



AL turns 10!

Our people, places and projects
since 2012



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With Positive Energy

It is hard to believe that Accountability Lab- that began to take shape over a cup of tea in a café in Kathmandu all the way back in 2012- is ten years old! It has been an incredible decade in which we have carried out some critical work to support new ideas for accountability, mobilize and connect communities for change, and ultimately, make people in power more responsible. It started as a volunteer effort with a vision, and has become a “translocal” network, as we like to call it, across multiple continents with local Labs in 14 countries that are truly shifting policy and practice. From Mexico to Pakistan and from the US to South Africa, our teams are building some of the very best campaigns, knowledge and communities in support of better governance.

We’ve laughed, we’ve cried- and thinking of it all what fills me with the most pride is that we have learned with and supported each other through thick and thin. From Ebola in Liberia to earthquakes in Nepal to coups in Mali- our teams have weathered it all and come out stronger. And throughout, they have never lost sight of our shared values and commitment to integrity. Thank you to everyone within our community for your support, guidance and collaboration. We’re looking forward to working even harder with you in the next decade and many more to come- these efforts have never been more urgent.

With positive energy and a great sense of appreciation,
Blair

Our Journey from 2012...



2012

AL founded in Nepal and registered in Kathmandu and Washington DC. The Accountability Incubator launches in Nepal.

2014

Integrity Idol (now Integrity Icon) launches in Nepal



2016

Accountability Labs are registered in Mali and Pakistan and Integrity Icon Mali and Pakistan are launched. The Incubator launches in Liberia and Pakistan.

2018

Accountability Lab South Africa is registered and Integrity Icon is launched in South Africa and Sri Lanka. The Incubator launches in Nigeria and Mali. Accountability Lab Niger is registered.

2020

Accountability Lab is registered in Zimbabwe and Integrity Icon launches in Philadelphia and Niger. The Incubator launches in Kenya and Uganda. CivActs launches in Nigeria.



2022

The Incubator and CivActs launch in South Africa

2013

Accountability Lab Liberia is registered in Monrovia and the Accountability Incubator is launched.

2015

Mobile Citizen Helpdesks (now Civic Action Teams) launched in Nepal after devastating dual earthquakes. Integrity Icon Liberia is launched

2017

Accountability Lab Nigeria and Integrity Icon Nigeria launches in Nigeria. AL Liberia launches CivActs.

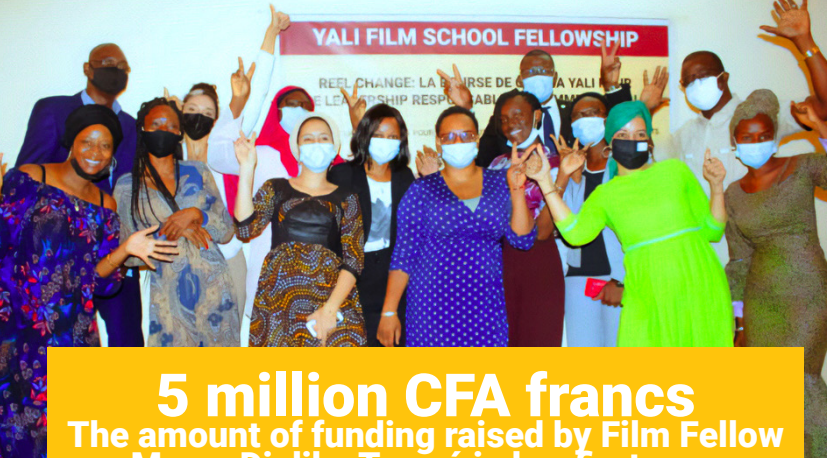
2019

CivActs launches in Pakistan. Accountability Lab Mexico is registered and Integrity Icon Mexico launches. Integrity Innovation Lab launches.

2021

The Gov-Her-Nance campaign launches and Accountability Lab is registered in the DRC. Integrity Icon launches in Somaliland and Zimbabwe. CivActs begin in Niger.





5 million CFA francs
 The amount of funding raised by Film Fellow
 Mama Djelika Traoré in her first year

Training women filmmakers in Mali

In contexts with a lack of accountability, women's voices are rarely heard in a meaningful way. We've found that film is the perfect tool for raising awareness, and also enhancing engagement and advocacy around the issues closest to our hearts.

Accountability Lab Mali hosted the The YALI Women's Responsible Leadership Film Fellowship in 2020, bringing together 10 young women filmmakers to develop stories touching on responsible leadership and gender equity. The filmmakers were taken through a rigorous process of training and mentorship that

included the production of 10 short films aimed at inspiring debate around the opportunities and challenges with which women in the region contend.

Our fellows produced films exploring a wide variety of pertinent issues from the challenges of refugee families in Timbuktu, to the dangers of sex work and eking out a living in the informal sector.

