



CDD and Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous peoples (IPs) are culturally distinct societies and communities. Numbering some **370 million** worldwide, they are also among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. They represent approximately **5%** of the global population but compose **about 15% of the world's poor**. In some regions and countries, their proportion of the poor can go **up to 70%**.

IPs and their communities face unique challenges, considerations, and opportunities, which potential projects must bear in mind:

- Tend to live in remote areas and be harder to reach
- Follow different cultural practices, structures, and languages from mainstream national cultures
- Usually quite heterogeneous—many different IPs within a country
- May face multitude of problems including social exclusion, negative stereotyping, and discrimination
- May lack legal recognition of customary claims and authorities
- Opportunity to build on community solidarity and rich culture

Why use CDD to partner with Indigenous Peoples?

Community-driven development (CDD), defined as an approach to local development in which control of decision-making and resources is wholly or partly transferred to community groups, is uniquely placed to provide assistance to indigenous peoples and their communities. The critical advantage of CDD lies in its flexibility to respond to the scale and nature of community needs in diverse local conditions. Some other strengths of CDD that are suitable address many of the unique challenges faced by IPs.

- Distribute resources quickly and to remote, rural areas, where many IPs and their communities live
- Ensure identification and inclusion of marginalized groups in local decision-making, helping to ensure that that resource distribution is fair, meets local needs, and is popularly accepted—which can be difficult in diverse, mixed IP/non-IP communities.
- Helps establish link with the central and local government structure, building legitimacy and trust among the community
- Helps target specific vulnerable groups even within IP communities
- Support specific livelihood concerns of communities, including natural resource management, land tenure, and accessing credit

CDD Results in Indigenous Peoples Programs

The Bank already leads on partnering with IPs and ethnic minorities through CDD:

Laos: The \$36.6 million **Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF II)** aim to help improve access to and utilization of basic infrastructure and services to targeted poor communities. So far, about **650,000 rural people**, or **about 10% of national population**, have benefited from improved access to infrastructure through more than **1,900 sub-projects**. A recent impact evaluation shows **improvements in access to protected water by 58%** and reduction in travel time to the nearest village by almost two hours in the dry season and more than an hour in the wet season.

Nepal: The **Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF)** aims to improve living conditions, livelihoods, and empowerment among the country's rural poor, especially for traditionally excluded groups. A 2014 impact assessment found that the indigenous nationalities, or *Adivasi-Janajatis*, who make up approximately 30% of the country's population, saw their **poverty head count rate decrease by 18.5%** as a result of the program.

Bolivia: The **Community Investment in Rural Areas Project** aims to improve access to basic and productive infrastructure for approximately **350,000 people**, most of whom are IPs. To date, the project has increased road access for more than 14,000 people, and expanded or improved irrigation for more than 16,000 beneficiaries.



" Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities are at a disadvantage in terms of poverty, health, and education. The World Bank is working to position [...] marginalized sectors of society, such as Indigenous Peoples, at the center of the development agenda. "



Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez

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How can I learn more?

The CDD Global Solution Group and the Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities Knowledge Silo Breaker (KSB), both under the World Bank's Social, Urban, Rural, and Resilience Global Practice, collaborate to support the application of the CDD framework to reach indigenous peoples and their communities.

For further assistance and resources, contact the CDD cluster at cddgsg@worldbank.org, and the Indigenous People and Ethnic Minorities KSB at lfduchicela@worldbank.org.