

LOCAL BY DESIGN



Prototypes Turning
Locally-Led Development
into Action



The Local Leadership Labs prototypes on Locally-Led Development are co-created by the convening partners:

Femme Forte Uganda
Trend Asia
CAPAIDS Uganda

Indonesia untuk Kemanusiaan (IKa)
African Philanthropy Network (APN)
Innovation for Change - East Asia (I4C-EA)

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ABOUT THE LOCAL LEADERSHIP LABS

The Local Leadership Labs, or LLL, is an initiative that strengthens locally rooted civil society by addressing political, technical, and behavioural barriers that limit recognition and resourcing of community-led actors. Grounded in a participatory Theory of Change and aligned with the principles of Locally-Led Development, or LLD, LLL creates inclusive spaces where local groups and powerholders jointly analyse challenges and co-design solutions.

The initiative unfolds in three stages: *Discovery* focuses on identifying and accompanying diverse civil society actors, articulating collective analyses, and catalysing trans-local movements. *Ideation* convenes experimental spaces for transformative dialogue, trust-building, and co-creation of solutions with governments, donors, the private sector, and other stakeholders. *Action* mobilises multi-stakeholder groups to define roles and operationalise the solutions developed.

LLL is a partner-focused initiative that relies on convening partners to anchor these processes and steward collective action. As a result, the convening partners co-created prototypes that others can adapt, replicate, and build on in their own contexts.



ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document presents the prototypes co-created during the convenings, offering practical ways for communities to redesign how power, resources, knowledge, narratives, and global collaboration function in support of Locally-Led Development. Together, they demonstrate how locally driven solutions can strengthen civic infrastructure and shift systems toward community leadership.

Leadership & decision-making: Outlines community-driven governance models that transfer priority-setting and decision-making authority directly to local actors.

Resourcing: Proposes mechanisms that place communities in control of funding flows, allocation processes, and long-term resource stewardship.

Knowledge & learning: Organises and reimagines the systems of education that enable communities to organise, negotiate power, and sustain collective action across networks.

Storytelling: Creates platforms and practices that allow communities to craft and control narratives that influence public imagination and policy.

Global Solutions Lab: Offers globally co-designed models for redistributing power, strengthening shared governance, and enabling long-term collaboration across civil society.



“

It's so necessary to have a safe space in which we are able to share our experiences, also as a way of knowing each other more and learning to amplify our own stories and also each other's.

Anonymous community organisation,
Philippines

**Ensuring that power is exercised
closest to where issues are felt.**

When communities have the power to shape their own priorities and strategies, governing institutions are forced to reflect real needs in public systems, rather than external assumptions. Responsiveness and accountability become responsibilities and not requests.

A shift to a locally designed leadership framework builds civic cultures where participation is normalised and leadership is shared. At a societal level, community-anchored decision-making creates more resilient systems capable of adapting to crises, negotiating conflict, and sustaining long-term change. It also redistributes influence across social groups, enabling those historically excluded to shape public life and contribute to collective problem-solving.

This chapter draws real-world connections to Locally-Led Development by showing how community-rooted leadership models emerge from lived realities and translate into practical governance structures.

**Prototypes
in this section**



EmpowerNet, *Innovation for Change-East Asia*



Putting Last-mile Actors at the Wheel of Uganda's Locally-Led Development, *CAPAIDS Uganda*

EmpowerNet

EmpowerNet tackles the structural under-resourcing, weak networks, and missing capacity support faced by community leaders. This is a regional learning architecture built around the Community Leaders' Learning Institute, or CLLI – a Community of Practice, or COP, that ran from January to November 2025.

CLLI ran in parallel with the Narrative Builders' Community of Practice, or NBCOP, which produced the AMPLIFY prototype (pp. 29-30). Both prototypes were anchored in constraints, such as aid cuts in 2025, civic space restrictions, surveillance, burnout, and the long-running problem of intermediary organisations speaking for communities rather than alongside them.

