



Dear CDD Community of Practice Members,

We hope this finds all of you healthy and safe.

In this issue, we are happy to share information about the Phase II Social Response to COVID related to CDD and Social Protection. This month's newsletter also showcases several examples of how countries are using CDD approaches and platforms to respond to COVID, from [women self-help groups in India](#) to the [use of community development block grants in the US](#).

To foster real-time learning and sharing of experiences across our community, we have opened up a space for the CDD community of practice to brainstorm on how CDD operations could help as part of countries' corona virus preparedness and response planning. You can join the discussion [here](#). Bank staff can also join the discussion on yammer [here](#).

Last month, we also organized an insightful webinar with Mercy Corps on measuring social cohesion. The webinar introduced a social cohesion measurement toolkit that the CDD GSG had commissioned Mercy Corps to develop, to be used at the project level, especially in FCV settings. In case you missed it, the video recording and materials from the event are now available [here](#).

We look forward to hearing from you. Please share ideas, feedback on what you're doing – and drop us a line if you need support.

With best wishes,

Susan, Nik and Ashutosh

Next wave of COVID response related to CDD and Social Protection

We are happy to share information about the Phase II Social Response to COVID related to CDD and Social Protection. [Here](#) Axel, WB MD of Operations in his recent Keeping You Posted video at minute 5:00, discusses his thinking on the role of CDD and why a big part of Bank's response program is focused on using CDD programs and conditional cash transfers to reach as many people as quickly as possible. [Here](#) Juergen, Sustainable Development Practice Group VP in his inaugural video message to staff at minute 2:15, talks about how SD and SP jointly are preparing a package to the board which involves using our existing portfolio of CDD, social safety nets, urban resilience and landscape projects to help the poor directly and immediately.

[In India, women's self-help groups combat the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

With 1.3 billion Indians in the midst of an unprecedented 40-day lockdown to defeat the coronavirus, the collective strength of women's self-help groups (SHGs) has come to the fore. In over 90 percent of India's districts, SHG women are producing facemasks, running community kitchens, delivering essential food supplies, sensitizing people about health and hygiene, and combating misinformation. More than 19 million masks have been produced by some 20,000 SHGs across 27 Indian states, in addition to over 100,000 liters of sanitizer and nearly 50,000 liters of hand wash. Since production is decentralized, these items have reached widely dispersed populations without the need for complex logistics and transportation. Women's SHGs are being supported by the Government of India's National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), which is co-financed by the World Bank. NRLM has scaled up the SHG model, reaching more than 67 million women. Through the SHGs, women have saved \$1.4 billion and leveraged a further \$37 billion from commercial banks.



COVID-19 RESPONSE: COUNTRY SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

[Afghanistan: Response to COVID 19: Community Driven Development \(CDD\) Platform in Afghanistan](#)

This note discusses how CDD projects in Afghanistan can serve as a platform to help prevent and respond to the COVID emergency at the community level.

[Sri Lanka: Protecting the most vulnerable during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

This note explores the potential socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable populations in Sri Lanka and suggests immediate/medium/long-term interventions that could be considered.

[Uzbekistan: Idea Note on Leveraging Village Institutions to Support Uzbekistan's COVID-19 Response and Strengthen Community Resilience](#)

This note explores ways in which village-level institutions and community-based approaches can assist rural communities and households to address the COVID-19 crisis in the short and medium-term.

[Bangladesh - Coronavirus-Free Villages](#)

This brief highlights how trained volunteers across Bangladesh are launching a campaign to slow the spread of COVID-19.

[US Government Uses Community Development Block Grants to Respond to COVID](#)

The US relief package allocates a significant amount (\$340 billion) to state and local governments, which are then passing it on for their own priorities, e.g., foundations,

references.

- [HUDD is allowing recipients to modify their Community Development Block Grants to respond to COVID](#)
- [Example of state use of community block grants](#)
- [DC Micro-grants for community-based organizations, small businesses and independent contractors](#)

[Canada's COVID Response - Indigenous Community Support Fund:](#)

The Canadian Government's \$27 billion COVID-19 Economic Response Plan includes the \$305 million Indigenous Community Support Fund to address the needs of Inuit, First Nations, and Metis communities. Each Indigenous community will be given a minimum of \$50,000, plus additional funding, depending on the community's population. In addition to direct community support, \$15 million of this funding package will be allocated to support nonprofit organizations providing services to Indigenous populations in urban or off-reservation areas. The Economic Response Plan also includes \$100 million to be distributed to national, state, and local community-based organizations addressing food insecurity. This funding can be used to purchase food and health supplies, hire temporary staff, and implement safety measures to protect the health of staff and beneficiaries. Finally, the Plan is allocating \$50 million to fund community-based domestic violence shelters, including shelters in Indigenous communities, to assist these organizations in taking safety measures to manage and prevent outbreaks in their facilities. Below are some references.

- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
- [Indigenous Community Support Fund](#)

BLOGS

[Beating the Coronavirus: Ensuring a Socially Equitable Response](#)

In this blog, Louise Cord, Global Director of World Bank's Social Development GP reflects on her own experience with COVID-19 and emphasizes the importance of social programs in the Bank's response, including use of CDD approaches for reaching high-risk and vulnerable communities – the elderly, disabled, migrants, and those living in fragile and conflict-affected regions.



[COVID-19 will hit the poor hardest. Here's what we can do about it](#)

The blog highlights that the pandemic could push about 49 million people into extreme poverty in 2020. According to the blog, a large share of the new poor will be concentrated in countries that are already struggling with high poverty rates, but middle-income countries will also be significantly affected. Almost half of the projected new poor (23 million) will be in Sub-Saharan Africa, with an additional 16 million in South Asia. Ten million new extremely poor people are expected in fragile and conflict-affected economies. The blog argues that policies needed to mitigate poverty and distributional impacts will have to respond to each country's context and circumstances.



[We're all in this together: Collective action and trust in the age of coronavirus](#)

This blog, by Stephen Davenport, Jana Kunicova and Emily Kallaur, emphasizes that high levels of collaboration between governments and citizens are essential to defeating the pandemic. According to the blog, while the national leadership is indispensable, it must be combined with local community-driven solutions that generate voluntary compliance, cooperation, and trust in the authorities. The blog suggests that governments should communicate early and often, leverage local government and community interventions, employ context-appropriate technology, and take a far-sighted approach focused beyond the immediate response to the crisis and toward recovery and resilience.



PROJECT APPROVALS

[Mongolia Third Sustainable Livelihoods Projects – Additional Financing \(P173126\)](#)

The project was approved on April 24, 2020 for \$12 million IDA financing and aims to improve governance and community participation for the planning and delivery of priority investments in rural areas of Mongolia.

[Urban Youth Employment Project II \(P166420\)](#)

The project was approved on April 22, 2020 for \$35 million IDA Financing and aims to improve the capacity of participating young men and women in project areas to engage in productive income-generating activities.

[PNG Agriculture Commercialization and Diversification Project \(P166222\)](#)

The project was approved on April 22, 2020 for \$40 million IDA financing and aims to facilitate the development of competitive and diversified agriculture value chains for selected commodities in targeted provinces.

RESEARCH, REPORTS, BRIEFS AND PRESENTATIONS

[Building on Community Capacities to Strengthen the Response to COVID-19](#)

This note offers some initial ideas of areas in which CDD operations and approaches can support an effective response to COVID-19 in the short, medium, and long-term.

[COVID-19 and Community Responses:](#)

This brief explains why using community programs centrally in response to the COVID crisis rather than relying only on top-down programs through line ministries may ironically be the best way to restore confidence between citizens and the state. The brief suggests

[Current Responses to COVID-19 in Slums](#)

This presentation highlights some examples and practices of what governments and NGOs are doing related to COVID-19 and slums.

[Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: The First Line of Defense in the Battle Against COVID-19](#)

This note explains the importance of delivering critical water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions for infection prevention and control of the COVID-19.

[Investing in the Early Years During COVID-19](#)

This note outlines specific risks that children face under the World Bank's Early Years framework due to the COVID -19 crisis and highlights response options and country examples to ensure an optimal child development.

RECENT WEBINARS

[Measuring Social Capital and Social Cohesion](#)

Thursday, April 16, 2020

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Resilient Communities in face of COVID Women Groups as Corona Warriors: National Rural Livelihood Mission in India (Aajeevika)

(Announcement coming soon)

Monday, May 11, 2020; 8:30-10 am

(Hosted by the AG GP, Rural Livelihoods, and Agriculture Employment GSG and Community-Driven Development GSG)

Implications of the FCV strategy for the CDD Community

(Announcement coming soon)

Wednesday, June 3, 2020; 9-10:30 am

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<https://worldbankgroup.sharepoint.com/sites/gsg/CDD/Pages/Home.aspx>

CDD Collaboration4Development (C4D) (external):

<https://collaboration.worldbank.org/content/sites/collaboration-for-development/en/groups/community-driven-development-global-solutions-group.html>

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