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Social cohesion through community-based development in Kyrgyzstan

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Overview

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5. Summary

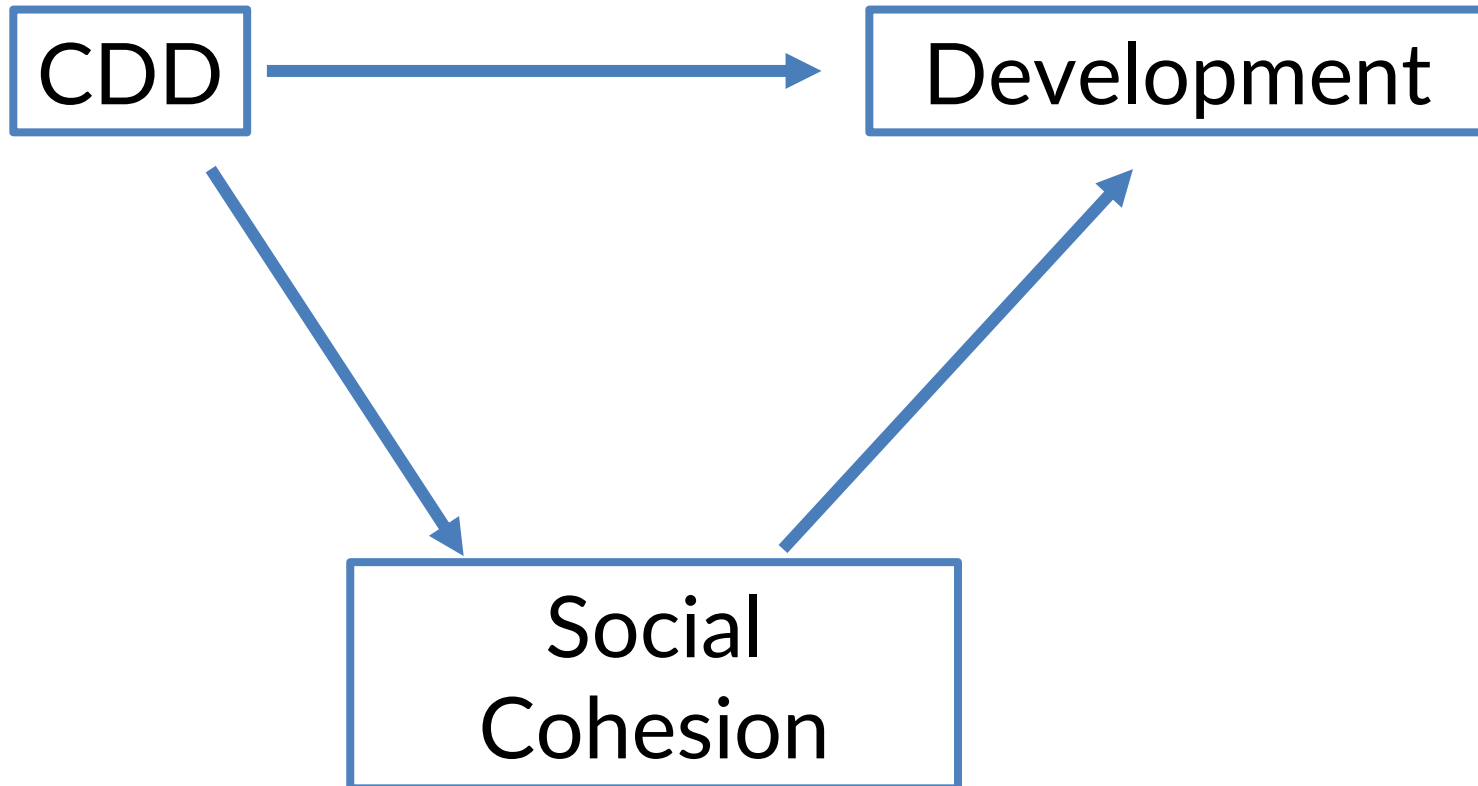
1. Community driven development



Community-driven development

- Community-driven development (CDD) gives control over planning decisions and investment resources to community groups.
- CDD has been a popular tool to address poverty and local development; over 100 countries to date used this approach.
- World Bank alone approved over 730 CDD projects worldwide (2002-11) of about 23 bln.\$ in value.

