

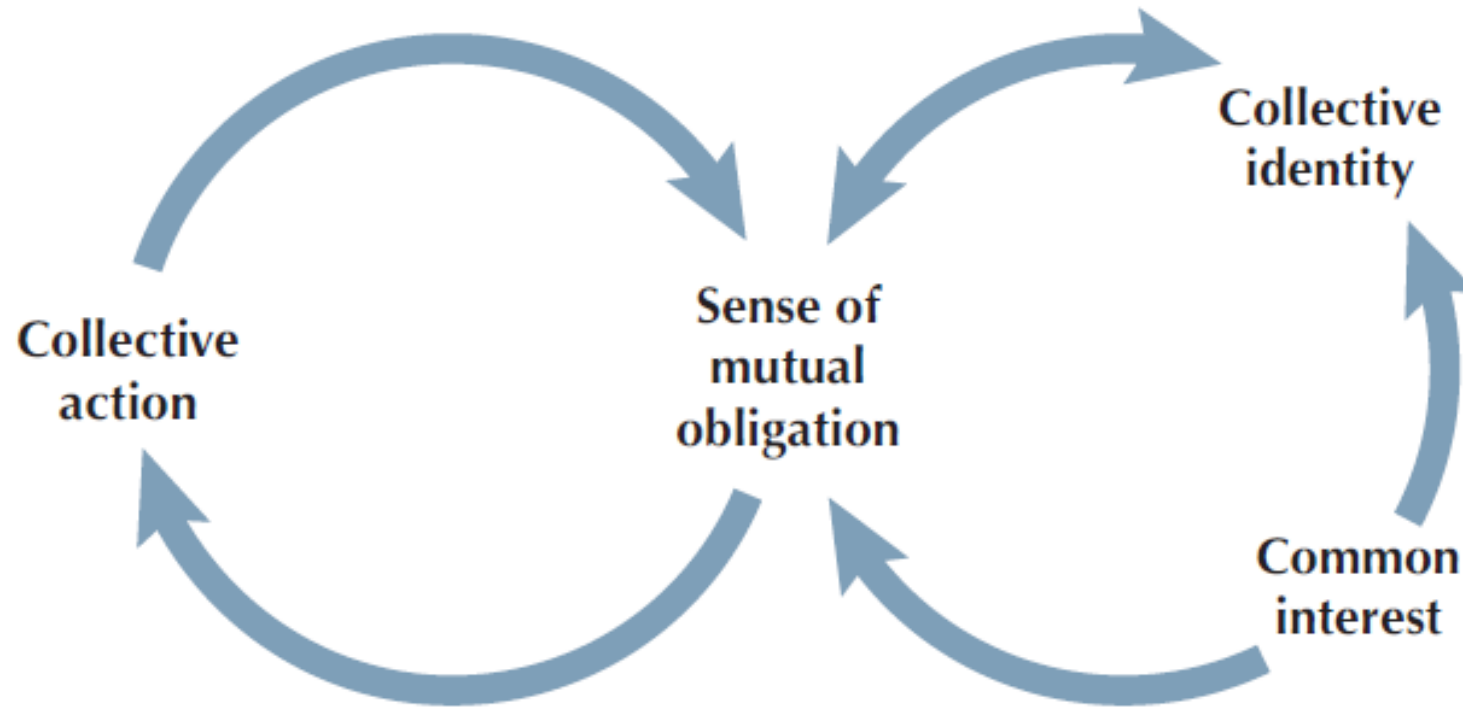
Solidarity

What international development programs can do to enhance the solidarity mechanism.

And what is a mechanism anyway?

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The core elements of the solidarity mechanism

