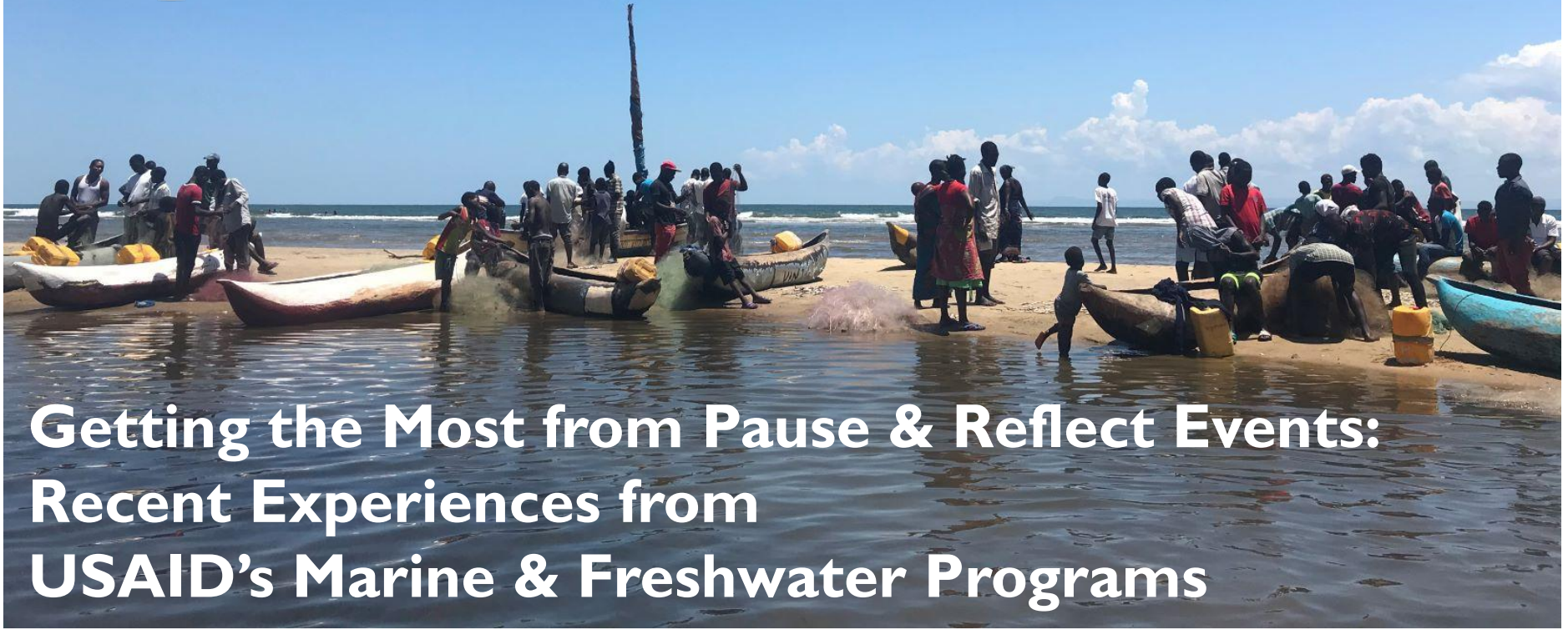
USAID's Marine Conservation & Sustainable Fisheries Community of Practice