Community Driven Development and Social Cohesion



Theory of change (ToC) of CDD

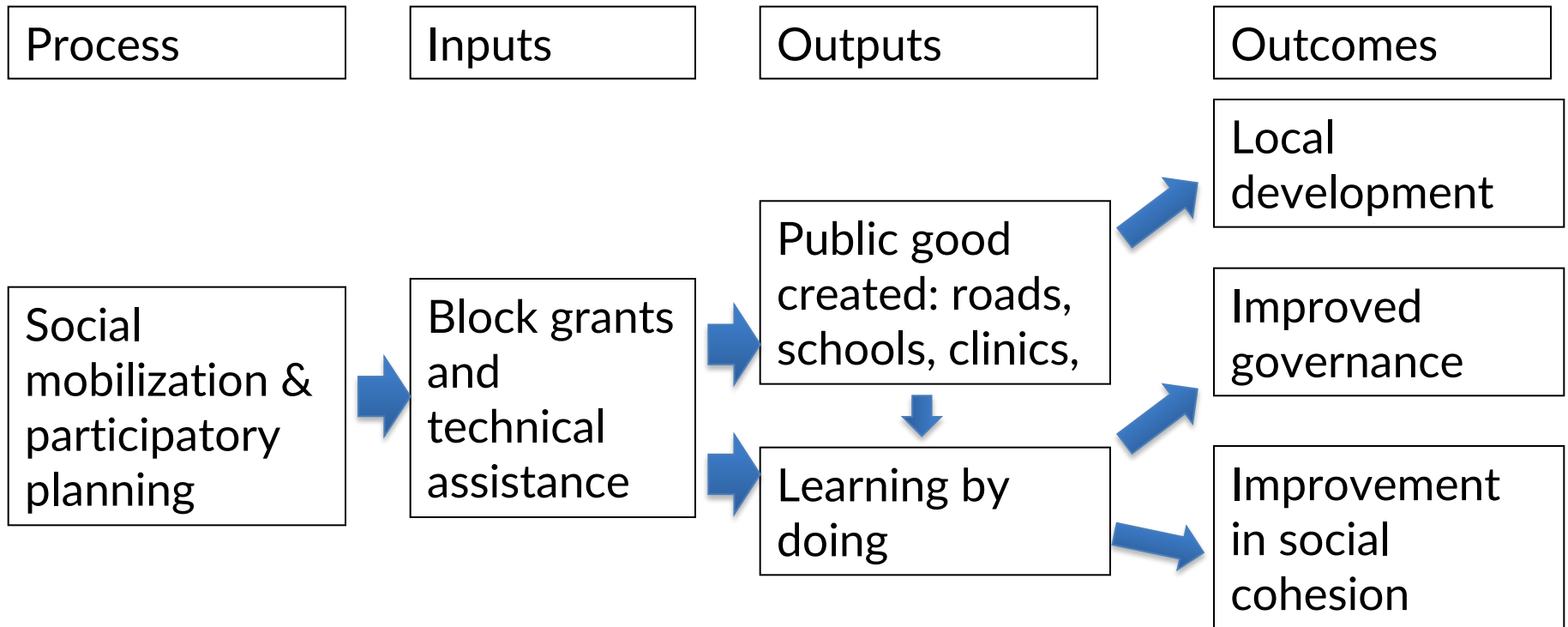


Illustration adapted from 3ie

2. Social cohesion: a greatly discussed topic

- Social cohesion: glue holding society together
- A positive development outcome
- Relevance to SDGs
- Growing number of studies / projects on the role of social cohesion
- Array of policies to promote more cohesive societies:
 - Education
 - Income redistribution

Concept of Social Cohesion Radar

- *Quality of interactions among members of community*
- Three domains
 - Resilient **social relations**
 - Positive emotional **connectedness** to community
 - Pronounced **focus on common good**
- Possible causes or effects
 - Wealth, inequality, ethnic diversity, values
 - Well-being
- Distinction between the conditions, components, and consequences of cohesion

CDD & social cohesion: two channels

- Contact Theory: Participants in CDD will provide subgroups the opportunity to learn more about each other and to adjust their attitudes and and behaviour towards each other.
- Empowerment theory: Participating in CDD will allow marginalized groups to be recognized and influence power relations by new patterns of cooperation.

3. Research Motivation and Design

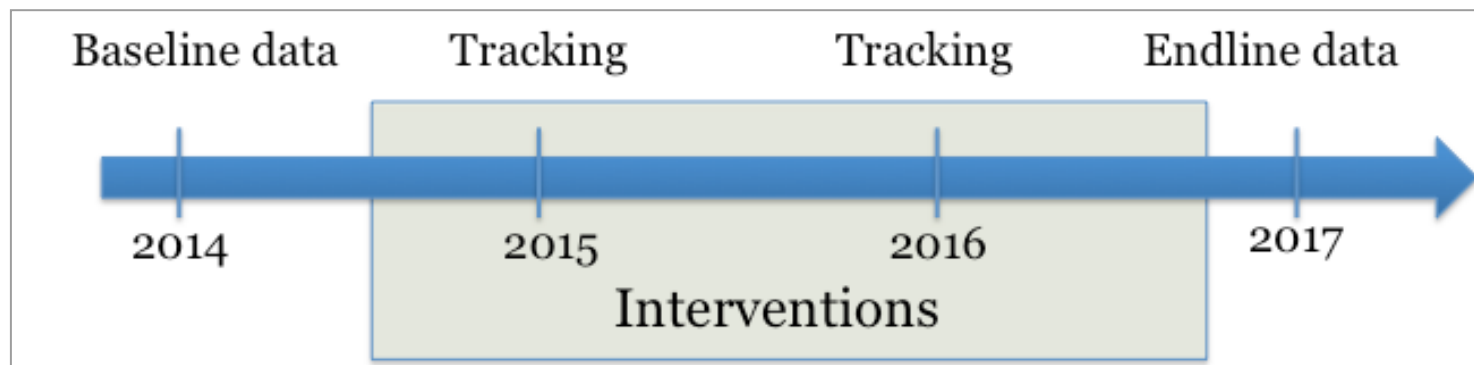
- Weak evidence on whether CDD fosters social cohesion (King et al., 2010, 2014; Mennon, 2016)
- Research design:
 - Rigorous impact evaluation
 - Composite index of social cohesion is developed
 - Qualitative research
- Intervention
 - Standard vs enhanced CDD operation
 - Operation in two, multi- and monoethnic, regions in Kyrgyzstan
 - 30 sub-districts under study, 15 sub-districts are treated

