



2020 Annual Report



We are reimagining how to build accountability in Liberia. Our vision is a world in which citizens are active, leaders are responsible and institutions are accountable. It is a world in which resources are used wisely, youth are taking leadership responsibly, 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.

The year 2020 was marred by the global COVID-19 pandemic which imposed severe challenges on the healthcare delivery system and infrastructure as well as a financial and economic strain on the government and citizens of Liberia.

Despite these challenges, Accountability Lab Liberia continued to work first from home and then from the office to support the concerted efforts in the country in contributing to the fight against the pandemic, and continuing to push for accountability and good governance.

This report covers the period January to December 2020 and includes updates on the implementation of the following projects and activities: Integrity Icon, Accountability Incubator, Voice2Rep, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Crisis Response, Open Government Partnership (OGP), and the DAI/LAVI Health Project.

The purpose of this report is to track the progress on the country-level program activities; the outputs and outcomes; articulate the results achieved and the lessons learned along the way for improving performance; demonstrating stewardship and accountability to donors, partners, and beneficiaries, and the next steps in our programming.



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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all engagements with AL Liberia's volunteers in the counties were done virtually. This includes training, guidance for raising awareness for nominations, as well as coaching and mentoring support. Some of the challenges encountered included power outages and poor internet connections during these engagements. However, the campaign nominations were successfully covered in nine out of 15 counties - gathering a total of 103 completed entries.

The winners of the 2020 Integrity Icon Liberia campaign were; Ms. O. Wanga Wanley, officer-in-charge (OIC) at the Totoquelleh Clinic for the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOH/SW) in Bopolu City - she was also named People's Choice Award winner after receiving the highest number of votes; Mr. Eric T. Joboe, an astute law enforcement officer trained by the United National Police (UNPOL); Mr. Titus Tikwa, Senior Compliance and Monitoring Officer at the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission; Mr. Victor W. Nyanneh, principal of the J. J. Dickson United Methodist High School and Mr. Sumoiwu Z. Harris, Project Director for the Liberian-Swedish Feeder Road Project. Please find the links to some of the campaigns' activities [here](#) and [here](#).

2020 INTEGRITY ICON BY NUMBERS

103

Nominations

1,744

Votes

29

Volunteers

13,677

Social Media Reach

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

- The Campaign overall has reached all 15 political sub-divisions in Liberia with over 11,000 nominations and 30 winning Icons from 10 counties.
- A DEA officer (2017 Icon) gained promotion on the job and was interviewed by the BBC for his work on transparency and accountability
- An Integrity Icon (2018 IIL edition) now serves as the Country Director for the Carter Center Liberia
- An Assistant Commissioner of Police (2019 Icon) has reported having more speaking engagements (local and international) on accountability and transparency related to policing in the last 2 years since becoming an icon.



CIVIC ACTION TEAMS

The Community Frontline Associates (CFAs) played pivotal roles in supporting both the integrity Icon campaign and the UNDP Crisis Response Project in 2020. During both of these projects, they received online pieces of training on activities they were to support, including monitoring and reporting. The training covered an introduction to AL Liberia's work, interview techniques, story-telling, data collection, and reporting. The training activities were interactive and the evaluation showed that more than 85% of those in attendance learned new skills. As part of the data collection training, CFAs were also trained on the Kobo Toolbox system, an online data collection software that uses android phones and tablets to collect and report information

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were travel restrictions that were imposed between counties as part of health protocols to curb the spread of the pandemic. However, CFAs were able to apply the skills acquired at the training and were able to collect information in their respective communities without crossing restricted boundaries. The information collected was uploaded to a centralized platform for analysis that produced the reports needed.

