

Blog: Blog Post of the Month: Ebola and the Role of C4D

By Paolo Mefalopulos on World Bank People, Spaces, Deliberation on December 4

Each month *People, Spaces, Deliberation* shares the blog post that generated the most interest and discussion. In November 2014, the most popular blog post was "[Ebola and the Role of C4D](#)" by Paolo Mefalopulos of UNICEF.

Web article: Gender mainstreaming initiatives of DSWD’s community-driven development program showcased in international forum

On the Republic of the Philippines, Department of Social Welfare and Development

Cases and evidence

Evaluation of the Solomon Islands Rural Development Program

By Ananta Neelim and Joseph Vecchi

Abstract:

This report analyzes the impacts of the Rural Development Program (RDP) of the Solomon Islands. The RDP focuses on participatory development, demand-responsive provision of Government services and creation of a supportive economic environment for small-scale rural development to foster employment and income growth. As a part of this evaluation process, a follow up survey was conducted in eighty villages, equally distributed across four provinces (Choiseul, Malaita, Temotu and Western) between June and July 2013. In each village we utilised two survey instruments, a) a household survey which was administered on ten randomly chosen households and b) a second questionnaire administered to community leaders (which also included members of the RDP’s subproject implementation committee). The data collected in the baseline survey, conducted between 2010 and 2011, was the main basis for comparison and subsequent impact evaluation. Based on the study, the report also provides recommendations by component.

Unpacking performance and empowerment in female farmers' groups : the case of the Fadama project in Nigeria

By Porter, Raewyn, and Zovighian, Diane, on *World Bank Perspectives on Social Development*, November 2014

Abstract:

Women play an important role in rural economic activity but face severe constraints to productivity and socioeconomic security. Nigeria's agriculture sector employs 35 percent of women and up to 44 percent of female heads of households. Yet a number of factors constrain the expansion and diversification of agricultural activities, and as a result, **women’s** agricultural productivity remains lower than that of men and their vulnerability to food insecurity and poverty higher. In order to help female farmers increase their agricultural productivity and expand their economic opportunities, the government sees its agriculture transformation agenda as a critical tool for driving rural income growth, accelerating the achievement of food and nutritional security, generating employment, and transforming the country into a leading player in global food markets. The strategy is to improve the value chains of a number of agricultural commodities by focusing on key aspects, including the availability and provision of improved inputs (seed and fertilizer), support for increased productivity and production, and the establishment of staple crop processing zones. With a view to informing the design of future agriculture policies and projects, this research investigated the experience of female farmers in the National Fadama Development Project, an agricultural development and CDD project that aims to reduce rural poverty and increase food availability throughout Nigeria. In particular, the research examines: **targeting**, performance, and empowerment of female farmers.

Community Engagement to Enhance Child Survival and Early Development in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: An Evidence Review

By S. Katherine Farnsworth, Kirsten Bose, Olaoluwa Fajobi, Patricia Portela Souza, Anne Peniston, Leslie L. Davidson, Marcia Griffiths, and Stephen Hodgins on *Journal of Health Communication: International Perspectives* vol. 19.

Abstract:

As part of a broader summit, USAID and UNICEF convened a literature review of effective means to empower communities to achieve behavioral and social changes to accelerate reductions in under-5 mortality and optimize early child development. The authors conducted a systematic review of the effectiveness of community mobilization and participation that led to behavioral change and one or more of the following: child health, survival, and development. The level and nature of community engagement was categorized using two internationally recognized models and only studies where the methods of community participation could be categorized as *collaborative* or *shared leadership* were eligible for analysis. The authors identified 34 documents from 18 countries that met the eligibility criteria. Studies with shared leadership typically used a comprehensive community action cycle, whereas studies characterized as collaborative showed clear emphasis on collective action but did not undergo an initial process of community dialogue. The review concluded that programs working collaboratively or achieving shared leadership with a community can lead to behavior change and cost-effective sustained transformation to improve critical health behaviors and reduce poor health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries. Overall, community engagement is an understudied component of improving child outcomes.