The films were screened across the country during community film clubs with a range of partners, including The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)

and the French Institute.

One film in particular was singled out for a special award! **"Ma Passion"** directed by YALI fellow Mama Djelika Traoré explores the stigma and challenges Malian women face in trying to pursue a career in the arts. The film received widespread recognition and even won the Grand Prix award at the Clap Ivory Festival in the Ivory Coast, with Mama walking away with CFA 5 million in prize money. The campaign was supported by the US Embassy in Mali. [A](#)



Wilson Atumeyi - Accountability Incubator

Wilson Atumeyi joined Accountability Lab Nigeria's Incubator program in 2020 and with the Lab's support he has been able to grow his NPO **WaterWide** (Water With Development) to new heights. Established in 2019, WaterWide's mission is to hold government authorities accountable for ensuring that even the most marginalized communities have safe drinking water. Wilson and his team achieve this by tracking government spending and international aid for water, sanitation and hygiene in rural

communities and intervening when communities are denied access to clean water.

"It's been an awesome experience," Wilson says of becoming an accountapreneur. "From the beginning I recognized it was exactly what I needed. I thought I was at level 70% in forming my organization but after the first few lectures I realized I was at 30%. I realized that what I already knew was valid but it wasn't measuring up to the global standard. I infused what I learned into my organization and the increase in rate of growth has been phenomenal."

WaterWide now has a core staff of seven people, including its founder, and a network of more than 1,200 volunteers across Nigeria. The volunteers are especially important as the organization's core work is around advocating for marginalized communities to gain access to clean water. Whenever the team is informed about a community in need, they call on their network of volunteers in the region to investigate so they can get first-hand information from the ground. In 2020, Wilson was named among the Top 20 Activists of the Year by The Lead Nigeria. In the same year, Avance Media selected him as one of the 100 most influential young Nigerians. Most recently, Wilson won the award for Pan-African Activist of the Year at the 2021 Africans Rising Activism Awards. [A](#)

Accountability Lab Mali partnered with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Mali to host Connect 223, an event created to celebrate the positive aspects of migration that rarely get attention in the news. Hosted in Bamako in December 2019, the event brought together Malians to discuss migration issues under the theme of "Migration: Same Aspiration, Different Stories".

During the event, eight participants from different backgrounds shared their experiences, inspirations, challenges and opportunities of regular migration through different topics such as "Succeeding at Home", "Migration and Sport" & "Migration Policy in Mali". The name "Connect 223" was chosen to symbolize the connection between different communities as +223 is the international dialing code for Mali. [A](#)



CivActs have generated more than **220,000** community conversations on topics ranging from gender-sensitive policy making to how to complain about corruption



Launching Civic Action Teams

In 2015, devastating dual earthquakes in Nepal displaced hundreds of thousands of people and prevented them from accessing essential needs like water, food and medicine. These communities were also disconnected from critical information sources, local authorities and media.

In the space of a few days, AL Nepal set up a Mobile Citizen Helpdesk to assist displaced communities, especially those in remote areas. "We were listening to their problems, helping them obtain appropriate information, and connecting them with relief organizations and the government," AL Country Director Narayan Adhikari explained. The

Helpdesk volunteers also worked with the government on a mobile hotline, assessing data received via the channel. "We had to mobilize quickly, find ways for citizens to get involved in improving their community, and try to build trust between citizens and their government."

Now called Civic Action Teams, or CivActs, the program is a powerful community feedback dialogue and community voice platform to ensure accountability in the development process. CivActs have collected critical information from hundreds of communities across Nepal, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan and Zimbabwe, solving daily problems for citizens and

closing the loop on challenges related to migration, human trafficking, inclusion, natural resource management and security issues.

Hundreds of concrete problems have been solved for communities, from accessing blocked funding to repairing health facilities. Local community radio partners have played an important part in the program, providing a platform for dialogue and debate between communities and power-holders.

CivActs launches this year in South Africa, focusing on two communities in Gauteng and the Eastern Cape. **AL**

Accountability Lab Nigeria contributed to the enactment of a Disability Act in Kaduna State through their Civic Action Teams advocacy work for inclusion. The passing of the act came after AL Nigeria organized a series of multi-stakeholder engagements with members of the state house of assembly, the commissioner of the ministry of human services and social development and the Kaduna state rehabilitation board. The team also ensured that the capacity of the members of the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities was improved. The aim of the Disability Act is to address some of the challenges Persons with Disabilities face and establish an institutional framework for this community.

Alzouma Ali Daouda is a youth ambassador of Accountability Lab Niger's Civic Action Teams (CivActs)



Alzouma Ali Daouda is a Youth Ambassador of Accountability Lab Niger's Civic Action Teams (**CivActs**) campaign which aims to raise awareness and combat hate speech and violence during election and post-election periods in the country.

