Practice Insights

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

IACD

International Association for Community Development
Association Internationale de Développement et D'Action Communautaires

WITHOUT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THERE IS NO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

About IACD

IACD is the only global network for professional community development practitioners. We support development agencies and practitioners to build the capacity of communities to realise greater social and economic equality, environmental protection and political democracy.

What do we do?

IACD links people to each other. We facilitate learning and practice exchange, both virtually and face-to-face. We work with partners to deliver regional, national and international events, study visits and conferences. We document the work that our members are doing around the world by collecting case studies, tools and materials on community development, and sharing these through our website, publications and ebulletins. We carry out research projects, drawing on international experience.

IACD aims to give its members a voice at the global level, advocating for community development principles and practice in international forums and consultations. IACD has consultative status with the UN and its agencies.

Contributing articles

Our international Practice Insights publications are issued twice a year, each one focusing on a particular theme of relevance to community development. If you would like further information or to contribute to future editions, please contact charlie.mcconnell@iacdglobal.org

Alternatively, IACD members are welcome at any time to contribute news items, research, case studies or other materials to our regular ebulletins and to the IACD website.

Join us

For full details and to join, go to www.iacdglobal.org/join-us.

Benefits of membership include:

• Regular ebulletins and email updates
• Access to restricted areas of the IACD website, with opportunities for learning and practice exchange
• Opportunities to participate in study visits and other face-to-face learning events
• Discounted rates at IACD conferences
• Discounted subscriptions to the Community Development Journal
• Opportunities to share your work and experiences with a global audience, through our website, ebulletins, newsletters and other publications

Members also have the opportunity to nominate themselves or others to serve on the IACD Board of Directors. Our next Annual General Meeting will take place in July 2017.

www.iacdglobal.org

The views expressed in this publication are primarily those of the respective authors and not necessarily those of IACD.

Editorial

Charlie McConnell

As I was preparing this issue of *Practice Insights*, I was gripped by the Presidential election in the U.S.A. For a second time in sixteen years, the candidate with the largest popular vote, because of its Byzantine Electoral College system, was denied victory.

This is worrying on a number of levels. 'One person one vote', the basic principle requirement for any country that seeks to call itself a democracy, did not lead to the majority Party forming the government of that country. This situation is not unique to America of course. In my own country, Britain, similar outcomes can occur due to parliamentary constituency boundaries giving disproportionate weight to rural areas. Let alone the fact that our Upper House, the House of Lords is entirely unelected.

But of course both systems were designed that way, because of the fear of the landowning elites of the urban 'mob' and the desire to ensure outcomes that would more likely defend their economic and political interests.

> We in community development work have for decades sought to complement the right of placing a simple 'X' against someone's name in a secret ballot, with notions of participative democracy.

We support people to play a more active day to day role in shaping decisions that affect their lives and their communities. We see democracy as more than voting and secret ballots, limits on candidates' financial expenditure and a free press, fundamental though these are for any open society, but also of our responsibilities as citizens to get involved and have a say in influencing the agencies, the powers that be, that determine so much of what goes on in our lives. For us democracy is a political culture where participative rights and responsibilities need to become deeply embedded.

Ironic then that with the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the first time the countries of the world have come together to set an agenda for creating a more equitable and sustainable future, there is no mention of the right and need for people to participate democratically in shaping the decisions and actions that will need to be taken on the ground.

> There is a reason why an eighteenth Goal relating to Strengthening Democracy and Citizen Participation, was not included. Quite simply such a goal would not have gained the support of all U.N. members.

And yet, the UN as an institution has done more to support and strengthen democracy around the world than any other global organization -- from fostering good governance to monitoring elections, from supporting civil society to strengthening democratic institutions and accountability, from ensuring self-determination in decolonized countries to assisting the drafting of new constitutions in nations post-conflict. Democratic governance is seen as essential to the formation and oversite of economic, environmental and social policies and programmes.

This Special Issue of *Practice Insights* spotlights the SDGs and the role that community development work can play in strengthening the capacities of communities to shape the sustainable development agenda as it impacts on the ground.

For the last three years, during the process of change from the Millennium Development Goals to the formation of the SDGs, IACD has sought to play an active role in raising awareness at international, regional and national level of the contribution community development practice and scholarship can bring.
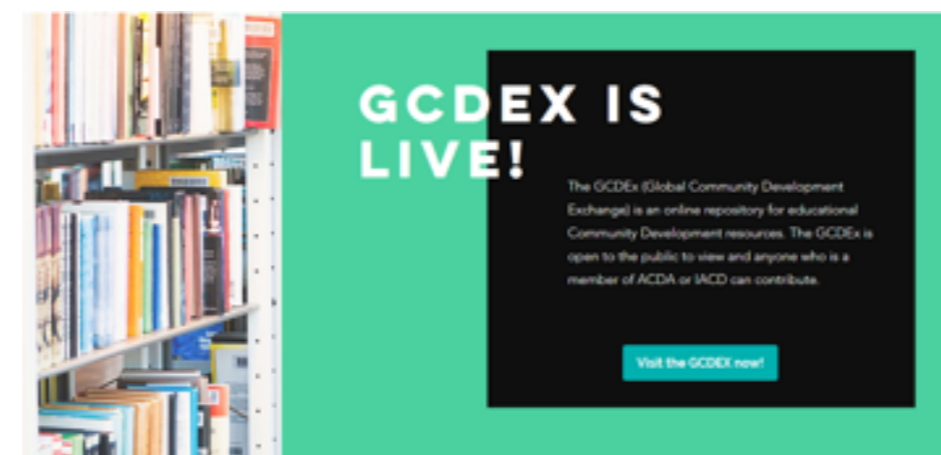
Since 2014, IACD representatives have attended various civil society consultations and meetings held at the U.N. in New York. Most recently we organised a Side Event at the High Level Political Forum in July. And throughout 2016 we have been running a roadshow of awareness-raising conferences and events in India, Africa, North America, and Europe and in a few months' time in the Oceania region. The contributions in this issue are taken from those various events.

They range from polemics, to descriptions of a training programme, to case studies from different parts of the world as to how the SDGs are being rolled out and how best we can help mobilise communities and agencies to work in partnership more effectively to address these shared global challenges.

In addition, together with ACDA, the New Zealand community development association, we are creating a resource bank of teaching and learning materials you can use when embarking upon SDG initiatives locally. This resource bank, called the Global Community Development Exchange, was launched in September as is open for all IACD members to both deposit and access https://globalcommunitydevelopmentexchange.org/

The election of the Trump Presidency in the U.S.A. may put this vitally important global partnership at risk. We can only hope not and double our energies to realise this fifteen year agenda.

This will however require non-governmental organisations and grant making foundations to raise their game in investing in community development support for the more vulnerable communities over the full fifteen years, if, as seems likely, governments fail to do so in many parts of the world. We should not underestimate how vital community mobilisation is if we are to address this crucial global agenda.

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GCDEX IS LIVE!

The GCDEx (Global Community Development Exchange) is an online repository for educational Community Development resources. The GCDEx is open to the public to view and anyone who is a member of ACDA or IACD can contribute.

Visit the GCDEx now!

Reflections on Sustainability

Chris Marko

In July, 2016 the Community Development Society (CDS) and the International Association for Community Development (IACD) partnered to conduct a conference: Sustaining Community Change; Building Local Capacity to Sustain Community Development Initiatives. The conference was inspirational bringing many academic researchers and practitioners in the field of community development from around the world.

The conference involved the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations (UN). We featured topics ranging from place based community development, environment and health, culture, democracy and social justice, leadership, entrepreneurship, community development theory and practice, community capitals framework, education, and youth.

With our changing world we must remember the importance of people coming together to share their knowledge, engage in open and constructive dialogue, and provide mutual support in the hard work we do as community developers.

This article offers some reflections on my own experience and thoughts for how we can continue making progress toward a sustainable world for everyone.

I am a first generation born American. My parents experienced some of the most oppressive, violent, and crushing events when their country of Hungary fell to siege by Russia, while the world watched "freedom fighters" attempt to sustain their sovereignty in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. During a one week period the country of Hungary went from glory of exercising their freedom to overthrow the Russian regime, to having thousands of tanks rolling in, killing over 15,000 people who stood up for their country, and 200,000 people fleeing the terror including both my parents. While I was not directly a part of it, this deeply impacted and in ways defined my life. Where would I be without the fate of my parents reuniting in the United States and Canada who welcomed Hungarian refugees with open borders, along with Austria, Germany, and Great Britain who served as gateways to freedom for my parents.

How the world stays the same, and how it changes. My parents always said how the damage of that event, and 30 plus years of oppressive occupation by the Soviet Union would take generations to recover from, if ever. Unfortunately Hungary continues to face challenges with addressing civil liberties and has been the centre of criticism in the midst of the current complex refugee crisis for Europe. Now we have conservative, and extreme, backlashes to democratic and economic systems which challenges to question our ability to sustain ourselves, like Brexit, and the recently negative Presidential campaign in the U.S. which turned into a verbal boxing match as much as real, productive dialogue around issues which matter to people— and this is spilling over into how we as U.S. citizens engage with one another as the world seems to be dividing more than coming together.