Infrastructure Outputs

- Interconnected grassroots leadership networks
- Locally-owned resources
- Sustained community-led movements
- Cross-border solidarity ecosystems

How they built it together

CLLI brought together community leaders from nine countries working across agriculture, youth, LGBTQIA+ rights, digital rights, democracy, mental health, and environment. Together with NBCOP, CLLI evolved directly from Discovery phase exchanges rather than from pre-designed thematic templates. The most significant convergence emerged when the two COPs were brought into direct dialogue: communication is not a secondary skill for movements but a structural requirement for organising, protection, and legitimacy.

Why it matters

Across the region, local leaders organise under pressures the resourcing ecosystem rarely acknowledges—intermediary-driven funding, extractive storytelling, shrinking civic space, and widening generational divides around care and mobilisation. Innovation for Change - East Asia built the COPs to surface these tensions rather than flatten them. EmpowerNet argues that resources, partnerships, and capacity development must flow directly to community leaders and grassroots groups, especially amid the 2025 aid cuts. Alongside the AMPLIFY prototype, it shows that sustainability depends on integrating mental health, well-being, and trust into how organising happens.

What it does

- Builds community-led leadership ecosystems (not just training).
- Connects leaders to resources, partnerships, and alliances.
- Embeds peer learning and solidarity networks.
- Strengthens movement sustainability capacities.

THIS IS

- ✔ Leadership as infrastructure
- ✘ Leadership training programme
- ✔ Ecosystem-building for movements
- ✘ Capacity-building workshops
- ✔ Power redistribution to grassroots actors

Co-created by Southeast Asian
convening partner



Putting Last-mile Actors at the Wheel of Uganda's Locally-Led Development

This prototype operates at two levels: a national participation infrastructure and community-level solutions generated within it. Co-convenors across 10 districts and three cities supported communities to identify priorities, analyse root causes, and design testable responses, most commonly healthcare access.

Prototypes include community-led accountability systems, school improvement efforts, disability-inclusive economic approaches, and responses to teenage pregnancy and domestic violence. The QuAM Plus Platform exemplifies this shift, placing locally governed, digitally enabled, donor-aligned quality assurance directly in the hands of last-mile actors.

Infrastructure Outputs

- Locally led solutions across sectors
- Policy-influencing evidence and models
- Strong local leadership consortia
- Collaboration platforms between communities, state, and funders

How they built it together

The Discovery phase moved through seven regional clusters across Uganda, engaging 130+ actors. Donors and diplomatic actors joined listening spaces as participants, not passive funders. Separate spaces for disability actors, human rights defenders, faith-based actors, and cultural leaders reflected that meaningful inclusivity required separation rather than aggregation. By mid-2025, 14 co-convenors assumed local leadership of the Ideation phase, each stewarding about USD 1,000 for community co-creation, with CAPAIDS providing technical backstopping without leading content.

Why it matters

Local organisations in Uganda have long been treated as informants, excluded from policy and budget spaces while navigating fragmented registration, high compliance costs, shrinking civic space, and chronic underfunding. CAPAIDS tested whether shifting power and resources to local actors could yield a more honest, durable model. The prototype shows structural change: communities define problems accurately, officials commit in real time, and co-convenors now propose a Local Leadership Consortium to sustain the model.

What it does

- Builds trust through large-scale participatory strategising.
- Facilitates structured co-creation and systems analysis.
- Supports community-led prototyping and action.
- Forms local leadership consortia for implementation.

THIS IS

- ✓ A national co-creation infrastructure
- ✗ A participatory workshop series
- ✓ A continuous systems innovation platform
- ✗ A community consultation process
- ✓ A power-shifting mechanism

Co-created by Ugandan convening partner



PROTOTYPES ON RESOURCING

Reframing resourcing as relational and political, rather than transactional.

Community-focused resourcing centres local assets, shared stewardship, and community-defined priorities, which help reduce dependency on external funding cycles and strengthen long-term sustainability.

