

The Coalition for Human Rights in Development is a global coalition of over 80 social movements, civil society organizations, and grassroots groups working together to advance community-led rights-respecting development. We do so by ensuring that frontline communities have the information, power and resources to determine their own development paths and to hold development finance institutions, governments and other actors accountable for their impacts on people and the planet.

## **Community-led, Rights-respecting Development**

Development should be responsive to the priorities of local communities and should serve to advance the realization of human rights. Unfortunately, too often development decisions are made behind closed doors, without respect for the rights or expertise of local communities or marginalized groups who should be development's primary beneficiaries. Development activities end up fueling human rights abuses and exacerbating inequalities. The Coalition works to change how development is done, so that it is transparent, participatory, grounded in human rights, and accountable to those it is meant to serve.

### **A Global Coalition**

Over the years, communities, indigenous peoples, and civil society organizations have won impressive gains in development and human rights. But too often, we work in isolation – fighting against different institutions and policies, with seemingly different demands and interests. By uniting our efforts, sharing strategies and resources, and coordinating our voices, we can build a global movement to ensure that development funding – wherever it comes from – respects human rights. As the landscape of development finance grows increasingly complex with a multitude of public and private sector players around the globe, we need a coordinated global effort to demand and win accountability.

### **Strategies for Change**

The Coalition works to support our members' advocacy at the local, national, and international levels. We help to bridge different constituencies and to bring new voices to this work, connecting the human rights, development, environment, and social justice arenas, and ensuring that advocacy is informed by and accountable to frontline grassroots communities. The Coalition provides a platform to leverage members' expertise and resources to support common campaigns and advocacy objectives, amplifying the voices of communities and maximizing the individual strengths of member organizations.

### **Key Achievements**



Built a system of community engagement partnerships that have won significant changes in development proposals and projects, decreasing adverse human rights impacts on communities.



United diverse civil society groups behind a common policy platform on human rights due diligence that has secured concrete improvements in policy and practice at key development banks.



Expanded the capacity and amplified the impact of groups around the world to meaningfully engage in development processes and access decisionmakers.

## Facilitating Community-Led Development

Communities should be in the driver's seat when it comes to development processes. The Coalition works to ensure that communities have information on the development proposals that might impact them, as well as the capacity to effectively engage decisionmakers and defend their rights. Through our Community Engagement Partnerships, we connect communities with critical information, technical support, and access to decisionmakers to strengthen and amplify local development struggles and assist communities in articulating their own development plans and strategies.

## Advancing Human Rights Due Diligence

In order to prevent human rights related harms in development activities, banks and governments must be able to identify and effectively manage human rights risks and impacts. The Coalition is pioneering the development of methodologies and tools for incorporating human rights standards and principles within the traditional social and environmental assessment and management frameworks utilized by development actors, and engaging those actors in technical workshops and advocacy to secure uptake of these tools.

## Building National-level Accountability

In much of the world, development decisions are made behind closed doors, without the knowledge or participation of the people who will eventually bear the impacts of those decisions. The Coalition strengthens the capacity of local and national civil society organizations to engage in development issues, and works with them to increase the transparency of development decisionmaking and to hold their governments accountable.

## Safeguarding Defenders in Development

Around the world, communities and civil society groups who attempt to defend their rights in the context of development activities increasingly find themselves under attack. The Coalition's Defenders in Development campaign is working to change the model of development to respect human rights, safeguard defenders and promote an enabling environment for public participation, and to ensure that communities are able to leverage development institutions to prevent harm and secure remedy.

## Strengthening Standards and Accountability at Regional Banks

The African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank both play a critical role in setting development agendas and standards within their respective regions. While both institutions have social and environmental frameworks, too often these standards are ignored. The Coalition is working to boost the capacity and coordination of groups in Latin America and Africa to monitor investments in their regions, to strengthen these institutions' policies and practices to be rights-respecting, and to support communities in holding them accountable.

## Shaping the New Development Bank

The BRICS New Development Bank is one of the newest international development actors and has the potential to chart a different course for development finance, yet the institution suffers from a lack of transparency and meaningful engagement with civil society. The Coalition is coordinating groups across BRICS countries and beyond to engage the NDB and its shareholders to shape NDB policies and lending to be more transparent and accountable.