How long can this last? Well, as long we continue to make choices which perpetuate our behaviour based on fear, identity crisis and self-righteousness, which assumes we know more than we do about other people, countries, and the world without questioning ourselves, listening to others, and seeking information and perspectives. Not only do we need a new dialogue, but we need a new way of dialoguing to open our hearts and minds to understanding, and promoting, a better humanity.

I am not talking about more "cumbaya" as a soft idealistic community developer, although I don't think that would hurt; I am talking about a real earnest re-examination about how we are approaching each other and creating space where we can openly discuss differences, not whether you agree with me or not.

Conversations without personally attacking one another, pulling a gun or fearing for your life, or categorizing people to alienate them and further support our assumptions, limit our thinking and compassion, only to support that we are "right". That is where real change happens.

To quote Abraham Lincoln, who was a Republican: "do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?". Now you may say, "are you crazy?! We have all of these terrorists, hate groups, and people you just can't talk with or change! I can't accept it" OK how are we going to change anything when it seems the pendulum is swinging in a different direction than we thought, or hoped, and we keep approaching things the same way, and even worse now, with such negativity, anger, and despair.

When was the last time you questioned your assumptions about information you read, the person you just categorized into some group of ideology, the candidate or initiative you thought did not have a chance, without opening your mind to the fact that "anything is possible". And we are being shown this it seems more than ever. These are windows of opportunity to create real change, to consider what is sustainable, and take action toward creating the environment and social interaction which will lead us to a better future. We are certainly seeing this as our world views are becoming more and more challenged by people who feel disenfranchised

All of this is a wake-up call to question the reality we are in (or thought we are in), to embrace this, and really change—not changing others, but creating an environment where change is more possible.

For example if you think I am just some liberal, feel good, progressive community developer idealist and I think you are some narrow minded conservative, homo/xeno/islamophobic, ignorant racist, and our conversation becomes focused characterizing each other these ways we probably are not going to get too far. I have always believed that we need to protect the environment, conserve natural resources, but when we cannot even talk with each other in a civil way what will it matter (to us)? We will destroy ourselves before the environment which in either case is not sustainable. So what can we do to create and sustain desired change? Let's look at the UN Sustainability Development Goals to see what this framework offers:

There are 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. Perhaps there are too many, they don't include elements you would consider most important, or state the terms and categories you think are most representative and/or appropriate to REALLY capture "sustainability". This is a framework folks—a framework which took great thought and consideration of the complexities of our world—a framework which can be improved like any, and one which offers a richness, diversity, and opportunity to consider many facets of our societies and world we can embrace holistically, rather than through division. I suggest looking at the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in terms of what do they say about what is important to you, your families, community, environment (if that matters), Tribe, state, nation, and world. I will share some of my perspectives and suggestions for action toward sustainability:

1 NO POVERTY

I read a great book "What's Fair", it discussed how the view of poverty varied greatly and could not be tied to class. That is to say, some poor people feel like they should be poor, that rich people deserve to be rich, some rich people believe people have an obligation to distribute wealth, other feels we do not, and some poor people feel the same. If you are someone who is interested in more equal distribution of wealth, this one is for you. How do we actually shift wealth and resources to go toward supporting an end of poverty? Let's start with sharing.

Since the election in the U.S. friends and colleagues are encouraging donations to organizations who are actively working on alleviating poverty through education, programs and services which empower disadvantaged people, and civil rights. The Southern Poverty Law Center is an example. They are currently displaying information about instances of "hate" symbols toward people (swastikas spray painted on walls in public places, white children bullying brown skin and Muslim children in schools, telling them they and their parents do not belong in this country, and other divisive acts perpetuate alienation and poverty of minorities. SPLC has a petition calling on President elect Trump to honour his pledge to represent all Americans—poor, rich, black, white--all. Will this be enough? We will see. Check out advocacy groups in your area and get informed and engage.

2 ZERO HUNGER

There are many arguments about population, resources, that we have exceeded our carrying capacity, but in any scenario we still have an inequity in the share of resources which is related to DISTRIBUTION as much as AMOUNT. The fact is MOST people in the world do not have access to basic needs to fulfil their lives. Water, food, shelter are all elusive to people throughout the world. Donating to many food shelters, participating in can drives (donating food to organizations), contributing to disaster relief efforts, and depending on your way of life, contributing through churches, special drives, and "Holiday giving" (just around the corner) are all basic ways to helping to alleviate hunger. On the front end, understanding the impact of consumption and waste, monitoring consumption, recycling, and supporting businesses which promote reuse, recycling, and utilizing food waste can indirectly improve how we utilize and consume resources and food. Volunteer at a community kitchen or shelter for front line experience.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

What can I say? I don't like this one? I do like this one. A lot. When we talk about civil and constructive discourse we are talking about good health and well-being. When we treat each other with mindful, thoughtful, compassion we actually release chemicals in our brains and bodies which promote good health. Does that stress you out? Well take it easy, you might have a heart attack if you get too tense over time. Hope can actually help in life and death situations. At the CDS IACD conference, we had several sessions on "Community Well Being" which were truly inspiring for our work and lives. Unfortunately good health and well-being are often related to environmental and societal luxury, where people may have leisure time and pressures may not be so limiting than in societies and places where people face extreme challenges securing basic needs for survival. Find ways to create space for nurturing beyond your "normal" conditioned space. Be kind and good to one another. It can go a long way to making you, those you associate with, and possibly others, better than worse.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

What does this mean? To me it means supporting the intellectual, physical, and emotional development of people to pursue, develop, and master their passions, knowledge, and abilities to improve their lives, and society (bonus). It also means cultivating quality educators to guide young people, communities, and each other for better understanding, economic opportunity, and civil society. When education is not funded adequately, when teachers are not educated, or knowledgeable, and when children are not able to afford going to school we will not have quality education. Quality education also means understanding there are different types of education, different approaches, and even different goals for education. At least that is what I think. What do you think? Have you volunteered at a school? Have you considered participating in youth mentoring? Are you ready to retire? Keep reading, writing, thinking, and sharing… we can only benefit from greater understanding.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

I had the fortune of serving as an advisor in a Women Studies course during college. As a white male this was not welcomed by some of my female colleagues which I understood, and was challenged by. I learned about "theories of difference" which described the cycles of oppression through identification of groups—gender, race, class, age, all isms of protected classes in civil rights law. This was one of the most educational aspects of my life which broadened my understanding of how we selectively oppress people by groups, and how change involves looking beyond discrimination of just one group. I also learned about the various perspectives women had being brought up in traditional families which they thought was perfectly fine, and were uncomfortable with "feminism" as it challenged their beliefs. I can say that in the most recent election in the U.S. I am disappointed in women who voted for a man with such overt offense toward women (and others—classic "theories of difference" case in point), but realize it is more complex than that. I do hope we can bring about more equality, which I believe depends on our ability to recognize, and appreciate, differences.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

I work for an organization, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), which provides training, technical assistance, and financing for rural communities in the areas of drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, affordable housing, financing, leadership, community economic development, and advocacy. This goal is particularly relevant to my work. Some of the key challenges regarding clean water and sanitation involve affordability of developing, and managing, systems. Rural areas lack technical, managerial, and financial capacity to develop, finance, and manage projects. USDA Rural Development and U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have embraced a model for Sustainable Utility Management involving 10 elements for effective utility management: product quality, customer satisfaction, stakeholder engagement and support, infrastructure stability, operational optimization, operational resiliency, water resource adequacy, community and economic sustainability, and employee and leadership development. Globally we need more investment in basic infrastructure, and support for assistance with effective management of water and wastewater systems. Water is life.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

In our modern world, energy (and electricity) have become more essential services which we in developing countries take for granted. At least where I live in Oregon, we have relatively inexpensive electricity rates in contrast to other parts of the country, in part due to development of hydro power in the Pacific Northwest. I have colleagues involved with the energy sector who claim that we will never be able to rely on renewable energy to support our consumption (another one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals). So this one involves looking not only at how we extract and utilize resources to produce electricity, but how we demand and consume power. If we are going to be sustainable with energy, we must radically shift the way we live, from extraction of resources, production of electricity, distribution infrastructure, and consumption. Conservation is another policy tool to help reduce consumption of energy. Our dependence on fossil fuels is not sustainable. It creates acute pollution, if not global warming (or climate change most scientists validate), and represents an era we seem fixed in, but really is a small period in world history. Research and investment in alternative energy, in addition to conservation, is a must for our sustainability, whether or not politicians deny global warming. Drive less, ride a bicycle, turn off the lights, turn down the heat, use energy efficient appliances, take action.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

As someone involved with entrepreneurship training and technical assistance I have learned quite a bit about the power of personal development and business. Decent work and economic growth can come about in various forms. The traditional form of economic development has been the industrial recruitment model. Create the right environment, build it, and they will come. How many times have we seen companies with their industry locate in an area, without truly investing in the community for the long term, pull out, relocate, and/or consolidate when the economy "heads South" (so to speak). We have seen it in the Pacific Northwest with the rotation of forest harvesting by big companies, and the collapse of our auto industry and manufacturing jobs getting shipped out of the country. We need an economy developed by people who are empowered, supported, and vested in communities to become more sustainable. The majority of businesses supporting jobs are "small businesses" of 150 or less people. The idea that a large outside company is going to land in our community and save our economy can work, but only as long as the "outside" economy does well. Local business and work builds community.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

To go along with industry, let's talk innovation and infrastructure. As mentioned, industry can support economic vitality, but it is important to consider how that industry will be vested in a community. Strategies which build on local assets, strengths, mitigation of weaknesses and threats, and opportunity from individuals and within communities, and regions, can best represent the values, and hence, interests of community. CDS has promoted the "Community Capitals" framework to highlight multiple values of community development. This framework has been further adapted by other innovative approaches to economic development including Wealth Works. The idea involves recognizing eight community capitals, or values of wealth, including intellectual, individual, social, cultural, natural, built, financial, and political. By developing "value chains" and partnership networks, businesses can be developed to meet demand which creates local value based wealth. "Infrastructure" could be viewed as physical, as well as social and other, conditions for business to develop. Business as usual is not sustainable. Value based wealth is.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

See "gender equality" and discussion regarding "theories of difference".

