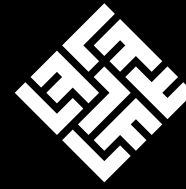


Applying adaptive results-based management (aRBM) to the IsDB projects funded under the Lives and Livelihoods Fund



Lives and Livelihoods Fund

aRBM Review | Issue #5 | March 2023



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بنك التنمية الإسلامية
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Impact in action

Celebrating achievements, overcoming challenges and enhancing our support for sustainable impact



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“ With the development of our data collection plan through the aRBM support, we have been able to identify gaps and are now working to develop the right tools to collect accurate data, which will improve our data system and reporting.

Bakary O. Camara

M&E Officer - Project Implementation Unit
Regional Rice Value Chain Development Program
(RRVCDP)
The Gambia



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In the first quarter of 2023, we shifted from planning to implementation of key aRBM tools in the four early-adopter projects



INCEPTION	DESIGN	APPLY	EXPAND	EMBED	LEARN & SHARE
Months 1-4	Months 4-6	Months 6-12	Months 7-18	Months 13-31	Months 6-36 (project end)
Review existing LLF processes and systems	Co-design	Start small and generate wins	Systematize across LLF	Systematize across IsDB	aRBM becomes the dominant culture institution-wide
Review 16 projects across 2 regional hubs	Select 4 pilot projects across 2 regional hubs	Initiate pilot projects	Scale to 16 projects across 2 regional hubs	Share from the LLF to the IsDB portfolio	Integrate with the new project pipeline
Assess all levels of LLF (projects, regions, and HQ) to understand where aRBM can support	Select 4 early-adopter projects; prototype aRBM tools & processes	Apply aRBM tools and processes in 4 early-adopter projects and learn what works well (and what doesn't). The 4 projects become a demonstration of success for LLF.	Expand to all 16 projects over 2 phases to systematize successful iterated aRBM tools and processes from initial learning	Implement flexible and customized aRBM tools and processes that will become SOP for LLF. Build capacity across the system, institutionalizing the aRBM approach	Use learnings from aRBM deployment to improve the project pipeline for LLF 2.0

Roadmap: aRBM tools we have applied so far

Baseline and assessment

Conduct data audit, understand project implementation progress, M&E, disbursement, and procurement plan, and quality of routines; and conduct aRBM self-assessment

Metrics

Prioritize indicators, align indicators with ADAPT framework, set targets and trajectories (interim targets)

Planning

Develop data plan and process map for data collection and verification, and draw the project's implementation chain

Data collection and analysis

Support the development of data collection tools, support data analysis, and develop and populate monthly and quarterly reports

Progress reviews

Prepare and facilitate project-level quarterly progress reviews



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“ The National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) has been fighting malaria for over 30 years. It’s with pride that I welcome the LLF as one of our most esteemed partners to reach complete malaria elimination in Senegal by 2030. This project has marked our history by allowing a great leap forward towards reaching pre-elimination in the targeted regions.

Dr. Doudou Sene

Executive Agency Representative and Chief Coordinator
Support to the Malaria Control and Elimination Project
(SMCEP)

Dakar, Senegal



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We conducted progress reviews with the PMUs in Senegal, Kano, and Burkina Faso to determine timely and actionable decisions

Key outcomes of progress reviews:

Progress reviews were implemented with governments, regional hub stakeholders, and executing agencies making commitments and key decisions.

Progress reviews created an opportunity for power brokers and decision-makers to **understand progress, underlying inhibitors of progress, and planned activities** for the next quarter.

We received positive feedback from stakeholders, with some specifically requesting data-driven sessions of “this type” more regularly.



Delivering promises: Our capability-building efforts are improving projects' uptake of aRBM tools and practices



Our promises



Senegal



Burkina Faso



Nigeria



The Gambia



Targeted Workshops to support demand for and utilization of data.

In Burkina Faso, we supported the PMU in undertaking **data planning** for the project's key priority areas

In Kano, we explored potential **aggregation strategies** for progress information shared by implementation partners, and provided training on data visualization

In The Gambia, we collaborated with the PMU to **strategize data collection** for disbursing and recovering IMF* loans

PMUs participated in a **webinar with aRBM experts** to support their preparation for **progress reviews**



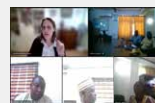
Learning Communities to encourage knowledge sharing and cross-project support

We launched the **Francophone Learning Community launched** and conducted two sessions



A highlight: The Senegal PMU shared best practices with the Burkina Faso PMU around procurement and streamlining internal & external audit practices

We launched the **Anglophone Learning Community launched** and conducted 3 sessions