CIVACTS BY NUMBERS IN 2020

29

Participants

2

Problems solved

36

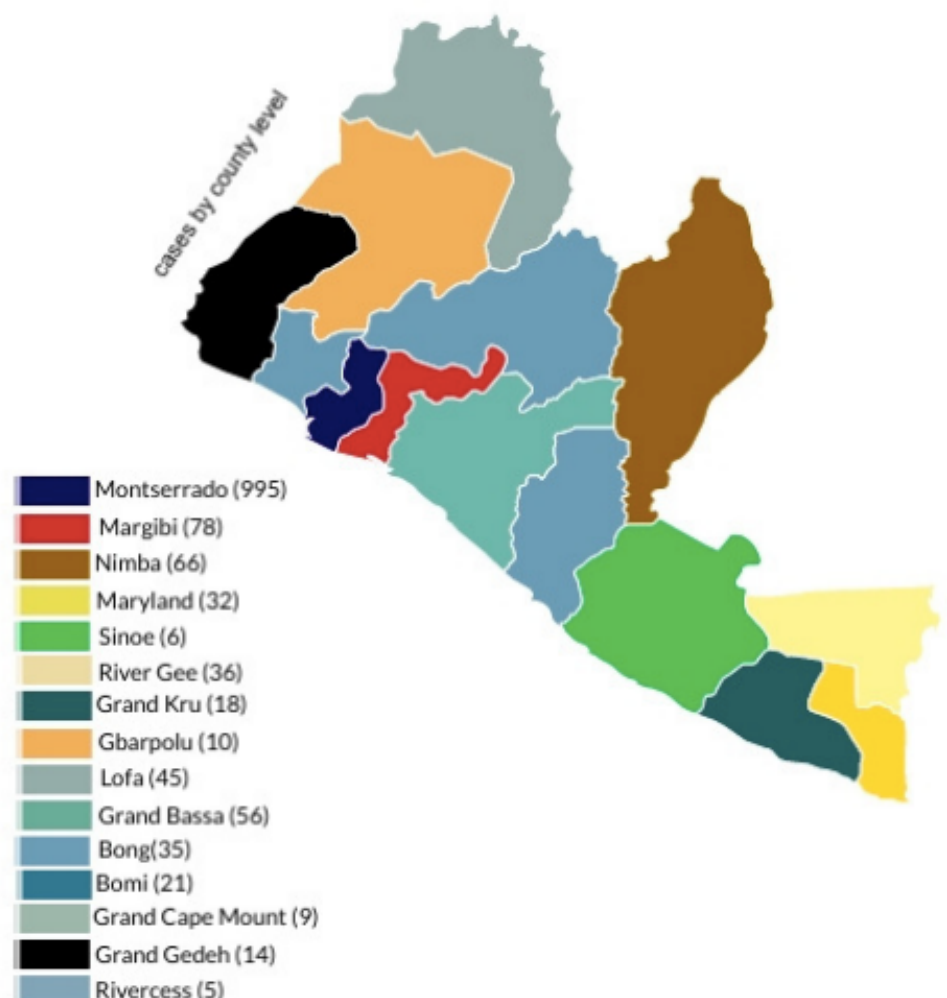
Bulletins

29

CFAs Trained

IMPACT

- The CFAs (10 of them in nine counties) helped gather weekly rumors about COVID-19 at the community level which were used to produce 36 bulletins to help prevent the spread of the virus.
- 19 CFAs tracked a total of \$155M worth of food and non-food items donated to the government of Liberia for combating the COVID-19 pandemic.
- An average of 85% of the CFAs reported picking up new skills in data collection, using the the Kobo Toolbox interview techniques, and story writing.





VOICE2REP

In 2020, there were two musical campaigns; the NED Voice2Rep Democracy Campaign and the COVID-19 Rap2Rep competition. The NED Voice2Rep Democracy campaign recorded songs and spread democracy messages through tours and concerts to citizens about whom to vote for and how to hold elected leaders accountable on their campaign promises before the elections. Meanwhile, as part of the COVID-19 Rap2Rep campaign, three hipco, conscious songs to promote safety, adherence, and behavior change, and debunk rumors about the COVID-19 pandemic, were recorded and distributed.

2020 VOICE2REP BY NUMBERS

10

Finalists

8

Songs

4

Concerts

161,744

people reached

IMPACT IN 2020

- The NED Voice2Rep campaign engaged over 2,000 young people in Montserrado, Nimba, Grand Bassa, and Bong counties through tours and concerts in front of live audiences. The songs produced were repeatedly played on 7 different radio stations with a combined listenership of over 1.1 million people.
- The COVID-19 Rap2Rep campaign reached more than 160,000 individuals who listened to, downloaded, or shared the songs on different social media platforms. It also reached a combined radio listenership (on eighteen local radio stations) of 5,000,000. At least 95% of the participating musicians reported on new knowledge gained through coaching and mentoring activities from experienced international recording artists and producers.



TRAINING PROJECTS

Open Government Partnership

Through the implementation of the Open Government Partnership project, we were able to assess and provide capacity-building training for OGP support Unit (the Secretariat), in areas of effective communications, financial management, monitoring and reporting, and accountability impact assessment. The project was focused on promoting a partnership among the public, private and civil society on open governance.



Impact to date

During the fourth NAP co-creation process, AL Liberia and partners were able to broaden the coalition of government and civil society by engaging 16 new Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from across the country, which is now part of the multi-stakeholder forum (MSF).

