CDD "What's Happening" volume 23 (May 2014)
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Dear CDD Community of Practice,

This month we are happy to share materials from some interesting BBLs, including: CDD operations in Fragile and Conflict-affected States, with Burundi and Haiti project cases; Using mobile technologies for youth-targeted public works program in Sierra Leone; and an innovative Digital Libraries for the rural poor communities in India. Also, colleagues in Afghanistan shared with us the news of a recently approved program that applies CDD approaches in a regional electricity transmission project. We also highlight a video blog by the East Asia and the Pacific Vice President of the Bank on his visit to Myanmar's CDD Project.

As always, we are eager to learn about and share CDD-related things that are happening around you as this will enrich the communications among the CoP. Therefore, please send us any information or updates you have on CDD (e.g. papers, blogs, project updates, videos, events, etc.) to me (sbradley@worldbank.org) or Kaori Oshima (koshima@worldbank.org). We will incorporate those in the future summaries.

Regards,

Sean

CDD "WHAT'S HAPPENING"
BLOGS, RESEARCH & REPORTS

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Video blog: "World Bank Vice President for East Asia & Pacific on his Visit to Chin State, Myanmar"
Axel van Trotsenburg, World Bank Vice President for East Asia & the Pacific, visited Myanmar from May 12-16 to observe some of the initial results of the National Community Driven Development Project, the World Bank's first project in the country in 25 years.

Blog: "Digital Libraries for the Poor"
by Parmesh Shah and Abhishek Gupta, on World Bank "End Poverty in South Asia".

Blog: "Thailand after the floods: When communities own their change"
By Flavia Carbonari on World Bank "East Asia and Pacific on the Rise"

Blog: "How do we Develop a "Science of Delivery" for CDD in Fragile Contexts?"
By Janmejay Singh, Jacomina de Regt and Shuruti Majumdar on World Bank "People, Spaces, Deliberation"

Blog: "Africa Impact Evaluation Podcast: Community-Based Conditional Cash Transfers Make a Big Difference in Tanzania"
By David Evans on World Bank NASIKILIZA "I am listening"

Cases and Impacts
Empowering local communities: decentralization, empowerment and community driven development
By Muhammad Shakil Ahmad and Noraini Bt. Abu Talib on "Quality and Quantity", April 2014
Abstract:
The Governance and development practitioners discourse continues to embrace community participation and community empowerment as an elementary means of building local capacity towards improving quality of life, poverty reduction, development and change at local level. This article illustrates a review of decentralization initiative of local government system after announcement of devolution plan in Pakistan and appraises its participatory methods to ascertain how far they have improved the process of community development at local level. This article also measure the impact of community empowerment on the sustainability of community driven projects implemented under decentralization initiatives through community based organizations called Citizen Community Board's (CCB's). The results acknowledge the human development and improvement in community empowerment and sustainability of projects at local but yet sense of community and shared benefits to be translated for rural communities. The fundamental goal of decentralization seems to be elusive as only power was transferred at local level, whereby there is less support for community capacity building, community access to resources, still there is elite holding over the electoral process. It is argued that community development initiatives in Pakistan require continues support from local government to boost local rural economies. Likewise, community-local government participatory development strategies can attain strong local ownership and empowerment among rural communities.

"The politics of person, property, technology: emergent development practice in semi-arid communities in India"
By Dolly Daftary on "Community Development Journal"
Abstract:
Global policy organizations have emphasized cash-crop production for poverty alleviation in the world's semi-arid areas in recent years. In this vein, watershed development, the Indian state's largest development intervention for semi-arid communities, initiated in the 1980s, now emphasizes entrepreneurial agriculture and cash-crop production in places once considered ecologically fragile. Through an empirical account of the politics of categories, representations, and technology; specifically emphasis on the landowning farmer, private land, and capital-intensive structures; I discuss how new notions of person, property, and techniques of improvement are enacted in communities in rainfed areas. I suggest that watershed development's distributional consequences in contexts of chronic poverty can best be understood when the intervention is seen in conjunction with policies that purportedly enhance social justice. Together, the interventions enable the state to balance extraction with legitimation. The findings force the reconsideration of entrepreneurial community development strategies in vogue across the world, and call for critically examining their underlying values.