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

I have the fortune of living in Portland, Oregon, a city which has embraced a "sustainability" ideology in planning and action. The state of Oregon was the first state in the U.S. to enact Land Use Laws to govern "wise development" in the 1970's under Governor Tom McCall, a Republican. While many folks, particularly in rural areas, believe Oregon's Land Use system should be changed, or even abolished, these laws and guidelines have helped facilitate growth in a manner which has reduced urban sprawl, development which has considered agriculture lands, natural resources, and open space, and fostered a culture of smart growth, particularly in Portland. Portland has one of the highest populations of people per capita who ride bicycles, a light rail system including inner city trolley routes, recycling and reuse programs and facilities, community gardens, natural resource educational programs, and a quality park system which supports an overall high quality of life. Unfortunately the discovery of Portland is bringing in growth pressure, increased housing costs, and the need to be more reactive than proactive. Our education system is also not supported enough and we have a notable homeless problem. Sustainable cities means more than smart growth, it means continually re-evaluating goals and activities, and community engagement, to develop local solutions.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Think locally, act globally. Responsible consumption involves understanding where products are made, how they are made, how they are distributed, and how they impact health, environment and economy. When we eat food transported thousands of miles from farm to plate, that involves additional consumption of resources, fuel, energy, and additional cost for the product. When we contaminate our food with hormones and chemicals, do not educate consumers about what is in our food and risks, and continue consuming processed food out of convenience and habit, if not affordability, that is not sustainable. There are many recent films highlighting the challenges of food systems including the impact of fast food on our society and health (Omnivore's Dilemma, Fast Food Nation, Supersize Me). When we buy products made in other countries, as common and affordable as that may be, it is not responsible in supporting a local economy which supports communities. Educate yourself about the products you buy, compare costs of local products and trade-offs, and maximize the value of your money in what you buy, and consume.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Reduce dependence on fossil fuel, walk, ride a bike, take mass transit, reduce waste, reuse, recycle, grow food, reduce dependency on products which require transportation (and use of fossil fuel and energy), reduce energy use particularly at peak times, get off the grid, if you get on the grid consider how you use energy and can save, get a solar retrofit, ride share, educate others about the science behind climate change, look at the polar ice caps, go to Glacier National Park and see how far the glaciers have retreated. Take action now more than ever because the 'denial of climate change' is back with a vengeance. Wear sunscreen, get educated on the impacts of solar radiation on skin, be prepared for disasters, have a survival kit, and think about what you need vs. what you would like.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Our oceans are the reservoirs of life, and they are being destroyed. Signs of plankton decline, coral as living rock protecting shores dying off, coagulating masses of plastic "film" never before recorded in vast areas of our oceans, mammals dying from plastics and management practices in oceans, are all red alert alarms we need to be paying attention to—not to mention rising sea levels due to GLOBAL WARMING. Islands in the South Pacific are dealing with this as the water literally is rising and covering areas formally above sea level. One impactful film I watched this past year documented activity in Antarctica regarding penguins which was informative about the visible changing landscape (ice scape) of the area of our planet which is supposed to keep us (and penguins) cool.

15 LIFE ON LAND

Personally as a human being who lives on land, I like this one. Read it and act. The tropical rain forests of the world face continued deforestation, species extinction, and effects from intensifying storms are causing greater disasters. How can governments continue to fund disaster relief? How can governments, and people, be more proactive about mitigating consequences of disasters? How can we protect the environment and consume what we need, not just want? These are questions to ask regarding how we want to live on land, as sea levels rise along island coasts in the South Pacific, and droughts affect the agriculturally rich California. We must have land, we must have water, we must have air, forests, and species diversity. We can look for other planets suitable for life, but can we really think of one better than earth?

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

This one is difficult, especially nowadays. It seems we have just gone through a time when we have made great strides in civil society, support for diversity, and recognition of injustice to bring about justice. It has been turbulent, and with fears growing within countries like the U.S., and across borders throughout Europe, this will be one of the most important goals to address regarding sustainability, and civilization. We must remain vigilant, and open to perspectives to achieve peace. We must understand the anger associated with oppression, disenfranchisement, and alienation and find ways to deal with it constructively, productively, and if possible compassionately. How do we deal with "terrorism"? How do we deal with people who do not want to engage in peaceful behaviour in the name of "justice"? These are extremely difficult questions to answer, but we must be willing to explore alternatives to violence. Violence kills. Peace supports life. As community developers I believe our mission involves creating the space of opportunity, possibility, and following through with support for programs, policies, and action to promote peace one person, and community, at a time. Learn about organizations promoting peace and offer your services. Be an ambassador of peace, learn about mindful awareness, learn to meditate, and love each other.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

We are all in this together. We cannot sustain ourselves alone. It is proven that human beings need each other to survive. That is the same with organizations and agencies. While we all have self-interest, individual missions, and are involved with different, distinct programs, and motivations, we need to realize the power of collaboration and partnership. Furthermore we need to mitigate the "silo" mentality that somehow what my program does, does not relate to what your program does. We need to see the connections between things, rather than separation. Everything is related and that is a fundamental mindset we need to embrace for a truly sustainable world. The world has been around for a lot longer than we have been "a part" of it. We need to understand we are part of the earth, and each other, as partners. The alternative is to think we are somehow separate which ultimately leads to our demise. Seek collaboration, find common ground, develop win win opportunities, and move forward together to address these challenges of our time.

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Without Community Involvement, there is no Sustainable Development

Annette Dixon

Jeyaranjini lives northern Sri Lanka near the city of Kilinochchi with her husband and daughter. During the Sri Lankan civil war, the family was forced to move many times and had to live in refugee camps under difficult circumstances.

> "Each community member used to be alone, but now we learn, exchange ideas, and make decisions together. I am more confident and inspired."

SDGs are the new road map for governments and the international development community to engage and achieve on development issues through 2030

The North East Local Services Improvement Project (NELSIP) is helping Jeyaranjini and her family rebuild their lives through a Community Driven Development (CDD) approach. She participates in a group to decide how to allocate local development funds based on their needs. "Each community member used to be alone, but now we learn, exchange ideas, and make decisions together. I am more confident and inspired." The project has helped build 611km of roads, 23 km of storm drains, 400 community public spaces such as markets, parks, and playgrounds, as well providing improved access to water and electricity.

Projects incorporating CDD approaches give control over planning and investments to community groups and local governments rather than central governments. They can be a useful instrument for empowering communities to deliver services to the poor and the delivery of education, health, drinking water, irrigation, forestry, and agriculture to the village and district levels. In Afghanistan, village Shuras (councils) receive funds and other support from the state, which they then manage to support their villages. CDD has proven useful in responding to conflict, fragility, and in post-disaster contexts. It has shown to be fast, flexible and effective at re-establishing basic services. In fragile or conflict affected states (FCS), the CDD approach has also helped rebuild social capital and trust within communities and between communities and governments. The World Bank has been building on these foundations through currently supporting 33 CDD projects worth $4.85 billion in South Asia, including 18 projects in India worth $3.7 billion.

Transformational Community Driven Development Projects for the Future

For example, the government of India launched an ambitious $22 billion program – the Swachh Bharat Mission – to achieve universal access to sanitation and make the country open defecation free by 2019. The World Bank is supporting it with a $1.5 billion loan and technical assistance. Open defecation is a serious issue in India; one in every 10 deaths in the country is linked with poor sanitation and hygiene; about 38% of all children under five years old are stunted and half of these are due to poor

As an example of the development power of inclusive community participation, India introduced quotas for women to serve on village councils as members and leaders, and several studies show important positive impacts from this action.

Another example is the Central Asia-South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project, known as CASA-1000, which the World Bank is supporting along with other development partners. The project will help facilitate electricity trade between countries in Central Asia – Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic - that have hydropower surplus and countries in South Asia – Afghanistan and Pakistan - that are facing electricity shortages.