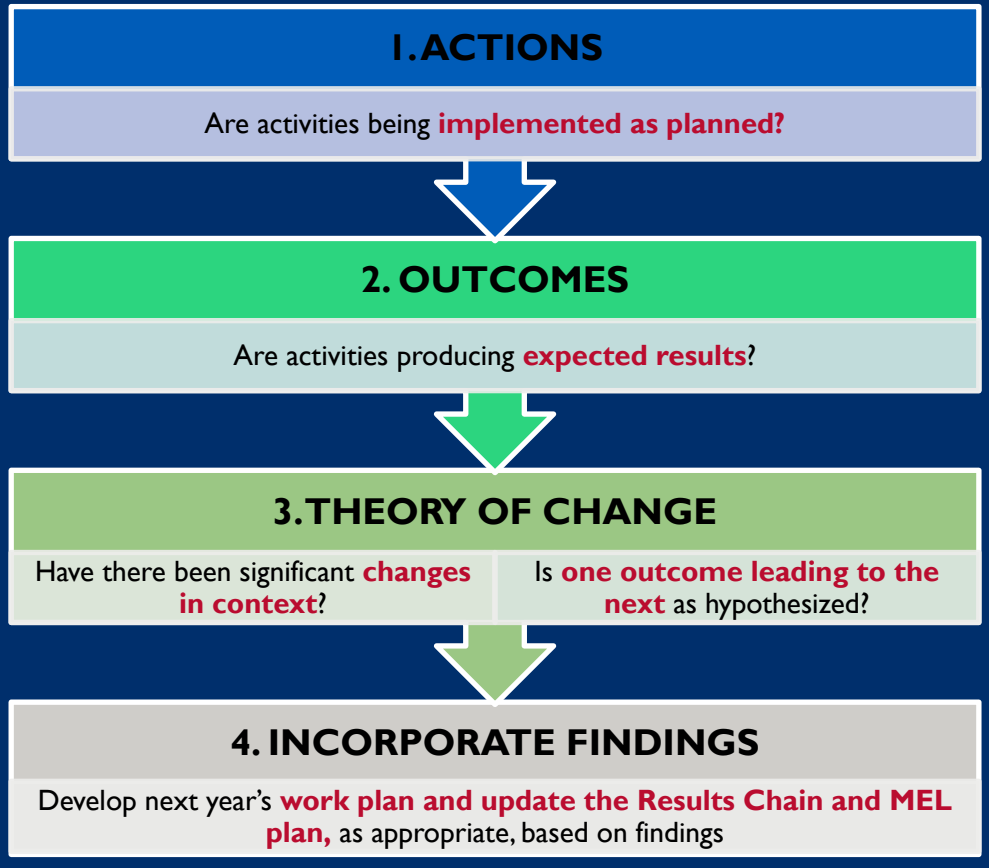


Getting the Most from Pause & Reflect Events: Recent Experiences from USAID's Marine & Freshwater Programs

Welcome!

Getting the most out of Pause & Reflect (PnR) Events

1. Approaches
2. Integrating evidence
3. Engaging stakeholders
4. Using results chains



Panelists & Participants

Oumou Ly, Senegal

PROGRAM NAME: Dekkal Geej (Reviving the Seas), **IMPLEMENTER:** Winrock International and partners
YEARS: 2019-2024

PROGRAM GOAL:
Work with local and national stakeholders to address challenges to accountable, transparent, effective and collaborative fisheries management so as to provide momentum toward ecological sustainability and strengthen resilience. In so doing, will also improve food security, nutrition, and livelihood outcomes along market systems.

Dekkal Geej's Approach to PnR

PnR Objectives

- Step away from ongoing work activities and focus on an honest discussion of project progress, challenges, and opportunities (+ adaptation to COVID-19 pandemic and PSE)
- Identify factors that contributed or slowed the progress
- Document learning: new and emerging results & activities and proposal for adaptations of the project for structural change.
- Feed into work planning and the Mission 4 Learning Priorities.

Event Organizers

Led by the implementer with support from MI-2 and USAID

Event Format

4 days of 2-2.5 hour sessions within 1 week
Focus on the Strategic Approach paramount to achieving goals + a look at PSE + another SA

