

THE KIN SOLIDARITY ACCOMPANIMENT NETWORK

A Framework for Solidarity Accompaniment

1. Introduction

This framework sets out PRA's approach to Solidarity Accompaniment as a relational, solidarity-rooted model for strengthening locally led development. It explains why the initiative exists, how it works, and the values that guide PRA's approach to connecting community-based organizations with advisors, practitioners, funders, NGOs, INGOs, and other allies.

PRA developed this framework to strengthen locally led organizations, challenge extractive development practices, shift power, and advance more equitable, community-led approaches. Solidarity Accompaniment puts these commitments into practice through mutual learning, strategic support, relationship-building, and shared growth.

This framework sees capacity strengthening as a shared journey, one rooted in walking alongside each other. Community-based organizations bring deep local knowledge, trusted relationships, and leadership, while accompanying partners contribute technical expertise, institutional experience, networks, and access to new opportunities.

2. Background and Rationale

Across philanthropy, humanitarian, and development sectors, there is growing commitment to localization, shifting power, and decolonizing aid. Local and community-based organizations are increasingly expected to lead change in their communities and respond to complex social, humanitarian, and development challenges.

Many CBOs operate within systems that were not designed to support their leadership. They often face limited access to direct funding, strategic networks, technical support, institutional visibility, and decision-making spaces. As a result, organizations closest to communities are expected to drive change without equitable access to the resources and relationships needed to sustain it.

This reflects an ecosystem that has historically undervalued community-rooted knowledge, positioned local organizations primarily as implementers, and concentrated power further from lived realities.

Solidarity Accompaniment helps address this imbalance by strengthening the relationships, capabilities, visibility, and agency that enable locally led organizations to lead.

3. Why Solidarity Accompaniment?

Solidarity Accompaniment turns the language of shifting power into lived practice.

Through this initiative, PRA connects CBOs with progressive funders, INGOs, NGOs, practitioners, and technical advisors who are willing to share skills, experience, networks, and learning in a spirit of solidarity.

The aim is to walk alongside local organizations, strengthen what already exists, and support them to navigate the humanitarian and development ecosystem more fairly. Through strategic guidance, peer learning, mentorship, and practical support, the initiative helps CBOs strengthen organizational systems, improve sustainability, expand networks, and position themselves for funding, partnership, advocacy, and system-level opportunities.

At the same time, Solidarity Accompaniment creates space for advisors and partners to unlearn extractive ways of working. It invites them to listen differently, share power, practice humility, and engage with community leadership through relationships rooted in reciprocity, trust, and mutual accountability.

For PRA, Solidarity Accompaniment is both a capacity-strengthening initiative and a practice-change intervention.

4. What Is Solidarity Accompaniment?

Solidarity Accompaniment is a relational approach through which funders, INGOs, NGOs, technical experts, practitioners, and other allies intentionally walk alongside community-based organizations to strengthen their capacity, leadership, influence, and sustainability.

It is grounded in mutual learning, knowledge exchange, mentorship, strategic support, and shared accountability. CBOs bring lived experience, local knowledge, community legitimacy, and contextual wisdom. Accompanying partners contribute technical expertise, institutional experience, networks, and access to opportunities.

At its core, Solidarity Accompaniment treats time, expertise, relationships, and influence as forms of relational philanthropy. It recognizes that meaningful systems change does not come from funding alone, but from long-term collaboration, trust, solidarity, and collective action.

5. Guiding Philosophy

Solidarity Accompaniment is grounded in the belief that meaningful support begins with relationship, humility, and respect for community leadership. It is guided by the following principles:

Ubuntu and shared humanity — We recognize that people and organizations grow through connection, interdependence, and collective responsibility.

Solidarity over charity — Accompaniment is not based on rescue or giving from a position of superiority. It is rooted in standing alongside one another in pursuit of shared justice and change.

Walking with, not doing for — Accompanying partners support locally led organizations to define their own priorities, make their own decisions, and lead their own development journeys.

Community agency and leadership — Community-based organizations are not passive recipients of support. They bring knowledge, legitimacy, relationships, and leadership that must remain central throughout the accompaniment process.

Decolonizing development practice — The framework challenges paternalism, extractive relationships, and unequal power dynamics. It promotes approaches that value local knowledge, redistribute influence, and strengthen community ownership.

