



An Introduction to the Impact Development Model

The Guiding Principles of the Collaborative Development Model

Development is a collective responsibility.

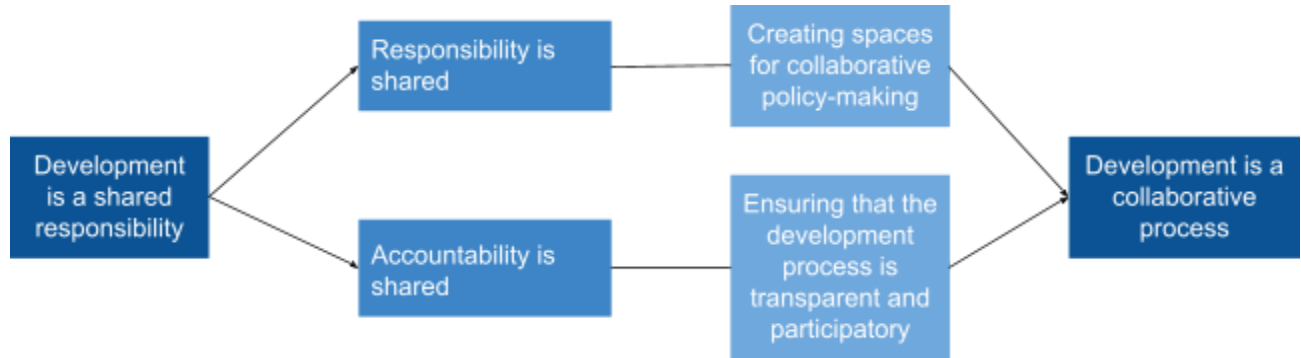
In a development model where the responsibility for development falls on national and international institutions, policy deliberation and decisions flow from national and international institutions to civil society. In this top-down approach, effective forms of civil engagement are limited to political advocacy where advocacy groups and non-governmental organizations must appeal to mostly centralized decision-making institutions for desired development policies.

Impact for Development proposes that **development is a collective responsibility** shared by government institutions, civil society, and non-governmental organizations alike. In this model, development is achieved within and through an ecosystem of (1) *shared responsibility* and (2) *shared accountability* between different actors.

- (1) IFD works to build an environment of *shared responsibility* by **creating digital and physical spaces that facilitate and encourage engagement** between civil society, local organizations, and national actors for the deliberation and implementation of development policies that respond to the needs of citizens.
- (2) IFD works to build an environment of *shared accountability* by **implementing an Open Governance Approach to development**. An Open Approach to development implements a process that is transparent, collaborative, and participatory. Actors hold themselves and others accountable through transparency in budgeting, financing, and decision-making.

Therefore, development is a collaborative process.

If civil society, organizations, and institutions are engaged in development and share the responsibility for it, then the process of development must be collaborative. The IFD model aims to create collaboration between different actors in the ecosystem for the deliberations and implementation of development policies that respond to the needs of civilians. IFD systemically facilitates collaborative development by (1) operating on the local level, (2) fostering and utilizing collective intelligence, (3) using technology and digitization, and (4) grounding processes in scientific method and inquiry. IFD's model for collaborative development is guided by these four tenants.



The Impact Development Model’s guiding principles are:

1. Development policies are local and context-based.

For development processes to be collaborative, they must not be prescriptive. Social, economic, and development issues and their prioritization in relation to one another are context-specific. Civil society and the organizations that work closely with them are best equipped to identify, prioritize, and solve localized development issues. **IFD takes a bottom-up approach to defining development problems and to developing their solutions.**

2. Development policies are optimized by fostering and utilizing collective intelligence.

The utilization of collective intelligence as a development tool follows from an admission of the importance of a local and bottom-up approach. If problems are best defined locally then they are best solved locally as well.

IFD uses (1) the creation of digital and physical spaces of shared responsibility and (2) open governance processes for shared accountability as **non-prescriptive tools** to facilitate collaboration between local level civil society/organizations and decision-making bodies. Considering the context-specific nature of development issues, IFD’s model operates on the local level to create spaces for collaboration between civil society and government institutions while ensuring that this collaboration is transparent and participative. This model ensures that IFD is not prescribing issues or solutions to localities, but facilitating collaboration between different actors to define their issues and innovate solutions.

Non-prescriptive development tools facilitate the development of local, political, social, and economic innovations. They ensure that the vocabulary of the development process is accessible and familiar and that the development process itself is intrinsic to the locality. This cultivates a sense of shared responsibility which is integral to a collaborative development process.



3. Technology is a valuable tool for fostering collective intelligence and localizing development issues.

Technology can be utilized to foster collective intelligence, define localized development issues, and develop their solutions. Digital platforms can be used to create spaces for collaboration and to manage accountability between different stakeholders. Further, digital platforms and technology can allow for a more efficient collaboration based on a larger capacity for data collection and analysis.

4. Development processes must be constantly revised and assessed based on their scientific ability to create impactful results.

IFD's model grounds development processes in a scientific methodological approach. **Both the development solutions and the development process itself must be assessed on its impact by a scientific method of inquiry.** A non-prescriptive collaborative approach to development must aspire to be as objective as possible to ensure that the process is malleable and adaptable to different localities and different issues.