By building economic resilience and aligning resource flows with community needs and values, locally led resourcing can encourage solidarity economies, strengthen domestic philanthropy, and push institutions to invest in locally defined solutions. These shifts contribute to more equitable resource distribution and a civic ecosystem capable of sustaining movements over generations.

This chapter connects these ideas to real-world practice by showing how local communities reshape how resources move through society.

Prototypes in this section



The Philanthropy Hub



Akar Daya: Rebuilding Civil Society from the Roots of Power

The Philanthropy Hub

The Philanthropy Hub transforms fragmented resourcing into locally rooted funding ecosystems, building domestic philanthropy strategies, supporting donor mapping and advocacy, and strengthening local fundraising capacity.

This prototype was created alongside the *Knowledge Infrastructure* prototype (pp. 23-24).

Infrastructure Outputs

- Domestic philanthropy ecosystems
- Locally-led funding mechanisms
- Sustainable resourcing
- Stronger advocacy for meaningful and transformative resourcing

How they built it together

A two-day workshop in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, in December 2024 convened 17 member organisations and surfaced two critical priorities: community philanthropy and enabling environments for charitable status. APN commissioned a Discussion Paper on Charitable Status from the Tanganyika Law Society, which fed into a high-level forum on 18 June 2025, bringing together 30 representatives from civil society organisations, TRA officials, legal experts, and philanthropy actors. TRA officials acknowledged the challenges CSOs face and expressed commitment to exploring practical reforms. A community of practice has been established for ongoing CSO-TRA engagement.

Why it matters

APN’s mission is to reclaim and elevate the power of African philanthropic practices as a fundamental expression of civic participation and solidarity. Its two prototypes addressed twin problems: fragmented knowledge within the membership network, and fragmented resourcing ecosystems that kept communities dependent on external funding and excluded from shaping philanthropy systems. Between September 2024 and November 2025, APN engaged more than 17 partner groups across Tanzania, establishing communities of practice for member organisations to define priorities, share knowledge, and co-design solutions.

What it does

- Facilitates co-creation labs for ecosystem actors.
- Builds domestic philanthropy strategies.
- Supports donor mapping and advocacy.
- Strengthens local fundraising capacity.

THIS IS

- ✔ Philanthropy system transformation
- ✘ Fundraising support programme
- ✔ Ecosystem-level resourcing strategy
- ✘ Donor coordination platform
- ✔ Locally-led and locally-owned resources

Co-created by Southeast African convening partner



African Philanthropy Network
THE VOICE AND ACTION FOR AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY

Akar Daya: Rebuilding Civil Society from the Roots of Power

This prototype is anchored in the essence of *Akar Daya*, meaning roots of power. This prototype provides a transformative resourcing framework that begins from what communities already hold rather than what they lack.

Akar Daya is not only a metaphor for rootedness; it is also symbolised through the image of tree roots: unseen yet sustaining and interconnected beneath the surface, drawing nourishment from memory, relationships, and place. In this context, the roots represent the hidden systems that allow collective life to endure, adapt, and regenerate. This metaphor also contextually shapes *Keswadayaan* — a relational form of collective self-reliance grounded in interdependence, ecological connection, and the capacity to grow from what is already rooted within communities.

Infrastructure Outputs

- Functioning solidarity and relational economies
- Reduced dependency on externally defined funding priorities
- Stronger, self-sustaining civil society ecosystems rooted in local leadership
- Expanded ecosystem understanding of what constitutes “resources” and sustainability

How they built it together

The process begins with a close reading of each community’s geographical, social, political, historical, and cultural context, including the power relations shaping daily life and collective action. Communities moved through three orientations: starting from existing strengths, grounding action in local priorities, and ensuring feasibility while aiming for autonomy. Rather than imposing a blueprint, Akar Daya surfaces forgotten capacities, historical resilience, and relational infrastructures—mirroring IKA’s view of roots as living systems that connect, nourish, and regenerate across time.