Originally from Tillabéri, Alzouma was selected as the leader of a delegation of volunteers that were sent to the region of Filingue. The team was first taken through a training course to strengthen on how to contribute to the prevention and management of electoral conflicts as well as the effects of the

dissemination of hate speech.

After this, Alzouma led the team on door-to-door visits to households across the region to sensitize citizens on the need to avoid hate speech and to verify information before publishing it in order to ensure the spread of information that is constructive rather than destructive. The campaign messaging was particularly targeted at young people, people with disabilities, women and civil society actors, as well as local authorities.

"I had totally devoted myself to the cause by playing my role as an ambassador

for peace," he says. "I learned that you can create a climate of peace through words without resorting to arms and that you can challenge hate speech through peaceful dialogue. I continue to use the training that I received from the Lab to influence my peers to avoid unnecessary conflict and cultivate a culture of peace, social cohesion and protection of the most vulnerable." **AL**



AL has run Integrity Icon campaigns in 13 countries with over 15,000 nominations and 105 winning Icons over the past 6 years.

Naming and Faming

A public servant for the past 25 years, Inoka Himali Rathnaweera says she was destined for a life in service. "Since my childhood, I've always acted against corruption and unethical things. Even in school, I would quarrel with boys if they were doing bad things on behalf of their friends. Today, so many people criticise public servants so I want to do things differently," she says. It's this sense of integrity that saw Rathnaweera being crowned as an Integrity Icon in Sri Lanka, in partnership with Transparency International Sri Lanka, 2020. The citizen-driven campaign 'names and fames' exemplary public servants whose work and integrity stands out among their peers. The campaign extends from Philadelphia to Mexico, Nepal and Pakistan, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Liberia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. In 2021, the campaign launched in Somaliland and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The stories of public servants like Rathnaweera flip prevailing narratives about inept, even lazy government workers. It's a narrative that often leaves citizens feeling hopeless in the face of bad governance, so the need to encourage champions of integrity is a process that builds public trust. Stories about exemplary civil servants help citizens recognise the critical role that civil servants play in bolstering good governance in the public service. It also reminds us just how many millions of excellent, dedicated civil servants are out there, working on big

and small reforms each day.

The campaign begins with an open nomination period. Nominees are then put through a strict vetting process before five winners are chosen. Short documentaries are produced about these exemplary civil servants and the films are shown all around the country, from small informal "video clubs" to screenings at national government departments. The value of Integrity Icon is the process; it creates purposeful conversations about what it means to be a public servant and spotlights ordinary people and the role they play in strengthening institutions. It's also a good way to encourage all of us to think about what's needed to build inclusive, accountable societies.

Integrity Icon is one impactful way of using the idea of positive deviance to shift norms and support reforms around the world.

As our Executive Director Blair Glencorse says: "Think about it - as soon as we focus on catching people doing the right thing, rather than the wrong thing; as soon as we focus on the do-gooders instead of the wrong-doers; and as soon as we start "naming and faming" instead of naming and shaming, suddenly the world seems like a very different place and we can imagine a very different future." [A](#)



Dr. Malick Coulibaly
- Integrity Icon Mali

Malick Coulibaly is a Malian magistrate and politician who was among the winners of the Integrity Icon Mali campaign in 2018. He served twice as Mali's Minister of Justice - once before being honored as an Icon (April 25, 2012 to September 5,

2013) and then again after becoming an Icon (May 5, 2019 to July 27, 2020). "My victory at the 2018 edition of Integrity Idol Mali was a turning point in my career," he explains. "If I were to use the metaphor, I would say that on that date I became a General who won one more star. This star makes you move up in rank. I think I have indeed grown a lot in the esteem of my compatriots to the extent that since my victory some compatriots have even pledged to elevate me to the supreme magistracy for a virtuous governance of high standing in our country."

"Similarly, I think that Integrity Idol must have even weighed in on my appointment as Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Grade des Sceaux of Mali in April 2019. Indeed, a few days after my appointment, the President of the Republic whispered in my ear: "The Accountability Lab trophy was great; I followed it with singular interest." This is a great honor and a

legitimate pride."

"The Integrity Icon campaign is very important in the Malian public service for two reasons. The first is that the campaign is being emulated. What civil servant would not like to be nominated or even elected one day as the most honest civil servant? To this end, civil servants are encouraged to behave well in the workplace for a better performance of the public service. It is a question of truly entering the history of one's country. It is a distinction that will be told to the grandchildren."

"The second reason is that the fight against corruption and the promotion of good governance cannot be reduced to coercion, which necessarily has its limits. It can and must also consist of honoring deserving officials. The campaign is part of this." [A](#)



Growing an Accountability incubator

In 2012, months after Accountability Lab was registered in Kathmandu, Nepal, and Washington DC in the US, the Lab launched the Nepal 'Accountapreneurship' Fund - combining the words accountability and entrepreneurship.