Governments have also been investing in Community Support Programs to build support for the project in affected communities. Making local communities stakeholders in the project will be important for the project's success. The program is helping share the benefits of building the transmission line and expanding electricity trade with people living along a four-kilometer wide "Corridor of Influence." The goal is for half of all communities within the Corridor of Influence to receive improved access to electricity and for at least 65% of the direct beneficiaries of these community-focused sub-projects to be women.

In Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic, the Community Support Programs will help households cope with severe winters and in Afghanistan they will help some communities receive access to electricity for the first time. All four countries have committed to contributing a portion of their electricity trading revenues to community programs.

Inclusive and Equitable Representation are Necessary for Success

Inclusive and equitable representation of interests within the community is critical for success. There are also some risks associated with community development but those can be minimized. Development decisions can be biased by local, unrepresentative interests, and elite capture. As an example of the development power of inclusive community participation, India introduced quotas for women to serve on village councils as members and leaders, and several studies show important positive impacts from this action. For example, the quotas were found to be associated with the growth in new female income-generating activities in household manufacturing. Female council leadership was found to balance investments away from roads, which men preferred, to water infrastructure, which women preferred. Community exposure to women council leaders was found to improve community

attitudes towards women, including views on female leadership effectiveness. Female council leadership was also found to be associated with improved child survival, adolescent girls' education attainment, and child academic test scores.

The World Bank will continue to support CDD projects to help address a variety of urgent needs, including water supply and sanitation, education and health needs, nutrition programs for mothers and infants, rural access roads, and support for micro-enterprises, among others. Incorporating CDD approaches in projects and programs will likely increase their success and thus accelerate progress toward the achievement of the SDGs. As experience and evidence suggest, there simply cannot be sustainable development without community involvement.

Annette Dixon is the World Bank Vice President for the South Asia Region

You, Me and the SDGs

Amber Frankland-Hutchinson

"You, Me and the SDGs" was a workshop designed to educate Community Development Practitioners on Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and encouraged us to think about where we see these goals being worked towards in our lives and workplaces.

It was piloted 19 July 2016 in Auckland, New Zealand and then travelled to New York to the IACD United Nations High Level Political Forum, Side Event, receiving very positive feedback from participants at both events. It has subsequently been used and adapted at a number of IACD SDG awareness raising events around the world.

Key Learnings:

What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

The workshop began with exploring what Agenda 2030 and the SDG's are, and where they came from. Agenda 2030 is a coming together of over fifteen years work around the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and parallel work around Sustainable Development. The MDGs focused on the eradication of poverty and its ill-effects for the people in least-developed nations; and the Sustainable Development track was focused on environmental sustainability.

Agenda 2030 recognises both

environmental and social wellbeing as interrelated and the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets aim to address both streams in an integrated way. Two short and informative clips, one on the SDG's, and one on its predecessor the MDG's as well as a quiz on the MDGs were used to help educate participants in an interactive way.

Key differences between SDGs and MDGs

In this learning space it was important to note some differences between the MDGs and the SDGs. This time around with the SDGs, there was wide consultation across civil, public and private sectors of society, and it was the Nation States through the Open Working Group, who drafted the SDGs and their targets. This approach sees the goals resting upon a foundation of collaborative participation in their design and implementation.

A second difference is that while the MDGs focused primarily on least developed nations, the SDGs recognise there is work to be done across all nations. The increased focus of the

MDGs in our least developed nations means they are way ahead of the game in understanding the goals and putting them into practice and have much to offer the rest of us.

How do the SDGs relate to community development?

The workshop proceeded to have participants think about how the SDGs relate to our work as community development practitioners. The SDGs and the processes surrounding their emergence align well with Community Development values of social justice, empowerment, equity, participation, inclusion, self-determination, and comradeship.

The SDGs are already being addressed through many community development organisations and initiatives. Both local and international examples of these were featured in the workshop. Poverty for example is being addressed by microfinance organisations like the Grameen Bank ; Hunger through community garden initiatives like Rooftop Republic ; Health and Wellbeing through community health initiatives like

the Pilton Community Health Project ; Quality Education through projects like The Community Learning Project and in community led building initiatives like the Africa School Assistance Project and so on.

The initiatives mentioned above are not solely addressing the goal beside which they are identified, but are working more holistically as **all of the goals are linked in some way.**

To demonstrate this, the workshop used a card game activity. Cards representing each of the goals were labelled with a picture of the goal on one side, and a description of its targets on the other. Groups of 3-4 people selected three goals that were important to them. They were then encouraged to discuss and record the following:

• Why are the goals important to you?
• Where are these goals in your life and workplace?
• Where do you see your organisation working on these goals in the future?

www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/
post-2015/sdg-overview.html
www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5giOGjj5X8
www.theguardian.com/global-development/quiz/2014/

Each group then fed back to all participants.

Opportunities for collaboration on the goals

It is an important time for community development professionals as the **SDGs are applicable to all sectors, the public and the private and at local, regional and national levels and across all nations** leaving much room for collaboration.

Using local examples of sector collaboration in practice, the workshop encouraged participants to think about and discuss in groups:

• Where are the opportunities for my organisation to collaborate on the goals?
• What other community development initiatives do I know that focus on these and related issues?
• Who in other sectors are potential partners in meeting these goals?
• How will I find out who they are?

aug/18/millennium-development-goals-quiz
www.grameen.com/
www.cityfarmer.info/2016/06/25/hong-kongs-rooftop-
farmers-grow-vegetables-and-communities/

• How will I get them engaged?
• Discuss and record two things each participant will do to progress this further.

The SDGs are already being addressed by community development organisations and in initiatives around the globe. It is our job now to identify where the links are, establish networks around the goals, and use them to further push for a sustainable and just future for all. Readers can find out more about the teaching and learning materials used from the author.

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You can download the training power point here. iacd_sdgs_and_cd_power_point.pdf

www.pchp.org.uk/about-us
www.cepholyoke.org/index.html
http://africaschoolassistanceproject.org/

f Find us on Facebook

We want to provide you with contemporary news and information about what is happening in the world of community development on a more regular basis. Since April 2016 we have been utilising our main Facebook Page much more, to post daily updates on events, resources and news. We have been covering news from Alaska to Mongolia, Hungary to Brazil, from the United Nations to the smallest grassroots community development agency. If you have not yet looked at the IACD Facebook Page, please do. **facebook.com/IACDglobal/**

Strengthening Community-based Veterinary Extension Systems using the "Paravet" Model in Smallholder Farming Areas of Zimbabwe

Joseph Kamuzhanje and Joseph Francis

Agricultural extension in Zimbabwe dates back to the 1900s when Emery Alvord, a European missionary started the recruitment, training and appointment of demonstrators (extension staff) who provided extension service in rural areas. The staff provided extension by demonstrating good farming practices practically on the ground for farmers to see, learn and adopt on their own fields.

However, from the latter 1990s, when Zimbabwe's economy started to deteriorate economically, so did the extension system. This is because most of the extension workers left the country to seek greener pastures. In many cases, those who left were the most experienced cadres who had both the experience and technical know-how in extension. At the same time that the country was losing key personnel, the economic challenges meant that the Government was not able to provide the remaining few extension officers with the means such as transport and stationery to enable them to carry out their duties.

There was an obvious gap in agricultural extension but also of new entrant, non-governmental organisations (NGO). Whilst the NGOs provided extension staff (ironically most of them recruited from the Government), they quickly realised that it would not be possible for them to cover all the farmers adequately. In the livestock sector, this led to the birth of the Paravet model where community members are trained in basic animal husbandry.

The Paravet Model

The idea behind the approach is to identify a few "clever" farmers in a group who are given specific training on basic livestock based agriculture. Through a Training of Trainers approach (TOT) the training is cascaded to other group

The approach has a multiplier effect since a lot of farmers are reached over a relatively short period of time.

members. The approach has a multiplier effect since a lot of farmers are reached over a relatively short period of time. The Paravets are chosen by their fellow members based on a loosely defined criteria including interest, proven

agricultural acumen, good social relations and in very few cases, educational qualifications. Zimbabwe implemented this model in Buhera District of Manicaland Province.

A criteria for selecting the Paravets was set up which included the following:

i) They had to have demonstrable interest in livestock issues.

ii) They had to have constructed proper housing for their cattle, in this case, a three-dimensional kraal.

iii) They had to demonstrate that they had adequate reserves of supplementary

To date, GOAL Zimbabwe and the government departments have trained over 600 paravets in Makoni, Nyanga and Buhera districts of Manicaland Province with 60% of them being women. This is quite an impressive statistic considering that livestock especially cattle is generally regarded as a male domain.

feed. This is because Buhera is a very dry and arid area and the provision of supplementary feed showed that the farmer was aware of their context.

The Paravet works closely with the relevant Government departments and in the case of Zimbabwe, these are Livestock Production and Development and Veterinary Field Services. The Paravet is the first line of livestock disease detection and the community reference for primary animal health care on all livestock.

To date, GOAL Zimbabwe and the government departments have trained over 600 paravets in Makoni, Nyanga and Buhera districts of Manicaland Province with 60% of them being women. This is

quite an impressive statistic considering that livestock especially cattle is generally regarded as a male domain.

