

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



### INTRODUCTION

2020 was a year like no other as we witnessed a global pandemic that impacted millions of people, claimed hundreds of lives, and plunged the world into a deep recession. In Nigeria, it widened the many gaps in our justice, security, and health systems due to the lack of accountability within these systems. Amid this landscape, our core values and strategy at the Lab have never been more important. These values - integrity, innovation, humility, practicality, and collaboration, alongside our [2020-2023 strategy](#), have given us the resilience to move past the challenges brought by the pandemic. This has enabled us to deliver value to all our stakeholders through our projects.

With COVID-19, the Lab identified four priorities:

- Ensuring the wellbeing of our teams as our staff are our greatest asset;
- Citizen feedback on COVID-19 responses using our Civic Action Teams (CivActs);
- Inclusion - ensuring our work not only allows for the inclusion of our existing communities at such challenging times but grows our efforts into new places where important voices need to be heard;
- Adaptive learning - both within and across our teams and more broadly beyond the organization.

In spite of the challenges COVID-19 brought along, we are proud of what we've been able to achieve together. We have adapted our office in a variety of ways:

- Virtual programming - a shift to a variety of virtual meetings, events, gatherings, and trainings, with an emphasis on growing our audiences and ensuring diversity;
- Revised office policies and procedures - adhering to all public health guidelines and with flexible work-from-home policies for all staff;
- Socially distanced events - where these have been feasible, observing safety protocols and using outdoor spaces.

Many thanks for your continuous support through thick and thin.

Odeh Friday, Country Director: Accountability Lab Nigeria



## AL VISION AND MISSION

Our vision is a world in which resources are used wisely, decisions benefit everyone fairly, and people lead secure lives. Our mission is therefore to make governance work for people through supporting active citizens, responsible leaders, and accountable institutions.



## OUR STRUCTURE

Accountability Lab Nigeria is a registered non-profit based in Abuja with 10 staff and 10 volunteers. We are part of a global trans-local network of Labs including Accountability Lab Global (registered as a 501c3 in the US), Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, all of which are locally registered. We now have 100+ staff across this network, supported by hundreds of volunteers.

“ Our values - integrity, innovation, humility, practicality, and collaboration- have given us the resilience to move past the challenges brought by the pandemic



Shifting norms to ensure that integrity becomes the expected behavior within societies.



Influencing policies, processes and practices, through growing coalitions and advocating for change.



Equipping reformers - inside and outside government - with the knowledge and tools to push for better governance.



## INTEGRITY ICON

Integrity Icon has become a global movement - on the ground, online, and through the media - to celebrate and encourage honest government officials. The goals of Integrity Icon are:

### **To create role models and celebrate honest public officials**

Through a growing network of volunteers and with the use of online methods, we identify honest and outstanding public servants in Nigeria through open and public nominations. The 2020 nomination drive identified 812 (603 males and 209 females) honest government officials for consideration for the Integrity Icon awards. An independent panel of 7 judges selected the top five Icons through transparent scrutiny of their impact stories. To facilitate citizens' participation in the campaign, the public is called upon to vote for their favorite Integrity Icons through traditional and social media. Finally, the Integrity Icons are announced and celebrated in public award ceremonies with government representatives, VIPs, and the media in attendance.

### **To inspire young people by indicating that government is a career path in which one can work with integrity and honesty**

The 2020 Film Fellowship received 257 (232 young female) youth applications, trained 25 females, and supported 5 film fellows who engaged in the production of Integrity Icon media content. They visited the workplaces of the five finalists to interview and film them doing their jobs, as they explained the merits and challenges of integrity and interacted with community members who could vouch for their great work. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to conclude filming while following the necessary precautions. These short films on the icons are also aired on TV and social media platforms to create awareness and argue for adopting honesty in public office.

### **To connect and support the winners to help build coalitions to push for further reform and value-based decision-making over time**

We work with the Icon community through summits, training programs, fellowships, events, and retreats to begin to push for norm changes within institutions, agencies, civil service training programs, and schools/colleges. The Icons, their bosses and colleagues as well as other government officials, CSOs, Media amongst others were brought together for a series of workshops (both in-person and virtual) which had a total of 179 stakeholders engaged in intensive discussions around Bribery in the Workplace, Bureaucracy in Government, Gender Implementation in Public Service, Conflict resolution and Integrity in Public Service and Government Interference in Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).



