

The effect of social inclusion and reintegration activities on the presence and quality of social safety nets

Effect: Effects from a small number of studies range from -0.15 to 0.88.

Headline finding: Social inclusion community-driven development interventions and community discussion groups have mostly small effects, though moderate and large effects on a small number of outcomes.

Confidence in cell findings: low on account of small number of studies and high unexplained heterogeneity.

Short summary

Inclusive community driven development interventions have no effect on most measures for social safety nets, though one study finds an effect on women forming their own organization. Community discussion groups also have no effect on relations between women and other community members.

Long summary

The intervention

Social Inclusion and reintegration activities included group-based reintegration efforts for returnees, non-combatants, or displaced populations. This includes community dialogues and reconciliations which draw participants from different sections of a community and create opportunities for exchanging information and perspectives, clarifying viewpoints, and developing solutions to issues of interest to the community. It also includes inclusive community programmes, such as community-driven development (CDD). It does not include reintegration of combatants which is a different intervention sub-category. The evidence in this summary refers to CDD and one case of community discussion groups.

How the intervention is expected to work

The interventions aim to increase the engagement of all groups in a community. By providing opportunities for women to work together these interventions may support the development of safety nets. Further, community dialogues helped the beneficiaries to foster peer support, mentoring and trust building among themselves. The outcomes in this cell are proxy measures for safety nets such as women's ability to associate.

The evidence base

The cell consists of one systematic review, which consisted of 104 studies conducted in 29 fragile and conflict-affected countries. These include two studies of inclusive community driven development, and one of discussion groups, which are relevant to this cell.

Review evidence quoting studies

Two studies assessed the effect of inclusive community-driven development on women's increased movement and association, finding no effect ($g=0.004$). However, one study reported

a large effect on women forming their own organization (g in range from 0.33 to 0.88). The same study assesses the effect of CDD on the relations between women and their household and community members, reporting a range of effects from small positive to negative (g from -0.17 to 0.08).

Discussion groups in Sierra Leone had a moderate, but statistically insignificant effect, on the relations between women and their household and community members (g=0.15, one study).

Confidence Assessment: The review is rated high, but the cell rating is low confidence on account of the small number of studies.

Effect: Effects on a range of proxy measures for safety nets range from negative to large positive effects.

Source: Lwamba (2022)

Lwamba E, Shisler S, Ridlehoover W, Kupfer M, Tshabalala N, Nduku P, Langer L, Grant S, Sonnenfeld A, Anda D, Eyers J, Snilstveit B. Strengthening women's empowerment and gender equality in fragile contexts towards peaceful and inclusive societies: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Campbell Syst Rev.* 2022 Mar 8;18(1):e1214. doi: 10.1002/cl2.1214. PMID: 36913184; PMCID: PMC8904729.