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Dealing with informal institutions can be difficult in a context of weak states with poorly established governance structures. The authors here propose a pragmatic approach in which policies are adapted to local realities and conditions in order to maximise the positive impact on development. Incorporating informal institutions in development strategies will be instrumental in improving development outcomes, including achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Informal Institutions: How Social Norms Help or Hinder Development is based on the conclusions of an international seminar organised by the OECD Development Centre and the Development Assistance Committee held in December 2006.

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