"The legacy of war for community-based tourism development: learnings from Cambodia"
By Sotear Ellis and Lynnaire M. Sheridan on "Community Development Journal."
Abstract:
This paper investigates how resident perceptions affect the successful implementation of community-based tourism (CBT) in a least developed country (LDC) scenario. By realizing how past and present experiences of war affect resident perceptions, including how they view themselves, their community and tourism, we can build an understanding of how to assess the capacity for a community to successfully embrace and sustain CBT for development. This will be achieved by exploring two cases of CBT in Cambodia: the Banteay Chmmar subdistrict and Banlung town. These two cases represent a successful and unsuccessful implementation of CBT in Cambodia as an LDC utilizing tourism for development. Learnings from this situation can be applied to other post-war tourism and development destinations.

Knowledge Notes shared by colleagues in the regions
"Digital libraries for the poor : facilitating bottom-up innovation through video-based learning platform"
By Gupta, Abhishek, Shah Parmesh and Surya Priya, on World Bank "South Asia Livelihoods Innovations in ICT Series: Volume 1"
Abstract:
Community-driven programs in South Asia have traditionally used local facilitators to disseminate information and external best practices. However, the massive scale of these programs has made this strategy both a time-consuming and an expensive exercise. Livelihoods projects in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh have piloted an innovative information and communications technology (ICT) based rural digital libraries project in collaboration with digital green, a non-profit organization in India. Digital green trains members of local communities about group facilitation, videography, and basic video production. These libraries are a decentralized, localized solution that combines the institutional platform with a digital knowledge platform to create multiple nodes of communication and learning in rural communities across the country. These localized solutions are created by face-to face experiments by communities empowering them and improving the adoption rate of new technologies. Leveraging a video production and screening platform, community organizations have started to develop a localized, scalable model for agricultural extension, financial literacy, health and nutritional awareness, and technology and livelihood training.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Newly approved project: **Afghanistan Central Asia South Asia (CASA)-Community Support Program**
The development objective of the Central Asia South Asia (CASA)-1000 Community Support Program Project for Afghanistan is to provide access to electricity or other social and economic infrastructure services to communities in the project area in order to strengthen community support for CASA-1000 transmission line. The project consists of four components. The first component, community grants for sub-projects will provide grants directly to communities to fund economic infrastructure sub-projects. Preference will be given to power-sector sub-projects. The second component, community mobilization aims to engage communities to increase the shared prosperity associated with the CASA-1000 transmission line which will pass through villages, by facilitating community participation in sub-project planning, implementation, and operations and maintenance. The third component is project implementation support. It comprises of sub-component, third party monitoring (TPM) which will support technical requirements and the limitations on conducting regular field visits due to security restrictions, and sought the services of a TPM. The fourth component, communications and outreach will finance a strong communications campaign and information-sharing activities directed to relevant stakeholders within the provinces with a special emphasis on outreach to communities in the project areas.

Newly launched project: **Vietnam Central Highlands Poverty Reduction Project (CHPov)**
On May 29, 2014, the Government of Vietnam launched the estimated $160 million Central Highlands Poverty Reduction Project, which aims to support the Government of Vietnam in addressing extreme poverty in the second poorest region in the country. Applying a CDD approach, the project will finance village and commune infrastructure; sustainable livelihoods development; connective infrastructure, communications and capacity building; and provide trainings in livelihoods skills, project management, and more general public administration skills for the 26 poorest districts in the provinces of Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces. The vast majority of target beneficiaries will be members of the ethnic minority groups in these participating provinces, who represent a disproportionate percentage of the poor in Vietnam. The project involves several innovative aspects including combining support for public infrastructure investments with private livelihoods support, financing of "connective" infrastructure that aims to increase economic activities across geographic or social boundaries, a nutrition and food security sub-component aimed at the high levels of stunting in the region, a multi-sectoral implementation structure coordinated by the provincial authorities overseeing poverty reduction programs, a management information system that takes advantage of smartphone technology and the excellent mobile phone coverage in Vietnam, and a robust impact evaluation to guide Government decisions for future poverty reduction projects.
See the press release on April 24 from **here >>**

Story: **Pakistan: Empowering the Most Vulnerable and Marginalized: Third Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund**
From the initiation of its World Bank funded activities through the International Development Agency (IDA) in 2000 to the end of December 2013, the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) had disbursed a cumulative total of US$ 885 million to 120 Partner Organizations across the country. PPAF-III's development objective is to empower the targeted poor with increased incomes, improved productive capacity, and access to services to achieve sustainable livelihoods. Since the inception of the Third Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF III) in July 2009 approximately 10 million vulnerable and marginalized people have benefited from the program interventions, with over half of them being women.

