
Final report on the results-based lending pilot

Document: EB 2025/146/R.33

Agenda: 16

Date: 25 November 2025

Distribution: Public

Original: English

FOR: INFORMATION

Useful references: IFAD's Proposal for Piloting Results-based Lending ([EB 2018/125/R.7/Add.4](#)); IFAD Transition Framework ([EB 2018/125/R.7/Rev.1](#))

Action: The Executive Board is invited to take note of the final report on the results-based lending pilot, as contained herein.

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Final report on the results-based lending pilot

I. Results-based lending pilot (2019–2024)

A. Introduction

1. **Background.** In the context of the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD11) and the development of the [Transition Framework](#), IFAD committed to developing a [proposal to pilot results-based lending](#) (RBL). In December 2018, IFAD initiated a six-year RBL pilot covering IFAD11 (2019–2021) and IFAD12 (2022–2024).
2. **Principles of the RBL pilot.** In order to maximize learning opportunities and assess IFAD's added value and comparative advantage, the RBL pilot identified two main types of RBL: (i) project RBL; and (ii) programmatic RBL. The objective was to implement both types of RBL during the pilot timeframe, and to undertake the programmatic RBL in partnership with an international financial institution (IFI) experienced with this financing instrument. It was agreed that each pilot RBL would be brought for discussion and approval by the Executive Board.
3. **Assessment of the pilot.** Since the RBL pilot was designed to be a learning initiative, it included a midterm review to capture lessons learned after the first three years. The midterm self-assessment was conducted in 2022 and submitted to IFAD's Executive Management Committee in June 2023. This document constitutes the pilot's completion report.
4. **Types of RBL.** In line with the principles of the pilot, IFAD funded two different results-based modalities: (i) traditional IFAD investment projects that included a results-based component or subcomponents (IFAD-led project RBL); and (ii) cofinancing between IFAD and another IFI for programmatic RBLs (Type-C programmatic RBL). To date, the latter has been exclusively delivered with the World Bank's Program-for-Results (PforR) financing instrument. The pilot did not include any IFAD-led programmatic RBL.

B. Assessment of the results-based lending instrument

5. **Demand and offer of RBL products.**¹ In 2017, the corporate-level evaluation of IFAD's financial architecture found a growing demand within IFAD to develop an RBL product. Since the pilot was approved, IFIs have significantly increased their RBL product offerings:
 - The World Bank portfolio grew from 39 (2018) to 185 projects (2024) and the original 5 per cent cap against total commitments was removed in 2019.²
 - The Asian Development Bank (ADB), which introduced RBLs in 2013, approved 19 projects during its pilot phase, and has now doubled its portfolio to 38 projects. After the end of its pilot phase, a decision was made to mainstream RBL as a regular lending modality³ and the original 5 per cent cap against total commitments was removed.
 - The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) piloted its "loan based on results" in 2016, during which 11 operations were approved, with an original cap of 10 per cent against total commitments. The limit is now 25 per cent and the portfolio has tripled in size to 33 projects.
 - The African Development Bank (AfDB) piloted the instrument at the end of 2017, during which it approved 12 projects. Upon the completion of the pilot

¹ Data in the following two paragraphs should be considered as indicative estimates given the dynamic nature of project data and occasional gaps in data availability.

² World Bank. 2019. *Program-for-Results: Proposal to Remove the Cap on Commitment Authority*. Washington D.C., World Bank.

³ Asian Development Bank. 2019. *Mainstreaming the Results-Based Lending for Programs*. Manila, Asian Development Bank.

in 2023, the instrument was formalized. No decision has yet been taken on whether to lift the 5 per cent cap against total commitments or increase it to 10 per cent. Two additional projects have been approved since the pilot.

6. **Total RBL portfolio.** Adding IFAD to these four IFIs, the total portfolio is approximately 275 projects with total financing surpassing US\$75 billion. Of the 98 countries in which IFAD has projects in the design or implementation phase, 43 have at least one RBL project. Of the 275 projects, only 34 are in the agricultural and rural sector, representing approximately 9 per cent of total RBL financing and reaching 21 countries in which IFAD operates (see annex I).

