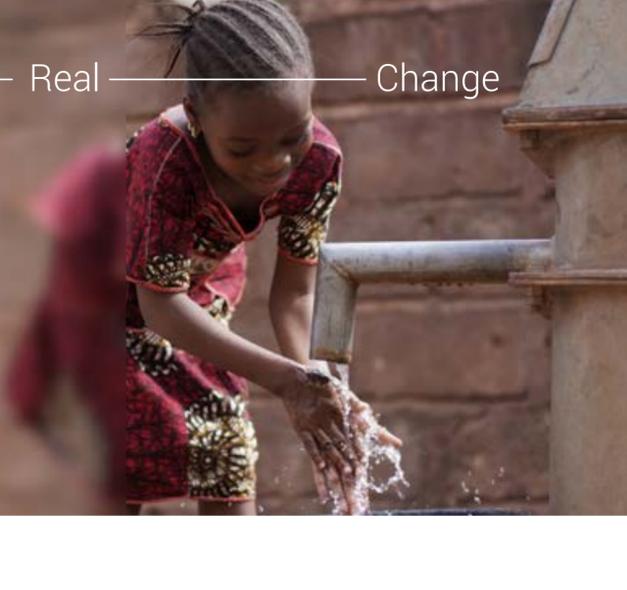


Enabling ——— Real ——— Change



Foreword

It is remarkable to think that the Lives and Livelihoods Fund is now five years old, with nearly 30 projects being implemented in 22 countries across the Arab world, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Central and Southeast Asia. Everyone involved in this tremendous effort is extremely proud of what has already been achieved, and looking forward to further progress.

Our resolve to drive sustainable development has only become stronger in the face of the unprecedented challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic. In times of crisis, inequality grows and vulnerable communities can be left behind; by understanding this reality, the LLF adapted its projects for resilience against COVID-19 without compromising long-term

development goals in health, agriculture, and basic infrastructure. I believe this is a moment to show people far and wide how the LLF is helping to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place, and shine a spotlight on its entire ecosystem, from the innovative funding mechanism itself to our committed team of donors and implementing agencies.

We are seeing excellent progress on the ground and expect the momentum on projects to be maintained going forward. This newsletter provides an overview of our work in the first three months of 2021 – we hope you find it insightful.

Dr. Waleed Ahmad J. Addas
Head of Lives and Livelihoods Fund
Management Unit

Q1 2021 Highlights



Q1 2021 Highlights
Renovation of Waturi Dam begins

In January, a new milestone was achieved for the Kano State Agro Pastoral Development Project when the contract for the repair and rehabilitation of the Waturi Irrigation Scheme was awarded to Messrs. Hajaig Nigeria Limited.

The Waturi Dam was constructed more than 40 years ago, and this is the first time in more than two decades that it is undergoing major repairs. Its dilapidated state has rendered farming activity during dry season nearly impossible, costing the livelihoods of more than 2,000 farmers as only half are able to cultivate their crops twice a year. This has led to nearly half of the existing farmland not being in use, compounding the economic loss for these farmers.

The irrigation scheme, which is situated downstream of the Waturi Dam in Bagwai Local Government Area of Kano State, has potential to irrigate 2,600 hectares when fully operational. Work is underway, with the first phase successfully completed in March and the facility expected to be fully repaired by end of July.

The plan includes the repair of gully erosion on the dam's embankment, repair and desilting of main canal and drainages as well as desilting and repair of the night storage reservoir. With the completion of phase one, water from the dam is now available for irrigation purposes.

Q1 2021 Highlights

New fleet driving sanitation improvements in Conakry

On March 31, the Government of Guinea delivered 56 sanitation trucks to the National Agency for Public Hygiene and Sanitation, an agency under Guinea's Ministry of Hydraulics, Sanitation, and Environment, to address challenges linked to urgent solid waste disposal in key areas of Conakry, the capital city of Guinea.