The project's mission was to identify 'accountapreneurs' who would receive catalytic grants for small-scale, innovative and sustainable approaches to accountability and transparency. Seed grants of up to US\$2,000 were made to successful applicants- to be combined with 10% matching funds from the grant-winners themselves.

Today, our Accountability **Incubator** helps civil society change-makers to develop the tools, skills, networks, outreach efforts and funding streams they need to build sustainable, effective programs for accountability, integrity and open

governance. Accountapreneurs receive 12 months of hands-on, comprehensive support including: training and knowledge-building, mentoring, network building, media outreach, and storytelling support. The Incubator helps us with one of our core goals, building unlikely networks and diverse coalitions who can find new ways to create change.

A total of 132 accountapreneurs have passed through our incubators, with ideas ranging from integrity watch groups; to financing tools to lower government debt.

In 2021 we expanded the incubator to Uganda, Kenya, Guinea Bissau and DRC and have begun to further segment the incubator across countries by sector or theme, such as setting up a Media Accountability Incubator in South Africa for civil society activists in 2022. [A](#)



We see ourselves as a learning organization and in the next three years want to engage in deeper research and learning. We are therefore partnering with some of the leading research organizations around accountability issues, including the Building Integrity Programme at the University of Oxford; the Accountability Research Center; the Stanford King Center on Global Development; the MIT Gov/Lab; and the Leir Institute at Tufts University.

We are also unpacking the characteristics of honest civil servants in Nepal through research with Brigham Young University, and learning how to build norm shifts into the Integrity Icon campaign in a more targeted way in South Africa through a partnership with the Corruption, Justice & Legitimacy Program (CJL) at Tufts University. This collaboration is also strengthening our capacity to measure shifts in social norms related to corruption.

Govinda Siwakoti Accountapreneur



Govinda Siwakoti is co-founder and director of respected Nepali media company, Onion Films. They have been behind many celebrated productions, including our very own Integrity Icon Nepal documentaries which Govinda has been producing for a few years. He's come full circle - six years ago in 2014, Govinda was part of one of the very first Accountability Incubator programs for his project, Young Cuts Accountability Film School. He says that in three years, more than 120 young filmmakers attended his workshops and collectively produced over 30 short movies. They've addressed a

plethora of issues including gender equality, the right to information, accountability of government-run schools, and street vendors' right to livelihood, among others.


"In short, my overall experience was like my dream come true moment. Being an independent filmmaker from a small and developing nation my dream was to teach this powerful medium. Filmmaking allows all levels of our society to tell their own stories and present the issues they see in their society. These films ultimately raise questions and motivate people to take action," he says. [A](#)



Integrity Innovation Lab launches

Accountability Lab Pakistan, in partnership with the Civil Services Academy in Lahore, was the first network lab to launch our Integrity Innovation Lab - an interactive, solutions-oriented, and contextualized program for civil servants at all levels. Workshops are tailored to support and build active learning networks to facilitate lesson-sharing and problem-solving approaches over time. Young incoming public servants are engaged in how to become accountable leaders. We are essentially equipping reformers - inside and outside government - with the knowledge and tools to push for better governance.

The process culminates at the end of the academic year in an "Integrity Summit" at which the participants pitch their ideas around integrity and accountability to government officials, respected civil servants and guests. In December, Accountability Lab Pakistan, with the support of the Academy's Government Innovation Lab, trained 271 students on the civil service fast track, discussing challenges to upholding integrity. Zulfiqar Younus, the former Director of the Civil Services Academy says the partnership with AL Pakistan to run Accountable Leadership and Design Thinking workshops for trainee civil

servants has been transformative. "These programs support the new recruits to develop a 360-degree perspective around self and social accountability, and prepare them for real life challenges by integrating feedback and adaptive governance processes into their work. "Finding innovative solutions to governance challenges in a difficult context such as Pakistan is never easy- but our government must be oriented in a way that allows the thinking around this process to take place; and incentivizes change," he says. 




Muhammad Abraham Shah - Probationary Officer

Muhammad Abraham Shah joined the civil service of Pakistan as a Probationary Officer in the Administrative Service of Pakistan a few years ago. He currently serves in a new role as Assistant Commissioner for the Administrative Services in Quetta, where he is the principal representative of the government in his area. He is responsible for overseeing health, education, state land, and supporting the police to maintain law and order, especially during protests. "I was brought up in a household that was very close to the bureaucracy. My father


was a civil servant. Growing up and seeing him within the administrative structures of government cultivated academic passions that harnessed my passion for the public service," he says.

