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Inclusive Development: What Does Meaningful Progress Look Like?

As we seek to better understand the causes, consequences and remedies of exclusion so that we can realize human dignity for all people, it's important to have a sense of what the impacts of inclusive development look like. In this edition of TAAP Tuesdays we share four illustrations of how intentional approaches to inclusion have positively transformed project design, implementation and outcomes. (Note to Readers: This is an unusually long TAAP Tuesdays newsletter. We wanted to give you a preview of the kinds of impact stories that we are gathering for the TAAP Framework and Toolkit, currently under development for a Fall release.)

Photo: Creative Commons 3 - CC BY-SA 3.0. NY Photographic, July 2015.

Inclusion Impact Story #1:

In Indonesia, Increased Access to Services, Social Acceptance and Improved Policy.

Indonesia's [Program Peduli](#). "Understanding Social Exclusion in Indonesia" is an Indonesian Government program funded by the Australian Government and implemented by the Asia Foundation. The Peduli program addresses the social exclusion



of six disadvantaged groups in Indonesia: vulnerable children and youth, remote indigenous communities reliant on natural resources, discriminated religious minorities, victims of gross human rights violations, waria (transgender), and people with disabilities.

Peduli recently released the results of a meta-analysis based on 68 Theory of Change (ToC) papers from Peduli's CSO partners, revealing that CSOs consider that the most common type of exclusion across all of the groups originated from state barriers to legal identity, the lack of which results in exclusion from many public services and livelihood opportunities. CSOs also considered that community-led stigmatization was a leading type of exclusion across all groups. The most important stakeholders involved in inclusion were identified as the excluded group themselves. However, it is also considered that no single stakeholder group acting independently has the power needed to generate inclusion. Capacity, awareness, inclination and leadership within the excluded group needs to be combined with local government efforts, and willingness to implement existing policies, external group expertise, and positive media coverage. In other words, coalitions for inclusion were identified by the CSOs as the most likely pathway to social inclusion, rather than highly targeted programs addressing discrete issues.

Peduli's Deputy Director, Angie Bexley notes that "program activities have been designed around the insights from the ToCs working across the three main outcomes of increased access to services, social acceptance and improved policy on social inclusion." Each CSO ToC itself is a living document and is updated to reflect and respond to changes in the field. This approach allows partners to test different methods of program implementation and develop models that achieve improved outcomes for marginalized people. For example, in responding to the most common form of exclusion, the lack of legal identity and services, CSOs forge multiple partnerships with civil registration offices and health departments to conduct data collection, facilitate mobile services and ensure that the most vulnerable are served. In addressing community-led stigma, a

range of creative approaches have been trialed by partners that prioritize opening up public spaces for communication among the marginalized and wider community. Examples include bringing together members of religious minorities and the wider community for yoga sessions, supporting a weekly vegetable market for survivors of human rights abuses to sell their wares and interact, and establishing ‘concerned citizens forums’ which have all been successful in decreasing stigma and discrimination. This in turn opens up the possibility for further engagement with the government on improving service delivery and improved policy.” (Stay tuned for more from Peduli, a new TAAP partner that will be testing TAAP components in coming months!)

Photo: “Community members in Blitar, East Java, a site of gross human rights violations perpetrated by the state, stand waiting to receive free health care from a mobile health clinic as part of the Peduli program (Courtesy of the Peduli Project).



Inclusion Impact Story #2:

In Guatemala, Prosperous and Fulfilling Lives.

New TAAP partner, Trickle Up (TU), is dedicated to the empowerment of those that live in extreme poverty and face multiple levels of exclusion due to gender, ethnicity, religion and disability. TU’s core competencies are rooted in the Graduation Approach, a [rigorously tested methodology](#) for including and empowering households that are excluded from their communities, government services and markets. The Graduation Approach provides households with livelihood and financial literacy training; membership in savings groups; connections to bank accounts; seed capital grants to fund a new or expanded business; consumption stipends to help families early in the program as their businesses grow; regular one-on-one coaching; and where possible connections to basic government services. TU has helped write hundreds of thousands of success stories, and in the past 37 years has helped empower nearly 1 million people in India, Africa, and the Americas.

One such story is that of Victoria Tiul, a participant in TU’s program in Guatemala, and her son, Selvin. The eldest of her five children, Selvin has a physical disability making it difficult for him to walk. He also had problems keeping up in school. With a family of seven, Victoria and her husband had a hard time

covering basic needs and have worried about Selvin's future. As a participant in a TU Graduation project, Victoria opened a small shop selling chickens and other goods, and Selvin became an integral part of the business, keeping the books and helping customers. Now the Tiuls are expanding their business and have a plan for their future – and Selvin's. To watch a video about Victoria and Selvin, visit: <http://trickleup.org/portfolio/a-stable-future/>.

