Dear CDD Community of Practice Members,

Last week found the CDD Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka, where we held the fourth Asia Pacific Conference on Community-Driven Development, from 1 to 5 April. Bringing together 65 participants from 15 countries across the Asia Pacific region, the conference provided an opportunity to deepen the regional peer practitioner network. At the request of participants at the last conference (held in 2016 in Sapa, Vietnam), the four-day conference focused in particular on sharing lessons learned on local economic development. It was a great week of learning and connecting. If you are interested, take a look at the video, the exchanges on the conference Facebook group, and be sure to read my summary blog.

Since our last newsletter, we’ve also had the opportunity to congratulate the team behind the new Support for the National Indigenous Peoples Development Project in Panama, detailed below, which was approved by the World Bank Board of directors on March 15, 2018. The project is the culmination of an extensive dialogue between the Bank team and indigenous peoples in Panama. The project seeks to strengthen the capacity of local indigenous authorities in planning and implementing development investments, and to improve public service delivery in indigenous territories.

This newsletter features a recent evaluation of CDD results in improving social cohesion across 25 projects by the Results Measurement and Evidence Stream (RMES) team, and also includes a post by the WBG Community Managers team recognizing CDD as a model of best practices for practitioner support. Finally, we’d like to draw your attention to the recent publication of the Pathways to Peace study, a flagship UN-World Bank report on the potential for preventing violent conflict, with a focus on inclusion and opportunity.
As always, we are eager to hear from you. Do you have any projects you’d like us to highlight and share? Feel free to send any relevant information and materials that you feel would benefit our entire community, and remember to stay in touch.

With best wishes,

Nik

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**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.

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**Feature Story:** 100% Ownership: A Project by Indigenous Peoples for Indigenous Peoples in Panama

The World Bank Board of Directors approved a project to improve the infrastructure and quality of health, education, water, and sanitation services in Indigenous territories of Panama. The US$80 million [Support for the National Indigenous Peoples Development Project](#) will implement programs based on beneficiaries’ own development priorities. It will strengthen the governance and coordination capacity between the government and Indigenous authorities, while respecting their cultural identity and ways of life. The project is part of the Bank’s work toward more inclusive growth, and has valuable lessons for the CDD community in supporting indigenous peoples globally. Congratulations to TTL and Senior Social Development Specialist Dianna Pizarro, who was instrumental in project approval. Read the press release in [English](#) or in [Spanish](#).

**Blog:** Stories of Impact: Communities that Support WBG Practitioners
The WBG Community Managers group launched the Stories of Impact Competition to identify and share good practices of WBG communities to help other teams gain knowledge of best practices and lessons learned. The CDD team won a Story of Impact Award, and was highlighted for its innovative initiatives in this new blog.

**PREVIOUS EVENTS**

**Event:** Community-driven development: does it build social cohesion or infrastructure? Findings from a mixed-method evidence synthesis  
**March 13**  
The most recent Results Measurement and Evidence Stream (RMES) Lunch and Learn event explored the CDD approach and its impact on social cohesion. The presenters discussed how the dynamic of community engagement played out in practice across 25 impact evaluations, and whether women and other minority groups were able to fully participate in decision-making. They also presented findings and implications for future projects. The session recap, working paper, video, and other information are posted on the [RMES Spark page](#).

**RESEARCH & REPORTS**

**Report:** Pathways for Peace  
The Pathways for Peace report was officially published in March. The first joint United Nations – World Bank study, this report explains how development programs and policymakers can better prevent violent conflict. Such steps include increasing access to power, opportunity, and security; and to be more inclusive of civil society, the private sector, and regional and international organizations. There must also be an emphasis on the meaningful participation of women and youth in decision making. This report is especially relevant to CDD, as its places a focus on inclusion and opportunity for marginalized groups and increased local participation in development processes. The report was also discussed at our roundtable discussion in January on CDD in FCV environments.
CDD on the Hill
One year ago, on March 22, 2017, Dr. Jean Ensminger and others testified about results and accountability at the World Bank to a United States Congress House of Representatives committee. The testimony discusses safeguards, citizen engagements, and more. Take a look at the video!

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).