"I'm interested in civic development and understanding why economic development is lacking in Pakistan. This pushed me towards engaging with the bureaucracy and coming into a system where I could interact on a grassroots level with people," he explains. As a Probationary Officer at the Civil Service Academy, where Accountability Lab is implementing the 'Accountable Leadership Training' program - a mini version of our Integrity Icon campaign - Abraham was nominated as one of the 14 finalists out of 272 officers for the Integrity Icon award in 2019.

"What made me stand out was that I was always very committed to whatever I was doing and pushing myself out of my comfort zone. People say I'm easy to talk to, and they generally enjoy talking to me. I make it a point to engage with people and put in the extra effort," he says. He believes winning the Integrity Icon award has created a legacy for him and more people are now looking up to him as a young leader in the public service.

"I have the award and a broader legacy to live up to. Winning the award has created another level of self-scrutiny and self-accountability for me." 

Oxigeno2030 is a low-cost mobile plan that allows donors and sponsors to reload data plans to promote the use of specific platforms, apps and media to keep users connected, aware, healthy and safe as they grapple with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In partnership with Zenda.la and Oxio, Accountability Lab Mexico led the plan to connect up to 1 million Mexicans by early 2021.

Through this initiative, students received SIM cards that allowed them to access the internet. This provided three months of connectivity at no cost and with an unlimited plan enabling them to work on platforms or enter conferences. 





Gov-HER-nance


In 2021, AL Nepal launched a new CivActs project called Gov-Her-Nance, which brought in new voices to find solutions to issues of gender equity, local development, and open government. CivActs is a feedback and community voice platform to ensure accountability in the development process.

The AL Nepal team worked with 9 Inclusion Fellows who were trained on community mobilization, collecting feedback and mobile filmmaking so that they could use visual storytelling tools to disseminate information to their communities. The fellows were local women, and members of the LGBTQI+ communities and marginalized groups,

who face a number of challenges not always prioritized by the government. The campaign ultimately helped feed community voices into Dhangadhi's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) policy.

Rewati S.K. is one of the Inclusion Fellows who comes from the Dalit community. She worked hard to reach out to communities, interactions that were instrumental in building trust. She says that since her CivActs training, she has visited the ward office more often and is using her access to influential officials, including the Deputy Mayor, to advocate for community needs. Ward officials have also been working with the fellows to reach out to women in the Dalit community. "One of the major

learnings was that I got to know about the issues, status and concerns of people beyond my community. This institution and project has definitely enhanced my capacity and made me a more sensitive, responsible and active citizen," Rewati S.K. says.

Gov-Her-Nance has shown the collaborative power of the CivActs model, bringing together local authorities and young activists on shared goals. Convening these two groups kickstarts difficult conversations around gender and inclusion issues that are often not prioritised. It also demonstrates how aligning government and local priorities as well as engaging local actors can lead 

CivActs teams have held more than 220,000 community conversations and surveys, and more than 170 multi-stakeholder town hall meetings that have helped co-create solutions for hundreds of problems.


Birendra Chaudhary Inclusion Fellow

Birendra Chaudhary was born and raised in Dhangadhi, Nepal. He identifies as a homosexual man and says it hasn't been easy to come out to his family and friends due to widespread stigmatization. He is one of the Inclusion Fellows recruited by AL Nepal in 2021 for the CivActs project, Gov-Her-nance.

The LGBTQI+ community in Nepal is largely ostracized and there are scant government mechanisms to cater to their needs. Engaging a diverse group of youths from the community as Inclusion Fellows filled this critical gap in building coalitions between citizens and authorities. Birendra has also been involved in Sudurpaschim Samaj,



which is a community-led organization for sexual and gender minorities to try to push back against the stigma in the country. Birendra strongly believes that the stigmatization and judgment of members of the queer community must come to an end.

Through his project, he wants to bring out their voices of daily struggle, identity issues, and mental health guidance. "The local government should also consider the LGBTQI+ communities in their policies and programs, while society needs to understand and support them rather than discriminate against them," he says. 

The Accountabili-TEA podcast



In 2020, **Accountability Lab South Africa** launched **Accountabili-TEA** as a series of events aimed at bringing local community members together to find solutions to common challenges. With the support of the Danish Embassy in South Africa and the NGO Activate Change Drivers, ALSA organized community dialogues in 10 different parts of South Africa exploring everything from literacy and girls' education to accountability in development.

These initiatives inspired some of our other network labs from across the world to initiate their own dialogues and in order to make sure these exchanges could be distributed widely, the teams chose to use the podcast format. This was the birth of the Accountabili-TEA Podcast. AL Nepal was the first to run with the concept, producing episodes on issues such as intersectionality and inclusion, the impact of Covid-19 on Nepal's public health system, and citizens' digital rights and responsibilities.