6. How Solidarity Accompaniment Differs from Technical Assistance

The table below contrasts a conventional technical assistance model with the relational, power-shifting approach at the heart of Solidarity Accompaniment.

Technical Assistance	Solidarity Accompaniment
Expert-led: the advisor is seen as the main source of knowledge.	Relationship-led: knowledge is shared between CBOs, advisors, and partners.
Gap-focused: support often begins with what an organization lacks.	Strengths-based: support builds on existing leadership, wisdom, and community legitimacy.
Short-term: engagement is often tied to a specific project or deliverable.	Journey-based: engagement is relational, adaptive, and responsive to organizational growth.
Compliance-oriented: success is measured through outputs, tools, and performance targets.	Agency-oriented: success is measured through confidence, capacity, relationships, and decision-making power.
Transactional: the relationship often follows a consultant-client model.	Solidarity-rooted: the relationship is grounded in Ubuntu, reciprocity, trust, and walking alongside.

7. Who the Framework Serves

Solidarity Accompaniment brings together a defined set of actors, each contributing a distinct role to the accompaniment ecosystem:

Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) -Locally rooted organizations that lead the accompaniment process, defining their own priorities and drawing on accompanying partners to strengthen capacity, leadership, and sustainability.

Solidarity-Based Technical Advisors (SBTAs) - Practitioners and technical experts who share skills, mentorship, and networks in a spirit of reciprocity, humility, and shared learning rather than expert-led delivery.

Funders, INGOs, and NGOs - Institutional allies who provide flexible resourcing, respect CBO autonomy, and use insights from the initiative to improve their own funding and partnership practice.

PRA as Facilitator and Steward - The coordinating platform that matches partners, orients participants, supports goal setting, conducts check-ins, and safeguards the integrity of the model.

Wider Community Ecosystems - The networks, peer organizations, and constituencies that benefit indirectly as accompanied CBOs grow stronger, more visible, and better connected.

8. The Accompaniment Model

The Solidarity Accompaniment initiative follows a structured but flexible process designed to build trust, clarify expectations, and support meaningful collaboration between locally led organizations and accompanying partners.

1. Expression of Interest

Community-based organizations and prospective accompanying partners submit an expression of interest outlining their needs, experience, areas of expertise, and expectations.

2. Matching

PRA reviews each expression of interest and identifies suitable matches based on organizational priorities, technical needs, experience, values, availability, and shared interests.

3. Introductory Meeting

PRA facilitates an initial meeting to introduce both parties, explore compatibility, clarify expectations, and confirm whether they wish to proceed together.

4. Joint Goal setting

The organization and accompanying partner agree on a small number of realistic priorities, expected outcomes, ways of working, and boundaries for the engagement. These are documented in a simple accompaniment plan.

5. Accompaniment Period

The partners work together over an agreed period, usually for up to three months. Support may include strategic advice, practical guidance, mentoring, introductions to networks, review of organizational materials, or collaborative problem-solving. The locally led organization retains ownership of its priorities and decisions throughout the engagement.

6. Monthly Check-Ins

PRA conducts light-touch check-ins to understand progress, address challenges, support the relationship, and ensure the engagement remains useful and aligned with the agreed goals.

7. Learning Documentation

Both parties capture key insights, practice changes, challenges, and emerging outcomes. Documentation is kept proportionate and focuses on learning rather than burdensome reporting.

8. Reflection and Closure

At the end of the accompaniment period, the partners hold a closing reflection to review progress, recognize contributions, document learning, and agree on any next steps.

9. Follow-Up Support

Where appropriate, PRA may provide light-touch follow-up, facilitate further connections, or explore a new accompaniment cycle based on the organization's evolving priorities.

The model is intentionally structured enough to provide clarity and accountability, while remaining flexible enough to respond to each organizations' context, pace, and leadership.



9. Roles and Responsibilities

Effective accompaniment depends on clarity, shared accountability, and respect for what each actor brings to the partnership.

Community-Based Organizations

- Define their priorities, needs, and expected outcomes.

- Share local knowledge, community perspectives, and organizational realities.
- Participate actively in agreed activities and communicate openly.
- Provide feedback and co-create practical solutions.

Solidarity-Based Technical Advisors (SBTAs)

- Offer specialized expertise, coaching, and mentoring.
- Listen with humility and respect the organizations' pace and priorities.
- Maintain professionalism, confidentiality, and appropriate boundaries.
- Connect the organization to useful knowledge, networks, and opportunities.

