

## Summary of the SUN Event held in Benin during the CARE USA Board of Directors' visit to Benin

When: Thursday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

Where: Hotel Azalai, Benin

Key partners: CARE, CAN, UNICEF

Key Participants:

- Dr. Helene Gayle, CARE USA President and CEO
- Mr. Jean Cokou Tossa, President of CAN and National SUN Movement Focal Point
- Dr. Dorothee KINDE Gazard, Minister of Health
- Mr. Katé SABAÏ, Minister of Agriculture
- Ministre de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche
- Ms. Ginger Sall, Co-founder of Sall Family Foundation and member of CARE USA Board of Directors
- Rotimy DJOSSAYA, CARE Benin and Togo Mission Director

Preliminary speeches made during the SUN event shared the status of nutrition in Benin and mobilized key actors to support necessary actions. The speeches included:

- Remarks by Mr. Jean Cokou Tossa, President of CAN and National SUN Movement Focal Point, who gave a presentation on the state of nutrition on Benin;
- A presentation by the Minister of Agriculture, who complemented Mr. Tossa's points with remarks about the Government of Benin's commitment to take action and mobilize partners around nutrition in Benin;
- Remarks by the Minister of Health, who described ongoing actions in the health sector to support nutrition, the challenges they face, and the need for donor support;
- Remarks by Dr. Helene Gayle, who gave a presentation about CARE's commitment to nutrition and urged immediate action to address the critical state of nutrition in Benin;
- Remarks by Ms. Ginger Sall, Co-Founder of the Sall Family Foundation and member of CARE USA's Board of Directors, who spoke about the Foundation's efforts and full commitment to enhancing a coordinated, effective approach to addressing malnutrition, especially in the early stages of life.

Following the presentations, there was a multi-stakeholder discussion which deepened participants' understanding of the malnutrition crisis in Benin and its implications for the country's development process.

(Link: <http://www.lanouvelletribune.info/index.php/societe/sante/13630-la-nutrition-joue-un-role-capital-pour-la-sante-et-le-developpement>).

The need for urgent action in the Malanville and Karimama communes in Northern Benin was emphasized, following a recent assessment by CARE and UNICEF which revealed the full scope of food and nutrition insecurity of vulnerable households in the region.

Following the discussion, Dr. Helene Gayle presented the “Declaration of Cotonou” (*Déclaration de Cotonou*) as part of a press conference. The Declaration is a call to action for greater emphasis on supporting nutrition efforts in Benin and throughout Africa.

The Minister of Health, the Minister of Agriculture and all the stakeholders who participated in the event were then presented with copies of the “Declaration of Cotonou.”

Following the event, Dr. Helene Gayle shared the declaration with Dr. Boni Yayi, the President of Benin, in order to foster support and continued commitment to the issue of nutrition in Benin.

(Link: <http://www.gouv.bj/content/audience-la-pr-sidence-de-la-r-publique-la-pr-sidente-de-care-usa-chez-boni-yayi> )