



Dear CDD Community of Practice Members,

Wishing you the very best in 2023. January has been a busy month for CLD and this month's newsletter highlights some of the recent events on Smart Villages; a recently launched report on social cohesion and forced displacement; and a summary from the recent EAP Learning Event in Vientiane.

As always, we are eager to hear from you! Please share any relevant information and materials that you feel would benefit our community and stay in touch.

With best wishes,

Nicolas, Juliette, Stephen, Helen, and Anastasiia

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## BLOGS

[Benin: Local Communities Help Restore Classified Forests](#): The World Bank-financed Benin Classified Forests Project (PFC-B) has enabled the mobilization and involvement of communities in reforestation activities. The project aims to improve the integrated management of classified forests and develop value chains for non-timber forest products for the benefit of forest-dependent communities, using a participatory approach that allows communities to be true stakeholders in reforestation. The project has provided increased opportunities for women in groups and youth in communities in decision making and livelihood opportunities. Reforestation activities in the forest reserves covered by the project have created more than 32,951 direct and indirect jobs, 29% of which were for women, and have also provided more than \$18,962 million in income to communities.

[Ethiopia Local Economic Development Paper](#): This paper examines the role of the Local Economic Development (LED) approach in facilitating inclusive and long-term recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated impacts in selected refugee-hosting woredas (districts) of Ethiopia. The paper argues the importance of an inclusive LED approach to be a driver of job creation and boosting economic and social impacts. LED is defined as a process by which public, business, and non-governmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation. The paper recommends building LED platforms at the local government level to converge digital enterprises, social enterprises, community support organizations, and the private sector to develop an intense and dense ecosystem to support communities and accelerate local economic development and longer-term COVID recovery. The findings in this paper are relevant to those applying LED approaches in other parts of the world primarily in rural and lagging areas and FCV contexts to strengthen the resilience of local economies and economic inclusion of these areas. Here is a [link to the paper](#).

## RECENT EVENTS

**EAP Learning Event focused on the future of CDD.** Over three days in December 2022, sixty-eight government and World Bank representatives from 12 EAP and ECA countries gathered in Vientiane, Lao PDR to share experiences with implementing community driven development (CDD) programs. The 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Conference focused on “Partnerships for Inclusion and Resilience” occurred on 6-8 December 2022. The learning event provided multiple opportunities for teams to share their work through lightning talks, project booths, and small group discussions, and also saw dedicated discussion on strengthening social inclusion and climate resilience through locally driven investments. Forty-two out of sixty-eight participants rated the conference experience as either excellent or very good. [Event Website | Blog](#)

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**Smart Village Development: Concepts and Early Lessons.** The session focused on the core concepts of smart villages to build understanding and equip Bank staff to make use of this concept in their work, including sharing of a Smart Village Readiness Assessment tool. It also included presentations on smart village activities in a few countries and regions, including a post-conflict recovery pilot in Azerbaijan, an EU-wide smart village network and a country-wide, foundational investment in Niger. Smart villages are defined as those which “use digital technology, innovation and knowledge to improve rural economic opportunities, infrastructure, services, and governance.” Overall, the smart village approach aims to take advantage of new technologies and community-driven solutions to level the playing field and create flexibility between rural and urban quality of life. [Smart Village Resource Page](#) | [Event Page and Recording](#)

**Social Cohesion and Forced Displacement: A Synthesis of New Research.** On January 18, 2022, the World Bank, UNHCR and the UK Government held the global launch of Social Cohesion and Forced Displacement: A Synthesis of New Research. This report synthesizes findings from a joint series of 26 working papers on forced displacement and social cohesion. This analysis offers actionable insights for policymakers and development practitioners on mitigating the negative effects of displacement and effectively promoting social cohesion. Global displacement trends are shifting. UNHCR estimates that more than 100 million people around the world were forcibly displaced as of May 2022. Global crises – including climate change, COVID-19, conflict, and rising costs of living – have increased the risk of social tensions and have highlighted the importance of social cohesion. [Executive Summary Report](#) | [Event Page and Recording](#) | [Short Video of Key Findings](#)

[Ghana SOCO Project Webinar Series Session 1: How Can We Promote a Coordinated Development Approach in Northern Ghana?](#) This webinar was organized on December 15, 2022 and focused on engaging policymakers and development partners to discuss challenges and opportunities for promoting a coordinated development approach in Northern Ghana, especially in the 48 SOCO districts. The webinar was attended by 110 participants representing various government agencies at the national, regional, and local government levels, and development partners. Here is the link to the webinar [PPT](#) and the [recording](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Deep Dive on Integrating Climate Change Considerations into CLD Operations:** A 90-minute online course that will target Bank staff who would like to learn more about the Social Dimensions of Climate Change and ways to adapt CLD platforms to promote locally led climate action. The Deep Dive will feature examples from ongoing work on devolved climate finance in

Kenya and on integrating climate resilience planning into the participatory decision-making process in CLD programs in West Africa. The course will also introduce an operational Toolkit being developed and piloted by the SSI Global Unit to help guide task teams and clients in the integration of climate considerations into CLD operations. The deep dive will occur on Thursday February 16, 2022. [Register in OLC](#)

## PROJECT APPROVALS

## JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

The Community and Local Development CoP and GSG connects peers, thought leaders, and practitioners across governments, agencies, and academia, to share ideas and experiences on CDD approaches. This CoP/GSG is facilitated by the Global Programs Unit of the Social Sustainability and Inclusion Global Practice at the World Bank, with inputs from around the world.

To share papers, project news, interesting blogs, or upcoming events on CLD and other relevant themes with the CLD CoP, please email the CLD email and we'll incorporate these in the next "What's happening in CLD" newsletter.

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To sign up for CLD CoP membership and receive our monthly newsletter, please [click here](#)

Please visit and bookmark our sites!

CLD Global Solutions Group (WB internal):

<https://worldbankgroup.sharepoint.com/sites/gsg/CDD/Pages/Home.aspx>

CDD Collaboration4Development (C4D) (external):

<https://collaboration.worldbank.org/content/sites/collaboration-for-development/en/groups/community-driven-development-global-solutions-group.html>

**GLOBAL PROGRAMS UNIT - SSI | THE WORLD BANK**

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