



# The Movement for Community-led Development



**Who we are:** As organizations committed to the success of the SDGs, we call for enhancing the power and capacity of communities to take charge of their own development.

**A Human Right.** Every human being has the inalienable right to participate in governance. For most of those living in hunger and poverty, this means governance within walking distance. People in power must view people as “active citizens,” not beneficiaries.

**SDG #16** calls for building participatory, effective, accountable institutions “at all levels” – which must start at the level closest to the people.

**A Gender-focused, Transformative Process.** Community-led development is more than participatory projects. It requires a long-term process that empowers citizens and local authorities to transform patriarchal mindsets and take effective action.

**Key Global Challenges.** Four of the biggest challenges in the SDGs – to halt stunting, empower women, achieve *inclusive* economic growth and build climate change resilience – all require integrated and community-led solutions.

**An end in itself.** Community-led development is more than an effective and sustainable *means* to achieve development goals. As expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 29, “Everyone has duties to the community *in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.*” Participatory local governance is the only pathway through which most people will have this opportunity.

## Near term goals:

- **Raise the profile of community-led development** starting with ourselves. We will develop a shared language for the practices and policies that enhance community-led development.
- **Do the analysis.** We will ensure that policy makers include a bottom-up analysis – starting from people – as well as an accurate understanding of the community-level programs and institutions required.
- **Generate, gather and disseminate evidence.** We will build the evidence base for community-led development, and what works to enhance it.
- **Share best practices.** Empowering community-led development is a science, and we will document and share what works.
- **Build the movement.** Community-led development is key to good governance, peace, security, humanitarian response, and economic development. We reach out to all those working to enhance community-led development in these contexts.
- **Advocate for policies and funding.** Communities are often starved for information, skills, voice, and human and financial resources. We support local, national and global advocacy to strengthen communities.
- **Take it to scale.** We will work together to mobilize communities and unleash the greatest and most under-recognized resource for development – people power, particularly the leadership of women and youth.

# Learn more! Join the Movement!

