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

Building upon our successes

From scaling up aRBM to launching LLF 2.0, a promising LLF future lies ahead.
Adopting aRBM transformed our data system, harmonized our results framework, co-designed and digitized our data collection tools and built stakeholder confidence in data reliability in a short period of time. **Tangible results** from data-driven decision-making are already being seen at the PMU level.

Salisu Kaila  
Kano PMU M&E Specialist
At the outset, we faced many questions and challenges. Today, PMUs affirm the transformative shift in perceptions about aRBM.

How will we introduce new aRBM practices when we are already overburdened in our jobs?

“Since the introduction of aRBM...the project has been more focused on delivery timelines, increased problem-solving and the use of data for decision making...it is also apparent in the improved capacity of my team.”

■ Fafanding S. Fatajo (RRVCDP* PMU, The Gambia)

We don’t know what we need to improve: If it is not in a KPI, we don’t have the time or the incentive to prioritize it.

“What is the essence of knowledge if you don’t share it with others? The Learning Community allows us to share candidly so we can learn from each other.”

■ Anonymous Learning Community member

Data is collected in an ad hoc way and lives only in words and reports — not in a real-time picture of progress.

“The introduction of the data-planning and data-collection tools along with reporting tools helps me effectively monitor progress. I think that if all the projects of the country had this kind of support, they would all achieve their objectives.”

■ Pascaline Sawadogo (M&E specialist, PRSS-ASN**, Burkina Faso)

We submit all reporting requirements to the Fund. With limited communications capacity and budget, what can we do beyond that?

“Thanks to the aRBM comms tools, we are able to communicate to the LLF and the world about the impact of our project...the tools shared are effective, straightforward and innovative.”

■ Dr. Ibrahima Diallo (PMU Head, Senegal)

We already have too many meetings that get dropped & deprioritized because people are too busy to join.

“The aRBM progress review was an exceptional opportunity that offered a result-focused understanding of the project’s status...We intend to sustain the momentum and learning derived.”

■ Dr. Junaidu Yakabu (KNARDA*** partner to Kano PMU, Nigeria)

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* RRVCDP: Regional Rice Value Chain Development Program
** PRSS-ASN: Strengthening Primary Health Care to Improve Health and Nutrition
*** KNARDA: Kano State Agricultural and Rural Development Authority
At the hub level, this remarkable transformation has garnered resounding support from numerous regional leaders.

The PMU has confirmed the positive impact of aRBM on several occasions. The presence of the aRBM embed has supported our project team in reorienting the work towards achieving better results, and as a result, the quality of our reports has significantly improved. Overall, this has been very beneficial for both me and the project.

Dr. Biola Kazeem Badmos
Operations Team Leader - Islamic Development Bank
Regional Rice Value Chain Development Program (RRVCDP)
The Gambia

Having an aRBM embed within the PMU has been a success driver. At the regional level, this support was instrumental in bridging human resources gaps and ensuring regular, clear and consistent communication between the project team and the Operations Team Leader (OTL). I highly recommend extending this initiative to other non-LLF IsDB projects.

Issa Zakari
Operations Team Leader - Abuja Regional Hub
Islamic Development Bank
Strengthening Primary Health Care to Improve Health and Nutrition (PRSS-ASN)
Burkina Faso
A group of smallholder farmers in Sierra Leone; they are among the 1,500 beneficiaries that the "Regional Rice Value Chain Development Program" (RRVCDP) served in 2022.
Advancing into the next phase: Scaling up with five additional projects and strengthening regional partnerships

<table>
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<tr>
<th>INCEPTION</th>
<th>DESIGN</th>
<th>APPLY</th>
<th>EXPAND</th>
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<td>Months 1-4</td>
<td>Months 4-6</td>
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<td>Months 13-31</td>
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<td>Review existing LLF processes and systems</td>
<td>Co-design</td>
<td>Start small and generate wins</td>
<td>Systematize across LLF</td>
<td>Systematize across IsDB</td>
<td>aRBM becomes the dominant culture institution-wide</td>
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<td>Review 16 projects across 2 regional hubs</td>
<td>Select 4 pilot projects across 2 regional hubs</td>
<td>Initiate pilot projects</td>
<td>Scale to 5 new projects</td>
<td>Share from the LLF to the IsDB portfolio</td>
<td>Integrate with the new project pipeline</td>
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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 5 new projects over 2 phases to systematize successful iterated aRBM tools & processes from initial learning