AL's global marketing & communications team followed suit with their own version of the Accountabili-TEA Podcast which highlights the Lab's work around the world and also unpacks key trends in the accountability and governance space. The podcast has covered topics such as Covid-19 response efforts from the perspective of young civil society leaders, the power of micro reforms in the public service in the words of exemplary public servants, and what pushing back against civic space restrictions looks like in different parts of the world.

The latest edition to the Accountabili-TEA brand is AL Zimbabwe's Citizenship Accountability and Participation podcast which explores governance, accountability and all of the ideas that come with it. For their first episode, the team asked Zimbabwean citizens from all walks of life what citizenship means to them. Listen to our various podcasts [here](#) and look forward to hearing more thought-provoking discussions in future. 🎧



The Accountabili-TEA Podcast was named as a finalist in the 2022 Anti-Corruption Podcast Awards by the Center for International Private Enterprise!

Richard Gordon - Integrity Icon Philly

Richard Gordon is the Principal of Paul Robeson High School in Philadelphia, where he has been serving for nine years. He was among the winners of the inaugural Integrity Icon Philadelphia 2020 campaign, when he received the People's Choice Award after receiving the highest votes. "The concept of integrity indicates that ethics is a hallmark of good governance and a clear understanding of what good leadership and governance entail, for our lives, local, state, and national communities," he says.

He employs his personal experience of growing up in a community affected by poverty to heal and inspire his students to reach their greatest potential. "Being an Integrity Icon affords me the opportunity to set an example of how we as a society should conduct ourselves during professional efforts," he says. "I get to highlight how our practices associated with the privilege of being stewards of the public trust must embody the highest of societal ideals," he added. Since being named an Integrity Icon, Principal Gordon is using his profile to garner support for his advocacy work around fighting for minority communities struggling with generational poverty.



"My personal experiences of living my students' lives, feeling their every challenge, and understanding their unique needs, provides me with a unique insight into how generational poverty, mental illness, family dysfunction, unprecedented waves of gun violence, and the inequity of the criminal justice system can predetermine our life's outcome depending on the zip code within which you grow up."

Principal Gordon has gone on to win numerous awards, including the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated, Nu Chapter Community Service Education Award for 2022, Diversity MBA and the Pennsylvania Principals Association State Principal of the Year Award. He was also selected to serve on the Boards of Directors for prominent non-profit education organizations, as well as several committee memberships, allowing him to continue to make a significant impact on education in Philadelphia's most vulnerable communities.

"Each day, I aspire to be the best leader I can be. I try to ensure that my professional integrity incorporates the highest ethical principles and values. I have written two magazine articles featured on MSNBC and numerous national affiliates/publications and a Foreword for two upcoming books in 2022. We have had three documentaries and numerous local news broadcasts highlighting our school. People are paying attention now!" he shares. 🎧

AL Niger reached the following milestones in 2021:

1,250,000 people reached
1614 households sensitised
3 awareness videos and 21 broadcasts on 3 TV channels produced



Comics against misinformation

Accountability Lab Niger applied our Civic Action Teams (CivActs) model to a campaign to combat hate speech and violence during election and post-election periods in the country.

The team hosted five training sessions to build the capacity of youth ambassadors on the prevention and management of electoral conflicts and on the effects of the dissemination of hate speech. This was followed by two awareness-raising campaigns: one in the field which involved door-to-door visits by youth ambassadors and another one online using social media platforms.

The campaigns in Niamey, Diffa, Tahoua, Tillabéri and Zinder proved to be an effective community approach to fighting

damaging rumors and misinformation. Messaging was particularly targeted at young people, people with disabilities, women and local authorities. The team also hosted several radio discussions that brought together opinion leaders, activists, youth, women and authorities to explain the need to promote social cohesion through elections and a peaceful electoral process.

They also produced an easy-to-digest French comic book, distributing copies in all intervention regions, with the support of USAID. The comic encouraged young people to check the sources of videos and memes received, before passing them on and possibly stoking political fires.

Abdou Harouna Nazifa was one of the

youth ambassadors working in Niamey. "During our exchanges in people's homes, I gained a lot of experience. The strategy we used was to exchange knowledge on themes related to hate speech, disinformation, non-violent conflict management, the importance of social cohesion, the causes and consequences of violence during electoral and post-electoral periods, and the management of this disease. This is rarely done in our contexts and so was an innovation for us. This not only allowed us to involve community members and consider their point of view, but also to be in direct contact with them in order to raise their awareness of this misinformation scourge we're dealing with, which needs leadership and solidarity," she said. 📌

Marvellous Tshuma - Voice2Rep Zimbabwe

Voice to Represent (Voice2Rep) is a music campaign searching for young music artists who support greater representation, participation and accountability. In 2020, Voice2Rep Zimbabwe had the pleasure of working with Marvellous Tshuma, stage name Marve Tee, who lives with albinism. It's a common genetic condition affecting approximately one in 5,000 people in Zimbabwe. Albinism results in insufficient or no melanin production by the skin, leading to little or no pigmentation in the hair, skin and eyes.

