

Dear CDD Community of Practice Members,

We hope this finds all of you healthy and safe.

This month's newsletter showcases several stories, from our on-going [local economic development series](#) to the [global responses to COVID-19 in slums and cities](#).

As always, we are eager to hear from you! Please share any relevant information and materials that you feel would benefit our community and stay in touch.

With best wishes,

Susan, Nik, and Ashutosh

FEATURE STORY

The [Local Economic Development \(LED\) Series](#), jointly hosted by the CDD GSG, the Rural Livelihoods and Agriculture Employment GSG, and the Solutions For Youth Employment (S4YE), explores pathways for transforming local economies to support resilient and sustainable recovery. The series was kickstarted by Louise Cord (Global Director, Social Sustainability and Inclusion) and Martien Van Nieuwkoop (Global Director, Agriculture and Food Global Practice) on September 9th. Here is a [link to the LED series blog](#) by Louise and Martien.

The LED series hosted two webinars in September and one in October in partnership with the [Gates Foundation](#), [Evidence Consortium on Women's Groups](#), [Government of India's National Rural Livelihoods Mission](#), [MIT Solve](#), [Grameen Foundation](#), [Intellectap](#), [Visa](#), [India's National Skill Development Corporation](#), [Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator](#), and [Enablecode](#). The [first webinar](#) explored how community groups, in particular women's groups, are coping with COVID and discussed strategies to support them for the transition to economic institutions and longer-term recovery. With social entrepreneurs at the forefront of the Covid response as both public and private service delivery systems are under stress, the [second webinar](#) of the series explored how social entrepreneurs and innovators can support building back better post-COVID. The [third webinar](#) explored strategies to create employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for vulnerable youth to facilitate longer-term resilience and stronger recovery from COVID-19.

The three webinars attracted more than 600 participants, of which about two-thirds were from outside the Bank, including government counterparts and representatives of multilateral agencies, foundations, academics, NGOs, private sector, and social enterprises. Here are the links to session 1 - [recording](#), [presentation](#), [key takeaways](#), and [relevant resources](#); session 2 - [recording](#), [presentation](#), [key takeaways](#), and [relevant resources](#); and session 3 - [recording](#), [presentation](#), [key takeaways](#), and [relevant resources](#). All the series documents can be accessed on the [LED Resource Page](#).

The next webinar in the series is on **Wednesday, December 2, 9-10:30 am EST**. This session will explore how Africa's Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) networks could support inclusive local economic recovery. We are organizing this webinar in collaboration with the Gates Foundation and [SEEP Network](#), and hope you will join us.

BLOGS

[The Human Face of COVID-19: Six Things to Consider for an Inclusive Recovery](#)

This blog by Maitreyi Das, Sabina Espinoza, Ede Jorge Ilijasz-Vasquez, Narae Choi, and Sonya Sultan suggests six things to consider for an inclusive recovery. These include: i) begin by understanding long-standing systemic inequalities and to know who is being excluded, how and why; ii) be mindful of new forms of exclusion that pose threats to progress; iii) invest in data and analysis; iv) ensure that people have the tools to drive their solutions; v) help states and service providers to be accountable to households and communities; vi) support the design of stimulus programs that explicitly target excluded populations.

[Creating more resilient and peaceful societies](#)

In this blog post, Louise Cord and Franck Bousquet explore the consequences of exacerbated social unrest and violence due to COVID-19 and how the World Bank is responding. For example, the Bank is investing in social resilience to withstand divisions caused by conflict and violence, expanding service delivery to include people irrespective of income, geography, gender, ethnicity, disability, religion, or sexual orientation, and empowering communities to shape their own futures and maintain transparent governance. Louise and Franck draw attention to the [World Bank Group Strategy for FCV](#), which emphasizes institutional partnerships and addressing the root causes of conflict such as social and economic exclusion.

[What Happens When We Take Women Seriously? How to Implement Savings Groups to Achieve Gender Equality](#)

This blog by Emily Janoch shares key insights from CARE's recent publication, "[Assessing the Viability of Savings Groups as a Vehicle for Women's Economic Empowerment in Africa](#)" with findings from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Ethiopia.

PROJECT APPROVALS

[Third Village Investment Project \(COVID-19 Response\) - Additional Financing \(P174316\)](#)

The project was approved on September 28, 2020 for \$17 million IDA financing and aims to (a) to build local capacity for participatory development and (b) improve access to quality community infrastructure services in targeted project areas.

[Territorial Economic Empowerment for the Indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorians and Montubian Peoples and Nationalities \(TEIPAM\) \(P173283\)](#)

The project was approved on September 25, 2020 for \$40 million IBRD financing and aims to improve livelihoods and support COVID-19 relief for targeted Indigenous Peoples and Nationalities, Afro-Ecuadorians, and Montubians, in accordance with their vision and priorities for development.

[Ethiopia Agriculture Growth Project \(AGP2\) - Additional Financing \(P168074\)](#)

The project was approved on September 15, 2020 for \$80 million IDA additional grant and aims to increase agricultural productivity and commercialization of smallholder farmers targeted by the project.

RESEARCH, REPORTS, BRIEFS AND PRESENTATIONS

[Community-based savings groups, women's agency, and maternal health service utilization: Evidence from Mozambique](#)

This study, using data collected as part of an ongoing program evaluation, investigates whether participation in Savings Groups (SGs)—a community-owned microfinance intervention focused on poor households – is associated with maternal health service utilization, and whether this association is mediated by women's agency – as measured by self-efficacy and decision-making autonomy.

[Global Responses to COVID-19 in Slums and Cities](#)

This thorough presentation by the Urban Poverty and Housing GSG explores how different urban areas are facing the challenges posed by the pandemic. It outlines emerging best practices to ensure that the most vulnerable are provided with financial support, basic services, transparent information and communication, and social protection. The document curates recommendations for leveraging data, facilitating community-led initiatives, expanding health services, collaborating with international and local organizations, ensuring food security, and fostering innovative solutions. The work concludes with the country and city-level examples and featured re-opening strategies.

[How effective are group-based livelihood programs in improving the lives of poor people?](#)

This paper synthesizes evidence on how group-based livelihoods' programs – which include financial, human, or social capital interventions – can have an impact on a range of economic, human development, and social cohesion outcomes.

Join Our Community

The Community-Driven Development CoP and GSG connect peers, thought leaders, and practitioners across governments, agencies, and academia, to share ideas and experiences on CDD approaches. This CoP/GSG is facilitated by the Global Programs Unit of the Social Sustainability and Inclusion Global Practice 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 [CDD email](#).

To sign up for CDD CoP membership and receive our monthly newsletter, please [click here](#)

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CDD Global Solutions Group (WB internal):
<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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