



CDD in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations

Fragile and conflict/post-conflict situations (FCS) present the most profound challenges to development in the world today. FCS often have **high poverty levels** and **low welfare outcomes**, and **stability and social cohesion are often lacking**. These contexts also have **weak or illegitimate institutions that have limited capacity to address poverty and manage conflict**.

Violent conflict is more likely in such areas, leading to further impoverishment, undercutting social cohesion, and eroding institutions. The result can be a vicious cycle of deprivation and insecurity that is difficult to dislodge or change.

How can CDD help in FCS?

Community-driven development (CDD) programs have long been viewed as particularly relevant development interventions in FCS. Defined as an approach to local development in which control of decision-making and resources for local infrastructure and service delivery is wholly or partly transferred to community groups, the critical advantage of CDD lies in its flexibility to respond to the scale and nature of community needs in diverse local conditions.

Among CDD's strengths in FCS: the ability to **distribute resources and services quickly and to remote, rural areas**, while ensuring resource distribution is **fair and popularly accepted**; and efficiently and flexibly allocate resources to **most pressing needs across a range of basic services likely affected by conflict**.

CDD can also effectively target **specific vulnerable groups for assistance** and **operate in areas with security risks**, particularly relevant where displacement and conflict is rife.

Additionally, the CDD approach can improve **livelihood security of communities and local shared services**. In some post-conflict settings, CDD can help establish a direct link with the central and local government structures, as well as gain ground-level legitimacy and trust for them.



Students in a war torn classroom. Photo: Alex Baluyut / World Bank

Programs may also support peace-building by providing incentives for collective action that can work across conflict divides, by contributing to local institution building, and by strengthening vertical society-state linkages.

CDD Results

The World Bank has conducted six impact evaluations—for Afghanistan, Nepal, Philippines, Indonesia (two evaluations), and Sierra Leone—to examine CDD’s impacts in FCS.

In aggregate, these impact evaluations found generally positive effects for **poverty targeting**, and **increased access to basic services** by beneficiaries.

In **Afghanistan**, the *National Solidarity Program* was country’s largest national program and the largest CDD operation in a fragile/conflict-affected situation. Started in 2003, NSP mobilized more than \$2 billion in donor and government funding through over 35,000 community-elected Community Development Councils in all 34 provinces of the country to finance more than 88,000 rural infrastructure subprojects, resulting in improved access to roads (over 53,600 km constructed), water (including 86,300 improved community water points), power, irrigation, and education (with almost 2,000 classrooms built), generating over 52 million days of paid short-term employment for the Afghan people.



The Community Development Council in Nowabad Shaspol village has benefited from NSP by focusing the funding they receive on solar power panels, carpet weaving and the building of a community hall. Photo: Graham Crouch/World Bank

A 2013 impact evaluation found that the NSP increased school attendance and quality of education for girls, increased the use of protected water sources and electricity, reduced the time households spend collecting water, and indirectly increased access to education, healthcare and counseling services for women.

“We left because of the Taliban and came back to nothing, nowhere to live, no food. At times we felt that we didn’t matter to the world, but now look: We have a school, clinic, donkeys, and a nice road. It’s a miracle.”

Mohammed Nabi, Nowabad Shahpol village, Afghanistan, National Solidarity Program

What resources are available?

The CDD Global Solution Group (GSG) under the World Bank’s Social, Urban, Rural, and Resilience Global Practice develops research relevant to CDD in FCS:

- *What Have been the Impacts of World Bank Community-Driven Development Programs; Susan Wong, World Bank Group, 2012*
- *Designing Community-Driven Development Operations in Fragile Conflict-Affected Situations: Lessons from a Stocktaking; Jacomina de Regt, Shruti Majumdar, and Janmejay Singh; World Bank Group, 2013*

The GSG’s external knowledge library on CDD is hosted at <https://collaboration.worldbank.org/groups/community-driven-development-global-solutions-group>. For further assistance and resources, contact the CDD cluster at cddgsg@worldbank.org.