Table 1

Summary of projects using RBL by approval date

<i>Region</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Approval date</i>
LAC	Cuba	Agroforestry Cooperative Development Project	IFAD-led project RBL	Ongoing	Sep 2019
APR	China	Yunnan Rural Revitalization Demonstration Project	IFAD-led project RBL	Ongoing	May 2020
APR	China	Hunan Rural Revitalization Demonstration Project	IFAD-led project RBL	Ongoing	Dec 2020
WCA	Senegal	Agriculture and Livestock Competitiveness PforR Project	Type-C programmatic RBL	Ongoing	Dec 2021
APR	Bangladesh	Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience	Type-C programmatic RBL	Ongoing	May 2023
NEN	Morocco	Integrated Rural Development Project of the Mountain Areas in the Oriental Region	IFAD-led project RBL	Ongoing	Sep 2023
ESA	United Republic of Tanzania	Tanzania Food Systems Resilience Program	Type-C programmatic RBL	Ongoing	Nov 2024
LAC	Colombia	Rurality for Life Project	IFAD-led project RBL	Approved	Dec 2024
LAC	Costa Rica	Programme for Sustainable and Competitive Agriculture in Costa Rica	Type-C programmatic RBL	Signed	May 2025

7. **IFAD projects using RBL.** Within IFAD, there are currently nine approved pilot projects: seven being implemented; one project signed; and one recently approved (see annex II for details). These include: five IFAD-led project RBLs (two projects in China and one each in Colombia, Cuba and Morocco); and four Type-C programmatic RBLs (in Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Senegal and United Republic of Tanzania). The geographic distribution is: three in Asia and the Pacific (APR); one in East and Southern Africa (ESA); three in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); one in the Near East, North Africa and Europe (NEN); and one in West and Central Africa (WCA). By income level, they include: one in a low-income country (LIC); four in lower-middle-income countries (LMICs); and four in upper-middle-income countries (UMICs). Financing directed to RBLs totals US\$191 million, of which more than US\$154 million comprises Type-C RBLs (when non-RBL components are considered, the total project value is US\$427 million).

Box 1

Using results-based financing for gender-transformative approaches

With an initial investment of US\$16 million financed by the Gates Foundation, IFAD is piloting results-based financing for systemic and sustainable gender transformation in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and India. The initiative includes disbursement-linked indicators (DLIs) oriented to the development of capacities and implementation of activities. This ambitious pilot also links disbursement to women's empowerment. The project is highly relevant to developing tools for a more comprehensive approach to inclusive rural development. It was one of the first initiatives of this scale to use results-based financing for gender-transformative objectives and one of the few experiences with RBL in a fragile context.

8. **Criteria used to select pilot projects.** A combination of IFAD's mandate to try RBL and government interest or previous experience with RBL determined whether

an RBL approach was used. For example, Colombia had already utilized RBL and wished to expand its use to the agricultural sector. In Cuba, the Government was looking to change the way it engaged in agriculture and it was determined that RBL would be an innovative approach to address government concerns. In China, RBL was proposed to the Government because the project delivery team, sensing the growing demand for more sophisticated instruments, looked to provide innovation through an RBL financing instrument. In Morocco, the instrument was an opportunity to reduce bureaucracy and increase efficiency by relying on national systems and programmes. For Type-C programmatic RBLs, the main driver was the opportunity for IFAD to participate – with limited resources – in design and dialogue around large, strategic national development programmes.

9. **Capacities required.** IFAD's experience in this regard echoes a common sentiment across other IFIs. Since RBL projects require solid country systems (e.g. procurement, financial management, safeguards, monitoring and reporting), it is critical that these systems are in place from the onset or that sufficient support is provided early in the project cycle to bridge gaps. The distribution by income level confirms the preference for these instruments in countries with greater institutional capacity. Table 2 shows the growing adoption rate of the instrument by income level, particularly in the agricultural sector. The World Bank has some experience in fragile and conflict-affected situations (none of them in the agricultural sector). Results have been overall positive, but challenges regarding initial capacities remain a major concern.
10. In IFAD, there is a growing understanding of the minimal conditions that must be met before results-based approaches can be used effectively (this has led to the development of the RBL readiness assessment tool). In cases of a capacity, procedures or systems gap, the design included "early" DLIs to address them.

Table 2

Adoption of RBL by countries according to income level

Income level	Number of countries*	Other IFIs		IFAD
		Countries with at least one RBL project	Countries with at least one RBL project in the agricultural sector	Countries with at least one RBL project
LIC	26	27%	8%	4%
LMIC	48	50%	25%	8%
UMIC	24	46%	29%	17%
Total	98	43%	21%	9%

* Countries in which IFAD has projects in the design or implementation phase.