Why it matters

It addresses structural pressures facing Indonesian civil society, where communities navigate shrinking civic space, surveillance, unresolved violence, and funding systems that cast them as recipients of short-cycle, externally defined support. Akar Daya interrupts this by starting from what communities already hold—land, knowledge, networks, cultural memory, caregiving, trust, endurance—and by treating emotional safety and healing as structural conditions. It argues communities must first strengthen their own ground so external resources reinforce autonomy rather than dependency.

What it does

- Supports communities to move according to their own readiness, pacing, and locally defined priorities.
- Activates community-held resources, knowledge, and collective capacities.
- Enables peer learning, cross-community exchange, and solidarity-building.
- Creates regenerative spaces for reflection, learning, and accompaniment.
- Connects intergenerational knowledge, healing, and collective organising.

THIS IS

- ✔ Long-term autonomy and regenerative community systems
- ✘ Supplement to external donor funding
- ✔ Resourcing as political and relational power
- ✘ Top-down capacity-building programme
- ✔ Economic and solidarity infrastructure for movements

Co-created by Indonesian convening partner



“

This is the first time an NGO has consulted us on our issues. We are very grateful [for] this approach. Usually, they only come to fix our problems and disappear.

Kakungu Village,
Uganda



Recognising community expertise as a strategic asset shaped by lived experience, context, and collective memory.

Organising and sharing community knowledge can strengthen policy design, improve programme relevance, and challenge dominant narratives about who holds expertise, creating more grounded and effective social systems.

Community-driven learning fosters cross-movement collaboration, accelerates innovation, and builds collective intelligence across regions and sectors. These systems help societies adapt to emerging challenges by ensuring that learning is continuous, participatory, and rooted in real-world contexts.

This chapter shows how local communities can transform everyday knowledge into structured learning systems and make learning a shared societal resource.

**Prototypes
in this section**



Knowledge Infrastructure



Joint Action Platform:
Expanding the Circle of Civil Society



Structural Legal Aid Education:
Communities as Paralegals

Knowledge Infrastructure

This prototype is a knowledge management system that aims to curate the institutional knowledge of the African Philanthropy Network, or APN, into an accessible, living library for members.

The *Knowledge Infrastructure* prototype was created alongside *The Philanthropy Hub* prototype (pp. 13-14).

Infrastructure Outputs

- Replicable locally-led models
- Shared tools and methodologies
- Stronger cross-country learning ecosystems

How they built it together

A two-day workshop in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, in December 2024 convened 17 member organisations and surfaced two critical priorities: community philanthropy and enabling environments for charitable status. APN commissioned a Discussion Paper on Charitable Status from the Tanganyika Law Society, which fed into a high-level forum on 18 June 2025, bringing together 30 representatives from civil society organisations, TRA officials, legal experts, and philanthropy actors. TRA officials acknowledged the challenges CSOs face and expressed commitment to exploring practical reforms. A community of practice has been established for ongoing CSO-TRA engagement.

Why it matters

APN’s mission is to reclaim and elevate the power of African philanthropic practices as a fundamental expression of civic participation and solidarity. Its two prototypes addressed twin problems: fragmented knowledge within the membership network, and fragmented resourcing ecosystems that kept communities dependent on external funding and excluded from shaping philanthropy systems. Between September 2024 and November 2025, APN engaged more than 17 partner groups across Tanzania, establishing communities of practice for member organisations to define priorities, share knowledge, and co-design solutions.

What it does

- Curates and structures movement knowledge into a living system
- Enables peer learning and replication
- Connects knowledge to practice and strategy
- Supports cross-network intelligence sharing

THIS IS

- ✔ Knowledge as infrastructure
- ✘ Knowledge repository
- ✔ Collective intelligence for movements
- ✘ Documentation platform
- ✔ Learning as a driver of systems change

Co-created by Southeast African convening partner



African Philanthropy Network
THE VOICE AND ACTION FOR AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY

Joint Action Platform: Expanding the Circle of Civil Society

The *Joint Action Platform* prototype is a network of diverse actors committed to unified advocacy and cross-learning. Pre- and post-assessments of the defining Equip Circle showed a 25% improvement in participants’ knowledge of advocacy frameworks, coalition-building, and stakeholder engagement.

