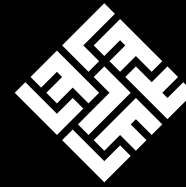


Applying adaptive results-based management (aRBM) to the IsDB projects funded under the Lives and Livelihoods Fund



Lives and Livelihoods Fund

aRBM Review | Issue #7 | October 2023



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



مركز الملك سلمان للإغاثة والأعمال الإنسانية
KING SALMAN HUMANITARIAN AID & RELIEF CENTRE



Carrying The Torch Forward.

Empowering progress with our dedicated teams across levels.

“ Thanks to the **KSADP** project funded by the LLF, our community is now reaping the benefits of access to quality seeds. **My production improved by 100%** from 2 to 4 metric tons of maize harvested from the same 0.5 hectares of land. **It is transforming our lives.**”

Usman Nayaro

Beneficiary

Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project (KSADP)

Nigeria



aRBM updates



Beneficiary of the Agriculture Infrastructure and Value Chain Development Project (AIVDP) in Cameroon.

August Transition from the “Apply” to “Expand” Phase



OUR CURRENT
IMPLEMENTATION
STAGE

INCEPTION	DESIGN	APPLY	EXPAND	EMBED	LEARN & SHARE
Months 1-4	Months 4-6	Months 6-12	Months 17-30	Months 30-36	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	2 regional hubs through 16 projects	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 16 new projects over 2 phases to systematize successful, iterated aRBM tools & processes from initial learning. Starting with Phase 1 of the Expand phase with 5 new projects	Implement flexible & customized aRBM tools & 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

Scaling from 4 Early Adopter Projects to 5 new projects in West Africa



EARLY ADOPTER PROJECTS



Senegal – Support to the Malaria Control and Elimination Project



Nigeria – Kano State Agro-Pastoral Development Project



The Gambia – Regional Rice Value Chain Development Program



Burkina Faso – Strengthening Primary Health Care (PHC) to Improve Health and Nutrition

EXPAND (PHASE I) PROJECTS



Guinea – Conakry Sanitation Project



Niger – Regional Rice Value Chain Development Program



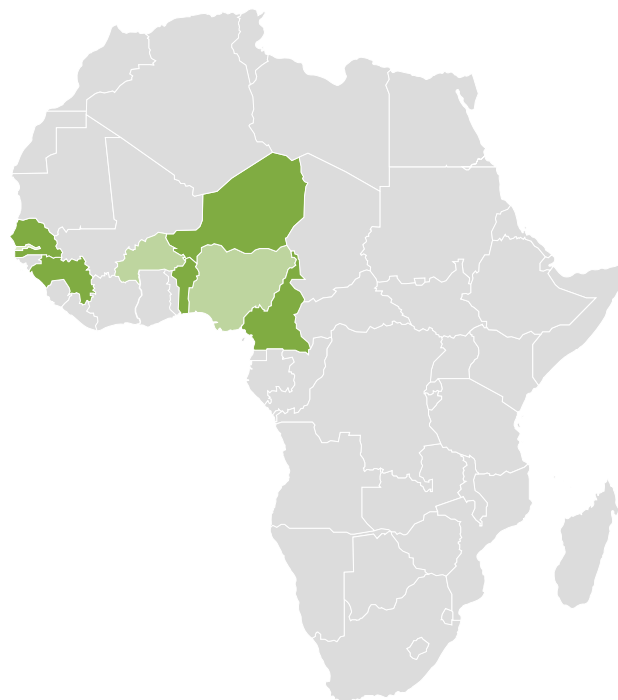
Senegal – Sustainable Pastoralism Development Program



Cameroon – Support of Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS Project



Benin – Community Health, Human Resources and Nutrition



Note: Niger's Regional Rice Value Chain Development Program: In light of the ongoing political developments within the country, we are temporarily suspending the introduction of the aRBM tools and processes until further notice.



Health



Agriculture



Infrastructure

Successfully launching projects through embedded support

4 out of the 5 Expand Phase 1 Projects have officially launched:

- ♦ **Conakry Sanitation Project, Guinea** (17 August)
- ♦ **Community Health, Human Resources, and Nutrition, Benin** (23 August)
- ♦ **Sustainable Pastoralism Development Program, Senegal** (24 August)
- ♦ **Support of Elimination of Mother-To-Child Transmission (eMTCT) of HIV/AIDS Project, Cameroon** (5 September)

The launches were attended by the PMUs, the OTLs, implementing partners and members of the executing agencies.