Intervention features

Sub-districts → & Intervention components ↓	CDD <i>7 sub-districts</i>	CDD+ <i>8 sub-districts</i>	Control <i>15 sub-districts</i>
Standard CDD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situational analysis • Selection of partners • Participatory community needs identification / prioritization • Sub-granting for local projects • Participatory monitoring and evaluation 		No activity
Capacity building	Some activity	Full scale activities	No activity
Community initiatives	No activity	Full scale activities	No activity
Data collection	Yes	Yes	Yes

Randomization and data collection

- Selection of 30 sub-districts out of initial 100+
- Equally, randomly divided:
 - Pilot and control groups of 15 sub-districts (AAs)
- Quantitative panel data: baseline, midline, endline
 - Individual, household, and community data
- Sample: 30 sub-districts, 137 villages, 1,986 households; 6,356 adults, 866 youth and 795 village leaders



Estimation Methods

- Difference-in-differences approach
 - Intent to treat (ITT)
- The impact of the program is estimated as:

$$\hat{\delta} = (\bar{y}_{P,2} - \bar{y}_{P,1}) - (\bar{y}_{C,2} - \bar{y}_{C,1})$$

P = treatment communities

C = control communities

Baseline period =1

End-line period is labelled 2.

4. Summary of the results

- Some positive effects:
 - *sense of unity*, respect between social/ethnic groups,
 - participation in *voting* at national and local elections
 - sense of *physical security* in the neighborhoods.
- Negative effect: sense of belonging
- No effect: trust to people or local government
- Direct outcomes: More positive assessment of
 - Local authorities' work
 - Satisfaction with educational services.

Difference in differences: trust to people, interactions, identification & political participation

Outcome indicator	DID coeff.	SE	t-stat
General trust to people	0.17	0.10	1.69 *
Trust in people in village	0.00	0.08	-0.04
Trust in people of different ethnicity	-0.01	0.12	-0.05
People of different backgrounds get on well together	0.11	0.09	1.23
Meaningful interaction with people from different background	0.30	0.10	2.89 ***
Ethnic differences between people are respected	0.26	0.10	2.62 ***
I see myself as a member of my neighborhood	-0.25	0.08	-2.92 ***
I see myself as a member of my village	-0.19	0.09	-2.05 **
I see myself as a member of my ethnic group	-0.27	0.11	-2.57 **
Always votes in elections	0.09	0.05	2.02 **
Voted in the last local election	0.06	0.02	2.67 ***
Participated in civic activities	-0.02	0.06	-0.36

Difference in differences: trust to institutions, governance, services

Outcome indicator	DID coeff.	SE	t-stat
Trust to sub-district governor	-0.01	0.10	-0.09
Trust to sub-district parliament	-0.09	0.10	-0.95
Trust to informal leaders	-0.08	0.09	-0.89
Local administration & parliament treat people fairly	0.19	0.11	1.69 *
Community members can participate in meetings of local authorities	0.02	0.11	0.15
Local and district administration are attentive & solve problems	0.08	0.07	1.03
Satisfaction with education services	0.19	0.11	1.76 *
Satisfaction with health services	0.08	0.09	0.84
Feels safe in the neighborhood during	0.26	0.13	1.92 *
Feels safe in the neighborhood during	0.33	0.15	2.18 **

Results across groups

- Standard and enhanced CDD operations:
little difference in the impacts
 - CDD+ approach: larger effects on sense of belonging and sense of security
- CDD had limits on reaching minority groups
 - No significant effects for ethnic minorities.
 - No major differences by gender
 - No effect on school youth
- Interventions more effective in smaller sub-districts

Interpretation

- CDD programs do not foster social cohesion
 - Social cohesion depends also on other factors: national policies and developments.
- Short implementation periods
 - Research for a short period of potential impact.
- Presence of other development projects
 - 82% of communities had a development intervention at the baseline

5. Summary: Social Cohesion Project

- Tests whether & how community driven development fosters social cohesion
- Randomised experimental approach to identify the impact of CDD on social cohesion
- Results are modest; lack of impact where expected
- The findings are consistent with current knowledge on effects of CDD (3ie report, 2018)
- The social cohesion index: novel tool for research / development projects

Thank you!

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