The Paravets are supposed to demonstrate and exhibit the training they would have received at their homesteads, so for example, a paravet should have proper animal housing (three-cross sectional kraal for cattle and a raised pen for small stock (goats and poultry), evidence of supplementary feed (both the quality and quantity of grazing are very poor in the three districts) and basic drugs for (vaccination and dosing) the most common livestock diseases in the area.

During an end of project evaluation for the OFDA Food Security and Livelihoods Centred Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction, there was a lot of praise and appreciation for the Paravet model from both farmers and government extension staff:

• "You can have one extension worker covering 12,000 cattle, so these Paravets can give help" District Veterinary Officer (DVO) Buhera District.

• "Before the Paravet training there was high mortality of 3-4 of cows per year and now it is zero" Male livestock farmer", Buhera District.

• "Also the farmer's interest, they have more interest, they value their animals more because they have been made aware, and they are jacked up. Even at dipping and supplementary feeding, people are aware now. More cattle are coming for dipping and they pay because they see the importance". DVO Buhera District

• "... In many cases we never even used to know where to get help from the vet officer and people used to eat the meat that we now understand has health risks and Paravets have been able increase knowledge and awareness of the risks in the communities they operate.'.

Conclusions

The Paravet model has raised the livestock profile in the areas where it has been used and has also improved relations between the mainstream Government extension workers and the communities.

There is a lot of interest that has been generated by the model to the extent that the Ministry of Agriculture is keen to adopt and adapt it to the national extension system.

There is also a lot of enthusiasm by the private sector which sees this as a viable model for working with farmers and also widening their business base. Granted, a lot of work still needs to be done to refine the model to increase its overall contribution to the agricultural sector and the next few years provide a forum for this to happen.

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When life gives you apricots

John Stansfield

The IACD Practice Exchange to India in March 2016 gave me a whole new take on the saying "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade", and a good lesson in the ways of an enterprising community to boot! Twenty of us travelled by train and minibus from Delhi as part of a two week travelling CD learning community. We were hosted by the Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation the lifework of visionary IACD vice president Anita Paul and her husband Kalyan Paul.

Grassroots is one of many inspiring community initiatives we visited and is justifiably famous for its integrated environmental and economic work. As Kalyan notes" you cannot protect a forest if the people have no cooking fuel". The brilliant Sustainable Energy projects have reduced pollution, improved sanitation and soil fertility, improved health through eliminating smoky cooking fires and saved the forests and the labour of harvesting firewood by utilising household scale biogas plants. The plants are installed and maintained by villagers and plants put in twenty five years ago are still performing well.

Another welcome initiative in the chilly climate is the women's self-help group Mahlia Umang Samiti famous for their knitted woollens and preserves. Today over 2500 rural women are involved with Umang in enterprises including beekeeping, spice harvesting and making pickles alongside the woollens and jams. The group are now an independent producer company and have their own shop.

Life in the mountains is hard. The inspiring and stunning scenery belies an existence of harsh conditions and frugal subsistence.

For sheer enterprise in the face of adversity however I was most impressed and encouraged by the story of the humble wild Himalayan apricot and what a little ingenuity helped it achieve. The late Oona Sharma, visionary co-founder of Aarohi will be smiling somewhere in the vast Himalayan sky, looking down

on the enterprising and resourceful followers who have carried on her brilliant community development work amongst mountain communities.

Life in the mountains is hard. The inspiring and stunning scenery belies an existence of harsh conditions and frugal subsistence. The mountain villagers in Satoli, Uttarakhand, rely on a coarse apricots as a cash crop from which they make jam. When a freak hail storm knocked every single green apricots from the trees despair, although understandable, despair was simply not an option.

The resourceful leadership that built a remarkable hospital and boasts an immunisation rate of 99% in some of the most inaccessible country in the world, rose to the challenge. From the devastating hailstorm a new social enterprise was born. Apricots kernels are dried and then ground and cold-pressed to produce a very high value oil used as

Many villagers are now sustainably employed contributing to their community health centre and school and are able to build a better life for their families and communities.

the basis for a range of cosmetics which we saw marketed across the region. There is even an online shop.

The villagers now have a factory, and ever expanding product list, a distribution network and an insulating safety net to protect them from the next hailstorm. The value of the apricots crop is now almost 3 times what it was before the hailstorm. Many villagers are now sustainably employed contributing to their community

health centre and school and are able to build a better life for their families and communities.

The health centre and outreach work were ably explained to us by the affable Dr Paneet a retired Indian Army surgeon who regaled us with his stories of resourcefully staffing the hospital with specialist doctors. "What I do is wait till it is insufferably hot in Delhi and then I phone my old colleagues and complain about how cold it is here, when they have accepted my invitation for a visit I tell them how sad it is for a friend in the village who could really use a specialist like my friend. By the time the visiting doctor arrives there are enough patients for several days of clinic. It is an old ruse and my friends humour me and the villagers get the finest medical services".

As noted in the impressive annual report "Our twenty four year journey has been one of trials and tribulations, and full of

excitement and growth. Today, the organisation employs 112 full-time staff, and is supported by 371 members from all over the world. We actively operate in 141 villages, working with some 65,606 people. Village Satoli, our headquarters, has transformed into a buzzing node of positive grassroots action."

The integration of community enterprise with healthcare, education, improved livelihoods and environmental protection were strong features of the CD organisations we visited on the exchange where we saw sustainable development so clearly expressed.

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Today, the organisation employs 112 full-time staff, and is supported by 371 members from all over the world. We actively operate in 141 villages, working with some 65,606 people.

"An ounce of practice is generally worth more than a ton of theory."

E. F. Schumacher, Small Is Beautiful: A Study of Economics as if People Mattered.

Strengthening literacy and numeracy through community reading champions in northern Nigeria

By Muhammad Bello Shitu

This programme under the direction of FHI 360 was implemented in two states in Northern Nigeria by UNICEF. The project's theory of change becomes relevant and appropriate especially in addressing the SDG literacy challenges. It stipulates that "If communities are actively involved in reading activities, then girls and boys in early grades will have improved learning outcomes, communities will contribute to improved educational enrolment, completion and learning for girls" (FHI 360, 2014)

Improvements and innovations in schools require systematic engagement with communities. The underlying philosophy for the collaborative change process towards improving literacy lies in the FHI 360 submission to UNICEF in 2014 which reiterates that "schools exist to support children and communities; and learning improves when communities support their schools.

In view of the forgoing, it becomes necessary to ensure a well coordinated action by communities if children and their schools are to be supported to promote literacy enhancement with a view to increasing the literacy levels in both the Mother Tongue (Hausa) and English, as well as improve achievement levels by girls and boys in public schools.

To achieve this goal, a participatory process was instituted to develop a Community Literacy Action Guide (CLAG) to serve as a collaborative strategy document for promoting reading/literacy activities in targeted communities by School Based Management Committees (SBMCs) and other stakeholders in the community. It contributes specifically to an increased engagement of communities in reading efforts.

The guide as a framework for literacy promotion is premised on the fact that Community Reading Champions (RCs) are the key entry points into the community at the same time mindful of active community, engagement/involvement in the process and outcomes associated with promoting reading activities.

What is Community Literacy Action Guide (CLAG)?

CLAG is a strategy document developed by community stakeholders as part of the systematic community engagement in literacy promotion at home, in school and in the community. It represents identified activities which community members and SBMCs implement as part of whole school development initiative to support literacy and numeracy acquisition and development.

To achieve the needed results for the project, Community Reading Champions were selected by each community. The RCs were trained on how to work with members of School Based Management Committees, school teachers and other members of the community, to develop community literacy enhancement action plans. The RCs from each of the target Local Governments also attended refresher workshops where they shared their work plans and learn some best practices from different communities.

To achieve this goal, a participatory process was instituted to develop a Community Literacy Action Guide (CLAG) to serve as a collaborative strategy document for promoting reading/literacy activities in targeted communities.

Communities are conscious and sufficiently aware of critical issues contributing to the weak literacy achievement. In this regard, they were also involved in a participatory process towards identifying ways to address the challenges. The Community Literacy Action Guide document identified different ways by which communities through their RCs can help address literacy and numeracy challenges.

The RCs have begun implementing actions towards literacy enhancement in their communities. The Community Reading Champion for Bardayya Primary school in Rimi LGEA Katsina State has made some modest achievements towards addressing reading challenges in his community.

In addition to mobilizing for additional teachers, securing accommodation for teachers, procurement of instructional material and furniture he has started preparations to host a reading festival. The RC from Danwadigi primary school in Kankiya LGEA initiated discussion with members of his community which led to voluntary contributions of money and working material that resulted in the repair of one classroom block. The RC for Ladanawa primary school in Rimi LGEA has already began the process of setting up a Reading Club in their school.

Community Reading Champions can be used to facilitate changes in literacy status of communities in Northern Nigeria.

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Can we expect a successful implementation of SDGs in Iran?