Note: Niger's Regional Rice Value Chain Development Program (project 5 of Phase 1): In light of the ongoing political developments within the country, we are temporarily suspending the introduction of the aRBM tools and processes until further notice.



Sanitation trucks during a field visit in Conakry



aRBM team with stakeholders in Senegal



aRBM team with stakeholders in Benin



aRBM team with stakeholders in Guinea



Latest LLF news



Health worker from the Support of Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS project in Cameroon



Latest news

Donors' mission visit to Uganda August 14-18, 2023

A delegation from the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF) visited Uganda from August 14 to 18, 2023. It included members from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), and King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief).

The 5-day visit was organized under the US\$33 million Local Economic Growth Support (LEGS) project, co-financed by the Government of Uganda. The high-level ministerial discussions centered on addressing economic and environmental challenges, emphasizing the importance of access to innovative financing and technology. The delegation participated in a panel discussion and learned about strategic investments across 17 districts, highlighting the LLF's role in helping smallholder farmers overcome obstacles.

The LEGS Project supports farmers and promotes economic growth and resilience through local governments. The LLF and Uganda share a strong commitment to long-term development, including poverty reduction and climate resilience as outlined in Uganda's Vision 2040. LLF is one of the key sources of external financial assistance to Uganda, advancing economic development with a focus on job creation, climate stewardship, and sustainable infrastructure development in rural communities.



*Read more on the Uganda LEGS project.
Success story on Page 12 of this newsletter:*

"LLF-funded Rural Access Roads Trigger Rural Economic Growth in Uganda."



Photos from the Uganda visit





Latest news

The LLF Technical Review Committee Meeting in Rabat, Morocco September 18-19

A Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting was held on September 18 and 19 at the offices of the IsDB regional hub in Rabat, Morocco, with representatives from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief), and the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD).

The TRC meeting was highly interactive as all participants collaborated to establish consensus and confidence regarding the specifics of the LLF 2.0

Operations Manual. The TRC demonstrated its unwavering commitment to shaping the LLF 2.0 landscape into a robust, adaptable, and responsive initiative, driven by a shared vision and fortified by the dedication of its diverse stakeholders.

As part of the routine aRBM program update, reflections on early successes and learnings from the first year of the program were shared. The program team has ramped up support to an additional 4 projects, and developed an aRBM handbook to test the approach with this new cohort.



Hear from those
who matter most

Beneficiaries of the "Health System Strengthening with Emphasis on Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Services" project (NER1028) in Niger



Success story

LLF-funded Rural Access Roads Trigger Rural Economic Growth in Uganda

In the heart of Uganda, a transformative initiative known as the LLF-funded Local Empowerment Growth Support (LEGS) project is taking root. This project is centered on the powerful mission to expand the network of rural roads, which serve as the lifeblood of transportation systems and socio-economic progress worldwide. These roads play a pivotal role in connecting communities to bustling markets and vital social services, such as health centers and schools, which brings us closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Some challenges persist in the vast expanse of sub-Saharan Africa. Here, more than 30-40% of the rural population lives beyond the globally accepted two-kilometer limit, a distance deemed essential for accessing crucial social services. These communities are brimming with potential, but their dreams are

hindered by their remoteness and distance from the much-needed schools, health centers, and markets.

Even where roads do exist, they bear the weight of time and neglect. Subpar road conditions are a testament to the limitations of insufficient road maintenance budgets.

Mrs. Agnes Isamba, a 49-year-old mother of four, joyfully expresses the positive impact of the new road, exclaiming, *"With this new road, business is thriving! Goods are transported faster, and my little shop is doing better than ever. Moreover, we now have electricity available."* Lucy, another mother aged 50, who sells her goods at the local market, adds, *"Thanks to the road, the market is bustling with activity, and a new school has emerged in our neighborhood."*

These transformative outcomes are a direct result of the 7.4 km Harugongo Kakundwa Busoro Community Access Road (CAR) in Kabarole district which was constructed by the LEGS project in its second year. The positive effect of the new road extends beyond the bustling markets and thriving small businesses—local farmers also enjoy improved access to production inputs and find it easier to reach more lucrative markets to sell their produce.



