Dear CDD Community of Practice Members,

It’s been an exciting couple of weeks for the CoP Secretariat, including the organization of our annual CDD core course, held here in Washington, DC on March 1. The CDD core course combines principles of CDD approaches with real-life operational insights. The course equips staff interested in or working on CDD operations with practical knowledge and skills, and introduces them to the resources available through our active CoP. While wind (that’s a first!) forced us to cut the course short this year, it was a pleasure to meet participants and begin to get into the fundamentals of CDD operations. Below, you’ll see the official photo – it’s a good-looking group of CDD practitioners!

If you’re interested in learning more about the core course, you can find the course materials on our CDD GSG page in this [folder](#). You can always drop us a line if you have any specific questions.

This month’s newsletter features CDD approaches in action in Africa (Guinea and Nigeria), Asia (Tajikistan), MENA (Iraq), and South Asia (Afghanistan).

Do you have a project you wish us to highlight, or a research paper that’s just been published? Send it over, and we will disseminate it so that our entire community can take note and better share knowledge and best practices.

And if anyone operates a Twitter account, take a look below at a CDD project featured on several of the World Bank’s handles, including [@WorldBankAfrica](https) – we’d appreciate it if you could like and share the posts!
As always, we are eager to hear from you. Please share any relevant information and materials that you feel would benefit our entire community, and remember to stay in touch.

With best wishes,

Nik
Have a thought? Join the Community of Practice (CoP)!

The CDD Community of Practice (CoP) connects peers, thought leaders and practitioners from governments, agencies, academia, and elsewhere to share ideas and experiences on CDD, community-based, and participatory approaches. This CoP is facilitated by the Global Programs Unit of the Global Practice for Social, Urban, Rural, and Resilience at the World Bank, with inputs from around the world. Take part in the conversation and join us on our CoP website, welcoming experts inside and outside the Bank.

To share papers, project news, interesting blogs, or upcoming events on CDD and other relevant themes with the CDD CoP, please email the main CDD email (cddgsg@worldbank.org), or if you prefer, Evan Caplan (ecaplan@worldbank.org), and Nik Myint (nmyint@worldbank.org), and we'll incorporate these in the next CDD "What's Happening" newsletter.

To facilitate dialogue and improved communication, the World Bank also maintains the CDD Global Solutions Group, which supports the Bank’s internal community of CDD practitioners. If you are a World Bank staff member who would like to receive CDD-related information more regularly, please join the GSG. Click below to join.

Join the GSG

Feature Story: Nigeria’s Poor Communities in the Driver’s Seat of their Development Journey
The Bank’s intranet recently ran a great story on the Community Social Development Project (CSDP) in Nigeria, which applies a CDD approach to development by placing programs in the hands of country’s most poor and vulnerable groups. CSDP, supported by the World Bank and begun in 2008, is part of the Nigerian government’s efforts to expand social protection by better connecting communities with local government agencies and officials. The project targets rural areas that have little access to services; specific sector areas chosen by communities include electricity and education.

Blog: Citizen Engagement in rural Guinea: Making tangible changes from the bottom up
Kaori Oshima & Nicolas Perrin - World Bank Nasikiliza
Check out this blog on citizen engagement in Guinea, which describes how the Village Community Support Project (PACV) has been increasing transparency and citizen engagement with local government. Started in 2000, the PACV is now in its third phase. It applies a community-driven development approach, supporting 1,500 microprojects across rural areas. The project’s goals include strengthening the local government financing system and improving local service delivery. After 15 years, citizens are becoming part of and supporting good local governance, and report that they have had and continue to make positive and concrete contributions to growth in their communities.

Event: Evidence from Tajikistan: Gender and Participatory Irrigation Management
On February 9, the *Inclusion in Water* Program held a discussion on Gender and Participatory Irrigation Management. The event underscored the importance of inclusion and empowerment around gender issue in development programs, including the World Bank’s projects. Women’s involvement in water projects in Tajikistan is extremely low, and the discussion turned on methods to increase participation. You may find the relevant USAID-supported report [here](#).

**RESEARCH & REPORTS**

**Report:** Jobs from Agriculture in Afghanistan, World Bank

Izabela Leao

Agriculture: a driver of rural employment. This is certainly rings true in Afghanistan, where investment in this sector plays a central role in poverty reduction and sustained growth – through job creation, improved productivity, and inclusiveness. This report details the engagement of women and youth in the rural farm sector, and evaluates the role of interventions in supporting agriculture-related employment opportunities. It recommends increasing linkages between the rural poor and markets and other private-sector businesses. The research and conclusions are directly related to CDD approaches, especially the current focus on local economic development.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

**Project Approval:** Iraq Social Fund for Development Project

Last month, the World Bank Board of Directors approved the Iraq Social Fund for Development (SFD) project, anticipated to benefit over 600 communities and villages through 1,700 smaller programs. This $300 million project seeks to improve the living conditions of poor households across the country by increasing access to basic services and creating employment opportunities at the community level. CDD assisted with design elements of the project. For more information, read the [blog](#) or watch the [video](#).

**CDD in Social Media**

Like and share! Check out the Tweets on the World Bank’s social media channels – in [English](#) and in [French](#) – that were published along with the above Guinea blog post, and please share with your social networks.

**Call for Photos**

We know that images can speak louder than words. As many of you are based in the field or travel with frequency, you can help us deepen our ability to document the work of CDD. We kindly request that when you are in the field, take photos of project implementation, anything from construction to inaugurations. When you send them, please include background and credit information (name, date, location).