Maryam Ahmadian and Afsaneh Tavassoli

Community development helps to advance grassroots practice to achieve a superior life in terms of social, economic, cultural and environmental targets. Sustainability is also a vigorous component to accomplish community development aims in any given setting. Many developing countries in the Middle East and North Africa are trying to have a well-adjusted approach towards economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development.

It is clear that some of the countries in the Middle East and North Africa are in war situations, which impacts on the development process, democracy, stability, security and peace in the region. Therefore the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is dynamic for the region. However, the sustainable development is significantly faced by failure of the region to deal with structural problems (https://neu.globalpolicy.org).

The Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDGF) as an international multi-agency development mechanism was created in 2014 by UNDP, on behalf of the UN system, to support sustainable development implementation through integrated and multidimensional joint programs (www.sdgfund.org/about-us). Building upon the experience learned of the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDG Fund aims to act as a bridge in the transition from MDGs to SDGs, providing genuine experiences on how to achieve a sustainable development. (www.sdgfund.org/mdgs-sdgs).

Iran as a non-Arab Middle Eastern country has supported the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals approved by the United Nations Summit in New York in September 2015 and participated at the highest level in the Summit. It should be mentioned that Iran has rural cooperative experiences of over 80 years (www.ukessays.com).

In the context of human development, Iran has made considerable progress over the past 32 years. According to UNDP calculations, between the years 1980 and 2012, Iran's HDI (The Human Development Index) value increased by 67 percent.

The access to knowledge and also a decent standard of living also had a significant increase and a robust implementation. Despite such positive progress, Iran attempts to meet a range of development challenges such as poverty, environmental deprivation, and disaster preparedness. Iran is very rich in natural resources but the environment remains one of the most central challenges in the time of climate change.

Interestingly, Iran is a pioneer country with regard to the SDG 3 (Health) especially to eliminate Malaria. Since 2005, the Government of Iran, the Global Fund and UNDP have been joining in a program to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (www.ir.undp.org).

It is crucial for each country in the Middle East and North Africa to do detailed analysis of SDGs and its implantation in order to prevent weakening natural resources and make proper policies to follow constant development, economic growth, empowerment and justice especially in war zone situations.

It is obvious that after sanction relief in Iran, policy makers can pay more attention to the development goals in order to improve the health of Iranian people, higher employment rate, and food security, human, social and physical capital.

A precise analysis of indexes of social, economic, and environmental performances also helps to achieve the sustainability and diminish the negative effects of sanctions on people's life in Iran in parallel with SDGs. In the SDGs context, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance has been set responsibility for SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and is the main co-worker for SDG 1 (no poverty). However, Iran's economy needs to overcome some structural challenges to accomplish and implement the goals and this will be set in the 6th Development Plan of the country. SDGs in Iran can also be supervised using quantitative indexes during the 2016-2020 period (www.unescap.org). It seems evidence enough to expect a successful future implementation of the SDGs in Iran.

Besides Iran's economy, local community participation and enhancing stakeholders' awareness in social, economic, cultural and environmental goals maintenance are also effective actions and should be highlighted during the 2016-2020 period. Not only local community and stakeholders' participation in decision making processes, but also their commitment to the goals.

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The Limitations of the technology transfer approach for community development in rural Peru

Ursula Harman, Jim Cavaye and Helen Ross

In STI activities that foster social inclusion, strategies are needed to help women with their responsibilities and household tasks, so they can feel motivated and supported by their family to participate in learning activities.

Peru, like other Latin American countries, has a significant challenge in reducing poverty especially in rural areas where indigenous communities, in particular, face extreme poverty. Indigenous rural people are often socially excluded groups, characterised by limited access to basic social services (education and health), basic infrastructure (roads, energy, potable water, sewage, among others), underemployment, lack of democratic representation, cultural discrimination and restrictions on fully exercising their citizenship. In this context, development policies in Peru have an inclusive orientation in order to address these problems. Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policies are conceived as instruments for development in Peru that can help to reduce social exclusion.

The transfer of technology, as the delivery of an external product into communities, is often the way STI policies are implemented to improve social inclusion. This involves delivering goods and services that are needed by traditional marginalised rural communities in rural Peru. The generation of electricity in rural areas by renewable energy technology, such as photovoltaic panels and mini/micro-hydropower systems, is important in Peru, not just in providing power but also in fostering the livelihoods and social inclusion of Indigenous people. While the access to energy is recognised as a social right, we know very little about how technology transfer activities for rural electrification are contributing to reduce exclusion in poor contexts of Peru.

Three case studies were conducted in rural localities in the Cusco region, Peru, to understand what changes the three communities experienced since the use of rural electricity generation systems, and whether those changes contributed to social inclusion. These communities participated in the same rural electrification project that consists of a mini hydropower system that produces electricity from the mechanical power obtained from a waterwheel. Each family received a set of bulbs and batteries to charge them in the power house next to the waterwheel. Group interviews were conducted with 20 people in each case study community, using participatory techniques including charts and drawings. A comparative analysis of the case studies showed that the technology transfer approach has serious limitations in facilitating structural changes for social inclusion of indigenous communities such as participation, gender equality, cultural and local knowledge integration, and citizenship practices in their local institutions.

First, our findings showed that the users did not participate in the design of the energy system. The energy provider centralized all the decisions regarding the design of the technology. This meant that the use of the energy system was based on what technical experts saw as the needs of potential users, excluding how the potential users assess their own needs. This is why the users described more deficiencies than advantages in using the energy system. For instance, the energy system was designed only for lighting, but rural families want energy to charge their mobile phones, listen to radio and watch TV.

Also, the operation of the energy system demanded a basic understanding of electrical and mechanical concepts that the users are not familiar with. Thus, a complicated technology has made the users highly dependent on the provider to resolve technical problems. Therefore, it is important that rural people have inputs into the design of technology in order for it to be most effective and to best contribute to their inclusion. On the other hand, the residents of the three rural localities made all the decisions concerning the organisation for the

energy management. Formal meetings and informal gatherings to organise who will administer the energy system and how, was an opportunity for users to communicate more with each other and feel more organised to participate in other projects.

Users also learnt new technical skills and knowledge while charging batteries at the power house, doing the maintenance of the energy system, interacting with other users when they try to fix technical problems. However, gender was a crucial issue in the use of the technology. All users of the equipment were men. Women remained excluded from learning activities and interactions based on the argument of "lack of time" claimed even by women. It is important to consider that giving women new responsibilities to fulfil certain project goals does not guarantee their empowerment. In STI activities that foster social inclusion, strategies are needed to help women with their responsibilities and household tasks, so they can feel motivated and supported by their family to participate in learning activities.

Technology transfer activities normally work with a few community members who receive technical training. As technical leaders, it is expected that they teach the rest of the community what they know about the new technology. The findings reveal that the group sessions during fieldwork in Cusco were the only moment for the three rural communities to discuss and share what they have learnt about the energy system. Despite the fact that rural families generally experiment at home and in their farms they do not get together specifically to share what they know or what they have learnt. So everybody, not only the technical leaders, could have the potential to adapt and even innovate, but sharing knowledge mostly happens in informal gatherings and between friends because it needs trusting relationships. This is why we insist on the importance of facilitating dialogue and cooperation among all members of the community to recognise different kinds of knowledge in the creation of formal learning spaces.

Under an inclusive innovation approach, traditionally excluded groups should be active agents in the process of learning in order to resolve local problems with innovative solutions. In this sense, working with communities in rural electrification projects should be an opportunity to strengthen their local institutions as an instance of collective action, where people can trust each other, have the right as citizens to demand information about what technologies are the more appropriate for their necessities, and finally deliberate on how they want to work with external organisations in innovation processes.

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Community Development for Sustainable Development: Placing Community Development Values and Practices at the Heart of the Sustainable Development Goals

Stuart Hashagan

Report from the European conference held in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2016, organized by IACD and the European Community Development Network, Community Work Ireland and Community Development Alliance Scotland.

There was a spirited and focused debate on the role of community development in sustainable development, the opportunities and challenges, and the sharing of information across sectors, themes and geography. It became clear that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide an excellent framework for the exchange of ideas and experience between different community development interests, as well as a huge opportunity for community development to demonstrate it has a critical (in both senses of the word) role to play in the successful realization of the SDGs across the globe. The old adage, think global, act local remains as pertinent as ever, but with the SDGs adding social and economic agendas to the former environmental one, and with community development adding participation and inclusion to the mix there is great potential to challenge the direction of global forces and return to a more equal, social and sustainable world.

IACD has an agreed position on the role of community development in sustainable development. The key points are that:

- The SDGs should be viewed in a holistic way
- Causes of problems do not generally lie locally, but relevant action can be taken locally

- The most vulnerable can and must be active players
- Consensus and partnership has to be built, while acknowledging and tackling conflicts of interest
- Joined up planning is essential at local level, involving agencies alongside the community voice
- The most vulnerable need free technical assistance, community organising and education support – this being the priority for community development

There are examples from across the globe of communities taking action on every SDG.

Observations and ideas

The contrast between the fundamental values underpinning the SDGs and the direction of travel being taken by much of the planet.

SDGs call for the interconnection and integration of society, economy and environment for an agenda of transformation, as opposed to the mainstream logic of infinite growth despite finite resources, pushing privatisation and financialisation into public service and social relations.