PRA as the Coordinating Platform

- Facilitate fair and values-aligned matching.
- Orient participants and support goal setting.
- Conduct check-ins and help address challenges.
- Document learning, track progress, and strengthen the model.

Funders and Ecosystem Partners

- Provide flexible support for accompaniment and organizational strengthening.
- Respect the autonomy and leadership of participating organizations.
- Avoid excessive control and burdensome reporting.
- Use learning from the initiative to improve funding and partnership practice.

10. Safeguarding and Ethical Practice

All accompaniment relationships must protect the dignity, safety, and autonomy of everyone involved. Participants are expected to engage with respect, maintain confidentiality, seek informed consent, and uphold clear professional boundaries.

No individual or organization should use the relationship to extract stories, data, visibility, or institutional benefit without permission and mutual agreement. Power differences should be acknowledged and managed responsibly, with community-based organizations retaining ownership of their information, priorities, and decisions.

Any safeguarding concern, conflict of interest, breach of confidentiality, or harmful conduct should be reported promptly to PRA for appropriate follow-up.

11. Success Indicators

Relationship Indicators

- % of matched pairs completing the agreed accompaniment period.
- % of participants rating the accompaniment as relevant, respectful, and useful.
- % of matches with documented goals, progress updates, and a closing reflection.
- % of safeguarding or relationship concerns acknowledged and addressed within the agreed response period.

Capacity Strengthening Indicators

- Number and % of CBOs achieving substantial progress on at least two agreed accompaniment goals.
- % of CBOs reporting improved confidence in organizational decision-making, planning, or problem-solving.
- % of CBOs adopting at least one strengthened organizational practice, system, policy, or tool.

Resource and Network Indicators

- % of participating CBOs gaining access to at least one new network, partnership, funding opportunity, technical resource, or strategic connection.
- Number of new referrals, introductions, or partnership opportunities facilitated through the accompaniment process.

Power-Shifting Indicators

- % of advisors reporting increased understanding of locally led, non-extractive, and solidarity-based practice.
- % of solidarity-based advisors applying accompaniment principles within their own organizations or professional practice.
- % of CBOs reporting that their priorities, knowledge, and decisions remained central throughout the accompaniment process.

Systems Change Indicators

- Number and % of accompanying organizations adopting or revising internal practices, policies, or partnership approaches based on learning from the initiative.
- Number of documented examples where accompaniment learning influences funding, partnership, governance, or program decisions.

- Number of lessons or practice insights integrated into PRA's accompaniment model and shared across the wider ecosystem.

12. Learning and Documentation

Stories, reflections, challenges, and emerging insights from each accompaniment journey will be documented with consent and used to strengthen PRA's wider learning agenda. This evidence will inform future accompaniment cycles, enrich the Collaborative Unlearning Labs, contribute to research briefs and practice notes, and help surface what supports or hinders locally led change. Documentation will remain proportionate, ethical, and non-extractive, with participating organizations retaining ownership of their experiences and deciding how their learning is shared.

13. Sustainability and Scale

The initiative will evolve from PRA-led manual matching into the KIN Solidarity Ecosystem Platform — a digital space where CBOs can identify and connect with solidarity-based advisors, access learning resources, join strategic networks, and request support based on their priorities. Over time, the platform will integrate accompaniment, peer learning, partnerships, and funding opportunities, enabling locally led organizations to access support more directly while allowing PRA to expand its reach, strengthen learning, and sustain a growing ecosystem of solidarity.

14. Conclusion

Solidarity Accompaniment is not charity, consultancy, or a one-way transfer of expertise. It is a practice of walking alongside one another — grounded in solidarity, shared power, mutual learning, and collective responsibility. By valuing community knowledge, strengthening relationships, and supporting locally defined priorities, it creates the conditions for locally led organizations to lead with greater confidence, agency, and influence.

Annex: Tools and Templates

The following practical tools support implementation of the Solidarity Accompaniment model:

- CBO application form
- Advisor application form
- Matching criteria
- Goal-setting template
- Monthly check-in form
- Accompaniment agreement
- Reflection form
- End-of-engagement report
- Learning documentation template

Solidarity Accompaniment

Walking together to advance shared goals and strengthen local leadership.