Beyond the measurable gains, the relational shifts were the more significant outcome: stigma gave way to solidarity, and participants who had previously felt invisible began taking up leadership roles in follow-up initiatives. An unintended but transformative outcome of the Local Leadership Labs period was Femme Forte’s knowledge management overhaul: the organisation fundamentally changed how it catalogues inputs, outputs, learning, and archived material.

Infrastructure Outputs

- Emerging inclusive civil society ecosystem that integrates formal and non-traditional actors
- Joint Action Platform for cross-sector advocacy and collaboration
- Participatory facilitation and co-design methodology
- Trauma-informed and confidentiality-protected engagement system
- Strengthened leadership pathways for previously invisible or stigmatised groups
- Replicable model for coalition-building in high-risk civic space environments

How they built it together

Femme Forte convened a Joint Action Equip Circle on Strengthening Civil Society through Unified Collaborations, bringing together 23 participants using dialogue mapping, storytelling, and co-design tools. Given legal risks under the Anti-Homosexuality Act, they ensured strict confidentiality, controlled access, and trauma-informed facilitation with co-created ground rules. Internally, Femme Forte institutionalised weekly BlueSky Friday learning sessions for reflection, adaptation, and feminist care—now a standing organisational practice.

Why it matters

Femme Forte entered the Local Leadership Labs amid a deeply fragmented civic landscape. Traditional organisations worked in silos while marginalised actors—market women, refugee-led groups, sex worker-led organisations, LBQ collectives—were rarely recognised as part of the ecosystem. Femme Forte set out to redefine civil society in practice, rebuilding trust among long-sidelined actors within a legal environment that actively threatened their participation.

What it does

- Builds a joint action platform for unified advocacy and cross-learning among diverse civil society actors.
- Enables relational transformation where stigma is replaced by trust, solidarity, and leadership emergence.
- Embeds reflective organisational learning and improves knowledge management systems.
- Integrates trauma-informed and confidentiality-centred facilitation in high-risk legal contexts.

THIS IS

- ✔ A relational infrastructure for solidarity-based civil society organising
- ✘ A traditional NGO coordination network
- ✔ A feminist, care-centred approach to movement building and learning
- ✘ A hierarchical or externally driven coalition model

Co-created by Ugandan convening partner



Structural Legal Aid Education: Communities as Paralegals

This reimagines legal aid as a community-led infrastructure for advancing self-determination. Rather than reactive professional support, it equips grassroots communities to analyse power, understand how law operates structurally against them, and design collective strategies for resistance.

By late 2025, Cianjur communities organised across districts to demand environmental commitments, prompting the mayor to recognise their action as public supervision. Their legal consciousness, advocacy, and cross-district organising are the prototype—capacities and networks that generate genuine impact.

Infrastructure Outputs

- Cross-district community organising networks
- Locally-led paralegal and community leadership capacities
- Collective governance and ownership model for community-led legal education
- Replicable prototype framework for communities facing displacement and structural oppression

How they built it together

The co-design process brought together Trend Asia colleagues working in law and social welfare—expertise not previously combined—and tested the emerging approach with communities across 25 loci in West Java. Age gaps, educational differences, and multiple vernacular languages required iterative adaptation, producing modules that move from structural analysis to power mapping, legal literacy, community organising, and narrative-building. Ownership was explicit from the start: this was not centralised work, but a collectively owned prototype applicable to communities.

Why it matters

Trend Asia works with communities facing displacement from large-scale development projects including geothermal energy plants. Their starting point was that law has long been seen as something owned by intellectuals, and legal aid as a reactive service communities receive rather than a power they hold. The prototype was built around a different premise: that communities experiencing structural oppression have the right and capacity to understand and act on the law themselves.

What it does

- Develops collective legal consciousness by helping communities analyse how power and law operate structurally against them.
- Builds community-led legal education systems that enable communities to understand, use, and shape legal strategies themselves.