SDGs call for a participatory partnership approach to implementation and monitoring, rather than adopting market values by funders to measure

community work and civil society. This is reflected in the call to "ensure responsive inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels" (SDG 16.7), which contrasts with the current further de-politicisation and individualisation of participation.

There is a clear and important role for community work to ensure active and informed participation focusing on all goals – social, environmental and economic, alongside engaging people in a proper process of participation. A holistic human rights approach is required, moving from building capacity towards consciousness raising and ultimately culture change and the creative tension of informed critique.

Achieving the SDGs will entail community development, alongside others, to

recognize power differentials and their roles and both rights holders and duty bearers, whether globally, nationally or locally.

Community development can address the need for widespread participation and representation and in particular challenge gendered relations of power, discrimination, racism and human rights abuses. We therefore need plans, facing ourselves with our weaknesses as well as our strengths, identifying the development support we need and can offer others, and building our influence on wider processes.

It became clear that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide an excellent framework for the exchange of ideas and experience between different community development interests, as well as a huge opportunity for community development to demonstrate it has a critical (in both senses of the word) role to play in the successful realization of the SDGs across the globe.

Good progress in CD on sustainability was made stimulated by the UN Decade of Sustainable Development 2005-14, and this can be built on with the SDGs. There was increased community involvement and ownership of the sustainability agenda, balancing this against community-level expectations and issues. A number of passionate individuals emerged, with energy, resilience and commitment and encouraging a form of open leadership with the know-how to access expertise and facilitate work on a shared vision. There was also evidence of a growing commitment in local authorities to the sustainability agenda and the role of community development, and to sharing the learning from individual initiatives.

Looking ahead, challenges and opportunities include more reaching out to marginalized communities, more building capacity to link the local with the global, and the social to the

environmental and the economic, and building more resilient partnerships between the public, private and non-governmental sectors. We also need to get better at measuring what matters and highlighting the value of community development and learning exchanges.

A focus on learning for sustainability in the Nordic countries has enhanced knowledge about and competence in the concept of sustainability, linking ecological, social and economic perspectives while building awareness of local and global societal challenges.

Participants have acquired methods and skills transferable to their own practice and have recognised the value and strength of working in a Nordic context and the emerging New Nordic approach to sustainability.

Some key finding from evaluation of projects are the importance of seeking to make sense of the abstract and complex questions around sustainable development; approaching risks and challenges in the positive spirit of hope and creativity; keeping learning close to the action, and recognizing differences and commonalities between the different Nordic countries, resulting in productive processes and learning pathways

Local government has to make a stronger commitment with the non-governmental sector, community councils and within Community Planning Partnerships

Local government has to make a stronger commitment with the non-governmental

SDGs call for the interconnection and integration of society, economy and environment for an agenda of transformation, as opposed to the mainstream logic of infinite growth despite finite resources, pushing privatisation and financialisation into public service and social relations.
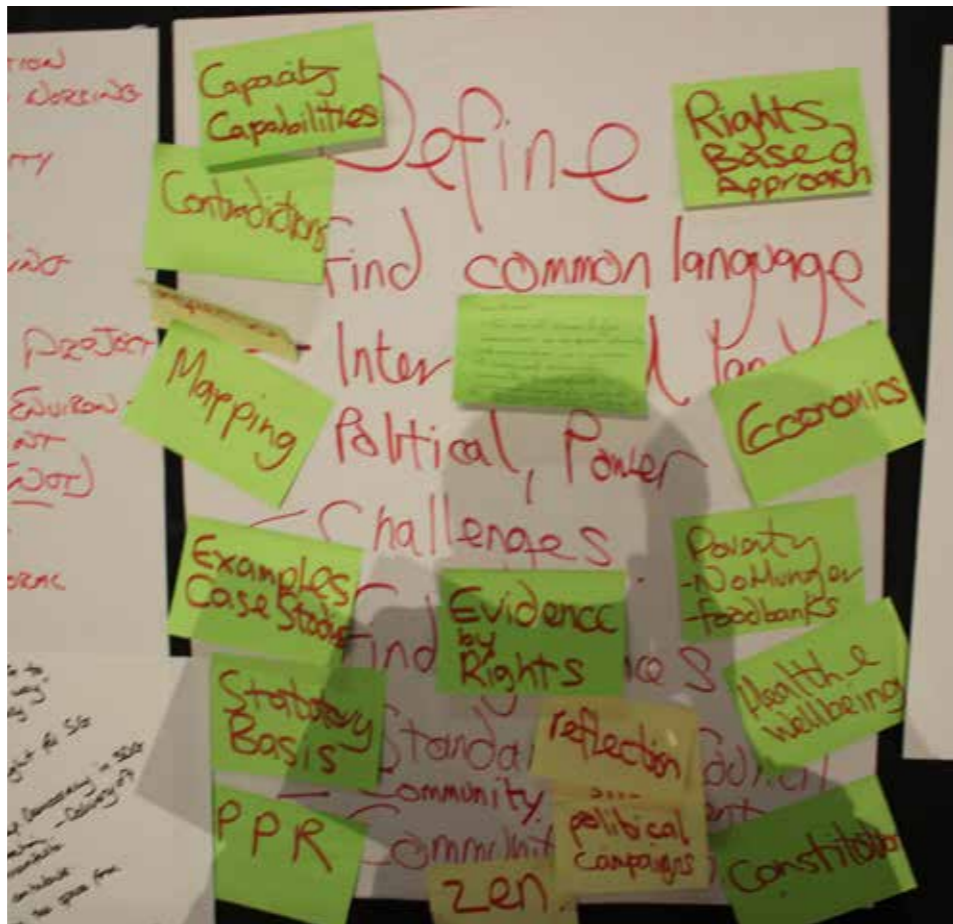
sector, community councils and within Community Planning Partnerships.

Such activities should based on the principles of:

- Empowerment – increasing the ability of individuals and groups to influence issues that affect them and their communities
- Participation– supporting people to take part in decision making
- Inclusion, equality of opportunity and anti-discrimination – recognising that some people may need additional support to overcome barriers they face
- Self determination – supporting the right of people to make their own choices
- Partnership – recognising that many agencies can contribute to community development.

This will add value by strengthening local democracy and increasing participation in local government elections which is extremely low.

There is a close alignment between the outcomes envisaged in the SDGs, and the outcomes of almost all community development, focusing as it does on issues of poverty, exclusion, inequality, lack of power and discrimination.

IACD's Position Statement on Community Development and the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

IACD's vision is to promote human rights, equality and social justice, participative democracy, and sustainable development through the promotion of good quality community development policies and practice.

Our mission, as the recognised international professional association, is to support our members around the world and more widely the discipline of community development to work towards this vision. As an association with global interests and impacts, we have expressed our support for the SDGs. As a result of a four-month consultation process with our Board and membership, in 2016 the Board agreed that support for the SDGs implementation will be the association's main policy into practice priority over the coming years.

The purpose of this Position Statement, is to help governments (at all levels), non-governmental organisations, the business and scientific sectors understand that without prior and ongoing community development work, that assists citizens at a local level to participate as active and informed partners in their implementation, the goals will be far harder to reach. This Position Statement has also been developed to help IACD members and the wider Community Development field to explain to governments (at all levels) non-governmental organisations and others the contribution that development supports at grassroots levels can bring.

First, we need to look at these challenges in a holistic way.

Much of this will be familiar territory for those working in community development, but probably not in the holistic and co-ordinated way now called for - especially with regards to tackling such a broad agenda of social, economic and environmental development work at the local level. What are the links between the SDGs? Is it likely that certain geographic communities or communities of identity are more or less vulnerable to more than one of these challenges? Research over many years clearly confirms that the poorest people are also those most likely to face hunger and nutrition problems; they are less healthy; they have less access to education; they are more likely to have less gender equality; they have less access to affordable and sustainable energy and clean water and sanitation; they are more likely to be unemployed or on low wages; their poverty is primarily linked to structural inequality within the wider society; they are more likely to live in less safe, peaceful communities, whether urban or rural; they are more likely to be faced with more damaged ecosystems and biodiversity loss. Understanding the relationship between these issues is a critical community development approach.

Second, we should understand that the causes of these problems do not primarily lie within the most vulnerable communities.

Poorer communities face multiple problems and are as a result less resilient. The poor are the most vulnerable to almost all of the challenges highlighted by the SDGs. Those working in community development will know that the primary causes of poverty and the multiple challenges the poor face are caused by structural inequality. Whether in so-called developing or developed countries there are huge social class inequalities. This varies from country to country but the trends are similar, the majority of capital assets such as land, building, wealth are inequitably distributed and the majority of the damage caused by 'man made' industrial and consumption patterns are not caused by the poorest communities

To ensure effective local governance and adequate implementation of measures to address the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level, it is important to secure support from Governments and communities to establish a proper legal framework for local government. The organization, powers and functions should be clearly prescribed by law.