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
Early-adopter projects in progress and the new project pipeline

<table>
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<th>APPLY</th>
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<td><strong>Senegal</strong></td>
<td>Support to the Malaria Control and Elimination Project</td>
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<td><strong>Benin</strong></td>
<td>Closing Gaps: Community Health, Human Resources and Nutrition</td>
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**REGIONAL FOCUS**

- Health
- Agriculture
- Infrastructure
As we move into the next phase, we are taking core tools and platforms with us to support aRBM uptake and the flow of information across the LLF ecosystem.

The LLF hub is a repository of basic foundational M&E and aRBM materials available to all three levels of the IsDB.

The M&E dashboard contains implementation, procurement and disbursement data.

The HQ dashboard contains portfolio- and aggregated-level data.

The dashboard will offer different views for people at different levels of the Fund:
1. Project level
2. Regional level
3. HQ and IsDB leadership level
The LLF Hub will be a critical facilitator of information flow across the LLF.

**Our vision for the LLF Hub:** An active community empowered to learn, adopt aRBM practices and make data-driven decisions to drive results

The Hub will:

**CONNECT**
- Provide community spaces for sharing and problem-solving with peers and leaders
- Offer spaces for queries to support smooth user experience

**INFORM**
- Host key aRBM events and masterclasses for different users to build knowledge
- Publish newsletters to keep people across the LLF informed
- Create M&E dashboards with detailed reporting at project, regional and portfolio levels

**ENGAGE**
- Provide aRBM tools and guides to review and utilize
- Offer case studies to inspire and learn from
- Share communications assets and guidelines to adopt for storytelling around impact

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**What is the LLF Hub?**

This platform provides opportunities for all LLF teams to connect with peers and experts; access learning material and relevant resources; and focus on real results that benefit the people and communities we serve.
Latest LLF news

Farmer beneficiaries of the "Inclusive Rural Growth Project" in Morocco
During the recent Impact Committee (IC) and Technical Review Committee (TRC) meetings, which took place alongside the IsDB Group’s Annual Meetings 2023 in Jeddah, the Bank and donors conducted a comprehensive review of the aRBM program’s accomplishments. This gathering served as a platform for in-depth discussions and analysis, allowing attendees to assess the program’s achievements. Participants enthusiastically celebrated these milestones while simultaneously focusing their attention on the forthcoming LLF 2.0.

This forward-looking perspective demonstrates the Bank and the donors’ anticipation and commitment to shaping the Fund’s future with renewed vigor and purpose.
The IsDB and partners launch the LLF 2.0.

The LLF 2.0 launch event on May 13, 2023, in Jeddah commenced with an insightful discussion titled "Investing in Strategic Partnerships to Deepen Human Development." Esteemed panelists included Dr. Sania Nishtar from Pakistan, Engr Paul Kasule from Uganda, Dr. AbdelKadir from Cameroon and Dr. Saidou Bah from Ivory Coast.

Following the enlightening conversation, the official LLF 2.0 launch ceremony took place, bringing together global partners who renewed their commitment to the LLF.

This Fund plays a crucial role in empowering communities to overcome poverty by strengthening country systems, supporting key development areas and promoting climate-smart agriculture. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser, the President and Group Chairman of IsDB, referred to LLF 2.0 as the "Fund of Tomorrow," highlighting that long-term food security is measured not only by crop yields and strong markets, but also by the well-being of individuals and the resilience of communities. Dr. Al Jasser expressed gratitude for continued support, emphasizing how it enables millions of people to lift themselves out of poverty.

