

[Blog: “Aid for Peace? Let’s Dig Deeper”](#)

By Robert Wrobel on *World Bank ‘People, Spaces, Deliberation’* on Feb 2.

This blog provides deeper analysis and shares thoughts on the article by Berman, Felter, and Shapiro, “Aid for Peace” – posted on *Foreign Affairs* in January 2015. The article argues that small, targeted programs designed based on a deep contextual understanding of the drivers of a conflict produce better outcomes than programs aimed at spreading around as much cash as possible. However, the blog author, based on experience and impact evaluations from Afghanistan, the Philippines, and Aceh, says that it’s worth noting in particular that studies of community-driven development and conditional cash transfer programs implemented in other countries affect conflict outcomes in ways that are entirely at odds with the Philippines’ experience.

[Blog: “Whose Voices Count?”](#)

By Caroline Heider and Lauren Kelly, on *IEG #WhatWorks: Transforming Development Through Evaluation* on Jan 27.

This blog discusses how to effectively evaluate and monitor citizen engagement and participation, especially with new and affordable technologies that development partners can use. With such tools, they can reach out to citizens including the poor to give them a voice in project planning, monitoring and reporting. The blog briefly describes what the current initiatives in the areas of participatory evaluation, CDD, employing technology to evaluate services delivery, and citizen engagement across the project cycle.

Cases and evidence

[Evidence from Pakistan : child nutritional outcomes and community-based health service provision](#)

On the South Asia Food and Nutrition Initiative (SAFANSI) Brief

Abstract:

Malnutrition among both women and children remains a major health issue in rural Pakistan. They also lack voice in relation to important health and nutritional decisions within their homes, for both themselves and their children, and they are systematically excluded from decision making at the community level. This study assesses the extent to which: (1) increasing the participation of women in the public sphere results in an increased use of health facilities, particularly for child and maternal needs, and in improved health outcomes; and (2) whether targeted interventions that provide information on health status and health behaviors needed for better hygiene and disease prevention are necessary for substantial improvements in health status, over and above any impacts of empowerment. This study builds upon an existing evaluation of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, a World Bank supported CDD project, which investigates the impact of mobilizing communities into village support organizations and providing them with village level grants for community infrastructure development and

livelihood enhancement. A health score card will provide specific information regarding minimum standards of service delivery and quality of care at the local level. This will allow further exploration of additional impacts of increasing awareness through targeted information provision with and without a strengthening of the door to door delivery system via female health workers.

Local Foundations for Better Governance: A Review of Ghazala Mansuri and Vijayendra Rao's *Localizing Development*

by Roger B. Myerson, November 2014

Abstract:

In *Localizing Development*, Mansuri and Rao survey theory and evidence for development strategies based on local community empowerment. This note extends their theoretical argument by focusing on local government as a vital source of new leadership. Local leaders who provide better public service can prove their qualifications for higher office, but new competition from popular local leaders may be against the interests of incumbent national leaders. Thus, decentralization reforms that could benefit economic development may face powerful resistance. International assistance should promote a balanced development of local and national governments, along with a free press to monitor government at all levels. To better inform public discussions of decentralization reforms, the World Bank should actively support research on comparative subnational politics.

The Effects Of Economic Self-Help Group Programs On Women's Empowerment: A Systematic Review

By Carinne Brody, Shari Dworkin, Megan Dunbar, Padmini Murthy, Laura Pascoe at the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

Background and Objective:

The concept of women's empowerment has gained increased attention over the past two decades. Empowerment of women is now believed to be an essential component of international development. Along with this, the self-help group (SHG) approach, pioneered in India in the early 1980s, emerged as a potential catalyst for change in poor countries, with a particular focus on women. It has been argued that the very process of making decisions within the group is an empowering process and can lead to broader development outcomes such as the greater participation of women in local governance and community structures. SHGs are small voluntary groups that are formed by people related by an affinity for a specific purpose. SHG members typically use strategies such as savings, credit, or social involvement as instruments of empowerment. A great deal of evidence has been generated from quantitative and qualitative research of self-help groups, much of which can be useful in informing policy and practice. The research objectives are to systematically review and synthesis existing evidence on the impact of women's economic self-help groups on women's individual empowerment in low and middle-income countries. The review also aims to synthesise the perspectives of female participants on factors determining their participation in, and benefits from, economic self-help groups.

[The Formation of Community-Based Organizations: An Analysis of a Quasi-Experiment in Zimbabwe](#)

By Abigail Barr, Marleen Dekker, and Marcel Fafchamps on *World Development*, Feb 2015

Abstract:

Previous analyses of the formation and composition of community-based organizations (CBOs) have used cross section data, thus compromising causal inference. The study addresses this problem by using data from a quasi-experiment in which villages were formed by government officials selecting and clustering households. Their findings are as follows: CBO co-memberships are more likely between geographically proximate households and less likely between early and late settlers, members of female-headed households are not excluded, in poorer villages CBO co-membership networks are denser and, while wealthier households may have been instrumental in setting up CBOs, poorer households engage shortly afterward.