11. **Areas addressed using RBL in IFAD.** At IFAD, DLI selection covered many different areas of rural development, including:
 - Access to inputs (seed certification and distribution);
 - Agroforestry (hectares of forestry production);
 - Agricultural research (research funding);
 - Crop diversification (variety of production);
 - Extension services (access to digital services);
 - Farmers' cooperatives (improvement of operating standards, creation of associations);
 - Livestock (vaccination);
 - Rural entrepreneurship (development of agrifood entrepreneurship);
 - Resilience and sustainable agriculture (crop diversification, adoption of good practices, payment for ecosystem services);
 - Rural finance (access to insurance);
 - Training (accredited training);

- Value chain development (building and operation of storage and processing facilities);
- Water access (building of irrigation infrastructure); and
- Warning and information systems (development and use of warning and information systems).

Some DLIs were specifically directed to improve project implementation performance (quality of business plans, development of institutional capacities) or policy frameworks (development of policies).

12. **Areas addressed in other IFIs.** The subsectors addressed by other IFIs include: adaptation to climate change; rural employment; development of farmers' organizations; research and innovation; and policy frameworks. There is relatively greater use of RBL for infrastructure (particularly irrigation, market, roads and rural bridges) and energy. There are also experiences linked to land access (currently not used in IFAD).
13. **Cofinancing performance** has been outstanding: domestic cofinancing reached 1:8.35 (the corporate target for IFAD12 was 1:0.70, and the overall result was 1:0.85); and international cofinancing reached 1:1.95 (the corporate target was 1:0.80 and the overall result was 1:1.41). This result confirms the power of RBL to ensure national ownership of programmes. Compared to traditional projects, programme size was 114 per cent in IFAD-led projects and 328 per cent in Type-C RBL initiatives. Similar results are seen in other IFIs, where the average commitment in RBL projects is more than twice that in the general portfolio. The project size confirms the capacity of the instrument to act as vehicle for pooling development financing.
14. In terms of designing RBL-specific elements, DLIs have followed good practices. There has generally been a balance of more accessible and complex DLIs across the results chain (a balance of output-based and outcome-based interventions). The pilot has shown that RBLs can be used to obtain results in "hard" and "soft" areas. Similarly, the setting of DLI targets has been carried out strategically: in all cases, the targets have been both attainable (which helps to create an incentive effect) and ambitious.
15. **Independent verification agent (IVA)** selection has adhered to high standards: IVAs are credible, independent entities that have sufficient technical, human and financial resources to verify results and produce reliable verification reports.
16. The **design costs** for projects with RBL components were in line with the average design costs of other projects. However, project delivery teams emphasized the need for additional resources to support implementing partners and IVAs during start-up. The design of the Type-C RBL initiatives cost significantly less than that of other projects since IFAD contributes to programmes designed and led by the World Bank. Nevertheless, in other IFIs, design costs were approximately 10 per cent higher, which should be kept in mind when considering future IFAD-led programmatic RBLs. As highlighted in the midterm self-assessment, project delivery teams reported the need for additional technical support during the design and start-up phases – both for design teams and to build the capacity of government teams. Country teams reported that on-demand access to RBL experts would be greatly beneficial.
17. **Overall performance.** Ongoing Type-C RBLs (in Bangladesh, Senegal and United Republic of Tanzania) have a satisfactory performance rating, with good overall disbursement across the project cycle. In Senegal, minor adjustments were introduced to some DLIs to strengthen their definitions. The instrument has been well regarded by country teams as an opportunity for IFAD to leverage its resources and engage in large national development programmes.

