sectors.</li> <li>• Open up the capital of telecommunication company: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Invite bids</li> <li>➤ Select successful bidder.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June 2000</li> <li>May 2000</li> <li>August 2000</li> <li>Sept. 2000</li> <li>Sept. 2000</li> <li>Sept. 2000</li> <li>Dec. 2000</li> </ul>
j. Textile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Privatize enterprise SITEX.</li> </ul>	2002
k. Health and Social Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize the 2001-03 development plan.</li> <li>• Conduct a midterm review of the sector strategy.</li> <li>• Finalize feasibility studies for health districts.</li> <li>• Set up additional 23 health districts.</li> <li>• Strengthen management tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure that primary health centers use effectively management tools and procedural manuals</li> <li>➤ Prepare a procedural manual for secondary and tertiary health services.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Adopt a system for annual performance evaluation.</li> <li>• Increase 2001 budget allocation for improving reproductive health and prevention of STD/HIV.</li> <li>• Prepare and adopt a HIV/AIDS prevention strategy.</li> <li>• Increase annual budget allocation to the sector and its level of consumption according to the program budget.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sept. 2000</li> <li>Dec. 2000</li> <li>June 2000</li> <li>2000-02</li> <li>Aug. 2000</li> <li>Dec. 2000</li> <li>Dec. 2000</li> <li>Dec. 2000</li> <li>Dec. 2000</li> <li>June 2001</li> <li>2000-03</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure an annual budgetary allocation for capital expenditures to set up health districts</li> </ul>	2001-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and adopt a national policy on women (PNPF).</li> </ul>	Sept. 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and adopt an action plan for implementing the PNPF.</li> </ul>	2000-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt, disseminate, and implement the family code.</li> </ul>	2001-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and adopt a strategy on social and family policy.</li> </ul>	2001-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare action plan for the elimination of genital mutilation of women.</li> </ul>	2001-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare an action plan to support disabled people.</li> </ul>	2001-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare an action plan to support vulnerable people.</li> </ul>	2001-03
I. Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize sector strategy for the entire education system (primary, secondary, technical, vocational training, and university).</li> </ul>	Oct. 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the sector strategy in primary education.</li> </ul>	2001-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specify actions to increase the girls' enrollment rate:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Formulate an action plan for girls' education</li> <li>➤ Eliminate school fees for all students in rural areas</li> <li>➤ Implement fund transfer system to compensate school in rural areas for the loss of revenues from school fees</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2000-01
		2000-01
		Oct. 2000
		Oct. 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate repetition of grade 1.</li> </ul>	Oct. 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare strategy to reduce repetition rate and dropout rate; revise the entire evaluation system.</li> </ul>	May 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt action plan to reduce the repetition rate to 15 percent for grades 2-6 by school year 2002/03.</li> </ul>	May 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt action plan to increase the rate of pupils finishing primary school from 55 percent to 70 percent by school year 2004/05.</li> </ul>	March 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocate 75 percent of the budget set aside for school construction to underserved communities.</li> </ul>	Dec. 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide funds to communities hiring teachers to fill vacancies.</li> </ul>	March 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen national capacity to produce and evaluate textbooks.</li> </ul>	2001-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve availability of textbooks.</li> </ul>	2000-01
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define the role of the Teachers' Training Schools (ENI) and open them to the private sector.</li> </ul>	2001-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a program for developing and reopening the ENIs.</li> </ul>	2001-03

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the teacher recruitment and career management plan.</li> </ul>	June 2001
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce a computerized human resource management system.</li> </ul>	Dec. 2001
m. Community Development and Employment Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote local community development initiatives:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Implement development plan for each of the 100 pilot community development units</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2000-03 2000-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote employment:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conduct a general review of employment promotion policy and its impact</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2000-03 Aug. 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide assistance for the creation of microenterprises and microprojects</li> </ul>	2000-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide assistance for professional development of young unemployed people</li> </ul>	2000-03
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pursue labor-intensive public works programs.</li> </ul>	2000-03