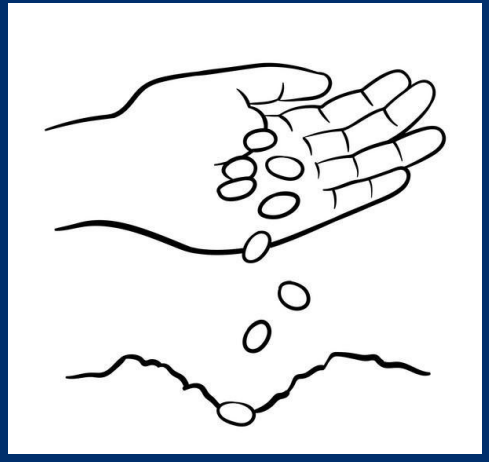
Bruce Sosola, Malawi

PROGRAM NAME: REFRESH, **IMPLEMENTER:** Pact Inc.
YEARS: 2019-2024

PROGRAM GOALS:

Conserving the freshwater biodiversity of Lake Malawi by restoring fisheries in the lakeshore districts.

PnR Process



Part 1:
Getting input

7-9 July
Extended Team

Virtual

Part 2:
Integrating feedback

10-20 July
SA Teams

In-person

Part 3:
Report Back

22-23 July
Extended Teams

Virtual

Becky Guieb, Philippines

PROGRAM NAME: USAID Fish Right, **IMPLEMENTER:** University of Rhode Island
YEARS: 2018 - 2023

PROGRAM GOALS:

To influence system change in the fisheries sector by improving fisheries compliance resulting in increased fish biomass in the selected marine key biodiversity areas.

Fish Right's Approach to PnR

PnR Objectives

- Reflect on changes in context and summarize learning
- Review the threats to marine biodiversity and associated human well-being benefits
- Review and reflect on the program outputs and outcomes
- Develop national and site-level results chains
- Agree on priority program actions for an "end-game strategy"

Event Organizers

Led by the program implementer with USAID mission support and engagement with USAID/W Biodiversity team

Event Format

2-hour virtual sessions over 3 months; at least 2 sessions/week

REFRESH's Approach to PnR

PnR Objectives

- Reflect on changes in context and learning from new analyses
- Examine the experience implementing REFRESH results chains since November 2019
- Update results chains and the MEL plan, as appropriate

Event Organizers

Led by USAID and the Implementer with support from MI-2

Event Format

Part 1: SA lead presentations and facilitated discussion on initial reflections of Yr1 implementation (Three 2-3 hour virtual sessions)

Part 2: In-person meetings led by SA leads with local stakeholders

Part 3: SA lead presentations and facilitated small group discussion on what this meant for Yr2 (Two 1.5 hr virtual sessions)

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Topic 1: Integrating Evidence

Panelist Question: Bringing evidence into our PnR workshops can take extra planning, but it allows us to test our assumptions and hunches with data and systematic analysis. Could you give a short example of how you integrated analyses or evidence into your PnR? What kind of evidence did you include? How did you bring it into the workshop?

Becky - I think your focus on evidence related to the left-side would be really interesting

Bruce - Maybe the way the Gender presentation made specific recommendations about the implications of the findings for implementation?

Oumou - Did you bring evidence into the SWOT? Surveying main stakeholders

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Topic 2: Stakeholder Engagement

Panelist Question: Engaging key stakeholders in our PnR workshops can add valuable perspectives to our thinking, build support for our work, and help the program to think and work politically. What external stakeholders did you choose to engage in your PnR? How did you do it? What was challenging?

Becky - You've had so many people join! 50-60 per session; tell us about that.

Bruce - Perhaps discuss the challenge of engaging government and local leaders and how we're adapting to address that issue?

Oumou - Gov, scientists, organization of parliamentarians, local councils, follow-up with the local councils and building PnR into local capacity building; could be good to provide more info on the importance and goals of the PnR; language may have discouraged some partners

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Topic 3: Using Results Chains

Panelist Question: USAID/W recommends using results chains in PnR workshops and we also recognizes other approaches can be helpful depending on the situation. What did you notice about how results chains either supported or were unhelpful during your PnR event?

Becky - You guys have gone from a high-level program chain to iteratively adding detail; maybe tell us about that?

Bruce - Would be great if you would share the value you've seen in the results chain approach

Oumou - I think it would be interesting to hear about how you picked 1 chain to demonstrate the approach and how you'll work through other chains in the future