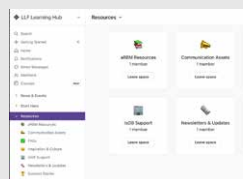


A highlight: Participants collectively engaged in sensemaking around challenges being faced in implementation (e.g., resolving a challenge faced by KSADP** related to milk collection centers)



The LLF Hub to provide a repository of aRBM knowledge and updates for system-wide use

We have developed the **Learning Hub prototype** and a **pilot module for projects to engage in**



We have **developed the Learning Hub prototype**, which includes a **community space** where country-, hub-, and HQ-level users can interact; a **repository of aRBM resources** to support project delivery; and **news updates and communications assets** for the LLF

Our **pilot aRBM module on Problem Solving** will be available for the four early-adopter projects to engage with during our test launch

* IMF: International Monetary Fund

** Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project



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“ When my husband died, I struggled to make ends meet. KSADP supported and trained me to produce 56 bags of rice from the same 0.5 hectares of land that used to yield eight bags of rice. It allowed me to buy three goats and secure my son's university tuition fees. I'm deeply grateful to the LLF for changing my life and giving me hope again.

Talatu Idi

Beneficiary

Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP)

Nigeria

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ISFD
صندوق التضامن الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development



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Success story

Empowering women through agriculture

Mrs. Talatu Idi is a partially visually impaired widow with nine children; she is from the Bunkure community in Kano State, Nigeria. Talatu faced immense challenges after losing her husband, Mallam Idi, to a brief illness in 2020. She inherited 0.5 hectares of land that produced 7-8 bags of rice annually. With limited resources, she struggled to provide for her family and often had to resort to begging for food: *"When my husband passed away, we were helpless; I would go out with a nylon bag every day to beg for food to feed my children. One day, I met the KSADP extension agents at a training organized for farmers in our community and proposed to join them."* It was a decision that would ultimately transform her life and the lives of her children. The KSADP extension agents enrolled Talatu in a farmer group and provided training on good agronomic practices and other value chain practices, which allowed her to improve her farming skills and increase the yield from her land.

Mrs. Talatu Idi's story is a common one in Kano State, Nigeria - as in many other African countries - women contribute significantly to food production and processing, but are not involved in farming decisions and do not control productive resources. Nonetheless, increased female participation is required to boost agricultural productivity and achieve food security, in addition to alleviating poverty in a state with a population estimated at 18 million people. It is believed that about 70 percent of this population, most of whom are women, live below the poverty line and face numerous barriers inhibiting their participation in agricultural production, including limited access to land and agricultural goods and services.

The KSADP is a strategic initiative funded by the LLF which aims to promote sustainable agro-pastoral production systems in Kano. Specifically, the project seeks to reach 1.2 million people, reducing poverty by 30% and increasing food and nutrition security in vulnerable communities by 50%; this will be possible by developing livestock and selected crop value chains.

KSADP and Sasakawa Africa Association which is the implementing partner that supports the project's cereal crops interventions, have supported 270,000 women and youth in developing technical expertise through input grants for various agricultural activities such as improved seeds, fertilizers, crop protection chemicals, irrigation equipment, and post-harvest handling technologies. This initiative has stimulated optimal involvement in agricultural production and processing, thereby increasing farmers' yields, reducing crop losses, ensuring better quality produce for the market, and providing additional income from improved farming activities, which has created a source of livelihood and employment for farmers. So far, about 325,000 farmers, including Talatu, have benefited from this program.



Farmers spraying fertilizer on their maize farm

Talatu explained, *"The KSADP extension agents trained us on new farm practices and also gave us improved seeds, fertilizer, and pesticides. During the 2021 farming season, my life changed for the best when I harvested 56 bags of rice, which is higher than the 7-8 bags my late husband used to get from the same plot. I sold my produce and bought three goats, all of which gave birth this year. You can see them outside. I also paid my son's tuition fees to study at university. I am deeply grateful to the LLF and IsDB for changing my life and giving me hope. I am also thankful to Sasakawa and KSADP in Kano."* Talatu is one of many beneficiaries whose lives have been transformed by the project.

Safiya Inuwa Danborna is a 45-year-old mother of seven children from the Gafan Women Group Cooperative Society in the Bunkure Local Government Area. Her husband supports an extended family comprising several nephews and grandchildren, and Safiya is responsible for meeting her family's domestic needs. For 17 years, the Gafan Women Group Cooperative Society has been farming as an organized group of 50 members. However, access to land and products such as fertilizer, seeds and agro-chemicals, has always been a bottleneck for their agricultural production. Through the KSADP/Sasakawa project, the group was enlisted to be part of the smallholder commercial farmers group who will produce sorghum and maize on a contiguous 50-hectare land plot allocated to them by the Kano State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources during the 2021 wet season. In addition to receiving training, the group was given 500 kg of improved sorghum seed, 50 bags of NPK fertilizer, and 50 bags of urea fertilizer.