[Unintended Consequences of Community-Based Monitoring Systems: Lessons from an HIV Prevention Intervention for Sex Workers in South India](#)

By Monica R. Biradavolu, Kim M. Balankenship, Annie George, and Nimesh Dhungana on *World Development*, March 2015

Abstract:

Studies have examined whether community-based monitoring systems impact desired program outcomes, but few provide field-based evidence on the implementation process itself. This paper fills the gap using ethnographic data on the community-based monitoring tools developed by an HIV prevention NGO for sex workers in south India. The tool was well conceptualized, with potential to enhance community participation in program design. Yet, despite best intentions, findings show that the quantification process undermined community ownership, discredited existing and locally informed sex work practices and, rather than empowering, monitoring became a means to discipline and judge sex worker peer educators. The paper demonstrates the unintended consequences of one aspect of the NGO's activities, i.e., the quantification imperative of monitoring systems. In the tension between the need to gather data using quantitative measures that were simple and easy to produce and the complex reality of local, fluid sex work practices, the key actors lost sight of the original objectives of community ownership and participation.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Press Release: [Mongolia to Implement Third Phase of project Promoting Rural Livelihoods](#)

On January 30.

A new agreement with Mongolia provides \$22.7 million for the third phase of a project supporting the country's effort to empower rural communities in a more diversified and modern economy. The [Third Sustainable Livelihoods Project](#) (SLP III) will help Mongolia further implement the Integrated Budget Law of 2011 that gave rural communities a greater role in the government-funding process.

Feature Story: [Moruko Payam Community, Government Work Together to Make Service Delivery Easier](#)

A World Bank-funded [Local Governance and Service Delivery Project](#) in South Sudan is supporting the Moruko Payam community to clear a road overgrown by the surrounding forest. Before the road clearing, the area was not accessible to vehicles or the county government, making service delivery impossible. The new road opens up the community to the rest of the county, and possibly to tourists interested in wildlife.

Feature Story: [One Dream at a Time: Small-Farmer Cooperatives Help Lift Small Farmers out of Poverty](#)

A World Bank Group project has increased the income of more than 2 million Kenyans since 2007. The [Western Kenya Community-Driven Development and Flood Mitigation project](#) empowers poor people in rural communities by supporting their development priorities, helping them to engage effectively with their local governments and identify and develop poverty-fighting projects. More than 500 development projects in rural areas have been financed through the project.

PAST EVENTS

BBL: [Dealing with Integrity Risks in Insecure Environments: Experiences from the Field.](#)

Monday, February 9, 12:30-2:00

Development projects inherently carry a range of risks stemming from a multitude of factors—political and governance, fiduciary and technical. As the World Bank continues to implement more and more projects in insecure environments, many of these risks increase. Bank teams are then challenged to find new tools and approaches to monitor and supervise these projects and ensure that results are achieved with integrity. In this BBL, we explored how teams in Afghanistan and the Philippines have adapted to their different insecure environments, monitoring and supervising projects in less than ideal circumstances in order to mitigate significant integrity risks.

- *Speakers:* **Ditte Fallesen** (Senior Operations Officer, Afghanistan CMU), **Roberto Tordecilla** (Social Development Specialist, GPSURR, Philippines)
- *Discussant:* **Jan Weetjens** (Lead Development Specialist, GP SURR, Social Development Unit, East Asia and Pacific)
- *Chair:* **Stefan Koeberle**, Director, Operations Risk, OPCS

For internal members, check out the event [announcement on GAC in Operation CoP Spark page from here](#). See also [the CDD event calendar page](#) for PPT, etc.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BBL: [Governance Challenges and Successes; Case of Afghanistan NSP and AREDP. Tuesday, February 17, 12:30-2:00, I \(eye bldg.\) 2-220.](#)

- To RSVP and add the event to your calendar in Outlook, please use the links: [Click Here to RSVP](#)

– Join online via Adobe Connect: <http://worldbankva.adobeconnect.com/r4t0w1rj568/>
(for WB members, click the BBL title link to get the full description):

In Afghanistan, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) implements the country's flagship national CDD program—called [the National Solidarity Program](#) (NSP)—which has established more than 33,000 Community Development Councils (CDCs) throughout the country, and has invested more than \$1.2 billion in more than 60,000 sub-projects for small-scale transport, irrigation, energy, water and sanitation, education, and health facilities in a transparent, accountable, and cost effective way. CDCs have played an important role in establishing the legitimacy of the state and in gradually transforming decision-making and governance in Afghan villages. And yet challenges remain to ensure that CDCs are representative, inclusive, active throughout the country, and mobilize communities for the long-term. While NSP focuses on public goods and rural governance, [the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Project](#) (AREDP) aims to revitalize the rural economy And increase access to finance through establishing saving groups, federating them into Village savings & loans associations and supporting small enterprises.

Abdul Rahman, NSP's executive director, and Rahmatullah Quraishi, Executive Director, AREDP will speak about the experiences of these two programs in promoting governance in rural Afghanistan and the challenges the programs are facing. Jeanmejay Singh will be the discussant bringing in experiences from Yemen and North Africa.

- *Speakers:* **Abdul Rahman**, Executive Director, NSP, and **Rahmatullah Quraishi**, Executive Director, AREDP
- *Discussant:* **Janmejay Singh**, Senior Strategy and Operations Officer, MNA
- *Chair:* **Sean Bradley**, Lead Social Development Specialist, GPSURR

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 Vijayendra (Biju) Rao, Lauren Kelly, Robert Wrobel, Abhishek Gupta, Marcela Alejandra Natalicchio, Catherine Julia Putz, and Susan Wong for their contribution to this issue of the newsletter.