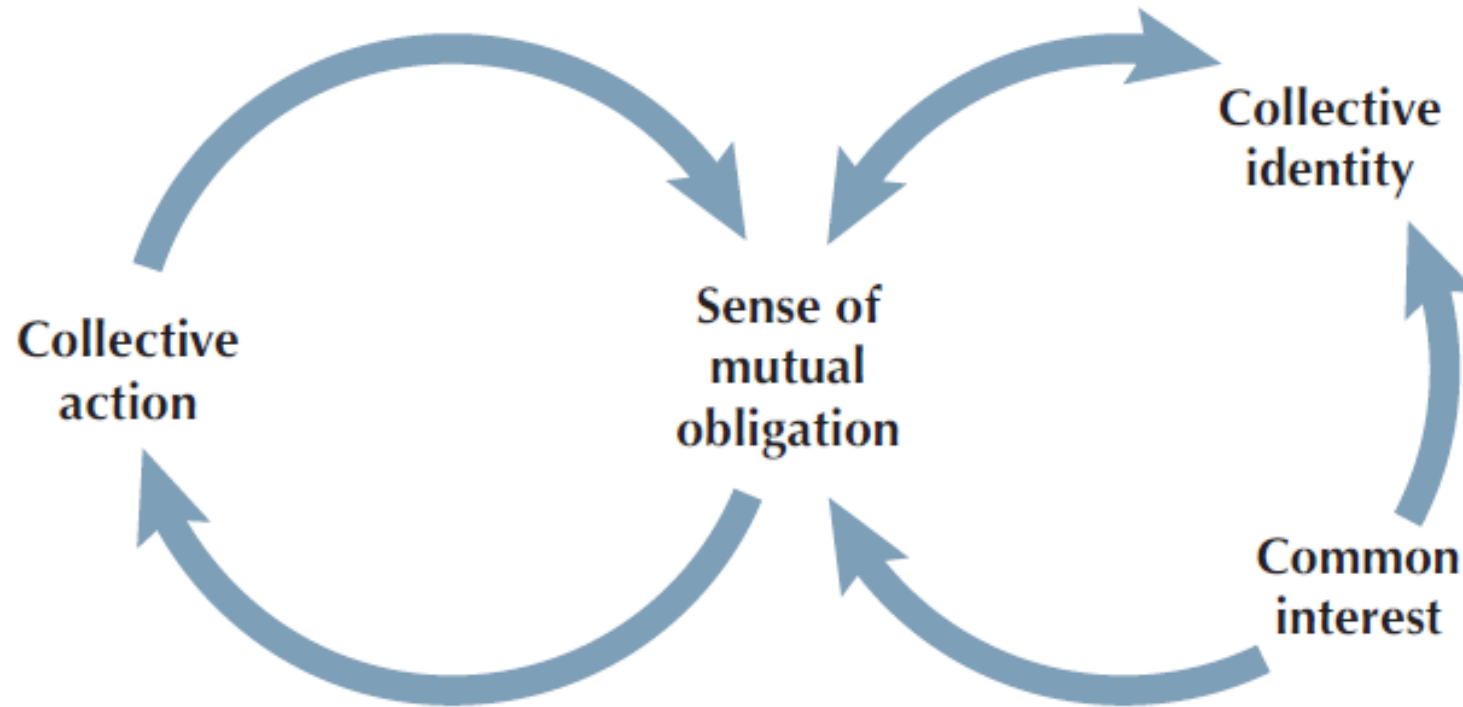


What is a Mechanism?

- (a) the pathway or process by which an effect is produced
- (b) a micro-level (microfoundational) explanation for a causal phenomenon
- (c) a difficult-to-observe causal factor
- (d) an easy-to-observe causal factor
- (e) a context dependent (tightly bounded or middle-range) explanation
- (f) a universal (i.e., highly general) explanation
- (g) an explanation that presumes probabilistic, and perhaps highly contingent, causal relations
- (h) an explanation built on phenomena that exhibit law-like regularities
- (i) a technique of analysis based on qualitative or case study evidence, and/or
- (j) a theory couched in formal mathematical models

Gerring, J. (2010).

