



CDD “WHAT’S HAPPENING”

volume 53 | September 2017

Dear CDD Community of Practice Members,

Welcome back from the summer holidays! As we head into the fall, we wanted to let you know about some staff changes in the CoP/GSG secretariat, as well as show you what’s ahead over the coming year. You can read all about it [here](#).

This issue of the newsletter highlights stories about how community-driven development is building peace and development in Thailand and South Sudan, empowering women in Afghanistan, reducing poverty for youth in Nigeria, rehabilitating infrastructure in Guinea-Bissau, and strengthening resilience against natural disasters in Laos. We’re also featuring a study conducted in Ghana, Uganda, and Malawi on how saving groups empower women, increase business investment, and provide greater access to financial services.

We’d also like to take a moment to remember our colleague [Hans Binswanger-Mkhize](#), who passed away on August 4, 2017, in Pretoria, South Africa. Hans was a colleague, manager, and friend to many in the World Bank, and a leader in community-driven development. His colleagues are collecting remembrances in advance of an October 16 event memorializing him at the Bank – see more details under our “In Remembrance” section.

As always, we are eager to hear from you and learn about other CDD-related happenings or news from around the world. Please share any relevant information and materials that you feel would benefit our community.

Thanks and regards,

Nik

Resources

For those with access to the World Bank intranet, the CDD cluster maintains a library of useful CDD resources.

- [Operational and knowledge resources](#)
- [TORs](#)
- [CDD consultants roster](#)
- [CDD Project Database](#)

If you have any such materials or resources that you feel would benefit the CoP, please share them with us.

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 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.

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 Samuel Caplan (ecaplan1@worldbank.org), and Nik Myint (nmyint@worldbank.org), and we'll incorporate these in the next CDD "What's Happening" newsletter.

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:

[Join the GSG](#)

IN REMEMBRANCE

Remembering Hans Binswanger-Mkhize



Hans Binswanger-Mkhize, born 1943, passed away on August 4, 2017 in Pretoria surrounded by family and friends. His daughter, Dr. Ingrid Binswanger said: "I will miss him deeply, as I know will his family, colleagues and friends in numerous countries throughout the world." Hans was a colleague, manager, and friend to many in the World Bank. He was a researcher, policy analyst and designer of development programs in many agricultural and rural development fields as well as an HIV/AIDS activist.

From 2000 on, he was a leader in the World Bank embracing and developing the concept of the Community-Driven Development and applying it widely as a multi-sectoral development and governance toolkit. His leadership was important in defining the theoretical concepts and practical tools. His insistence that robust impact evaluations would validate scaling up to national CDD programs have marked the design of many of the CDD programs financed by the Bank.

On October 16, 4pm, there will be a remembrance event for Hans at the World Bank. Prior to that, we would like to pull together a book with remembrances. We are inviting all in the CDD community of practice to send such remembrances to either Jacomina de Regt (jacominaderegt@gmail.com) or Rogier van den Brink (rvandenbrink@worldbank.org).

NEWS FROM THE REGION

Feature Story: [Food for Thought: Curry Helps Promote Peace and Development in Thailand's Deep South](#)

World Bank

Conflict in the three southernmost provinces of Thailand have claimed over 6,000 lives and injured 12,000 since 2004 due to ethnic and religious separatist insurgency. Communities in these areas face many challenges including accessing finance, relying instead on informal mechanisms such as loan sharks, often putting them in deeper debt. Through the [Expanding Community Approaches in Conflict Situations \(ECACS\) of the Southern Thailand project](#), 33 community savings groups have been established with nearly 3,000 members, providing interest-free loans so that villagers can use funds to start small businesses.

Feature Story and Video: [Afghanistan: Entrepreneurial Women Bring Economic Vibrancy in Rural Communities](#)

World Bank

Women in villages in Balkh Province are being given the opportunity to start small businesses through loans provided by Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). Savings Groups and VSLAs, supported by the [Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program](#) (AREDP), are a means to increase employment and income for the rural poor. Household savings augmented by support from programs, such as AREDP, have helped many start their own small-scale units.

