

## **Bringing organizations to the policy makers**

Sustentarse in Chile has observed two ways in which BIC has built power in the organization and in other CSOs. Through the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Working Group (WG), BIC has been able to create cohesion among communities across the region, allowing their advocacy strength to be greater than the sum of its parts. The WG has become a network of organizations that not only monitors bank activity, but also learns about and pushes for change in development banks' social and environmental policies more generally. In particular, through BIC's leadership, focus, ability to access and convey information, and skills in synthesizing and organizing ideas, the WG has gained greater influence in international development financing affairs and has been able to bring communities' concerns to the forefront. This has allowed the coalition to shape the IDB's new access to information policy and to participate in a regular way in these processes.

Additionally, on the project level, CSO members of the WG have been able to use BIC resources, such as its relationships with IDB executives and its Tuesday group meeting in Washington, D.C., to support their project monitoring and follow-up. In Chile, for example, in 2022 Sustentarse was following a project from the IDB related to mining. Bank rules require that mining be excluded from bank-funded operations. In an unusual scheme, the funds were from a mining company but managed by the IDB. Sustentarse received a lot of information about this project through BIC because the IDB would not disclose it directly to Sustentarse. This information resulted in the IDB changing the project description on its website. Additionally, through the Tuesday group meetings, Sustentarse has had access to high authorities that are key in the decision-making process of financing certain operations. Another project in Chile was halted after the IDB withdrew funding following Sustentarse's outreach to the IDB and U.S. Treasury, a controversy over corruption, and other pressures. Though there were many factors that led to the withdrawal of financing in this project, Sustentarse's Tuesday group meeting advocacy contributed to this result and pushed the IDB board to begin negotiating with affected communities, which they had never done before.

These forms of advocacy, both at the policy-level and project-level, are interrelated and vital for CSOs to accomplish their aims. If a CSO identifies that a funding recipient is not complying with bank policy, they have an opportunity to talk to the entity financing the budget of the banks, like the U.S. Treasury, at the Tuesday meeting, or through a connection made by BIC. These actors can then apply pressure to withhold financing until policy is followed. That local, project-focused advocacy is only as effective, therefore, as the bank's policies that delineate permitted and violative behavior and outline the terms and standards of enforcement. BIC has supported their work on the local level with individual CSOs and provided the forum for them to collaborate with each other on policy that would impact them all.