18. Performance of the IFAD-led RBL was mixed. The overall performance of the project in Cuba was positive, despite the partial suspension of the portfolio, which affected the loan component. Within the project, the RBL approach was deemed important for improving the quality of the business plans prepared by farmers' cooperatives and for rewarding efficiency gains.
19. The projects in China are slightly behind schedule (for reasons not linked to their RBL subcomponents, which represent less than 3 per cent of the total financing). In these cases, the RBL approach was deemed more useful for extending the instrument to the agricultural sector than for achieving the development objective. In the case of Morocco, it is still too early in the project cycle to assess its performance. Nonetheless, the approach is considered fundamental for ensuring that IFAD remains a partner of choice since the RBL approach streamlines the lending process, allowing it to rely on national systems.
20. The limited number of projects does not allow for a robust quantitative analysis of performance. Nevertheless, a comparison between supervision ratings of RBL projects and IFAD's overall portfolio reveals some differences. RBL projects show stronger performance in areas such as monitoring and evaluation systems, and the timely disbursement of counterpart funds, confirming expected benefits in terms of local ownership and stronger reporting systems. These projects also performed better in meeting social, environmental and climate standards, and demonstrate greater efficiency (value for money). Conversely, RBL projects tend to score lower on financial and project management – highlighting the need for technical support to strengthen implementation capacities and targeting, which should be considered when defining DLIs.
21. **Performance and results in other IFIs** have also been positive. The level of ownership, results orientation during implementation and the strong contribution to the project development objectives was deemed very positive and aligned with general portfolio performance. Engagement at the country level became more strategic than process oriented. Some delays were reported during start-up, particularly for countries with less experience with the instrument. Nevertheless, all IFIs have opted to mainstream the instrument and to increase and expand its use.
22. **Clients' reception of RBL** has been positive. Indeed, many governments are interested and open to its use. Once the RBL approach is understood, it is likely to lead to a change in the attitude of all stakeholders. Teams note a positive shift in attitude in counterpart institutions, away from concerns about daily project implementation towards a more significant, longer-term focus on achieving results in the sector.

C. Lessons learned

23. RBL has not been used extensively as a financing modality in agriculture – by IFAD or any other IFIs – and there is currently no strong empirical evidence to draw on. In that sense, IFAD will likely become the leading institution in the sector, with a unique capacity to contribute to innovative approaches to rural development.
24. **RBL can be leveraged for programme targeting.** The approach can both improve targeting for IFAD-funded programmes and support established national programmes. For this to happen, the definition of the DLIs must be carefully revised to ensure a pro-poor approach. The instrument can also be used for projects in which IFAD resources support governments in developing or broadening existing policies related to IFAD's target groups.
25. The pilot has allowed IFAD to explore how it can better leverage its financing in Type-C programmatic scenarios. In Senegal's Agriculture and Livestock Competitiveness PforR Project, IFAD is channelling its finances through four DLIs that are within its areas of expertise. In the Bangladesh PforR, IFAD oversees three IFAD-specific DLIs, but its US\$43 million in financing is pooled with US\$500 million

from the World Bank in the interest of expanding IFAD's influence across the entire PforR. It is too soon to determine which modality will provide IFAD with the greatest influence, leverage or impact.⁴ As the pilot concludes, IFAD's involvement during the design of supervision of Type-C RBLs can be reduced in line with what is expected for projects led by international cooperation institutions.

26. The pilot is beginning to reveal lessons about IFAD's added value and comparative advantage in relation to RBL. IFAD's added value is boosted by RBL in several ways:
 - (i) IFAD can now offer RBL to support governments that wish to promote a results-based orientation in ministries or sectors.
 - (ii) RBL can help to shift development efforts from isolated projects towards national programmes.
 - (iii) It can offer governments an innovative form of financing, helping them to tackle development challenges that may not have been resolvable with traditional financing.
 - (iv) With the programmatic approach, IFAD can provide niche expertise to governments utilizing national systems. This could reduce the number of IFAD processes required.
 - (v) RBL can be the culminating instrument in a phased approach. For example, it can be the last phase of a multiphase adaptive programme in which previous phases include activities that ensure country readiness.

D. Way forward

27. **RBL provides IFAD with an additional tool to advance priorities** such as markets, jobs and resilience. Projects have already delivered results in certification, rural employment, entrepreneurship, digital services, climate-smart technologies and policy frameworks. Building on the experience of other IFIs, RBL offers an effective alternative to traditional projects, positioning IFAD as an enabler, connector, risk mitigator and the trusted investment vehicle for rural development.
28. **Continuation of the RBL approach.** The pilot phase has been satisfactory, proving IFAD's capacity to deal with traditional investments that include an RBL component, and to cofinance other institutions in programmatic RBLs. These new financing instruments are now available to IFAD's clients and a new operational guidance note will focus on these two approaches. As the pilot phase is completed, the design process will be fully guided by current procedures (i.e. if eligible, approval could be possible via delegation of authority or lapse of time). IFAD will not establish a cap on RBL financing over total commitments. Nevertheless, it will be monitored, and before it surpasses 10 per cent, IFAD Management will consult the Executive Board about the possibility of establishing a cap.⁵
29. **Development of RBL operational guidelines.** The midterm self-assessment underscored the need for internal guidelines. Following the development of an RBL disbursement process and a tool to assess country capacities, the RBL guidance note was finalized and will become effective in January 2026.
30. **Minimum conditions and risk management.** Before proposing RBL in a country, certain minimum conditions must be met to ensure its feasibility and effectiveness. The integrated project risk matrix will be used to ensure comprehensive capacity assessment covering financial and procurement management, safeguards,

⁴ In a forthcoming World Bank review of the PforR modality, little relation was found between financing ratios and leverage – that is, between what the World Bank contributed to government programmes and the leverage it enjoyed. Client countries require adequate financing, but the technical expertise offered by donor partners is just as important. In other words, it is possible to provide relatively modest financing contributions while still enjoying relatively strong leverage.

