

Supporting Values-based Holistic Community-led Development: an Evidence and Learning Initiative of the Full Spectrum Coalition

There is a way to achieve people-led holistic development that empowers communities to live meaningful lives in sustainable ways.
Learn with us how, and join us to spread the word.

Vision & Intended Outcomes

The Full Spectrum Coalition (FSC) envisions a world of thriving people and thriving places where community leaders, local collectives, and grassroots organizations lead sustained, multidimensional impact, supported by partnerships that elevate their visions, values, and potential.

The FSC creates new partnership opportunities, generates innovative scientific understanding of how Holistic Community-led Development (HCLD) works, and informs better decision-making by funders, practitioners and policymakers. It thus contributes to the civil movement that seeks to uplift HCLD as a powerful, ethical, and sustainable approach to development.

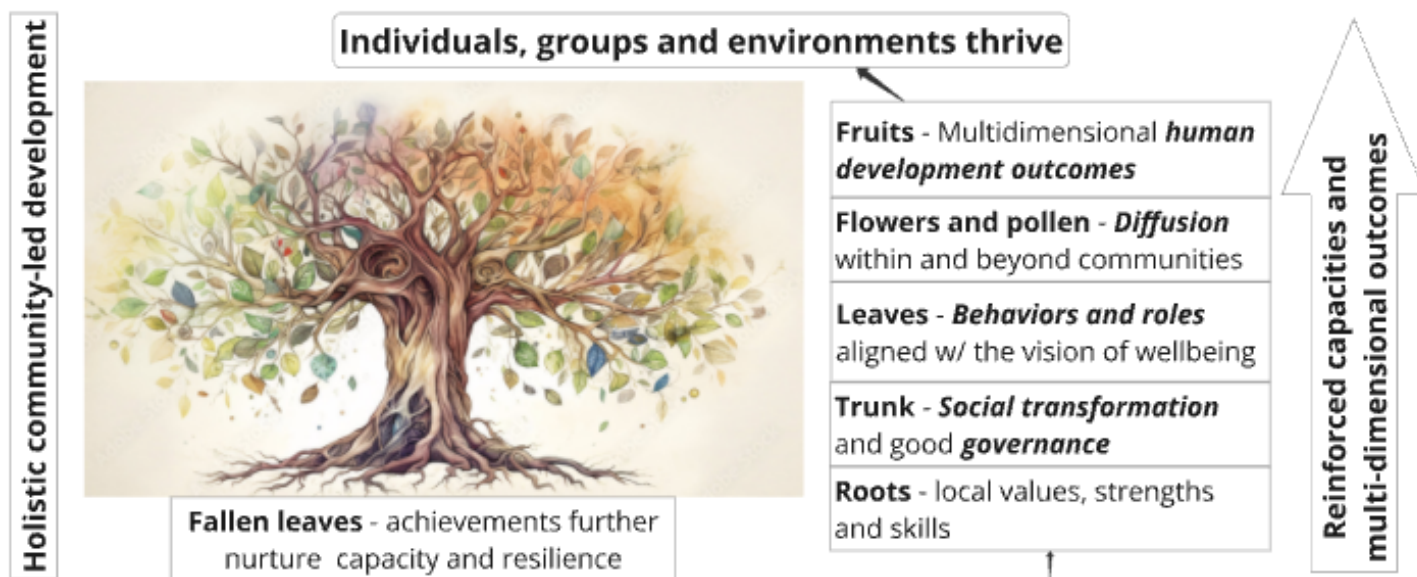
We have embarked on a five-year learning initiative that draws together three FSC members—Legado, One Village Partners, and Tostan, and two learning partners—IDinsight and the Institute for Development Studies (IDS). We believe this initiative has the potential to reshape the development landscape, with HCLD becoming more fully refined, resourced, and recognized as a leading strategy for sustainable wellbeing.

All of our work, including this learning effort, is grounded in shared values and ethics, encompassing respect, dignity, inclusion, and equity, that recognize the vital strengths of communities and their role as agents of their own development.

Theory of Change

Tostan, Legado, and One Village Partners bring decades of experience, grounded in learning with thousands of communities. Our programmes span diverse contexts across three continents, and demonstrate consistent patterns of results across different settings and contexts. Our collective experiences show that the HCLD approach that we share brings out and reinforces the existing strengths and capabilities of partner communities. It also fosters changes in the way people interact with each other, with greater peace, inclusion and gender equity.

This social transformation, together with improved governance, create fertile ground for additional advancements. When supported by further programmatic actions—such as strengthening knowledge, skills, and links to others in the ecosystem, the shared HCLD approach results in additional reinforcing, ramifying, and interconnected human development and environmental outcomes. Over time, communities develop sustained capacity and resiliency leading to thriving individuals, groups, and environments. They also influence surrounding systems, supporting impact at scale. This theory of change will guide our research collaboration. It is illustrated in the following visual.



Learning and Sharing

We already have significant evidence—from numerous evaluations and dedicated research with external partners—that the HCLD approach shared by the FSC members results in multidimensional outcomes that span social, economic, and spiritual wellbeing and directly contribute to thriving individuals, groups, and environments. We will therefore focus our attention on how the approach that we share contributes (or not) to the interlinked, multidimensional outcomes that communities define as most important to them and most aligned with their deeply-held values and daily lives. We expect to generate new evidence on how social transformation and improved governance provide the foundation for community resilience.

We will share learnings and insights regularly with other practitioners, incorporate their perspectives, and work together to develop guidance for program design and MEL. This will build a solid base for transferability and adaptability that will multiply the impact of our work with other implementing organizations and funding partners committed to human-centered development.

How We Work Together

Our collaboration is built on trust, openness, clarity in decision-making, and respect for each organization's unique expertise and reality. Legado, One Village Partners, and Tostan will implement their program in the new communities that will be part of the study. IDinsight and IDS will lead the development of the study design and data collection and analysis. The initiative is coordinated by a study coordinator.

We operate within a structured governance model, made up of steering, operations and technical oversight committees, that balances strategic oversight with operational efficiency. An advisory group, composed of external members from implementing organizations, academia and funding partners will provide regular guidance.

Invitation to Be Part

We invite funders, researchers, practitioners, and communities to join us in advancing this critical work. We are currently seeking additional funding partners to join initial investors and pledge support for anchoring further phases. For further details, please reach out to the FSC Steering Committee by contacting Gannon Gillespie at gannon@fullspectrumcoalition.org

April 2025