THIS IS

- ✔ Political education + legal strategy
- ✘ Legal awareness training
- ✔ Movement infrastructure building
- ✘ Know-your-rights workshops
- ✔ Leadership development system

Co-created by Indonesian convening partner



PROTOTYPES ON STORYTELLING

Shifting narrative power to communities who have long been spoken for

When people control their own stories, public discourse becomes more accurate, inclusive, and reflective of diverse realities. This strengthens movements by aligning public understanding with lived experience.

Community-driven storytelling can build empathy, mobilise allies, and challenge harmful stereotypes that limit civic participation. It can also strengthen democratic culture by ensuring that public narratives are shaped by many voices, not just those with institutional power.

This chapter shows how local communities can truly build storytelling systems rooted in their own contexts.

Prototype in this section



AMPLIFY

AMPLIFY

A narrative strategy built on mapping audiences, distributing roles, and forming alliances so communities can reach the right people on their own terms. This is a regional learning architecture built around the Narrative Builders' Community of Practice, or NBCOP – a Community of Practice, or COP, that ran from January to November 2025.

NBCOP ran in parallel with the Community Leaders' Learning Institute, or CLLI, which produced the EmpowerNet prototype (pp. 7-8). Both prototypes were anchored in constraints, such as aid cuts in 2025, civic space restrictions, surveillance, burnout, and the long-running problem of intermediary organisations speaking for communities rather than alongside them.

Infrastructure Outputs

- Narrative ecosystems led by communities
- Increased influence over media and policy debates
- Stronger alignment between movements and public narratives

How they built it together

NBCOP brought together young leaders from eight countries working on LGBTQIA+ rights, arts and culture, media, human rights, and environmental issues. Together with CLLI, NBCOP evolved directly from Discovery phase exchanges rather than from pre-designed thematic templates. The most significant convergence emerged when the two COPs were brought into direct dialogue: communication is not a secondary skill for movements but a structural requirement for organising, protection, and legitimacy.

Why it matters

Local leaders across the region navigate intermediary-controlled funding, extractive storytelling, surveillance risks, and generational divides around care and mobilisation. The COPs were created to hold these tensions rather than reduce them to a template. AMPLIFY asserts that narrative power must remain with those living the story, requiring intermediaries—including I4C-EA—to step back rather than speak for communities. In parallel with EMPOWERNET, it highlights that movement sustainability increasingly relies on embedding mental health, well-being, and trust-building into everyday organising.

What it does

- Builds community-owned storytelling ecosystems.
- Maps audiences.
- Enables collaborative narrative production.
- Creates platforms for narrative dissemination.

THIS IS

- ✔ Storytelling as infrastructure for influence
- ✘ Storytelling for visibility
- ✔ Narrative as political strategy
- ✘ Communications training
- ✔ Community control over discourse

Co-created by
Southeast Asia convening partner



PROTOTYPES FROM THE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS LAB

Rethinking collaboration by addressing structural imbalances in power, access, and voice

The Global Solutions Lab created spaces where communities, funders, and organisations were able to engage as peers, strengthening trust and enabling more equitable partnerships. This is the kind of relationship that contributes to a global civic ecosystem that is more coherent, inclusive, and aligned with local realities.

The Global Solutions Lab's approaches support more participatory global decision-making and amplify community leadership in international processes. They help ensure that global solutions are grounded in lived experience rather than imposed from above.

This chapter illustrates how LLD principles can become actionable frameworks that reshape how societies coordinate across borders.

Prototype in this section



Coalition Hub



The Dialogue



Community-led Pooled Fund

How they built it together

All the prototypes were co-created during the Global Solutions Lab through collaborative strategy sessions, ecosystem mapping, and problem-solving exercises involving civil society actors, donor representatives, innovators, and community philanthropic actors. Participants identified coordination challenges across the sector and collectively explored how shared infrastructure, innovative resourcing methods, and conversations could support more meaningful and transformative resourcing ecosystem.