⁵ RBL will be monitored in relation to projected disbursement flows to ensure that it remains within the bounds of available financial resources and does not affect overall disbursement capacity.

monitoring capacities and the development of mitigation measures. The assessment will identify capacity gaps that require targeted support before adoption. It will also serve as a critical input for decision-making on whether RBL is an appropriate approach. Key criteria include the country's previous experience with similar instruments (this has been shown to be essential in minimizing start-up delays and ensuring smooth implementation). In line with best practices across IFIs, the guidelines set explicit limitations on investments that pose significant social or environmental risks. This approach aims to ensure that RBL-supported initiatives adhere to rigorous sustainability standards.

31. **Strategic considerations for scaling up.** During the pilot phase, there was interest in testing the RBL approach – sometimes on a very small scale. While this experimentation provided valuable insights, continuing with such fragmented application may not represent the most strategic use of the instrument. Moving forward, a more effective approach would be to prioritize programmatic models – particularly those involving cofinanciers – and IFAD-led projects in which a large proportion of financing is structured through RBL. This would enhance efficiency, reduce administrative costs and maximize the benefits of performance-based financing.
32. **Expansion to IFAD-led programmatic RBL.** The possibility of a full programmatic RBL led by IFAD will remain available on a pilot basis so that the risks and benefits of this approach can be analysed.
33. **Staff capacity development.** In response to the pilot and informed by the midterm self-assessment recommendations, the Office of Development Effectiveness led the development of a “lessons learned” note, training for staff and an e-learning course in IFAD's Operations Academy. The development of in-house technical capacities remains a priority: access to regular live training including experts from other IFIs is now needed.
34. **Local capacity development.** The design review of projects, including those utilizing RBL, will emphasize the analysis of capacity gaps and the inclusion of resources to ensure that governments are ready for the instrument. The use of multiphase approaches will be encouraged, with the first phases oriented to building capacity.
35. **Learning from completion reports and impact assessments.** The first four approved pilot projects (two in China, one in Cuba and one in Senegal) are expected to be completed during IFAD13. The project completion reports and the inclusion of projects with RBL among impact assessments will be critical to build on existing knowledge of RBL.

List of RBL projects related to agriculture and rural development across IFIs (in alphabetical order by country)

Table 1

List of RBL projects related to agriculture and rural development

(Millions of United States dollars)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Main financier</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>International financing</i>	<i>Domestic</i>	<i>Year of approval</i>	<i>Status^a</i>
Bangladesh ^b	World Bank	Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience	543	800	2023	Implementation
Brazil	IDB	Program to Modernize and Strengthen Agricultural Health and Food Safety Services	195	5	2018	Implementation
China	World Bank	Green Agricultural and Rural Revitalization PforR	320	4 696	2022	Implementation
China	World Bank	Guangxi Poverty Reduction PforR	400	5 129	2018	Closed
China	IFAD	Hunan Rural Revitalization Demonstration Project	60	113	2020	Implementation
China	World Bank	Low-Carbon Agriculture and Soil Health Improvement Program	150	662		Design
China	World Bank	Methane-Reducing and Water-Saving Paddy Rice PforR (Hunan)	255	988	2023	Implementation
China	World Bank	Yangtze River Protection and Ecological Restoration Program	400	6 126	2021	Implementation
China	IFAD	Yunnan Rural Revitalization Demonstration Project	75	160	2020	Implementation
Colombia	IFAD	Rurality for Life Project	87	39	2024	Design
Costa Rica ^b	World Bank	Program for Sustainable and Competitive Agriculture	140	555	2025	Design
Côte d'Ivoire	World Bank	Côte d'Ivoire Rural Land Tenure Management Strengthening Program	200	40	2023	Implementation
Cuba	IFAD	Agroforestry Cooperative Development Project	40	24	2019	Implementation
Ethiopia	World Bank	Enhancing Shared Prosperity through Equitable Services	600	6 135	2015	Closed
Ethiopia	World Bank	Rural Connectivity for Food Security Program	407	300	2024	Implementation
India	World Bank	Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Program	452	113	2024	Implementation
Indonesia	ADB	Integrated Participatory Development and Management of Irrigation Program	628	1 051	2017	Closed
Jordan	World Bank	Agriculture Resilience, Value Chain Development and Innovation Program	96	42	2022	Implementation
Kazakhstan	World Bank	Kazakhstan Resilient Landscapes Restoration Project	4	-	2021	Implementation
Kenya	World Bank	Inclusive Growth and Fiscal Management Development Policy Financing	750	-	2019	Closed
Kyrgyzstan	ADB	Naryn Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Development Program	649	87	2019	Implementation
Morocco	AfDB	Inclusive and Sustainable Development Project for Agricultural and Rural Areas	130	207	2021	Implementation
Morocco	World Bank	Integrated Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Program	200	58	2016	Closed