Michael Felix, Director of Trickle Up's Program Development notes that he is looking forward to sharing insights from TU's work to add value to the TAAP Framework and Toolkit and ultimately advance the use of evidence-based approaches to inclusion.

Logo: Trickle Up (TU), 2016.



Inclusion Impact Story #3:

In Peru, it's a (Piece of the) Road to Opportunity.

(From the World Bank's [Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Infrastructure Projects](#).) "Being an indigenous woman in Peru means you are likely to be part of the 20 percent of the population living in extreme poverty. Indigenous women reside for the most part in remote rural areas with no access to education, employment, or to the markets where they could sell the produce from their agricultural work, leaving them very little opportunity to earn an income and lift themselves and their children out of poverty.

These are the women who benefited from Peru's Rural Roads Project. The project team, composed of staff from the Government of Peru, the Inter -American Development Bank and the World Bank, adopted a number of gender-sensitive measures to rehabilitate 14,750 km of rural roads from 1995 to 2007. The team consulted local women's groups that informed them women tend to use informal means of transportation. Following their recommendations, the team changed the design to include non-motorized transport tracks. The project also required that 10 percent of the community-based microenterprises

created to maintain the roads be owned or managed by women.

As a result of the project, women ended up owning 24 percent of the road maintenance micro-enterprises; in addition, 67 percent of women reported feeling safer traveling, 77 percent of them traveled more frequently and 43 percent saw an increase in their income. An impact evaluation study showed that the program improved girls' access to schools and women's access to social services: for instance, girls' enrollment in primary schools increased by 6.7 percent. The project not only improved women's mobility but also their access to the voting booth: more women voted in municipal elections."

And that's just from consulting with women!

Photo: AZCentral News article, Michael Chow/The Republic.



Inclusion Impact Story # 4: For an Iraq/US Young Leaders Exchange, it's breaking down stereotypes and recognizing the value of others in developing solutions to common challenges.

From its inception in 2007, World Learning's Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP) has sought to foster relationships across ethnic, religious, and national groups through experiential discussions, workshops, home stays and post-exchange service projects in Iraq. IYLEP, a four-week summer exchange program, brings English-speaking students ages 15-17 from Iraq to explore the themes of leadership development, civic rights and responsibilities, respect for diversity, and community engagement. American students join Iraqi participants in all U.S. activities including developing "action plans" for identifying and taking on community issues.

The commitment to fostering relationships across diverse participants involved expanding the team of female recruiters, arranging for them to have access to girls schools, working with families and faith-based leaders, establishing hubs and touch points in every province, partnering more closely with the Ministry of Education and translating the recruitment materials into several languages. These efforts to

promote a more inclusive program resulted in a surge of applications from 90 in 2007, largely from males with little geographical diversity, to well over 1,000 applications in 2015. Cohorts now reflect a tapestry of Iraqi society: young men and women, wide ethnic diversity among Arabs and Kurds, language diversity, socioeconomic diversity, and young people with disabilities. IYLEP staff developed an Inclusive Recruitment Toolkit which includes discussions of safe spaces, conflict transformation, social justice and privilege, and processes for developing inclusive programs.

Exploring the common challenges faced by communities across Iraq and the US, participants worked together to develop community-based solutions. (Some of the [projects](#) involve providing space to discuss human rights, supporting elderly people and children, and fundraising.) In the course of developing the project participants realized that other regions of Iraq were also struggling to provide support to internally displaced people and refugees in their communities. Participants from Kurdistan planned and implemented a [clothes bank project](#) for refugees. IYLEP Alumni in Bagdad were inspired by these exchange and post-exchange discussions and are now emulating the clothes bank project in the Bagdad community.

Participants have indicated that bringing together Arabs and Kurds breaks down stereotypes. As a participant from Duhok noted, "I learnt that with our skills and knowledge, we can develop our country and help improve the situation. We, as a team of members from different parts of Iraq with different ethnicity and believes, can work together to help re-build our country."

Photo: Courtesy of the IYLEP Program, World Learning.



Got Inclusion?

We want to hear from you! Please share your inclusion activities, success stories, upcoming events, and intriguing resources. Send to TAAP@worldlearning.org.