The core elements of the solidarity mechanism

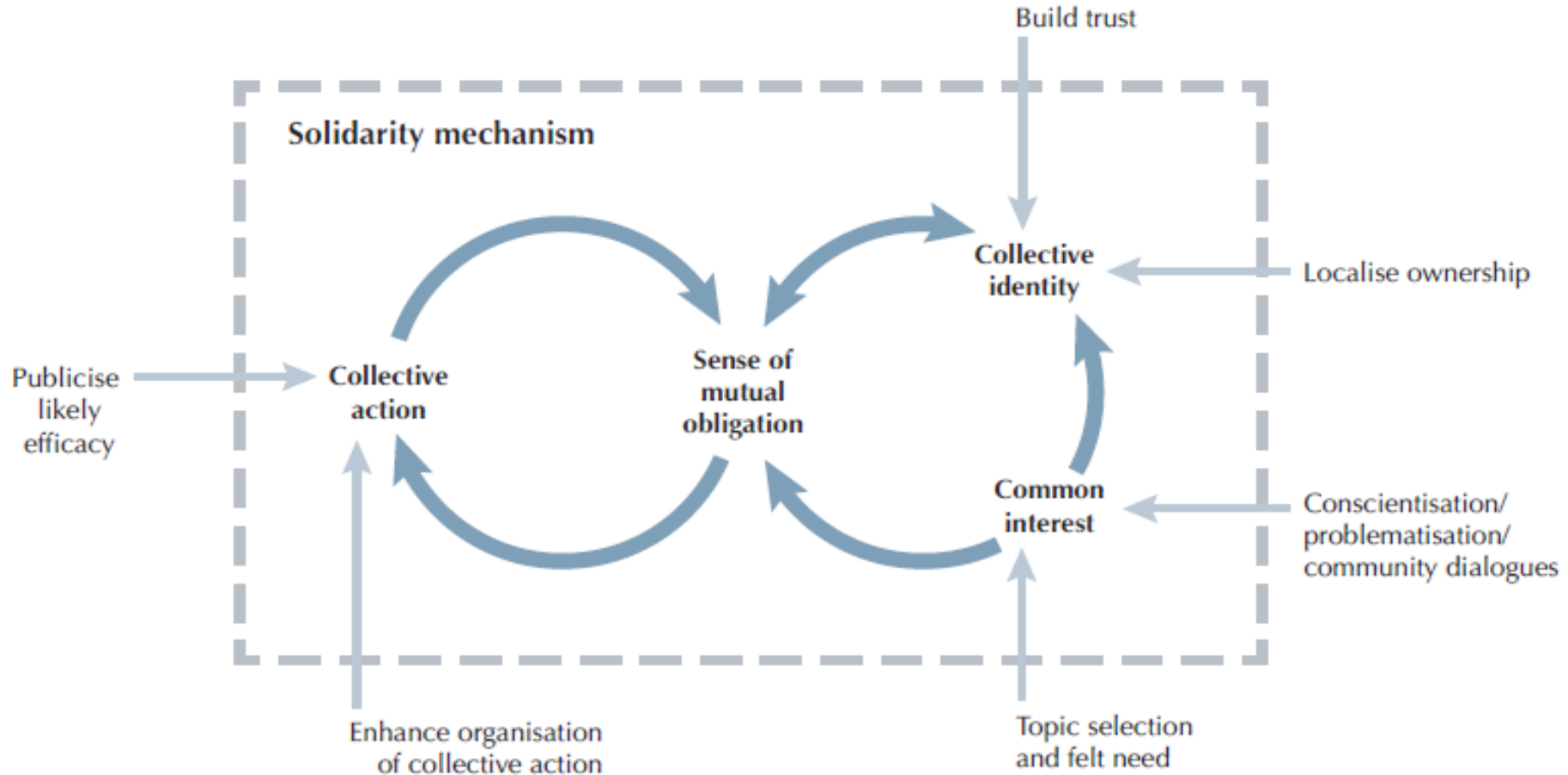


Sonagachi Project

'The Project began in Sonagachi, Kolkata's largest red light district, where an estimated 5000, mainly female, sex workers live and work. Economic poverty and social stigma characterize most sex workers' lives. Their working conditions are controlled by brothel managers (madams), pimps and local men's social clubs. In these unpromising conditions, the Sonagachi Project was initiated, with an HIV prevention remit, in 1992. Peer education was the initial activity of the Project. As it developed, a second wing emerged, which works on community development, intervening to resolve crises and conflicts faced by sex workers, such as disputes with madams, arrests by police, or violent clients. A sex workers' organisation, Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC, which roughly translates as 'Unstoppable Women's United Committee) has been set up, which organises weekly and monthly problem-solving meetings, and promotes sex workers' social and political awareness through critical discussions of the stigma attached to sex work, and the value of collective action.'

(Cornish and Ghosh, 2007, pp. 498-9)

What projects can do to strengthen the solidarity mechanism



Implications for evaluating international development cooperation

Projects are not transferable, but mechanisms are, across similar contexts.

- We need to focus on explanation.
- We need to look through a mechanism lens.

Only then will we be able to understand what works for whom in what circumstances and why.