<i>Country</i>	<i>Main financier</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>International financing</i>	<i>Domestic</i>	<i>Year of approval</i>	<i>Status^a</i>
Morocco	IFAD	Integrated Rural Development Project of the Mountain Areas in the Oriental Region	72	23	2023	Implementation
Morocco	World Bank	Morocco Climate Operation / Support to the Nationally Determined Contribution	350	700	2023	Implementation
Morocco	World Bank	Morocco Green Generation PforR	365	122	2020	Implementation
Morocco	World Bank	Morocco Sustainable Oasis Ecosystems Management Project	12	4	2024	Implementation
Pakistan	World Bank	Strengthening Markets for Agriculture and Rural Transformation Punjab Program	300	1 290	2017	Closed
Rwanda ^c	World Bank	Transformation of Agriculture Sector Programme PforR	1 131	490	2017	Closed
Senegal ^b	World Bank	Agriculture and Livestock Competitiveness PforR Project	170	60	2020	Implementation
United Republic of Tanzania	World Bank	Scaling-up Locally Led Climate Action Program	110	3 000	2025	Design
United Republic of Tanzania ^b	World Bank	Tanzania Food Systems Resilience Program	372	1 793	2023	Implementation
Ukraine	World Bank	Accelerating Private Investment in Agriculture Program	200	447	2019	Closed
Viet Nam	World Bank	National Targeted Programmes for New Rural Development and Sustainable Poverty Reduction Support PforR	153	1 680	2017	Closed

Source: Public sources. These estimates should be considered indicative given the dynamic nature of project data and occasional gaps in availability.

a. "Design" includes projects approved but not yet being implemented. These projects were not included in the total RBL portfolio summarized in table 2 of the main report.

b. Cofinanced by IFAD as part of the RBL pilot. IFAD financing was fully devoted to the RBL approach.

c. Cofinanced by IFAD before the RBL pilot. IFAD financing was not devoted to the RBL approach.

Description of approved pilot initiatives (in alphabetical order)⁶

A. Bangladesh: Programme on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience (PARTNER)

- **Type of RBL intervention:** Type-C programmatic RBL
 - **Total cost:** US\$1.34 billion (Government US\$800 million; International Development Association [IDA] US\$500 million; IFAD US\$43 million)
 - **IFAD financing:** US\$43 million
 - **RBL pilot:** US\$43 million (100 per cent of IFAD financing)
 - **Status:** Approved on 11 May 2023
 - **Entry into force date:** 30 June 2023
 - **Current completion date:** 31 December 2028
 - **Disbursement:** 25 per cent
1. The programme development objective of PARTNER is to enable resilient production and marketing of diverse, safe and nutritious food in Bangladesh. PARTNER aims for a transformational shift of agriculture in support of diversification towards high-value crops, ensuring food and nutrition security, and building long-term resilience to climate change. In line with the PforR approach, 10 DLIs have been defined within three results areas. Unlike other PforR initiatives in which IFAD only finances IFAD-specific DLIs, in this programme IFAD contributes its financing to all 10 DLIs in the same proportion. This enlarges IFAD's scope of management responsibility.

