

## = Benin at the 2008 Summer Olympics =

Benin took part in the 2008 Summer Olympics , which were held in Beijing , China from 8 to 24 August 2008 . The country 's participation at Beijing marked its eighth consecutive appearance in the summer Olympics since its debut in 1972 , and its ninth Olympic appearance ever . The Benin delegation included five athletes in 2008 , participating in three sports : athletics , swimming and taekwondo . Fabienne Feraez , a sprinter , was selected as the flag bearer for the opening ceremony . None of the Benin athletes progressed further than the heat round .

## = = Background = =

Benin participated in eight summer Olympic games between its debut in the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich and the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing . Competing under the name Dahomey , Benin made their Olympic debut in 1972 , sending two athletes to the games . The most number of Benin athletes participating in a summer games , is 16 in the 1980 games in Moscow . Five athletes from Benin were selected to compete in the 2008 games : track and field athletes Fabienne Feraez and Mathieu Gnanligo ; swimmers Alois Dansou and Gloria Koussihouede ; and taekwondo practitioner Jean Moloise Ogoudjobi .

## = = Athletics = =

### = = = Men 's competition = = =

A bronze medalist at the 2007 All @-@ Africa Games , Mathieu Gnanligo , participated in the 400 meters . Gnanligo 's appearance in Beijing marked his first appearance at any Olympic games . Once at the Olympics , Gnanligo was placed in the seventh heat on 18 August . He ran a time of 47 @.@ 10 seconds and finished seventh in the heat against seven other athletes . He finished 49th out of 55 athletes , 6 @.@ 01 seconds ahead of the slowest athlete Xiaosheng Liu , and 2 @.@ 31 seconds behind the quickest athlete Chris Brown . He was 1 @.@ 14 seconds behind Andretti Bain , the slowest athlete who qualified for the semi @-@ finals , and therefore did not progress .

### = = = Women 's competition = = =

Competing at her second Olympics , Fabienne Feraez was the oldest competitor for Benin , aged 32 . She competed in the 200 meters on 19 August . Feraez , who also competed in the 2004 Summer Olympics , was drawn into heat three . Feraez ran a time of 24 @.@ 07 seconds and finished last in her heat , exactly a second behind the winner , Marshevet Myers . She finished 40th out of 46 athletes overall and was 8 @.@ 09 seconds faster than the slowest athlete , Samia Yusuf Omar . Feraez was 1 @.@ 36 seconds behind the fastest athlete and 0 @.@ 48 seconds behind the slowest athlete who progressed to the semi @-@ finals , Eleni Artymata .

#### Key

Note ? Ranks given for track events are within the athlete 's heat only