Further legislation by the Scottish Parliament, for example, is needed to clearly set out the responsibilities and powers of central and local government authorities in relation to one another in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The status of local government should be enshrined in a written constitution for the first time. The use of the newly revised National Standards for Community Engagement by both national government and local government to support community engagement and user involvement in Scotland is crucial. The Standards are intended to complement and support community empowerment in Scotland.

Points from participants: what CD needs to do to ensure it is highlighted in local and national strategies

• There are cuts in community development but others such as Development Trusts are growing

• Are the SDGs yet a tool to empower? Are they easy for communities to understand? Do they mean anything to ordinary people?

• We need to be better in showing what difference CD interventions make

• If citizens are not affected by the issues (or if they don't recognize that they are affected) will they care?

• People need to translate SDGs to their own lives

• We need better understanding of outcomes

• The need to build community ability to tackle power differentials

• We should seek to establish a cross-sector European project on community development and the SDG's

• Challenge individualized service delivery, and create shared spaces

• It's dangerous to focus on the 'poorest' in education – the middle classes and wider society who often lead the least sustainable lifestyles must be targeted.

There is a close alignment between the outcomes envisaged in the SDGs, and the outcomes of almost all community development, focusing as it does on issues of poverty, exclusion, inequality, lack of power and discrimination. Addressing these is explicit or implicit in the SDGs. The distinct and essential role of community development is in the process of working with communities and interests around these issues where they are experienced directly, and to work for change. This involves learning, confidence-building, fostering solidarity through establishing and supporting effective community organisations and networks, and negotiating engagement between communities and those described elsewhere as duty-bearers.

Speakers

Anastasia Crickley, IACD Vice President and European Director

Stuart Hashagen, Chair of the European Community Development Network

Betsy King, Development Manager of Learning for Sustainability Scotland

Charlie McConnell immediate Past President of IACD

Kirsten Paaby, of the Nordic Education Project

Cllr Martha Wardrop, of Glasgow City Council.

Stuart Hashagen is the Chair of the European Community Development Network (EuCDN)

although they are the most vulnerable across all sustainability indicators. Subsequently, any programme to successfully reduce poverty and its interlinked problems requires financial investment and the commitment of those with power and opportunity, to work together to share that wealth and opportunity more equitably. In other words in requires a bridge between the powerful and the poor.

Third, we should recognise that whilst the poor are victims in many situations, they can become active players in designing and developing solutions.

Poor communities contain human assets such as local wisdom on how to use the land or how to fish in a more sustainable way, we need to harness. This local experience can easily be lost, but in community development work we know that if we look we will find people within such communities who have indigenous knowledge and skills to help address the SDG challenges. An underlying feature of the SDGs is the extension of citizen participation. This is also a central principle of community development work, building a more participative democracy and knowing how to engage less powerful, more vulnerable people. Community development is about designing ways in which vulnerable people have voice and can be authentic partners around the table, designing the programmes that can address the SDG challenges at the local level.

Fourth, we know that there will always be conflicts of interest in any society, but community development practice seeks to find ways of building consensus and partnership at a local level.

A community development approach tries to build consensus between conflicting interests. Community safety is an obvious area where there is a need to have a trusted community policing approach to tackling crime. Many communities around the world face violence and corruption and are places where the police are seen as part of the problem and not the solution. In communities where there is racial or religious conflict, there is a need for peace building and truth and reconciliation approaches. Where there is great inequality and a tiny minority with wealth there is a need to develop a culture of personal and corporate responsibility. The need for the redistributive income and wealth

taxation necessary to create greater equality lies outwith the remit of community development work, but through community education we can raise people's awareness and through community organising support campaigns for responsible taxation.

Fifth, we need agencies and community representatives to collaborate and plan at a local level and recognize that sustainable development takes time.

National planning and top-down sustainable development programmes will not alone solve the SDG challenge, although clearly they have a vital role to play. The participation of civil society and the general public in all countries is critical. If we are to assist and to mobilise people, especially those in the most vulnerable communities, then development agencies whether governmental, non-governmental, educational or private sector need to develop ways of working together and with local people at a local community level. Community planning and co-production are approaches whereby different agencies and disciplines agree to work in a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary way. This requires a high degree of co-ordination of planning and resource allocation. But for community planning to be successful then local people and their elected representatives need to be part of the decision-making processes, they need to be the co-producers of the programmes to combat the multiple issues identified. There is much evidence to show that where local people, including young people, feel ownership then it will be more successful.

Sixth, people in vulnerable communities need freely available technical assistance to address these challenges – this includes money and expertise not available within their community.

Community development practitioners should be good community educators with expertise in running educational programmes that raise awareness and develop skills and confidence. Many community development practitioners may also have other professional expertise - in health, literacy work, local business development, engineering, architecture, forestry management or sustainable farming; or they should know how to access such technical expertise

from others to assist local people. The SDGs are complex challenges which local communities cannot solve themselves. Upper and middle class communities can purchase professional technical assistance; poorer communities cannot and will need assistance as locally and as cheaply as possible. They will also need money and here is a role for the community development worker, identifying grants and other financial support. Access to technical assistance also covers ITC and new technologies such as the mobile phone. We have a long track record of promoting the use of appropriate and inexpensive technologies and new technologies will be an ever essential tool for communities to help tackle the SDGs.

Seventh, community development is about designing collective responses to challenges that people face in common.

In order to play their part in tackling the SDGs, vulnerable communities will need to organise. These challenges are too great to be tackled by self-help and individual actions such as a change in personal behaviour, although individually we all will have a role to play. Community developers know that by organising local communities much more can be achieved through co-operative action. There is huge evidence of the multiplier effect that good community development can have in supporting vulnerable communities to have the organisational capacity to address these challenges.

Eighth, without community development there is no sustainable development.

It may at first seem that some of the goals lie outside the remit of community development. Let us take SDG 9 - build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation; or SDG 14 - conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. But on closer examination the contribution that a community development approach can make through community education and organisation is just as relevant here as it is to the other goals. Governments, multi-national companies, research institutes and professional 'experts' can design smart alternatives and innovation. But local people can come up with solutions, often from past practice that work and are more resilient. Community development work needs to encourage that and get those ideas around the "partnership table."

IACD believes that the SDGs present a huge opportunity to profile and position the vital importance of effective community development support at local level.

Across all of the SDGs there is a need to support and mobilise the most vulnerable communities, who are at the brunt end of climate change and socio-economic inequality. If communities are not educated and organised to play their part then the challenges will not be met. Governments, non-governmental organisations, scientists and the private sector cannot do this alone. It needs citizen action. Without that support, vulnerable communities will be far less resilient, prepared and able to deal with the huge sustainable development challenges they face now and will face over the coming years. We urge national and regional community development associations and practitioners across the world to engage with the SDG implementation process at national and local level.

This is an abridge version of the IACD Position Statement approved by the Board in 2016.

> **"Community development is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes participative democracy, sustainable development, rights, economic opportunity, equality and social justice, through the organisation, education and empowerment of people within their communities, whether these be of locality, identity or interest, in urban and rural settings."**
>
> *The new Global definition of community development, adopted by IACD, July 2016.*

A warm welcome to all attending the ACDA/IACD conference in New Zealand in 2017

At its core, IACD values our network of community developers and the partnerships we are able to create and cultivate. It is in this tradition that I warmly welcome the opportunity for IACD to partner with the Aotearoa (New Zealand) Community Development Association at the February 2017 conference. We are thrilled to work with John Stansfield and his staff and colleagues, to organize and host this conference in the breathtaking setting of Auckland, New Zealand. I look forward to meeting new friends and colleagues and to forging new partnerships at this conference and am reminded of the famous quote by Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." On behalf of the planning committee, we hope that you will join us in Auckland in February!'

Paul Lachapelle, IACD President

Welcome to the ACDA/IACD international Community Development conference

The Aotearoa Community Development Association and the International Association for Community Development will join with Unitec Institute of Technology, to host delegates from many lands in a three day festival of all that is great in Community Development. Opening in the wharenui or traditional meeting house, with its rich traditional art and carving, the conference will include field visits, a film festival, workshops, posters and paper presentations.

Titled "Sustainably yours, Community Development and a sustainable just future", the conference will focus upon the opportunities and challenges posed by the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Practitioners, researchers and educators from across the globe will join together to share and learn about the SDGs and the important contribution Community Development can make to realising them'.

John Stansfield, ACDA Chair, IACD Oceania Director and Chair of the 2017 conference planning committee.

You can find out more about the conference at www.aotearoacommunitydevelopment association.com/2017-cd-conference

Join a global network

The International Association for Community Development (IACD) is the only global network for community development workers, researchers and activists. We support development agencies and practitioners to build the capacity of communities, to realise greater social and economic equality, environmental protection and political democracy. We are a non-governmental organisation accredited with the UN.

There are many ways that you can become involved in IACD. If you are a development agency manager, funder, fieldwork practitioner, academic, student or volunteer community activist, IACD can help you through our international practice exchanges, events and publications. If you have a passion for effective community development, then please make contact with us – we welcome your participation!

Join today and become a part
of this dynamic network!

www.iacdglobal.org/join-us

iACD
International Association for Community Development
Association Internationale de Développement et D'Action Communautaires

**WITHOUT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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