B. China: Hunan Rural Revitalization Demonstration Project

- **Type of RBL intervention:** IFAD-led project RBL
 - **Total cost:** US\$173.3 million (Government US\$112.8 million; UN Women US\$300,000; IFAD US\$60.2 million)
 - **IFAD financing:** US\$60.2 million
 - **RBL pilot:** US\$2.6 million (4 per cent of IFAD financing)
 - **Status:** Approved on 30 December 2020
 - **Entry into force date:** 05 February 2021
 - **Current completion date:** 31 March 2026
 - **Disbursement:** 45 per cent
2. The overall goal of this project is to keep poor and vulnerable households out of extreme poverty, and increase their production and economic resilience. The project development objective is to improve income-generation opportunities for vulnerable rural people, particularly youth and women, increase the inclusiveness of benefit-sharing mechanisms from agro-industry and heighten the rural population's resilience to climate change impacts. It uses a programmatic RBL pilot for one subcomponent of the loan. Subcomponent A.3 (promoting professional farmer training) aims to provide incentives to: (i) increase the number of farmers participating and getting accredited under the new professional farmers training programme; (ii) attract and increase the proportion of women participating in the programme; and (iii) attract and increase the proportion of younger people participating in the programme. The pilot aims to test the applicability of the RBL approach and promote it as a model for replication.

⁶ Information updated as at 1 October 2025.

C. China: Yunnan Rural Revitalization Demonstration Project

- **Type of RBL intervention:** IFAD-led project RBL
 - **Total cost:** US\$234.5 million (Government US\$159.1 million; IFAD US\$74.8 million)
 - **IFAD financing:** US\$74.8 million
 - **RBL pilot:** US\$1.4 million (2 per cent of IFAD financing)
 - **Status:** Approved on 8 May 2020
 - **Entry into force date:** 15 June 2020
 - **Current completion date:** 30 June 2025
 - **Disbursement:** 57 per cent
3. The goal of this project is to keep poor and vulnerable households in the project area out of poverty in a sustainable manner. The development objective is to increase opportunities for income generation among targeted poor and vulnerable households, and heighten the inclusiveness of agro-industries' benefit-sharing mechanisms. The project is implemented in seven counties in the north-eastern and western parts of Yunnan province, selected based on poverty incidence; the presence of industries with market potential; and local government commitment to the project objectives and proposed approach. One of the activities in subcomponent A.1 (improving *chanye fupin* cooperatives) introduced an RBL approach: disbursements for this activity are triggered by the number of cooperatives that meet defined "pro-poor" criteria (DLI) as confirmed by an independent third-party verification agency.

D. Colombia: Rurality for Life Project

- **Type of RBL intervention:** IFAD-led project RBL
 - **Total cost:** US\$126.3 million (Government US\$30 million; international cofinancing US\$37.2 million; IFAD US\$50 million)
 - **IFAD financing:** US\$50 million
 - **RBL pilot:** US\$1.8 million (4 per cent of IFAD financing)
 - **Status:** Approved by the Executive Board on 26 December 2024
4. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to reducing poverty among the target rural population in the framework of the peace process, improve social cohesion and renew confidence in Colombia. The development objective is to increase the resilience and inclusion of women, youth and people with disabilities in formal jobs. The RBL component was included in this project to test a model of job creation. It aims to explore the best way to reach this objective before scaling up. It includes four DLIs: DLI 1 on training for employment; DLI 2 on access to jobs; and DLIs 3 and 4 on job retention.

E. Costa Rica: Programme for Sustainable and Competitive Agriculture in Costa Rica

- **Type of RBL intervention:** Type-C programmatic RBL
 - **Total cost:** US\$695 million (Government US\$555 million; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development US\$120 million; IFAD US\$20 million)
 - **IFAD financing:** US\$20 million
 - **RBL pilot:** US\$20 million (100 per cent of IFAD financing)
 - **Status:** Signed. Approved on 14 May 2025
5. This programme was designed by the World Bank Group, IFAD, and the Government of Costa Rica to improve the sustainability, competitiveness and social inclusion of selected farmers and small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises. The programme revolves around four results areas: (i) modernization of agricultural

sector institutions; (ii) promotion of competitiveness; (iii) sustainable production; and (iv) value added and marketing. IFAD financing covers all eight DLIs.

