

Who we are

The Coalition for Human Rights in Development is a Global South-led coalition of over 100 social movements, civil society organizations, and grassroots groups. We work together to advance community-led, rights-based development, and to hold development finance institutions, corporations and governments accountable for their impacts on peoples and the planet.

The Coalition started in 2013 with a goal to secure human rights commitments at development finance institutions. The World Bank's environmental and social safeguards review was our first target to demand human rights due diligence and broader policy change.

Today, we work through regional and topical working groups, campaigns and initiatives to advance equity, dignity and justice for all, by collaborating with communities who are raising their voices and shaping their own development.

Our members

The Coalition has over 100 members based in around 50 countries. They represent, and work on, a diversity of:



Geographic foci & regions

local, national, regional, international



Constituencies

Indigenous Peoples, women, workers, people with disabilities, and human rights defenders



Sizes

unregistered local organizations, regional networks, international federations, and social movements groups



Strategies

advocacy, campaigning, research, dispute resolution, communications and protection support



Issue areas

transparency, accountability, climate justice, gender, environment, human rights, social protection, privatization, public debt, security, and collective protection



Advocacy targets

development banks, governments, private banks, corporations, responsible investors, United Nations, regional governmental alliances, and Chinese financiers

Our work

The key strategies of the Coalition are to:

- **Collaborate with communities and human rights defenders** to make sure they have the information, protection, power and resources to respond to and shape specific development activities that affect them.
- **Collectively advance policy and systems change work** around development finance and international investments through collaborative research, communications and campaigning.

Our impact

As a result of our collective work:

- We have supported dozens of communities impacted by development projects to engage with development banks and their accountability mechanisms, mobilize against projects, and link with new allies;
- 500 public development banks committed to community-led development, during the Finance in Common summit;
- Several banks (including the World Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank) have committed to protect defenders.

To read more about our collective work and achievements, see our 2021 Annual Report.

The Coalition hosts three workstreams:

1. Community Resource Exchange

The CRE is a system to facilitate collaborations and co-develop strategies with and among communities defending their rights in the context of international investments and development projects.

The CRE works at the direction of communities to coordinate:

- *Linkages with potential allies and collaborators*
- *Exchange of information and resources*
- *Cross-learning among communities*
- *Sustained collaborations and access to small grants*



2. Defenders in Development campaign



The campaign operates as a network of organisations and individuals looking to address risks that human rights defenders (HRDs) face when resisting projects financed by development banks. The campaign is driven by defender voices and mobilizes NGOs and inter-governmental partners globally to advocate for policies and practice changes at development banks.

The main objectives of the campaign are:

- *Equip defenders at risk to challenge development banks on reprisals*
- *Push development banks to take effective action to prevent reprisals*
- *Hold development banks accountable for reprisals*

The campaign includes a gender perspective and the guidance of Indigenous Peoples in its work. The campaign also publishes collaborative research reports related to reprisals in development bank funded projects, such as Uncalculated Risks (2018) and Unhealthy Silence (2021).

3. Regional work

Regional Coordinators in Africa, Asia, and Latin America build power at the regional level with local, national and regional groups by strengthening capacities and coordinating advocacy around development finance and human rights.

Examples of activities include:

- *convening grassroots organizations and allies for capacity exchanges on holding development financiers accountable*
- *convening gatherings to strategize, mobilize and organize campaigns on regional development banks like the African Development Bank and InterAmerican Development Bank;*
- *outreach to potential partners and recruiting them into our mission;*
- *linking with members and partners in other regions to coordinate global learning exchanges, research and advocacy on cross-cutting issues such as the impacts of development finance's Covid-19 response.*



We also co-create and collaboratively implement **communication strategies** that amplify the voices of communities and human rights defenders, and shift the narrative so communities and defenders are seen as experts of development.

Governance

The Coalition is governed by a 12-member Steering Committee representing different geographies, strategies and other types of diversity including race and gender. The various work streams noted above have their own advisory committees and working groups which provide direction for programmatic work.

Coalition secretariat

Collective work is supported by an international secretariat of 12 staff persons working remotely, or hosted in member organisations, across different regions. The secretariat's main role is to connect, coordinate, facilitate, mobilize and organise to advance the Coalition's mission. While the secretariat focuses on the workstreams identified above, it exists to serve members and their work, and also supports members and partners with strategizing and linkages at their request.