

10 ACTIONS

To Prioritize Community Expertise in Development Planning

The Global Advocacy Team (GAT) brings together incredible community organizers from around the world to conduct community-led research involving 945 people across 7 countries. GAT members mobilize their communities to change how development is designed, funded, and implemented. The three-year collective effort, coordinated by the International Accountability Project, culminated in a comprehensive global report featuring local findings and recommendations to realize genuine community-led development planning. Read the report: <https://bit.ly/GAT-Report-2024>

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Reinforce the community's leadership and ownership in development projects

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Promote community-led solutions for genuine social change

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Shift knowledge system to decolonize development and cultivate critical thinking

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Ensure free, prior, and informed consent throughout the development process

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Use community-led development plans as a foundation for government budget preparations

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Align community-led development with environmental and climate justice for future generations

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Respect and integrate indigenous and traditional governance systems

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Prioritize intersectionality in development plans

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Protect safe civic space and prevent danger to the community members

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Stop prioritizing corporate interests in the development decision-making process

1. Reinforce the community's leadership and ownership in development projects

Community-led development practice prioritizes community's meaningful participation and expertise in all decision-making stages to ensure transparent, accountable, and inclusive process. By shaping their development goals, communities can truly become leaders in their own future.

2. Promote community-led solutions for genuine social change

Community-led development empowers marginalized communities to address structural issues, fostering genuine social change that respects their cultures, promotes a healthy environment, and ensures their meaningful participation throughout the process.

3. Ensure free, prior, and informed consent throughout the development process

Development process must begin with collective decision and consent from the community, which should be based on full access to information and comprehensive analysis. The community must retain the right to withdraw their consent.

4. Shift knowledge system to decolonize development and cultivate critical thinking

Community knowledge and data must be recognized as credible in development planning. Local development efforts should be connected to global context, building alliances and solidarity to achieve community-led goals.

5. Use community-led development plans as a foundation for government budget preparations

Community-led development planning integrates community perspectives on resource distribution. Community-led initiatives should be supported by government by providing necessary funding and resources for the creation and implementation of community plans.

6. Align community-led development with environmental and climate justice for future generations

Community-led development practice prioritizes social and environmental welfare and future generations' rights. Indigenous and local knowledge is vital and integrated in climate mitigation and adaptation plans and strategies.

7. Respect and integrate indigenous and traditional governance systems

Indigenous knowledge, traditions, identities, and customary laws are protected and promoted as integral parts of development process while ensuring that indigenous communities are free from any threat of displacement.

8. Prioritize intersectionality in development plans

Community-led development should serve the oppressed, considering intersectional identities and power dynamics. Women's perspectives and voices must be recognized and promoted, ensuring equal opportunities and participation.

9. Protect safe civic space and prevent danger to the community members

Community-led development needs a safe civic space and enabling environment for communities to express their opinions and concerns, and choose the kind of development they need and want without any threat of reprisals.

10. Stop prioritizing corporate interests in the development decision-making process

Development should benefit grassroots communities, not corporations. Community-led platforms must be available to strengthen stakeholder management and decision-making within the development process. Private actors must be accountable for harms caused by development aggression.