Access to health information for action in an urban context: A participatory community based census in ten urban slums of Freetown, Sierra Leone

By Megan Christensen, et al. (at the 142nd American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition, Nov17, 2014)

Abstract:

A key challenge in Sierra Leone is the lack of complete community health data, especially in urban slums, due to the population's transient status and shifting geographical boundaries. This lack of data reduces the ability of health authorities to plan and respond effectively to health priorities. Concern Worldwide is testing a participatory community-based health information system (P-CBHS), designed to improve community capacity to use health information for action. To establish the P-CBHS, a household census was conducted in ten urban slum communities in Freetown to identify each household with a child under five years or a pregnant woman and to collect household asset data. A total of 230 community members were trained as enumerators and they identified 28,672 target households over an eight month period. The project census yielded figures different than the national census estimates due in part to variance in the definition of 'resident' and government versus community defined boundaries. The census highlights how early engagement of community members as enumerators builds local capacity; cultivates trust, ownership, and a partnership approach to programming; promotes inter-community dialogue; fosters a greater understanding of and targeted responses to the health and socioeconomic context in their communities; and ensures coverage of every household when navigating a complex urban environment. Participatory community maps are vital for establishing boundaries and planning data collection. Beyond the P-CBHS, the census results will be used to target vulnerable households, elect Community Health Workers, and share data to influence district and national policies.

Newly Approved Project: [Solomon Island's Efforts to Combat Rural Poverty Get US\\$9 Million Boost from World Bank](#)

The second phase of the Solomon Islands Rural Development Program (RDP II), one of the Government's main instruments to address rural poverty, aims to alleviate rural poverty and provide social and economic opportunities in rural areas through activities that will expand community infrastructure and services, and strengthen the linkages of smallholder-farming households to markets.

The project page is [here](#)

Feature Story: [In Ethiopia, Seeing Food Security as a Human Right](#)

Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) is one such program that secures this right by ensuring that, during the leanest of periods, the most vulnerable are safe. It has helped food-insecure households not only hold on to their assets, but create new ones, such as local infrastructure and household savings, which will safeguard them from future shocks like repeated droughts.

Feature Story: [Giving Communities a Say in Rainforest Protection](#)

Forests mean food and livelihoods for indigenous and forest-dependent peoples. Involving local communities in the design, decision making and management of forest programs makes them more successful. Through [Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation](#) or REDD+, the World Bank is strengthening social inclusion in Peru, Mexico and Nicaragua to preserve forests, and support forest communities.

Press release: [Philippines: World Bank Group Scales up Work for Rural Development and Job Creation in Mindanao](#)

The World Bank Group (WBG) is scaling up assistance for rural development and job creation in Mindanao under its [new Country Partnership Strategy](#) (CPS) in support of the peace process in the southern part of the country. The WBG is supporting two new government projects this year that have allocated about P14 billion pesos (estimated \$335 million) to boost community-driven development projects, build rural infrastructure, and expand livelihood opportunities for farmers and fisher folk in Mindanao. The two projects are, namely, the [National Community-Driven Development Project \(NCDDP\)](#) and The [Philippine Rural Development Project \(PRDP\)](#).

STAY IN TOUCH!

The Community-Driven Development Community of Practice (CoP) connects peers, thought leaders, and practitioners across governments, diverse agencies, and academia, to share ideas and experiences on CDD, Community-based, and Participatory approach. This CoP is facilitated by the Global Social Development Unit of the Global Practice for Social, Urban, Rural, and Resilience at the World Bank, with inputs from around the world.

To share papers, project news, interesting blogs, or upcoming events on CDD and other relevant themes with the CDD CoP, please email me (sbradley@worldbank.org) and Kaori Oshima (koshima@worldbank.org) and we'll incorporate these in the next "What's happening in CDD" email.

The team would like to thank Erik Johnson for his contribution to this issue of the newsletter.