Feature Story: [Community-Driven Projects Reduce Poverty and Empower Youth in Nigeria](#)

World Bank

To combat poverty, the [Commercial Agriculture Development Project for Nigeria](#) involves beneficiaries as key players and partners. The project supports the strengthening of skills and capacity of Local Government Authorities and sectoral public agencies to provide support to communities. The community-driven development approach has resulted in 3,435 micro-projects, of which more than 50 percent are completed and in use.

Feature Story: [Linking Peace with Development in South Sudan's Lakes Region](#)

World Bank

The Local Governance and Service Delivery Project in South Sudan is reducing violence and loss of life by promoting conflict resolution. The project encourages community participation in local government planning

and implementation. Using a community development approach, the project helps people identify their priorities for security and development.

Feature Story: [Involving communities in their own development projects](#)

World Bank

Guinea-Bissau is one of the poorest, most fragile countries in the world, with a population of only 1.85 million inhabitants. Most roads in the Pefine–Biombo region near the capital are made of unpaved dirt. But having them repaired is one of the things local people have opted to do under a project known by its Portuguese acronym, PDCC, or the Rural Community-Driven Project in Guinea-Bissau, which works with communities to rebuild infrastructure, depending on their needs.

Press Release: [Myanmar to Strengthen Rural Growth, Nutrition, Education, and Health Care, and Create More Jobs](#)

World Bank

Over the next two years, up to around \$1.2 billion in financing by the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank's most concessional financing arm, will be earmarked for Myanmar, to be complemented with technical assistance and advisory services. Families in remote villages across Myanmar have benefited from community investments in schools, clinics, clean water, sanitation, electricity for lighting, refrigeration, and running businesses through World Bank-financed education, health, power, and community driven development projects.

Press Release: [Lao PDR to Strengthen Resilience to Natural Disasters and Improve Water Resources Management](#)

World Bank

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved financing support of \$30 million for the Lao PDR Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Project and \$25 million of additional funding for the [Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management \(MIWRM\) Project](#). Through the DRM Project, communities across Lao PDR will benefit from more reliable early warning information, and from improved disaster recovery financing mechanisms.

BLOGS, RESEARCH & REPORTS

Report: [Impact of savings groups on the lives of the poor](#)

Dean Karlan, Beniamino Savonitto, Bram Thuysbaert, Christopher Udry. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA, 2017.

Savings groups popular in rural areas of developing countries – in which people pool money for saving and borrowing – empower women, increase business investment, and provide greater access to financial services,

per a new three-country study released in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The study, conducted in Ghana, Uganda, and Malawi, tracked households for two to three years, with 61 percent of participants completing a full 8-12 month savings cycle. The study found that access to village savings and loans associations (VSLAs) increased the number of businesses households operated by six percent. It also boosted the length of time those businesses lasted by nine percent, and increased monthly business profits by 24 percent, but did not increase total household income or food security.

[Blog: National Solidarity Programme Transformed Scores of Lives in Kandahar Province](#)

Abdul Qayum Yousufzai on World Bank's *End Poverty In South Asia*

Between 2003 and 2016, the [National Solidarity Programme](#) (NSP) provided block grants for over 3,000 development projects in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar Province. Over 1,952 Community Development Councils (CDCs) have been elected to decide on their respective community needs as well as to oversee and monitor project implementation. With support provided by the World Bank, the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund and other donors, NSP ensured citizen engagement and meaningful development with decisions being made at the grassroots level. It brought communities closer, one project at a time.

The team would like to thank Jacomina de Regt for her contribution to this issue of the newsletter.

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Sent to GSG_CDD Extended; CDD Community of Practice Group – Bank; CDD Community of Practice Group - Non-Bank; and SUR GP Extended via BCC