2021 was a challenging year. As the world reeled in from the pandemic shock that 2020 brought upon us, the seeds for Accountability Lab Mexico were just starting to flourish. Getting a project going in this climate is not only difficult, but also sensitive in that now more than ever there is a need to have civic society projects that fight for transparency in the forefront of national policy in Mexico, as the political climate is one of distrust and opacity.

We managed to survive, barely, but we also gathered some traction, and managed to get a grant from the Hewlett foundation that enables this regional lab to kickstart the lab in a more concrete manner.
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Videos:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y6qBuAibivvE5hDG8G_bPnrQag0ux3?usp=sharing
Impact
All of our impact stories are related to Accountability Mexico and how we are able to grow from our very first incubator:

Never assume
All of our participants come from a very different background, and as such their experiences at the individual and project level vary differently. We learned that we need to depart from standardized learning and arrive at a more tailored approach of sessions within the framework of the incubator.

Always ask
Learning is a retroactive process, therefore the incubator participants should be treated as mentors as much as the training facilitators. We need to value their background and use that to integrate into the incubator process. It is a fully horizontal process.

Integrate then grow
Latin America is a complex and diverse region, and the term is usually and wrongfully used as an umbrella term, it shouldn’t be because it undermines the regions potential in representing diversity under a common language, Spanish. Opening up the incubator to the whole subcontinent is critical to its success.

Incubator

The incubator provided one of the most interesting learning experiences we had in 2021. Our participants ranged from many different backgrounds, from civic tech to transparency, the experience we had with them would consider it a pilot that proved to be of extreme value to the organization at the regional level.

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David Sada operations manager

Impact by numbers

5 participants
8 trainings
We kicked the year in full force by integrating 3 people into our team, this gives us more margin to amplify the projects we are working on, plus activating a couple more. The integrity icon campaign is approaching its culmination for 2022, and the incubator is about to kick off as well. We are extremely excited and confident about this team, as well as building and growing the project. By the end of the year we are confident we will be in a much better position for the grant application season in 2023 with a focus on growing our efforts in the region.

**STAFF & BUDGET**

1 grant
100k budget for 2022
7 staff
1 volunteer