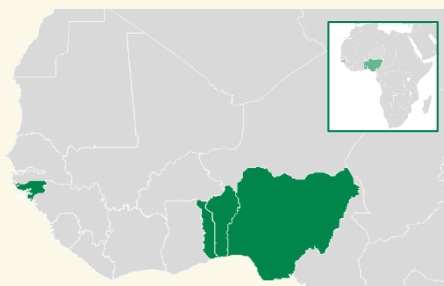


FRSD in Benin

The ECOWAS Fund for Regional Stabilisation and Development - Improving living conditions of the population in selected ECOWAS member states



Countries of FRSD implementation: Guinea-Bissau, Togo, Benin and Nigeria (ECOWAS Commission HQs)

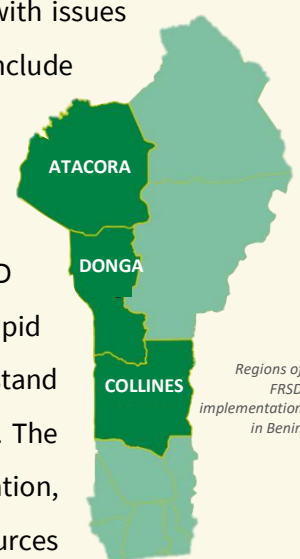
Needs assessed in Benin

A comprehensive needs assessment was conducted by the FRSD programme through missions and studies to ensure our measures' relevance and context suitability. It revealed the security threats Benin faces due to rising terrorism and extremism as a key factor hindering efforts to improve living standards and social cohesion. Further, these challenges are worsened by the spillovers from the security and political instabilities in the Sahel region. Identified needs include uplifting the

economically poorest households, enhancing access to social services and social security, particularly in rural areas. Rural communities suffer disproportionately from climate change, grappling with issues such as water scarcity, floods, droughts, soil degradation, and erosion. Other issues include insufficient governance structures, security concerns, and gender disparities.

The regions

The regions of Collines, Atacora, and Donga have been selected for targeted FRSD interventions due to their pressing needs and specific challenges arising from rapid population growth. Within the context of Benin's twelve departments, these regions stand out for experiencing significant demographic transitions, particularly in recent years. The surge in population has led to heightened demands for essential services such as education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Consequently, the allocation of FRSD resources and initiatives to these areas aims to address these urgent needs and bolster social cohesion.



Regions of FRSD implementation in Benin

Livelihood & Income Generation



- Production efficiency
- Support to micro-businesses
- Financial literacy for women
- Transformation and food processing

Climate-Smart Solutions



- Smart irrigation and watershed management
- Green Innovation

Social Cohesion



- Sport 4 Development
- Media 4 Peace
- Mental health sensitisation



| | | Contact person | |
|---|--|--|---|
|  |  | <p>Muzehher Selcuk</p> <p>Head of Programme</p> <p>Fund for Regional Stabilisation and Development in Fragile Regions within ECOWAS Member States (FRSD)</p> | <p><i>L. to r.:</i></p> <p><i>Harvest in an FRSD supported women farmers' cooperative</i></p> <p><i>Sport 4 Development activities.</i></p> |

With this regional focus, FRSD seeks to mitigate disparities, enhance access to vital services, and promote sustainable growth, thereby fostering a more equitable and prosperous future for the young population.

Our approach

Our approaches acknowledge the interconnectedness of various challenges and address these holistically to foster resilience and meet community needs.

Sport 4 Development: Initiatives aiming to foster a spirit of community teamwork and develop local talent also outside of traditional pathways through sports-related activities and events; the Sport 4 Development approach contributes to overall employability through the development of soft skills and is particularly inclusive by encouraging participation of people with disabilities.



Media 4 Peace: Activities to enhance journalists' capacities in reporting in a conflict-sensitive manner on different topics of interest in ECOWAS member states; the expected outcomes are accessible political information and strengthened governance structures through increased visibility of local authorities and the ECOWAS commission.



FRSD aims at implementing fast-acting, yet meaningful and sustainable measures to reach almost 6,000 young people and women in Benin. Therefore, our 3-fold strategy takes different dimensions into account, ranging from economic to social and ecologic levels.

The activities' focus is strongly oriented on vocational and technical training for young people. This is complemented by support with entrepreneurship kits; and coaching to facilitate integration on the job market. Entrepreneurship is the basis for business and job creation in these communities. Therefore, managerial, leadership and financial literacy capacity sharing for women cooperations

in the agri-food processing fields are implemented through the FRSD. These trainings also include environmental protection approaches

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