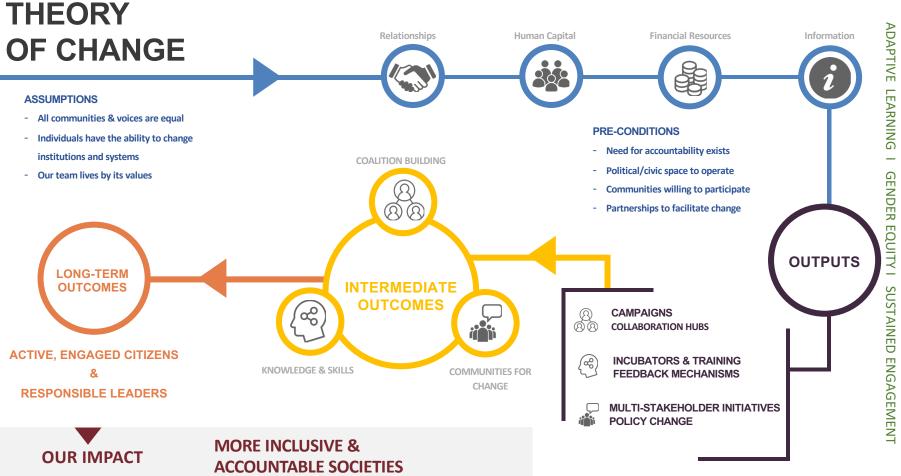# Theories of Change

We have developed several theories of change over the lifetime of the Accountability Lab. We are proud of the fact that our understanding of our work is evolving as we iterate and learn. At any given time, we are also trying to test more than one theory of change within a given context. Accountability relates to complex social and political dynamics and building it requires multiple inter-related activities- it is not linear, nor is it singular. Our efforts are just one part of the process of change we hope to see.

We view a theory of change not just as a way to map out inputs, outputs and outcomes but as a way to understand in practical terms the causality between them; and to support double loop learning (learning that recognizes that the way a problem is defined and solved can be a source of the problem itself). As a result our theory of change is not an agreed, defined diagram- it is a living document that we amend and refine over time as we learn on the ground. Continue to see our various theories of change.
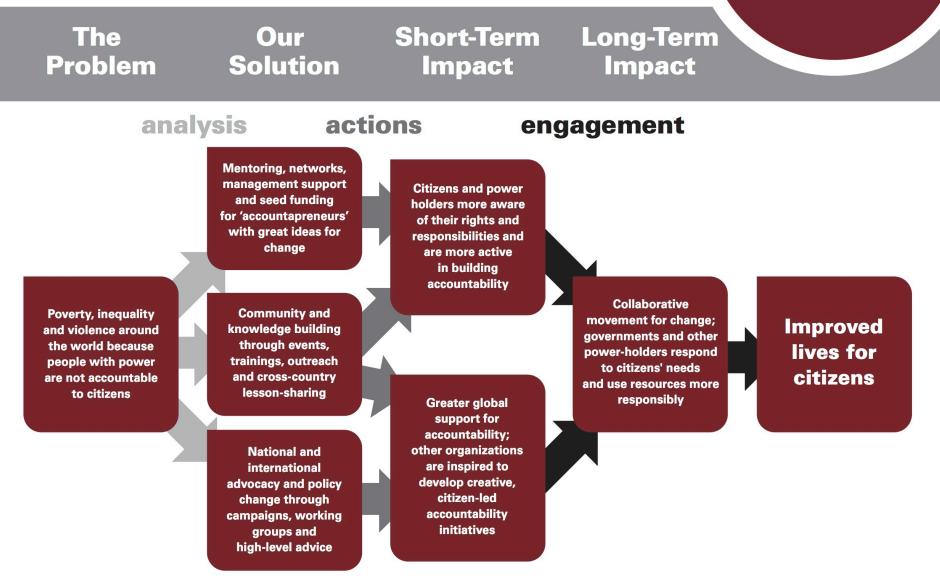
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THEORY OF CHANGE

Relationships — **Human Capital** — **Financial Resources** — **Information**

ASSUMPTIONS

- All communities & voices are equal
- Individuals have the ability to change institutions and systems
- Our team lives by its values

PRE-CONDITIONS

- Need for accountability exists
- Political/civic space to operate
- Communities willing to participate
- Partnerships to facilitate change

COALITION BUILDING

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

COMMUNITIES FOR CHANGE

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

ACTIVE, ENGAGED CITIZENS & RESPONSIBLE LEADERS

OUTPUTS

CAMPAIGNS
COLLABORATION HUBS

INCUBATORS & TRAINING
FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER INITIATIVES
POLICY CHANGE

OUR IMPACT

MORE INCLUSIVE & ACCOUNTABLE SOCIETIES

ADAPTIVE LEARNING I GENDER EQUITY I SUSTAINED ENGAGEMENT

CROSS CUTTING THEMES:

2019

2015

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Partnering with Citizens Around the World to Build Accountability

2014 THEORY OF CHANGE

The Problem	Our Solution	Short-Term Impact	Long-Term Impact

analysis   actions   engagement

Poverty, inequality and violence around the world because people with power are not accountable to citizens

Mentoring, networks, management support and seed funding for 'accountapreneurs' with great ideas for change

Community and knowledge building through events, trainings, outreach and cross-country lesson-sharing

National and international advocacy and policy change through campaigns, working groups and high-level advice

Citizens and power holders more aware of their rights and responsibilities and are more active in building accountability

Greater global support for accountability; other organizations are inspired to develop creative, citizen-led accountability initiatives

Collaborative movement for change; governments and other power-holders respond to citizens' needs and use resources more responsibly

Improved lives for citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY LAB THEORY OF CHANGE

- ACCOUNTABILITY OF POWER-HOLDERS
- RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS & ACTIONS
- MORE EFFICIENT USE OF PUBLIC & PRIVATE RESOURCES
- IMPROVED LIVES FOR CITIZENS & INCREASED EXPECTATIONS OF ACCOUNTABILITY