Story: **Myanmar: 400 villages rolling out their own community projects**
The Myanmar National Community Development Project is supporting communities by having them identify and implement investments they need most. The project is currently supporting rural communities in 400 villages, including those in remote Shan State. Over the next two years, the project will scale up to support over 3,000 villages in 15 townships across the country.

Story: **Community-Driven Development Project in the Philippines: Empowering local communities to participate in projects that reduce poverty**
Since 2002, a community-driven development project backed by the World Bank has benefited more than 1.6 million households in the Philippines through almost 6,000 projects providing new water systems, school buildings, day care centers, health stations, and post-harvest facilities among others. The Kapitbisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KALAHI-CIDSS) also empowered communities to participate in local governance and boosted their capacity to create, implement and manage poverty-fighting development projects.

PAST EVENTS

BBL and learning seminars: **The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund** on May 7-9

- May 7: Skills, Jobs, and Enterprises for Over 1 Million: Promoting Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction in Pakistan
- May 8: The Challenge of Ensuring Inclusive Growth: The CDD Experience in Pakistan
- May 9: The Road Less Traveled: CDD public goods provision for climate resilience, disaster management, and sustainable energy solutions

Here is a youtube video on the CNN's special news on the Pakistan PAF (4:29 min): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCHanfZ0Uy4
The project websites can be accessed from here: http://www.ppaf.org.pk/; http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P105075/third-pakistan-poverty-alleviation-fund-project?lang=en
Please contact the South Asia Rural Development Team for more information.

BBL: How Can Mobile Technology Improve Community-based Programs? : Introducing Smartphones and Mobile Payment Systems in Sierra Leone's Youth Employment Support Project on May 8
The Youth Employment Support Project (YESP)in Sierra Leone has been effectively utilizing smartphones as a cost-effective solution to the data collection challenges. The project has improved its design, implementation, and accountability mechanisms by increasing the engagement of local communities and youth in monitoring project activities, and introducing electronic timesheets that link to a mobile payment system into its labor-intensive public works component. In this BBL, the task team will share their unique and informative experience, and will discuss the potential of new technologies in strengthening community-based operations and public works programs more broadly. It will also discuss how using technology can empower beneficiaries, in this case youth, to take a more active role in project monitoring, especially in a post-conflict context. *Video recording and other resources are available **here.***

- *Chair:* Sean Bradley, Lead Social Development Specialist, CDD Coordinator (SDV)
- *Speakers:* Suleiman Namara, TTL, Sr Social Protection Economist (AFTSW); Nina Rosas Raffo, Co-TTL, Social Protection Specialist (AFTSW); Andrea Martin, Consultant, (AFTSW)
- *Discussants:* Paula F Lytle, Sr Social Development Specialist (AFTCS)

BBL: What have we learned?:Community-Driven Development Operations in the Fragile Context: Results and Lessons from Haiti and Burundi Projects on May 14
Earlier this Fiscal Year, the Haiti Community Driven Development Project   (PRODEP) and the Burundi Community and Social Development Project (PRADECS) were both completed and the Implementation and Completion Reports (ICRs) were prepared with insightful lessons. This pre-lunch session is intended to share results and lessons from the two projects which both operated in unique 'fragile' contexts, and to discuss these lessons in the larger context of CDD and FCS.   *Video recording and other resources are available **here.***

- *Chair:* Sean Bradley,   Lead Social Development Specialist, CDD Coordinator (SDV)
- *Speakers:* Eli Weiss,   Rural Development Specialist (LCSAR); Leanne Bayer, Sr. Social Development Specialist (SDV)
- *Discussant:* Aly Zulficar Rahim , Social Development Specialist (ECSSO)

BBL: Digital Libraries for the Poor: Facilitating Bottom-Up -- Innovation Through Video-Based Learning Platform on May 21
An innovative approach using videos with locally-produced contents with follow-up technical support to rural communities, that has been proven to be effective in enhancing knowledge sharing and adaptation of new farming technologies among rural communities - and in empowering them. Resources from the event are available from ***here***. (and a knowledge note and a blog post on this are available in the above sections of this newsletter.)

- *Chair:* Eija Pehu, Advisor (AES)
- *Speakers:* Rikin Gandhi, Chieg Executive Officer, Digital Green

- *Discussants:* Parmesh Shah, Lead Rural Development Specialist (SASDL)

If you have anything to share with the CoP (including papers, project news, interesting blogs, or upcoming events) 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.

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