F. Cuba: Agroforestry Cooperative Development Project (PRODECAFE)

- **Type of RBL intervention:** IFAD-led project RBL
 - **Total cost:** US\$63.6 million (Government US\$23.6 million; international cofinancing US\$24.5 million; IFAD US\$15.5 million)
 - **IFAD financing:** US\$15.5 million
 - **RBL pilot:** US\$1.6 million (10 per cent of IFAD financing)
 - **Status:** Approved on 9 September 2019
 - **Entry into force date:** 19 January 2021
 - **Current completion date:** 31 March 2027
 - **Disbursement:** 49 per cent
6. PRODECAFE is IFAD's third project in Cuba, supporting the Government's efforts to modernize and achieve sustainable growth in the agroforestry sector. The project objective is to increase the physical, human, social and environmental assets of farming cooperatives – the most important actors in the country's agricultural economy. PRODECAFE will support their gradual transformation into modern enterprises, with efficient production and provision of services capable of adapting to the market, the effects of climate change and other negative external impacts. This project employs a results-based pilot to encourage the development of cooperative development plans (DLI 1 in component 1), and to track the ranking of these cooperatives on a ministry scale (DLI 2 in component 2).

G. Morocco: Integrated Rural Development Project of the Mountain Areas in the Oriental Region (PADERMO)

- **Type of RBL intervention:** IFAD-led project RBL
 - **Total cost:** US\$94.6 million (Government US\$22.7 million; IFAD US\$71.9 million)
 - **IFAD financing:** US\$71.9 million
 - **RBL pilot:** US\$29 million (40 per cent of IFAD financing)
 - **Status:** Approved on 12 September 2023
 - **Entry into force date:** 14 December 2023
 - **Current completion date:** 31 December 2030
 - **Disbursement:** 1 per cent
7. The PADERMO project will promote improved agricultural production, diversification of incomes, product processing and access to markets. The project has a strong focus on rural infrastructure, small-scale irrigation, water-use efficiency and protection of agricultural land against erosion. PADERMO will be implemented over seven years and will cover 19 territorial communes across three provinces. Within PADERMO, IFAD will pilot subcomponents that draw on a results-based modality. There are three DLIs in line with the National Green Generation Strategy 2020–2030: DLI 1 on road construction; DLI 2 on livestock improvement; and DLI 3 on literacy (focused on women).

H. Senegal: Agriculture and Livestock Competitiveness PforR Project

- **Type of RBL intervention:** Type-C programmatic RBL
 - **Total cost:** US\$230 million (Government US\$60 million; IDA US\$150 million; IFAD US\$20 million)
 - **IFAD financing:** US\$20 million
 - **RBL pilot:** US\$20 million (100 per cent of IFAD financing)
 - **Status:** Approved on 30 December 2021
 - **Entry into force Date:** 27 April 2022
 - **Current Completion Date:** 31 December 2025
 - **Disbursement:** 75 per cent
8. This programme was designed by the World Bank Group, IFAD and the Government of Senegal to reduce rural poverty and improve food and nutrition security in the poorest regions. The programme aims to enhance the productivity and market access of priority commodity value chains and livestock. By complementing IDA financing of US\$150 million (and US\$60 million of the national budget), IFAD's US\$20 million in cofinancing will enhance the focus on diversifying smallholder farming systems and on women and young farmers. The programme's three results areas include 10 DLIs, of which IFAD finances four: DLI 2 on seeds; DLI 4 on vaccination; DLI 7 on insurance for farmers; and DLI 10 on digitalization and decentralization.

I. United Republic of Tanzania: Tanzania Food Systems Resilience Programme (TFSRP)

- **Type of RBL intervention:** Type-C programmatic RBL
 - **Total cost:** US\$2.15 billion (Government US\$1.8 billion; IDA US\$300 million; IFAD US\$71.4 million)
 - **IFAD financing:** US\$61.5 million
 - **RBL pilot:** US\$71.4 million (100 per cent of IFAD financing)
 - **Status:** Approved on 6 November 2024
 - **Entry into force Date:** 5 March 2025
 - **Current Completion Date:** 31 March 2029
 - **Disbursement:** -
9. In May 2023, IFAD, the World Bank and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania agreed on IFAD's cofinancing of TFSRP to bring a specific focus on youth and women, horticulture and access to finance. The programme development objective is to support food systems resilience by strengthening agricultural service delivery, the adoption of climate-resilient technologies and fiscal performance in the agricultural sector. The IFAD loan of US\$71.4 million will support more targeted assistance to youth through the Building a Better Tomorrow – Youth in Agriculture programme, a government programme aimed at establishing at least one profitable and sustainable youth-led agribusiness in each of the country's 12,000 villages. TFSRP-Horticulture will support youth and women engaging in horticulture. The expected closing date for TFSRP is 31 July 2028. IFAD is expected to participate in supervision and implementation support, going beyond mandatory support for Type-C projects.