Coalition Hub

A central engine for resource mobilisation and collaboration within civil society. It aims to reduce dependence on traditional, restricted funding models and empower communities by leveraging both cash and non-cash resources.

Infrastructure Outputs

- Shared resource mobilisation framework
- Collaborative infrastructure model for cash and non-cash contributions
- Partnership and solidarity mechanisms
- Initial operational pathways for innovative resourcing models

Why it matters

Many civil society organisations continue to operate within funding systems that are highly restricted, competitive, and dependent on a small number of funders. These dynamics can limit sustainability and weaken movement solidarity. Coalition Hub responds to this challenge by helping communities unlock a broader range of resources and relationships, creating more resilient and interconnected ecosystems.

What it does

- Helps organisations access and exchange resources beyond traditional grantmaking. This includes financial contributions, skills, expertise, networks, technology, communications support, and other forms of solidarity-based resourcing.

THIS IS

- ✔ Central engine for resource mobilisation and collaboration
- ✘ Traditional intermediary fund
- ✘ Top-down donor platform
- ✘ Replacement of community leadership

The Dialogue

An open, inclusive platform where funders and civil society organisations at local, regional, and international levels can engage in meaningful exchange, overcome systemic barriers related to language, access, and culture, and co-create strategies grounded in solidarity.

Infrastructure Outputs

- Multi-stakeholder dialogue framework
- Participation and accessibility principles
- Cross-sector engagement mechanisms
- Initial roadmap for collaborative, innovative convenings and co-creation processes

Why it matters

Challenges facing civil society are not only financial. They are also shaped by structural inequalities that influence who has access to resources, whose knowledge is valued, and who gets to shape priorities. The Dialogue matters because it creates conditions for more meaningful participation and helps shift relationships from extractive dynamics toward transformative partnership.

What it does

- Creates space for meaningful exchange across local, regional, and international actors. It supports conversations about power, access, language, culture, and decision-making in philanthropy and civil society resourcing. Through ongoing engagement, participants co-create strategies and practices grounded in solidarity, trust, and shared responsibility.

THIS IS

- ✔ Collaborative process focused on transforming relationships and systems
- ✘ A one-off convening, consultation exercise
- ✘ A funder-led discussion space

Community-led Pooled Fund

A grantmaking model that centres governance and funding decisions within local communities. It seeks to redistribute power in philanthropy by supporting shared, community-led stewardship of resources.

Infrastructure Outputs

- Governance and accountability design considerations
- Draft operational blueprint for pooled funding mechanisms
- Criteria for community-led participation and stewardship

Why it matters

Traditional funding systems often concentrate power away from the communities most affected by social and political challenges. This can create disconnects between funding priorities and lived realities on the ground. The Community-Led Pooled Fund matters because it seeks to place decision-making closer to communities, strengthen accountability, and foster more meaningful and transformative approaches to resourcing.

What it does

- Creates mechanisms through which communities can collectively shape funding priorities, governance structures, and allocation processes.

THIS IS

- ✔ Mechanisms through which communities can collectively shape funding priorities, governance structures, and allocation processes
- ✘ A conventional intermediary funding mechanism
- ✘ An extractive grantmaking structure

Initials & Acronyms

APN	African Philanthropy Network
CLLI	Community Leaders' Learning Institute
COP	Community/Communities of Practice
CSO	Civil society organisations
I4C-EA	Innovation for Change - East Asia
IKa	Indonesia Untuk Kemanusiaan
LLL	Local Leadership Labs
LLD	Locally-Led Development
NBCOP	Narrative Builders' Community of Practice
TRA	Tanzania Revenue Authority

Other Resources



Local Leadership Labs Learning Journey (2023-2026)

Explore what happened, what shifted, and what the evidence says matters for the future of Locally-Led Development.

web.civicus.org/LLL-LearningJourney



"The Dialogue" Toolkit

Learn more about the prototype that emerged from the Global Solutions Lab.

web.civicus.org/LLL-TheDialogue