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LIBERIA ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The year 2021 under review brought over a series of challenges from 2020, mostly characterized by the COVID-19 global health pandemic, and an overall fall in global giving.

The Government of Liberia on the economic front also experienced huge challenges; a -2.9 percent budget deficit, and a 33.4 percent fall in the Human Development Index (HDI), according to the IMF 2021 reports. Alongside the budget deficit and fall in the 2021 HDI, Transparency International also released its 2021 report, describing Liberia as a significant decliner who has dropped 12 points (41 to 29) in its Corruption Perception Index (CPI) ranking, for reasons of unresolved corruption allegations and a persistent culture of impunity. Given these challenges, AL Liberia felt committed the more to continue to engage key donor partners to support program activities that continue to impact the general quality of life for citizens and residents in Liberia.

This summary report provides a project-by-project detail of the program activities implemented, the results achieved, and key learning in 2021 to improve our experience in the years ahead, in the framework of the Lab's Mission and Vision; working with active citizens, their leaders, and other institutions to push for greater accountability, opportunities, and development for all.



INTEGRITY ICON

Like in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and related healthcare challenges continue to overwhelm our national health system and remain the government’s key priority. Re-enlisting and providing refresher training for volunteers in our network, sharing and receiving of documents were all done, virtually. The program supported the volunteers with transportation, call units, and funds to produce and circulate the nomination forms for the Icons at the county level.

The five winners of the 2021 Integrity Icon Campaign were; Tokpah M. Tarnue-Lofa County (A Journalist/Correspondent for Liberia Broadcasting System),

NUMBERS OF INTEGRITY ICON

639

votes

428

nominations

15

volunteers

10

counties reached

53 772

people reached (44700) and engaged (9072) on Four, Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp and Instagram

Joseph Bryant-Lofa County (Director of Liberia Institute for Geo-Information Services and Coordinator of the County Service Center), Sam Dikoah-Montserrado County (Traffic Commander, Zone 8, Liberian National Police), Siaka Paul-Grand Cape Mount County (Classroom Teacher, Sinjeh Public School) and Kulubo M. Davis-Montserrado County (Mid-wife and Officer-in-Charge, Tenegar Community Clinic). More information about the 2021 Integrity Icon celebrations can be found [here](#), and picture; [here](#) and [here](#)



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- After winning the highest number of votes in the 2021 ILL Campaign, Icon Tokpa M. Tarnue was awarded the Outstanding Correspondence of the Year by his employer, the Liberian Broadcasting System (LBS)
- Icon Bockarie Sakilla in 2021 received a doctorate in pharmaceutical studies and was subsequently promoted from Tubmanburg Hospital to a bigger referral facility on Bushrod Island, in Montserrado County, where he now has additional oversight responsibility in clinical pharmaceutical training for intern Nurses and Doctors at the Redemption Hospital
- Icon Samuel Ford (an Assistant Police Commissioner for Community Services) was awarded a scholarship and completed a course of study in Integrity and Anti-Corruption from the Hague Academy of Local Governance
- For the first time, AL Liberia gave a Special Integrity Icon of the Year (2021) award to student Emmanuel Tuloe from Nimba County who found Fifty Thousand United States Dollars (US\$50,000.00) and willingly returned it to the owner.





IMPACT

Foundation For Youth Tranquility

Provided and paid stipend to four volunteer teachers who taught civic education in eight rural public schools in Bomi and Montserrado Counties in Liberia, reaching more than One thousand, one hundred students. These schools did not have the staff to teach the course, and nor could they afford to pay the stipend for teachers.

Belenie Christian Foundation

Conducted free life skills training for 163 youth (male and female) in Paynesville, Montserrado County. The skills included; public speaking, computer literacy, cosmetology, and tailoring

Young African Capacity Building Network

Provided 3 separate life skills training reaching over two hundred young Liberians from six high schools in Montserrado and Margibi Counties. The training covered: Self-branding, Letter writing, Leadership Fundamentals, career development, public speaking, and presentations

ACCOUNTABILITY INCUBATOR

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the health restrictions and a state of emergency imposed along with the lockdown of the cities and counties, and therefore a lack of funding opportunities, the Incubates selected for 2020 were never enrolled. However in 2021, these accountpreneurs, a total of seven persons were contacted, available, and willing to participate in the 2021 edition of the Incubator program.

A virtual orientation program was conducted for all Incubates from the ten Lab counties, with five out of the seven in attendance from Liberia. Moving forward, a total of four training (one in each quarter), with pictures linked here, and here were conducted over the period under review. The training aimed to provide resources; skills and tools to be able to enhance citizens' engagement and advocacy for good governance. The broad themes of the participating organizations' work focused on; strengthening advocacy for women's rights in rural communities, providing civic education and life skills for youth in high schools, and the communities. Seven participants/organisations participated in four pieces of training.

The topic, Needs and Right-based Advocacy and Campaign was very useful to our institution because we need the right partnership, fundraising skills, and ways to measure our impact which would help us grow strong. All of the presentations and presenters were mind-blowing, it was my first time acquiring such knowledge and we are implementing such into reality. The presenters knew the subject matter and their presentation slides are educative"

Mr. Samuel Weefar, Young Africans Capacity Building Network (YAC-NET)

Impact

- “Over one month following the concert, my Facebook following has increased by over 500 persons just after I was tagged to the live video coverage of the democracy concerts in Grand Bassa and Montserrado Counties. Thanks to Accountability Lab Liberia and Music in Africa.- Theoto alias, Thomas Moseray (Musical Artist)
- About 200 out of 600 persons in attendance at the Fiamah community concert were younger children between 12-17 years, who were interested in our conscious democracy music about electing the right leaders. These young Liberians are not yet eligible to vote, but it is heart-warming to note that this group represents the future electorates



VOICE2REP

- NED County Democracy Tours and Concerts- AL Liberia team along with the local artists and student volunteers’ organized and held four democracy musical concerts in Grand Bassa, Bong, Montserrado, and Nimba counties, between January to April 2021 under the theme- Know whom to Vote for. Before the concerts, an audition exercise was organized in each of the counties, and the best youth artist was selected and helped to record a song at AL Liberia’s New Lab Media Studio. Each of the four songs produced was performed in the counties. A survey conducted with 1744 persons showed that 74% fully understood the key messages in each of the songs.

