

INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITYPROJECT

THE ORGANIZATION

The [International Accountability Project](#) works to ensure all people can shape the decisions that affect their homes, environment and communities.

IAP, an international advocacy organization, wins policy change, boosts local advocacy efforts and supports local activists and communities to access and exchange information on development that affects them. By recognizing and creating openings at influential decision-making spaces, IAP seeks to advance development principles and projects that prioritize human and environmental rights. IAP is recognized for its nimble, thoughtful and inclusive work that fights for community-led expertise and experience to be the center of how development is designed, funded and implemented.

At its core, IAP leverages community-level expertise and experience to reinforce campaigns supporting community-led development. IAP works primarily in two ways.

1. IAP creates technology platforms and training tools to support communities and civil society to monitor and respond to development projects likely to cause human rights and environmental abuses. IAP exchanges expert advice, trainings and materials with communities likely to be affected and civil society groups. When assisting specific frontline struggles, IAP supports the community-led priorities and recommendations directed towards the financial institutions, governments and project proponents connected to the project.
2. IAP identifies the development financial institutions and standard-setting processes with the greatest impact on people's ability to shape their own development and provide remedies when rights are violated. To influence the policy and practice of development, IAP assists communities to gather their own community-led research on their development priorities, their experience in the development process and the potential impacts of development projects to advocate for community-led and evidence-based practices to change how development is designed, funded and implemented.

IAP has 4 programmatic areas.

The Global Advocacy Team

IAP's *Global Advocacy Team Initiative* brings together incredible community organizers to conduct community-led research and mobilize their communities to change how development is designed, funded and implemented. During its first stage, the community-led research and mobilization process in 8 countries led to a report written by the *Global Advocacy Team* and strengthened advocacy campaigns directed at those determining and funding development. The first of its kind, IAP's report *Back to Development -- A Call For What Development Could Be* shows how community-led research on development and human rights can both document abuses and also recommend alternatives in policy and practice. After consulting with the existing members, in the initiative's second stage, the *Global Advocacy Team* will build on its achievements and add new members and a new collective advocacy goal.

Read the latest report: bit.ly/IAP_GAT

Community Action Guides

The people who live in communities affected by forced eviction should play a leadership role in changing the rules of development. Their first-hand experience equips them with perspectives and expertise to create policy solutions and development plans that truly work. IAP, with community organizers, produces *Community Action Guides* for trainers to use locally. The *Community Action Guide* series use straight-forward language and illustrations to open discussions and share proven tactics for advocacy especially towards development finance institutions. The *Community Action Guide* series is creating training and mobilization materials for communities to conduct community-led research and strengthen their campaigns for the development they want.

Read the latest Guide: bit.ly/IAP_Action

Early Warning System

The *Early Warning System* ensures local communities, and the organizations that support them, have verified information about proposed bank-funded projects likely to cause human and environmental rights abuses and clear strategies for advocacy. The project exchanges advice, tools and resources with communities and the local organizations supporting them. The information collected includes critical and accessible information about projects at development-finance institutions and local research for advocacy. It includes the first web-based tool to centralize information on development projects that have the highest likelihood to impact human and environmental rights. In 2016, our team in 5 countries conducted outreach on more than 850 proposed development projects and supported 8 community-led campaigns. *The Early Warning System* exposes trends in development finance by sector, bank, geography and community response.

Review the webpage: rightsindevelopment.org/ews

Coalition for Human Rights in Development

A global coalition of more than 70 social movements, civil society organizations and grassroots groups, the Coalition works to ensure all development finance institutions respect human rights. The Coalition strives to bring more coordination to a global movement led by communities and supported by civil society organizations and people's movements. The Coalition will direct its advocacy towards the most influential development institutions and member governments. IAP is one of the founding members of the Coalition and sits on its Steering Committee.

Learn more: rightsindevelopment.org

THE ROLE OF IAP

IAP believes development should be a process that enables all people to uphold and claim their human and environmental rights, live with dignity and thrive on the land they love. IAP often acts as a bridge to demystify development finance and leverage local advocacy, expertise and experience, as the local communities have prioritized them, to other discussion and decision-making spaces.

“Development” has become a scary word for many communities. They know first-hand or through the experience of others, that development can mean forced evictions, separation of family, communal, and religious ties, and a loss of home, livelihood and identity. Many carry a history of false promises and corruption by government officials as well as ongoing discrimination and abuse.

The organization exists because systems and processes are made to exclude or limit the participation of local communities. This seems particularly true in development and development finance. The organization's work is often very practical – improved tools and training for communities, better information about harmful projects and community-led policy recommendations. Throughout, our local partners lead or are heavily involved in creating this work. IAP feels this approach results in relevant and more useable tools, materials and exchanges and it defines IAP's differential approach. IAP therefore focuses its efforts to support communities who have been or could be impacted by harmful projects created in the name of development. To fight for broader policy change and to amplify local campaigns, IAP counts numerous national, regional and international organizations among our partners. IAP helped assemble them in the Coalition for Human Rights in Development - a network of more than 70 organizations working to secure human and environmental rights in all development.

While IAP reinforces power and capacity at the local level, the organization is uniquely positioned within spaces where the policy and practice of development are debated and decided. Even within civil society itself, many organizations working on development and human and environmental rights have limited capacity to engage directly with communities and local civil society. IAP's approach plays a vital role here and its collaboration with varied organizations and networks, both local and international, is important for local expertise to be heard and followed. Since development finance institutions primarily rely on national governments for development priorities, the local research and recommendations from IAP's initiatives provide insights these institutions often do not have.

IAP has been in a leader in community-led development and human and environmental rights initiatives for more than 13 years. Throughout, IAP's mission continues to support those impacted by development to be leaders in changing how development is designed, funded and implemented.