Integrity Icon's media and social media reach increases annually as the campaign gains traction in Nigeria and our network of partners expands. Our social media messaging reached over 8.5 million people in 2020 and we project reaching over 11 million people in 2021. Additionally, the campaign enjoyed significant coverage by national media outlets.

## INTEGRITY ICON BY NUMBERS

**812**

Nominations

**10**

Volunteers

**12**

Outreaches

**5**

Film Fellows

**5**

Team building exercises

## INTEGRITY ICON IN THE MEDIA



- [1. Policeman, Nafdac official, Teacher make Integrity Icons shortlist](#)
- [2. Panelists Underscore Need For Transparency, Accountability In Public Service](#)
- [3. Accountability Lab calls on Nigeria youth to embrace culture of dignity and discipline](#)
- [4. Understanding good governance with Dr. Joe Abah](#)
- [5. Accountability Lab Nigeria Celebrates those who make the difference](#)



## IMPACT TO DATE

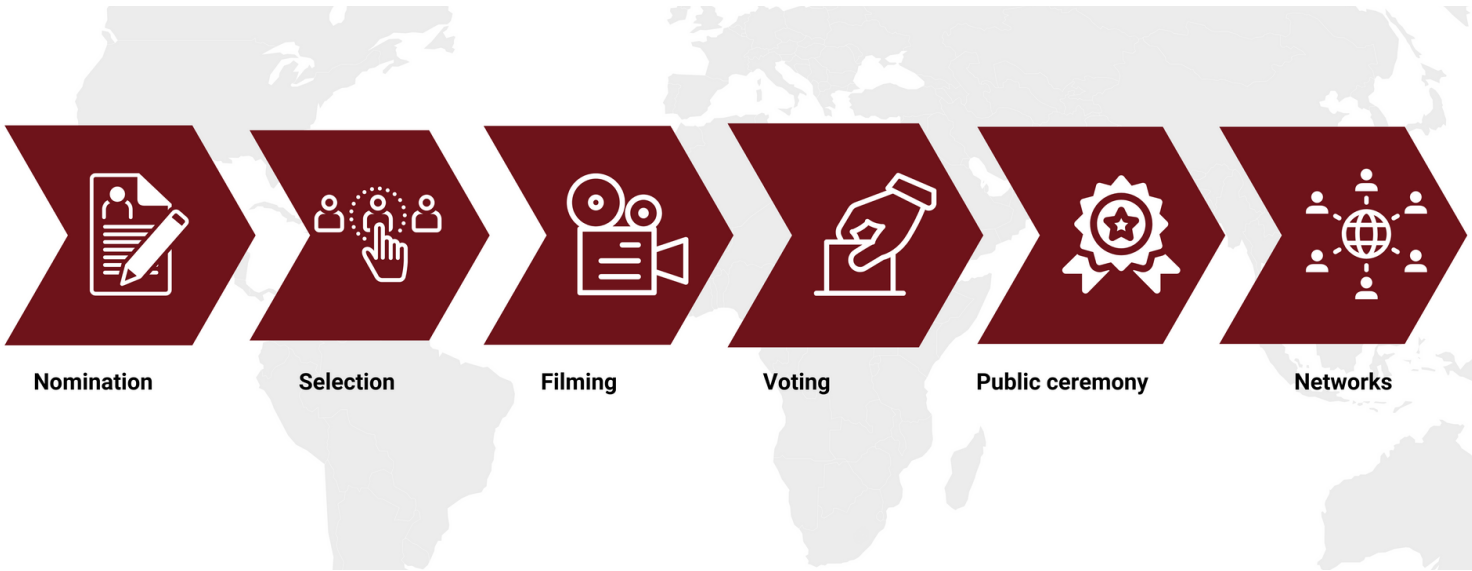
The impact of the integrity icon is being felt across the country as we have seen procedures, behaviors, and actions changing as a result of our work in Nigeria. For example;