Conakry is experiencing rapid urban growth, and lack of proper sanitation presents an urgent challenge. The sanitation trucks will help improve the health and hygiene conditions of some 1.7 million inhabitants of the city, protecting them from flooding and overall, they will benefit from regular collection of solid waste. Sludge treatment will increase from zero in 2017 to 500 cubic metres per day in 2022, while the number of cases of malaria, diarrhea, schistosomiasis, and typhoid are predicted to drop by half in children under 5 years old. The project is also creating hundreds of direct and indirect jobs.

The fleet of trucks was handed over in a ceremony held under the patronage of His Excellency Professor Alpha Condé, the President of the Republic of Guinea, and attended by the regional representative of the Islamic Development Bank, Dr Alpha Diallo, and several high-ranking officials.

56
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1.7 million
to have improved the health and hygiene conditions

500 m³
Sludge treatment increase per day in 2022



Q1 2021 Highlights
Promoting social inclusion and cultural integration: Pilot phase of reproductive health initiative 'Youth 3+1' completed in Cameroon

HIV/AIDS remains a serious threat to Cameroon's human development. The LLF is in its second year of supporting the Government of Cameroon in tackling the epidemic through a range of activities targeted at controlling and prevention, early diagnosis and treatment, and prevention. An initial pilot phase of the reproductive health initiative 'Youth 3+1' was completed recently in three municipalities, Yaounde-2, Bertoua and Garoua Boulai.

The program strengthens access and quality of the interventions with a high impact on the health and well-being of adolescents, especially girls and young women. Integrated services prevent and control STIs/HIV, early and unwanted pregnancies, gender-based violence, and nutritional deficiencies in girls. This pilot was designed to help adolescents with hearing disabilities, with the broader objectives of ensuring inclusiveness and focusing on the most vulnerable.

The campaign entailed educational and training workshops and HIV testing in one specialist school that cares for nearly 150 children and one hearing center set up by a private youth association to

support young people with special needs in the local community, as well as community outreach to engage the parents of these children.

The campaign has led to more than 100 adolescents and young people with hearing disabilities learning extensively about HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and Covid-19 prevention, as well as being equipped with knowledge and practice of menstrual hygiene.

To develop a comprehensive community support structure, the parents were trained on how to supervise these children in a supportive family environment. The hearing center assisted 10 young people, half of whom were referred for urgent medical care, while the other half received counselling on sexual health and contraceptive needs and professional advice on their specific concerns. The center also offers educational and recreational activities for children with disabilities to support their learning and growth.

Overall, the campaign has contributed not only towards the well-being of Cameroon's youth but also, importantly, helped promote social inclusion and cultural integration of one of the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of society.

Q1 2021 Highlights

Impact Committee gathers for first meeting of 2021

The ninth meeting of our Impact Committee was held on March 31 to review progress on the 22 LLF projects approved over the past five years and currently undergoing implementation.

The Impact Committee's members recognized the stewardship and contributions of the Committee's outgoing chairman representing the Abu Dhabi Future for Development, Mr. Ahmed Al Kalbani, before passing the chairmanship to Mr. Joe Cerrell, Managing Director at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Impact Committee adopted a Results-Based Approach (RBA) methodology to enhance the

management of development projects through rigorous oversight and reporting of outputs, outcomes and impacts in a comprehensive and integrative manner. The best-practice approach is expected to maximize project results by maintaining agile and adaptive management of projects during their implementation.

Also among notable outcomes, the Impact Committee approved a comprehensive communications strategy for 2021 to highlight the achievements of the LLF and share success stories from the communities benefiting from the Fund's projects.

LLF social media channels activated and gaining momentum

LLF's official Twitter handle @LLF_fund featured live, on-the-ground updates from the sanitation trucks handover ceremony in Conakry held under the patronage of His Excellency Alpha Condé, President of Guinea.

We also launched the official LLF LinkedIn page as an additional primary channel of online communication to help drive awareness of the fund itself and its critical role in the development and humanitarian sector.

We look forward to highlighting the LLF's impact through continuous storytelling across social media, engaging with our stakeholders and the community at large, through images, video and infographics for project developments, events and activities in the beneficiary countries.

Make sure to follow LLF on Twitter and LinkedIn – and share the interesting updates across your social and professional networks at the click of a button.