This group includes six (6) women-led organizations - Covenant Family Global, Youth United for Development Association, Partnership in Sustainable Development Initiative, Girls for Change, Community Initiative for Change, Vision Enhancement initiative, Africa Children Initiative for Self-Empowerment, Kona Rescue Mission, For Every Girl, Inc, Serving Humanity with Affection, Love and an Open Mind (SHALOMO), Platform Women, FOSEY Inc., GRAWOA, NIPO, GIOFONET and MOPIDS

“Despite the challenges with any co-creation process – from insufficient resources to varying levels of technology – we need to recognize the opportunities an open and inclusive consultative approach to governance can yield. One of the key learnings for us is that while working virtually is challenging, there is still room to ensure the government is open and transparent. The challenge now as we move past the co-creation phase- and hopefully past COVID-19- is to ensure that implementation is as inclusive as possible.

UNDP Crises Response

Also known as 'Follow-the-money', this project was focused on tracking COVID-19 donations (cash and non-cash). Through the publication of bulletins based on a set of weekly reports compiled by the Lab's Community Frontline Associates, the project responded to COVID-19 myths and misconceptions by providing the right kind of information from reliable sources including the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) and the World Health Organization (WHO). These bulletins were distributed via social media and other digital platforms. As part of the project, we trained and worked with volunteers/CFAs in nine counties.

It's our goal to make sure communities are receiving the right information around the coronavirus to enable them to navigate this crisis in ways and languages they understand. Click [here](#) for all the bulletins.

DAI Health Project

This project supported the capacity-building initiatives of nine civil society and human rights organizations (LIPRIDE) to better advocate for minority and marginalized groups. The training areas covered Financial Management, Strategy Development, Fundraising, and Proposal Writing.

IMPACT

Working through the COVID-19 Period

In the early stages of COVID-19 in Liberia in March 2020, it was difficult to meet face-to-face and gauge key stakeholders' interest and motivation. This made it challenging to identify common goals, build trust and openness through dialogue and deliberation for implementation. A great deal of time was spent trying to coordinate responses across program participants and key stakeholders.

- To overcome some of the challenges and to continue consultations and collect feedback, AL Liberia provided an alternative space to encourage stakeholders and beneficiaries to interact. First, there was a need for a common digital space to collect comments and feedback. This was created through separate Google documents for sharing program documents that needed inputs from partners and participants that would set the stage for discussions.
- Second, AL Liberia realized the need for a more interactive virtual space. For this, individual WhatsApp groups were created for different projects stakeholders; particularly participants and partners, where the discussion would take place. These two steps helped the team continue to work and achieve program results.



90%

Average % of participants reporting increased skills and knowledge



ACCOUNTABILITY INCUBATOR

The Accountability Incubator is a flagship program of Accountability Lab, through which we support young civil society leaders to build sustainable, effective tools for accountability, participation and social impact in their societies. Since 2014, selected Liberian 'accountapreneurs' have undergone an accelerated one-year program that includes hands-on, comprehensive support for their ideas and initiatives.

The Incubator provides mentorship, fundraising and management guidance, and access to a global network of leading institutions, foundations and donors. The overall objective of the Incubator is to support individuals to strengthen accountability and support better governance in Liberia at a local and/or national level. In 2020, The incubator was launched at the beginning of the year. The six selected accountapreneurs went through orientation when Liberia recorded its first COVID-19 case. However, due to COVID-19 and the challenges that came with it we did not recruit a 2020 cohort.

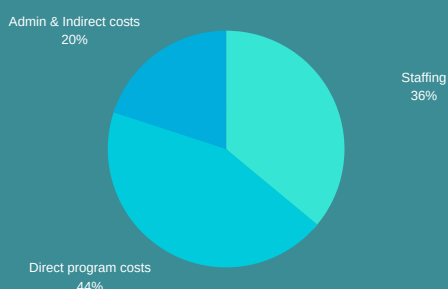
LOOKING FORWARD

All of the five projects mentioned above except for the Open Government Partnership (OGP), were completed by the end of 2020. The OGP which should have also ended in December 2020, was given a no-cost extension by the donor to March 31, 2021, to be able to complete the project's activities. Therefore In 2201, AL Liberia's major focus will be to raise funds to support the core program activities and staff and also explore new opportunities to expand the country-level program and keep AL Liberia's work more visible and sustainable.



AL LIBERIA 2020 FINANCES

\$221,092.85



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