Seeing the youth of Liberia address current issues as they express themselves through music is beautiful in its own way. Rap2Rep has showcased that it’s truly possible to use music as both an art form, and a tool to push for collective change. Hope to see the program grow and continue to inspire the youth of Africa.

One of the judges at the music auditions in Nimba County

VOICE2REP NUMBERS

21

performing artists

2764

participants in the concert

6

songs produced

6

concerts staged



VOICE2REP

- Music in Africa Concerts - Two concerts tagged, "Voice2Rep-Music for Advocacy" were staged in Monrovia and Buchanan cities on the 24th and 30th of December, 2021, with over 600 persons in attendance. AL Liberia supported 16 local artists (five females and 11 males) collaborating to produce two conscious songs related to civil participation during elections reinforcing the ideas of how conscious music can be used as advocacy tools to challenge critical national social issues of equality and justice, opportunities for youth, integrity, and accountability.
- The songs produced and performed were also distributed free of charge to various musical outlets; 3 major musical vendors, 7 national radio stations, uploaded onto the top 2 online musical platforms, TunesLiberia and Beatwind, and to a pro-governance network of over 30 civil society organizations across Liberia.



Impact

- AL Liberia carried out a learning evaluation (pre and post-tests) involving all 20 participants during the UNDP’s peace-building training exercise to measure a change in knowledge and understanding. The evaluation test results showed a 100% increase in knowledge, by comparing the participants ‘pre’ and ‘post-test’ results/scores. The average pre-test score was 40% and the average post-test score was 84%.
- “The Music in Africa project activities for artists was highly beneficial. The experience increased our visibilities, we learned a lot about branding ourselves and our music, and also benefited from additional knowledge and skills.”- Hip-co Music Ambassador, Henry Amazing Toe



TRAINING PROJECTS

- National Endowment for Democracy (NED) – Conducted a two-day capacity building training was held for 15 selected media professionals from eight media houses-radio station managers, DJs, and hip-co musical artists from several media houses, including the hip-co accountability network. The training was aimed at increasing participants’ understanding and knowledge of democracy and accountability, and how they can use their platform in advocating for accountability, democracy, and social change in Liberia.
- Music in Africa – A one-day training was conducted for 16 Artists from the hip-co accountability network. The training covered two topics; Needs and Rights-Based Advocacy, and Civic Participation. It also reinforced the ideals of how conscious music can be used as advocacy tools to challenge critical national social issues of equality, youth opportunities, accountability, including civic participation
- UNDP Youth and Peacebuilding – A two-day National Youth & Peace-building Ideation and Capacity Building workshop was held on August 26-27 at AL Liberia’s iCampus office, in Monrovia. The workshop brought together 20 CSOs selected from five counties: Bomi, Bong, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, and Montserrado.

The training was more than what I expected. I learned a lot of new things. For example, how legal documentation is tied into Fundraising. There were experienced facilitators selected and I appreciate Accountability Lab Liberia and the UNDP for this opportunity afforded our organization.

A bootcamp participant from Grand Gedeh County

VOICE2REP NUMBERS

21

performing artists

2764

participants in the concert

6

songs produced

6

concerts staged

WEST AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY

With funding from the West African Civil Society Initiative (WACSI), AL Liberia in collaboration with KEEP Liberia conducted a 2-day Social Accountability and Virtual Learning Workshop with a group of 32 national civil society organizations (CSOs) from across Liberia attending on the 8th & 14th of July, 2021. The overall purpose of the activity was to share core learning and the impact of our work, build a coalition of CSOs committed to contributing to greater social accountability through peer-learning, identify and appreciate all those CSOs who had impacted the society over the last year, share ideas, and learn from each other, continuing to demonstrate adaptive learning within the CSO's community in Liberia.

The workshop activities were sub-divided into two key parts, Day 1; reflection, learning, and planning expert-led sessions, and on day two, a Fail-Faire and Awards Sessions. At the close of the workshop, five organizations were awarded in the categories of, accountability, open governance, natural resource advocacy, gender and inclusion, and the rule of law

Impact

The workshop was able to work with the participating organizations to derive the following next step actions for CSOs to be taken forward by the National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NCSCCL). They include;

1. Conduct a general capacity assessment for all CSOs at the national and community levels, that includes;
 - County and sectorial stratification
 - Technical skills mapping
 - Systems and structural identification amongst the institutions
 1. Identify support, and create innovative ways to increase grassroots/community CSOs' visibility
 2. Create a national framework for CSOs' sustainability
 3. Organize and hold periodic forums for sharing learning, impact, and challenges

NUMBERS OF WEST AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY

40

participants

32

organisations



LOOKING TOWARDS 2022

- With our democracy campaigns started, we are looking forward with prospects to a period of continued citizens' engagements as we face a period of campaigning towards the general and presidential election in 2023. This involves citizens' engagement with their leaders and evaluating some of the re-electable positions and individuals aspiring for those positions.
- We also look forward to a stronger healthcare delivery system for everyone, as the national government has increased and approved the allotment for healthcare delivery in the 2022 national budget. This includes the provision of funds to continue the fight against the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Liberia.

BUDGET

4

grants

U\$154,812

budget for 2021

8

staff

27

volunteers