- [Dr. Magdalene Igbolo](#) (IIN 2017) is beginning to change protocols in the Department of Sociology at the University of Abuja in terms of Post Graduate admission and Examination. This is a significant departure from the former practice where candidates manipulated the system to obtain grades by bypassing procedures. She has also altered the structure of postgraduate studies in the department by unbundling the coordination and sharing the responsibility among different persons - a shift from the culture of one person coordinating all the post-graduate programs in the Department.
- [Mr. Kehinde Aremu](#) (IIN 2018) has been working tirelessly in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in changing procedures that previously encouraged corrupt practices among the staff of NYSC and youth corps members by enshrining automation in processes with a view to reducing unnecessary human and physical contacts in the registration, deployment, and monitoring of corps members during the compulsory one-year service.
- [CSP Francis Erhabor](#) (IIN 2019) has built a great number of mentees who see him as a model of an ideal Police officer and who have vowed to behave the way he does in their entire police life. Francis is also building a network of citizens who are standing up to challenge the dubious behavior of public officials. He also [won the Integrity awards by ICPC and was celebrated by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria](#), President Muhammad Buhari.

### INTEGRITY ICON SINCE INCEPTION

4 campaigns  
1500 nominations  
20 winning Icons





We have codified the approach and content for the campaign so that it can be standardized across contexts in the coming years





## VOICE2REP

Our music campaigns (“Voice2Rep” or “Voice to Represent”) engage young people through music to allow them to develop their own voice, and connect to audiences around accountability-themed songs.

The goal of Voice2Rep covers representation, equality and participation, in addition to accountability:

**To find ways to engage young people through music around issues of accountability and integrity.**

The 2019/2020 edition of our annual Voice2Rep competition received a total of 372 (355 males and 17 females) entries. Over 15 professionals in the music industry and CSO leaders assisted in the selection of the top 10. The [top 10 finalists convened in Lagos](#) where they were [trained](#) and [mentored by music industry experts](#) in partnership with the Chocolate city music group to use their voices to promote good governance.

**To change the approach that the industry, as a whole, takes to these challenges, through positive messaging and engagement.**

Selected Voice2Rep artists were given the opportunity to perform at a virtual [National concert](#) supported by Alternate Sound, where the artists performed their songs to over 5000 attendees in line with the theme: I am Generation Equality. It was a unique concert focused on women’s rights and titled “For Her”.

We continue to find ways to connect artists to each other around accountability issues they care about, such as gender equity in the music industry. Round table discussions have brought together stakeholders, industry experts, media personalities, music producers, filmmakers, CSOs, and Voice2Rep artists to network and discuss the Voice2Rep project as a tool for national development.

## MUSIC CAMPAIGNS BY NUMBERS

**372**

Entries

**13**

Songs produced

**10**

Artists

**3**

Film Fellows



## IMPACT TO DATE

- The Voice2Rep campaign has engaged hundreds of thousands of young people across Nigeria, with significant media attention for the winners on radio and TV, and many of the winning songs becoming widely popular; video clips of the 10 finalists performing their songs from the national concerts were aired on TRACE TV Africa reaching over 20 million viewers. This is advantageous to the project and also key to having a greater influence at the national level in pushing broadly for the change we would like to see.
- We have observed artists gaining recognition for their powerful messages beyond this program. CillSoul was selected by the World Movement for Democracy with other West African artists to produce a song on democracy.



## CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

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## INCUBATOR

- An annual, year-long training and support program for young people with great ideas for accountability. Akin to a business incubator, the Accountability Incubator provides these “Accountapreneurs” with training (quarterly meet-ups and online modules), hands-on mentorship (support for the development of ideas), communications support (such as promo videos and blogs), networks (through pitch events and “friend raisers”) and resources.

### OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES:

- The goal of the Incubator is to re-balance assistance for civil society in the accountability space towards bottom-up, localized ideas for change.
- The 2020 Accountability incubator call for applications saw a total of 105 applicants eager to use the incubator program to develop their social innovations.
- The program supports individuals, who can take advantage of opportunities to build accountability.
- 10 young changemakers were selected and brought together for mentorship and network-building, quarterly training, knowledge sharing, and advocacy support.
- We aim to build “unlikely networks” and diverse coalitions that can find new ways to create change.
- We facilitated mentorship for accountapreneurs through our “accountability alumni network”, with efforts to track the participants over time to understand their impact. Through a series of virtual “friend-raiser” events we connected beneficiaries with potential donors and collaborators, with civil society leaders and government representatives in attendance.

## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

- Wilson Atumeyi’s Water Wide innovation advocated for water supply in the Tika community in Abuja, a community that [had no access to safe water](#). Within two months of advocacy, it received [Government response](#) through the Hon. Minister of State FCT and [a borehole was sunk in the community](#).
- John Olla’s project produced the first-ever Oyo state citizen’s budget, in partnership with the Oyo state government. He has also produced 6 policy dialogues on the danger of non-compliance to environmental impact assessment standards in Oyo State.
- As a result of Believe Obafaiye’s Watchers project, 4,270 vulnerable children living in 3 communities of Ajaokuta LGA, Kogi State accessed primary education.
- Accountapreneur Mariam Arole, through the incubator training, was able to handle the case of Muideen Bilau who had been in detention for almost 6 years without arraignment. The 'Pro Bono Center' took up his case pro bono.



## CIVIC ACTION TEAMS

The Civic Action Teams (CivActs) is a pioneering citizen feedback, dialogue, and community voice platform to ensure accountability in the development process. The CivActs collect critical information from hundreds of communities solving daily problems for citizens and closing the loop on challenges related to everything from migration, to human trafficking, to natural resource management and security issues.

### GOALS:

The CivActs process is used to ensure that everyone within communities understands how and when development will take place, to build accountability into local decision-making in real-time, and to close the feedback loop between citizens, governments, the media, and businesses.

- We reached 222 community members where the Azura power project is being hosted in Edo state. In addition to engaging through feedback loops, we convened a town hall meeting that provided a platform to engage with the government and other stakeholders.

## CIVACTS BY NUMBERS

**16**

CFAs

**79**

participants at multi stakeholder dialogues

## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

1. The Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities in Kaduna State received a laptop from the Kaduna State Rehabilitation board courtesy of the CivActs Inclusion Project.
2. There has been significant involvement of women in Community discussions in Assa and Obile Communities of Ohaji Egbema Local government of Imo State. This is a major norm shift.
3. The Gwagwalada community in Chikun Local Government now holds Town Hall meetings on its own without the intervention of Accountability Lab Nigeria.
4. Leveraging on the platform that encouraged inclusion, Oluwayemisi Samuel, a woman, is campaigning to become the Counsellor of Sabon Gari ward in Chikun LGA.

## SDG 16 INNOVATION CHALLENGE



The SDG 16 innovation challenge is an initiative to find creative solutions for SDG 16. The competition supports young men and women ages 15 – 35 years to develop ideas, build skills and connect with others working towards a shared goal of strengthening accountability, the rule of law, and access to justice for Nigerians. The initiative is built on the understanding that young men and women in Nigeria are key stakeholders in the SDGs.

### GOAL:

To strengthen accountability, the rule of law, and access to justice for Nigerians through a collaborative SDG 16 innovation challenge.

The 2019 SDG 16 Innovation campaign received a total of 273 applications (114 females, 159 males). 40 selected finalists participated in 3-day training workshops in Abuja and Lagos State. Winners were offered a place in the Accountability Incubator program.



## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

One of the winning ideas of the SDG 16 innovation challenge, 'Pro Bono Center' saw the release of illegally detained persons in October 2020 as they represented #ENDSARs protesters that were victims of police brutality.

## COALITION - BUILDING, POLICY CHANGE, AND ADVOCACY

We are well placed to source ideas from the bottom-up that can inform policy decisions made from the top-down, making them more citizen-centric and inclusive. We also have networks at the policy level - both nationally and internationally - that we can leverage to begin to change laws, approaches, and systems in ways that can build accountability. Over time, we have found ourselves being asked to be part of collective efforts that are advocating for change to the status quo.

### GOALS

The goal of our work in this area is to ensure that lessons learned “from the coal face” of accountability are fed into policies and processes to ensure greater accountability and inclusion.

## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

- We supported the new thematic group on the OGP Inclusion and Diversity. Currently, we are building members for the working group and supporting various discussions as the non-state actor co-chair of the working group.

## A SPECIAL THANKS TO

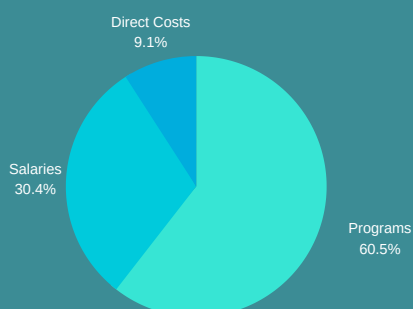


Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



## AL NIGERIA 2020 FINANCES

\$367,867.25



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AL Nigeria is a registered non-profit based in Abuja, an affiliate of Accountability Lab Global.