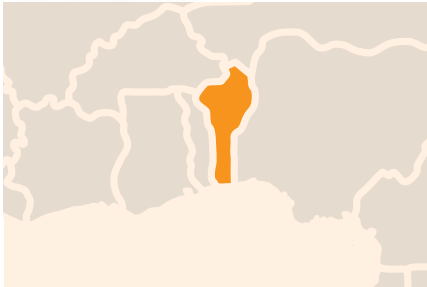




Partner Profile: PEBCo



Photos courtesy of PEBCo



In Benin, an estimated 59 percent of low-income adults and 55 percent of people living in rural areas lack access to formal financial services.¹

L'Association pour la Promotion de l'ÉpargneCrédit à Base Communautaire, P.E.B.Co-BETHESDA (PEBCo) is a Beninese social enterprise and a partner in Global Partnerships' Rural-Centered Finance with Education Initiative.²

Who Is Served

As of September 30, 2024, PEBCo currently serves over 83,000 borrowers across Benin with a focus on vulnerable rural communities living in poverty. Approximately 71 percent live in rural areas and approximately 80 percent identify as female.³ Of clients surveyed in 2023, two-thirds say they had no prior access to a loan like the one PEBCo provides.⁴

What Is Delivered

PEBCo offers agricultural loans to both individuals and loan groups designed to support agricultural activities such as the purchase of seeds, fertilizers, or farming equipment. Prior to loan disbursement, all borrowers receive know-your-credit training, followed by training appropriate to the form of loan they receive. Loan groups participate in several sessions covering financial literacy, the mechanics of a group loan, credit and debt management, budgeting, and savings. Individual borrowers receive training on bookkeeping, financial literacy, and business management. PEBCo also offers a variety of savings accounts.

Why It Is Impactful

Access to loans, combined with financial education, enables PEBCo's borrowers to make more informed decisions and invest in income

generating activities. According to the 2023 study cited previously, 95 percent of borrowers report higher income and 93 percent report improvement to their quality of life.⁵

"With the loan, I have bought articles to re-sell in my business and my income has increased," says a female study participant. "Now I can take better care of my family."

Borrowers collectively report significant improvements for themselves and their families. 91 percent report improved ability to face an emergency expense, 87 percent report that their household's number and quality of meals has increased, 79 percent report increased ability to access healthcare, 77 percent report a greater amount spent on their children's education, and 72 percent report increased spending on home improvements.

1. "The Global Findex Database." The World Bank, 2021. <https://globalfindex.worldbank.org>.

2. PEBCo is a current borrower of Global Partnerships Social Investment Fund 6.0, LLC; Global Partnerships Impact-First Development Fund, LLC; and Global Partnerships Impact-First Fund 10, LLC as of September 30, 2024.

3. Number of borrowers and breakdown by gender and rurality as of September 30, 2024, as reported by PEBCo.

4. Based on responses from 282 borrowers in a 2023 study by 60 Decibels, Inc.

5. Ibid.