"As a person with albinism I experienced discrimination and societal segregation but that made me the stronger being I am today and it became the foundation of the work I do," she says.

Marve Tee is a talented musician who has a passion for advancing the rights of people living with albinism and the Tonga language using her music. Unfortunately, scarce resources, among other

challenges faced by artists in Zimbabwe, have limited the extent to which her music and work is recognized and supported.

As a finalist in the Voice2Rep Campaign, Marve received training that provided her with a deeper appreciation of the structural roots of the issues her communities face, and strengthened her skills as an advocate for social justice. The campaign also helped her to polish her lyricism, and provided her with access to a recording studio through which her song Tulemekane, a song about unity, was produced for the album Freedom.

Marvellous channels her activism through Albinism Konnect, an initiative of the Noble Hands Trust in which she is National Chairperson. The initiative mobilizes funds to assist people living with albinism to secure sunglasses, hats, sunscreen lotion, and health care among other treatments. Marve Tee's journey through Voice2Rep cemented her personal commitment to activism that brings tangible changes in the lives of others in the albino and BaTonga communities. Her work can be found on various social media platforms including on [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#). 📌

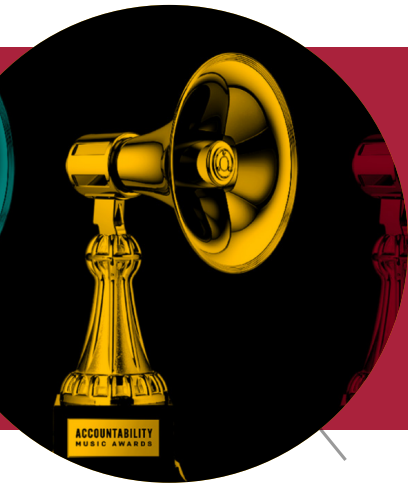


Rapping for accountability

In 2013, Accountability Lab Liberia launched “Hipco for Accountability” – an initiative to use the popular Liberian music genre Hipco, to spread awareness about accountability issues to young people. Twelve influential Hipco musicians came together to create the Hipco for Accountability Network - Takun J, Nasseman, JB Soulfresh, Shining Man, Lil Bishop, Dr. C, Pochano, Picardo, JD Donzo, Uncle Shaq, Blackest 305, and Santos. These artists discussed accountability issues that affect their lives and planned how to collectively confront copyright issues in Liberia’s music industry. They drafted a letter to key stakeholders involved with the issue, including the copyright office, the Music Union and relevant Senators in order to find strategic ways to work together towards more accountable copyright laws. They also began discussing social accountability positively on social media, radio

interviews, and during live performances. It was the start of a wonderful campaign. We quickly found that positioning musicians as social and political actors allows them to build coalitions for change and supports them to push for collective action. The Hipco Accountability Network continues to grow in leaps and bounds. Currently, accountability “raptivist” and conscious musician, Amaze Toe has been leading the network and mentoring passionate young people in Liberia on the fundamentals of accountability and using music as a tool for social change. Further to the formulation of the network, AL Liberia launched **Voice2Rep** - a first of its kind music competition that uses conscious music as a tool for social change through youth participation. The campaign has grown to Zimbabwe and Nigeria with conscious musicians coming

together to advocate for a more inclusive and open government. In 2021, AL Nigeria launched their third consecutive Voice2Rep album with GenWoke across all the major streaming platforms. Meanwhile, Voice2Rep Nigeria participant from 2018, Gbajumo Lauda Taiwo, has released his first commercial album, Rap, Time and Chance, in which he speaks about issues including tribalism, racism and the need for youth activists. In Liberia, at the start of the pandemic, the team ran a special-edition Voice2Rep that produced songs encouraging healthy behaviors. We share principles and narratives of change and practice across all our Labs, but programs like Voice2Rep manifest in various ways in different countries. This is key – ensuring that ideas are translated effectively for sustainable community engagement. 📌



The Accountability Music Awards celebrate African musicians and artists whose music supports the fight against corruption in Africa. These awards were first introduced in 2020 where Nigeria singer and Voice2Rep artist, Cill was named top winner for her song “All You’ve Got”. The song encourages citizens to take an active role in pushing for social and political reform in Nigeria. In 2021, together with the African Union and ONE Africa campaign, the

AMAs celebrated incredible music artists from across the African continent who are encouraging engagement, solidarity with social justice efforts and reinforcing the values of democratic and accountable societies. Zimbabwean reggae-dancehall artist, Winky D emerged the overall winner for his song “Njema” which encourages people to liberate themselves from lies, cowardice, corruption and poverty.