Safiya says with a huge smile on her face: "The intervention has brought happiness to our lives and unlocked an opportunity for us to grab an off-taker* that is funding the 70 percent balance of our production cost. You can see how big this farm is.

* An off-taker is an arrangement between a producer and a buyer to purchase or sell portions of the producer's upcoming goods.





Talatu passionately narrating her story

When we harvest the produce, we will take some percentage of the profit to solve family issues and reinvest the remainder to scale up production in the next cropping season. We are happy to inform you that this kind of contiguous production by women in the Gafan area is unprecedented. Go around and ask people - we are a point of reference in Bunkure as a result of the LLF and IsDB funding and support." The group's successful farming activities have brought joy and opportunity to their lives, providing them with the resources needed to support their families and expand their production in the future.

In 2022, KSADP's crop value chain interventions had a significant impact on agricultural production, employment, and food security. The interventions reached 203,750 farmers, bringing the total number of beneficiaries of agriculture services and investments to 325,000 for both the 2021 and 2022 cropping seasons. With support from KSADP, farmers produced 1,059 metric tons of assorted cereal and legume seeds, which were off-taken by seed companies and peer farmers.

The project also created 882 jobs through training and the empowerment of youth and women in pest spraying and rice parboiling services, rice and maize processing, and agricultural input retailers. This investment in human capital development is critical for sustainable economic growth. The yield from maize farmers' demonstration plots increased from 1.3 metric tons at baseline to 4.16 metric tons. Similarly, the yield results for maize farmers' community-based seed multiplication plots increased from 1.3 metric tons at baseline to 2.98 metric tons. This shows that farmers were able to significantly increase their crop productivity by using high-quality seeds and fertilizer and learning about nutrition-sensitive agriculture practices. By supporting farmers to adopt improved agricultural practices and technologies, the project has contributed to reducing poverty and increasing economic growth.





“ The project really comes at the right time. It will improve Burkina Faso’s primary health care system, and enhance the working conditions of the community health workers in our region.

Dr. Joseph Soubeiga

Regional Director for Health in the East Region
Strengthening Primary Health Care to Improve
Health and Nutrition
Burkina Faso



Latest news

LLF's field visit to Indonesia

During their official visit to the Republic of Indonesia in early March 2023, the LLF Partners* visited the “Development of Integrated Farming Systems in Upland Areas” (UPLAND) Project, an integrated agricultural development program with a mandate to reach out to 120,000 households in 14 districts across seven provinces over five years. The Delegation met with the Ministry of Agriculture and other Government dignitaries to cover a wide-ranging bilateral cooperation agenda towards transforming the agriculture sector in selected highland areas of Indonesia.

They also visited UPLAND project sites in the Magelang District to observe the interventions, procedures, and structures put in place to enhance indigenous farming systems and bolster value chains of strategic commodities such as rice. The delegation engaged with women farmers and discussed their role in homestead agricultural activities to boost subsistence farming and diversify family income.

The UPLAND project is co-financed by the United Nations' International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in conjunction with the Government of Indonesia (GoI).



* The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KS Relief), and the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD).

LLF's field visit to Indonesia





The LLF Impact Technical Review Committee Meeting in Magelang, Indonesia

A Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting was held on March 2, 2023, in Magelang, Indonesia, with representatives from the Islamic Development Bank, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, and the Qatar Fund for Development.

The TRC reviewed the aRBM progress and learnings, the LLF 2.0 operational updates and results framework, and last but not least LLF's communications updates and assets.



Communications workshop with the PMU in Indonesia

On March 3, 2023, Delivery Associates held a communications workshop with Indonesia's "Development of Integrated Farming Systems in Upland Areas" (UPLAND) Project team. During the workshop, the LLF communications playbook and toolkit were rolled out in order to provide clarity, guidance, and necessary tools for delivering quality communications assets; help implement LLF branding and marking guidelines successfully on all LLF-funded assets; and ensure a steady flow of stories and testimonials from beneficiaries, implementing teams, and country leaders to show LLF donors the impact of their investments so far.



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Investing in rural people



“ The UPLAND project has supported 7,200 women farmers so far, creating an opportunity for them and their families to get nutritious food and increased income. This intervention will reduce malnutrition issues in upland areas by 40% by the end of 2024.

Rahmi Khalida

Nutrition Consultant

Development of Integrated Farming Systems in
Upland Areas (UPLAND) Project

Indonesia



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WHAT'S COMING NEXT

In the next six months, we will move to the expand phase, ensuring further engagement at HQ and the two regional hubs

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We are eager to hear from you.

Please send us your inquiries about aRBM to:

llf-mu@isdb.org