Restoring and rebuilding livelihoods through CDD approaches in conflict settings: Sri Lanka case study

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Through a study of the intervention of Community Driven Development (CDD), this research unpacks the *process* of CDD and its *effects* on livelihoods in conflict-affected regions in selected areas in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. The study looks more deeply into how links between CDD and livelihoods are shaped by the complexity, dynamism, and particularities of the local context(s).

The enquiry takes place by a close examination of The Reawakening Project (RaP) which was launched by the Sri Lankan government with funding and technical support from the World Bank to address the livelihood needs of conflict-affected populations in the Northern and Eastern districts of the country. This exercise was carried out as a part of a multi-country evaluation of the *process* by which WB-funded projects were implemented at the community level in order to provide a framework for best practices for future aid design and delivery in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

Using qualitative methods, the study unpacked processes involved in rebuilding livelihoods under the RaP in 4 villages in the coastal Eastern district of Batticaloa. Cases of success and challenges are diverse and not easy to attribute to the project alone. The community-driven aspect of the project resulted in its becoming entangled with social, economic and political dynamics that were shaped by individuals and larger socio-political forces. Though not generalizable to the project in its entirety, the findings from the case studies highlight themes relevant to aid effectiveness in the global South. The paper illustrates how gender disparities, power dynamics, and patronage networks at the village and district level, as well as national-level politics and post-war development, infuse at the macro, meso and micro level to impact the design and delivery of aid.