Alfred Flomo - Hipco rapper and community activist

Alfred Flomo, popularly known as Legendary Super-7, is a Liberian Hipco rapper and community activist who uses his music to educate Liberian youth about issues affecting them. He started his music career in 2009 after being inspired by a song called ‘Africa Unite’ by Scientific, a Ghanaian-based, Liberian rapper. “After listening to the song by Scientific, I felt I could do the same - doing songs to promote citizen participation in my country,” he says. “Through the HipCo Accountability Network, we try to highlight positive impacts to remind people of what’s right and what’s wrong.”



Legendary Super-7 has been an active member of the HipCo Accountability Network since 2016 and has released two albums. His recent project, a seven-track EP, ‘Abandoned Treasure’, is performing well on streaming platforms. It features Hipco Accountability Ambassador Amaze, Monally, Lestic, Awake & BK and Fullest4. “In Abandoned Treasure, I was trying to highlight that our government fails to promote youth empowerment in Liberia. In other countries, governments promote talent. We believe that that’s a key role of the government and is a very positive strategy to poverty reduction and encouraging young people to participate in activities they are passionate about.”

Alfred also volunteers at community educational institutions in Montserrado County to teach professional ethics to students. “I teach students to believe in themselves. One can be an artist or a musician and still be in a professional career and contribute to society.” 📌

Supporting strong coalitions



At AL, we are not a collective of separate entities. As a translocal network, we believe we grow by bringing citizens, governments, and businesses together to build accountability through an ecosystem. These coalitions and communities that emerge are better able to amplify accountability messages and secure sustainability. In the past few years, we've worked hard to ensure we're contributing to multilateral conversations in a way that centers the diverse voices of people in those communities.

We were proud to support the creation of the Open Gov Youth Collective in 2019, a group of young open government champions from around the world. During the following year we convened hundreds of young people at the Open Gov Digital Youth Summit to explore the values and approaches that youths can use for open governance efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic and catalyze

action in response. The series of events unearthed practical ideas from more than 1000 open government reformers. In 2021, together with the government of Korea, we hosted youth bootcamps for the Open Government Partnership Summit's youth delegates which culminated in a number of important youth policy recommendations.

We are also supporting donor collaboratives and initiatives, including the Liberia Accountability and Voice Initiative and the World Bank's work on citizen engagement - both formally through the Expert Advisory Council - and informally. We are part of the OGP Steering Committee and have led the development of a youth toolkit to guide governments on the engagement of young people in processes of opening governance around the world. In 2021 and 2022 the Lab also co-chaired the **G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group**, elevating

the voices of civil society into the G20 process and creating a **digital tracker** to monitor the G20's anti-corruption commitments.

More recently, as part of ongoing work around the Summit for Democracy, we developed a website to help coordinate the efforts of civil society organizations who are supporting the Summit's Year of Action (YoA) initiatives. We'd like to try to ensure the transparency and effectiveness of the process as a whole.

In 2022, we are looking to build out our advocacy skills, including an understanding of how to better translate pressure into policy-change at various levels of government across the countries in which we work. We also want to work hard to make sure that all policy-processes we are part of are more diverse and inclusive. [A](#)

Jabnely Maldonado Integrity Icon Mexico 2020

2019 Integrity Icon Mexico winner, Jabnely Maldonado, works for the Commission for the Reconstruction of Mexico City where she served as the General Director of Affected People at the time she became an Integrity Icon. "The idea for me to participate in the Integrity Icon campaign came from the families affected by the disaster. I had the opportunity to represent my work for the citizens as General Director of Attention to Victims of the Disaster and as someone who was always in contact with people," she says. Jabnely has since become the Head of the Commission.

When she won the People's Choice Award in 2019 after receiving the highest number of votes, she was actively participating in the titanic task of rebuilding and rehabilitating the homes of thousands of victims after the earthquake of September 19, 2017. Since joining the Commission in December 2018, Jabnely dedicated her time to caring for the earthquake victims, guiding them through legal processes and ensuring that each family had a route to follow.



"After the departure of the previous Commissioner, I was fortunate enough that the Head of Government gave me the assignment of being the new Head of the Commission for Reconstruction. It's great recognition for the work I do and a commitment and responsibility to fulfil to the people who were affected by the earthquake," she says.

Jabnely believes that working as a team is an essential part of her work. "Being an example is also a double responsibility; it is recognition earned by the work of a team and a shared conviction. I believe that it is a way to replicate a commitment to myself and to others," she says.

"To see public service as an opportunity to transform the lives of others or to transform reality through the work that one does in the government is an honor. It is a great opportunity that should be taken advantage of because not everyone has this opportunity." [A](#)

39% The number of G20 countries that have fully-compliant whistleblower protection laws on their statute books.

Source: AL G20 Anti-Corruption Tracker

For more information, get in touch with
us on info@accountabilitylab.org
You can visit our website at
www.accountabilitylab.org.