Figure 1



Figure 1

Figure 2

The CAR has facilitated significant developments:

- The Geme Agahikaine farmers group, aided by the microfinance component of the LEGS project, now utilizes a three-ton truck (Fig. 1), efficiently sourcing produce from their farms and neighboring regions.
- Agricultural produce transportation by both farmers and small and medium enterprises (Fig. 2) has become seamless and efficient.
- A tea farmers' cooperative has effectively sourced tea from its members and beyond, ensuring timely delivery to the factory and maximizing their profits through improved contractual arrangements with tea buyers in major cities.
- The Bunyangabu Beekeepers Cooperative Society, a honey producing farmers' group, has expanded its honey collection from even more producers, leading to increased sales and higher incomes.
- The promise of rural electrification is on the horizon, sparking optimism among local businesses for further growth.
- Rural guest houses have sprung up, attracting both local visitors and international tourists.
- Digital solutions have flourished, exemplified by the IT firm, Hello World, which offers free internet access at a booth, greatly benefiting students and teachers through access to quality educational materials.
- Small traders are seizing opportunities along the access road by setting up businesses to cater to the burgeoning traffic and demand (Fig. 3 and 4)





Figure 3



Figure 4

A bottom-up approach, with roads developed as per the local communities' and district governments' priorities.

The LEGS project has adopted a bottom-up approach wherein its investments align with the priorities of local communities and district governments. The Kabarole road is one of six total Community Access Roads (CARs)—which together total 157 km of distance—that the LEGS project is currently undertaking. These roads are vital in establishing a network of rural connections, interlinking villages, administrative centers, and business hubs. Notably, the bottom-up approach fosters a profound sense of ownership among communities and local administrations for the CARs. This shared ownership empowers the communities and enhances the sustainability and success of the projects.

Moreover, the LEGS-funded CARs serve as critical links that bridge gaps between communities and businesses across districts. For instance, one such road in Ntoroko district connects it to Kabarole, mitigating transportation risks caused by frequent landslides during the rainy season. This new road prevents Ntoroko district from being cut off from the rest of the country, facilitating smoother trade and access to essential services.

The benefits of the CARs are manifold, as illustrated earlier. Notably, a welcomed and anticipated outcome has been the increased access to internet connectivity. Thanks to the IT company Hello World which has set up camp at the end of the LLF road, the digital divide between urban and rural communities has been significantly reduced. This access to technology opens up new opportunities and empowers rural residents with greater knowledge and connectivity.



It is evident that the LLF-funded Community Access Roads (CARS) offer significant livelihood-enhancing opportunities to rural communities, providing them with access to markets and essential social services. This in turn improves their overall welfare. However, many of the LEGS project districts are faced with two closely linked challenges: scaling up the benefits and ensuring their sustainability.

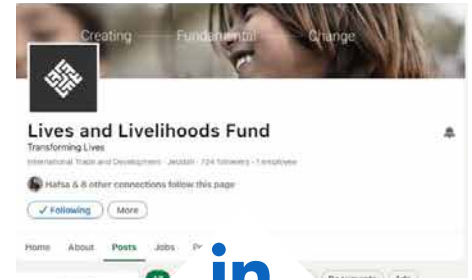
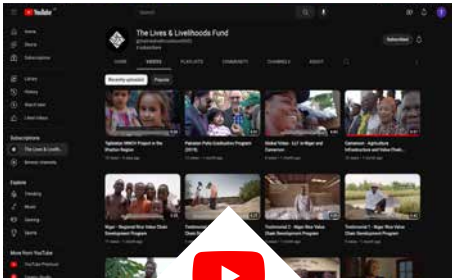
1. Due to budgetary limitations, the number of CARs initially developed was limited, both in terms of locations and the road distance covered. Additional investments are necessary to expand the coverage of these vital roads. One potential solution lies in exploring public-private partnerships combined with active involvement from the beneficiary communities themselves.
2. Another pressing concern is the maintenance of the developed CARs as is necessary to ensure their continued usability. This has emerged as a major issue, with some roads showing signs of wear and tear less than six months after their construction. This concern is especially prominent in high rainfall districts, which is the case in many of the targeted LEGS districts. There is hope on the horizon however, as both the local governments and the beneficiary communities exhibit a strong commitment to maintaining the roads. This dedication is a result of the bottom-up and demand-driven approach taken by the LEGS project from its inception, empowering communities and fostering a sense of ownership. This is likely to be successful with the technical and institutional backing of the national government. However, the degree to which it unfolds may differ across districts and requires thorough monitoring and documentation.

In conclusion, the LLF-funded CARS have proven to be a lifeline for rural communities, enriching their livelihoods and fostering progress. The path forward lies in further investments, exploring partnerships, and securing effective maintenance through community involvement and government support. With careful and continuous monitoring, the benefits of the LEGS project can endure, transforming the lives of those it reaches for years to come.



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We are eager to hear from you.

Please send your inquiries about aRBM to:

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