

Cascading Learnings from our RBF Mechanism

In June 2018, we launched the one-year pilot of Uganda's first results-based financing (RBF) mechanism for community health in partnership with the Government of Uganda. Unlike most RBF programs, which tie a portion of payments to outcomes, 100% of our payments from the Deerfield Foundation are bound to independent verification by Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA).

We saw a significant improvement in performance in Q3 of the RBF pilot, (Q1 2019). Despite introducing a penalty payment this quarter for all unverified results, **we will still receive 141% of expected payments.** We overachieved targets for pregnancy visits (106%), in-facility antenatal care visits (163%), U5 child assessments (196%) and referral follow-ups (124%). We underperformed on in-facility deliveries (54%), PNC visits within 48 hours (74%), PNC visits between 48 hours and 1 week (55%), and U1 follow-ups (21%), and are putting in place action plans to understand and address challenges in these areas.

Although the average error rate was the same as last quarter (18%), **we've seen major improvements on every metric except PNC visits (23%),** which remains the biggest contributor to poor data quality in the RBF.

Given the pilot's success to date, the RBF Advisory Committee, chaired by the Ugandan MOH, recently visited our RBF pilot branch in Masaka to see how we're using technology and effective monitoring systems to provide performance-based incentives to CHWs.

Afterward, the **committee met to better understand how learnings from our pilot could be leveraged to extend performance-based payments at the facility level down to CHWs at the community level** through the Uganda Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health Services Improvement Project supported through the World Bank's Global Financing Facility. Both engagements have helped strengthen our relationship with the MOH and have **stimulated critical conversations about how Living Goods can provide technical assistance to the government** on key aspects of our approach, including technology and performance management systems.



Top: Our new deputy country director of direct operations in Uganda, Edward Zzimbe (at right), spends time engaging with our Masaka branch.

Bottom: CEO Liz Jarman at a visit to our Kayunge branch in Uganda, with a focus on PNC visits within 48 hours.