LLF 2.0 serves as a flexible and efficient means to finance government social development projects in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. The second phase of LLF will prioritize the equitable expansion of Fund investments, assisting lower-income and lower-middle-income countries in optimizing their existing resources for high-impact sectors. While maintaining its focus on primary healthcare, agriculture and basic infrastructure, LLF 2.0 introduces cross-cutting themes of women empowerment and climate change adaptation, which will be addressed in all LLF 2.0 projects.
Photos from the LLF 2.0 launch ceremony
Hear from those who matter most

Beneficiaries of the "Health System Strengthening with Emphasis on Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Services" in Niger
Success story

Pakistan's remarkable journey in fighting polio

Life was already challenging for Shami Ullah when his newborn son Adil was diagnosed with polio in 2008, at only five months old. Adil’s illness began with a few days of high fever followed by weakness in his left leg. Shami Ullah immediately took him to the hospital, where he was tested and unfortunately diagnosed with polio. "We had heard about polio before, so when we learned our son had it, we were very worried," recalled Shami Ullah. "I couldn’t bear the thought of Adil not being able to walk for the rest of his life."¹

Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease that can invade the nervous system, causing permanent paralysis and, in severe cases, even death. Those who survive the disease are often left with lifelong disabilities that result in social exclusion. Fortunately, Adil was able to receive proper care and can walk today. However, many others were not as fortunate and continue to face isolation.

Since 1994, the Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) has been working to eradicate poliovirus from the country. PEI is driven by 285,000 polio vaccinators working alongside talented epidemiologists and public health experts, and is supported by quality data collection and analysis, communication activities, state-of-the-art laboratories and the largest disease surveillance network in Pakistan. Through PEI efforts, polio cases have declined by up to 99%.²

The LLF has made a commitment to aid the Government of Pakistan in their efforts to combat polio and has committed US$ 160 million to PEI. This includes reaching every child through supplementary immunization activities and implementing high-quality national and sub-national polio campaigns to ensure the immunization of all children under five years old.

In addition to providing training and support to vaccinators and implementing other operational activities, efforts have been made to engage communities and raise awareness about the importance of polio vaccination in achieving the goal of its eradication in Pakistan. Financial assistance provided by the LLF has played a crucial role in PEI’s efforts to combat the disease. It has strengthened different areas of work, including operations, surveillance, vaccine procurement, social mobilization and communications, all of which have made the program more adaptable and responsive to the dynamic and rapidly changing polio eradication environment.

“We appreciate the long-standing partnership with the Islamic Development Bank and the Lives and Livelihoods Fund collaborators. Over the years we have come to count on them to keep up against the fight for a polio-free Pakistan. Beyond financial support, they have supported us in the advocacy to overcome religious refusals and to highlight vaccines’ efficacy and safety,” said Dr. Zafar Mirza, the former Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination. ³

PEI in Pakistan has had a significant impact on many people’s lives, reducing the incidence of polio and preventing disabilities and deaths caused by the disease. The initiative has provided access to vaccines and health education, especially to children in remote and underserved areas. As a result, Pakistan has seen a dramatic decrease in polio cases, from hundreds of cases in the past to only a few cases in recent years. Only one wild poliovirus case was reported in 2021 compared to 75 cases at the same time in 2020. The significant reduction in cases is supported by a decrease in positive environmental samples from 55% to 12%, highlighting that poliovirus is less active in Pakistan than before. This is one of the lowest levels of detected wild poliovirus in the country’s history. ⁴

The initiative’s success has also inspired confidence in the healthcare system and encouraged more people to seek medical care for other preventable diseases.

Strengthening Niger’s Healthcare System

In the vast and beautiful land of Niger, the healthcare system faces immense challenges. With limited resources and inadequate infrastructure, it is a constant struggle to provide quality healthcare to the country’s mothers, newborns and children. However, hope shines bright amidst these challenges.

Niger’s “Health System Strengthening with Emphasis on Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Services” (NER1028) project team, funded by the LLF, is working tirelessly to improve the healthcare available to the most vulnerable members of society.

With a mission to decrease mortality rates, the project collaborates with the Government of Niger and key partners like UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO to create a sustainable and effective healthcare system for all.

The project seeks to: 1) reduce maternal, neonatal and infant mortality rates; 2) increase access to maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) services; and 3) strengthen Niger’s healthcare system.

**Watch the video to learn more about the project and to meet the project team and beneficiaries.**
Subscribe to our social media channels
and stay connected to the LLF and the stories that unite us all.

We are eager to hear from you.
Please send your inquiries about aRB to:
llf-mu@isdb.org