



ZIMBABWE ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The Accountability Lab (AL), through its Zimbabwe network lab, is implementing the New Narratives for Accountability in Zimbabwe (NNAZ) Project in Zimbabwe in collaboration with Kubatana Trust and Magamba Network. The Project seeks to address entrenched negative political, social, and economic dynamics around accountability by incentivizing communities to try new, innovative approaches to change governance outcomes from the bottom up. It supports citizens to build communities around new approaches and an evidence base underpinned by an "ecosystem" for change. Among the initiatives launched and under implementation are The Accountability Incubator, Civic Action Teams, and Arts4Change incorporating Voice2Rep Zimbabwe and the ALZ Film Fellowship, and the Integrity Icon Campaign.

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



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



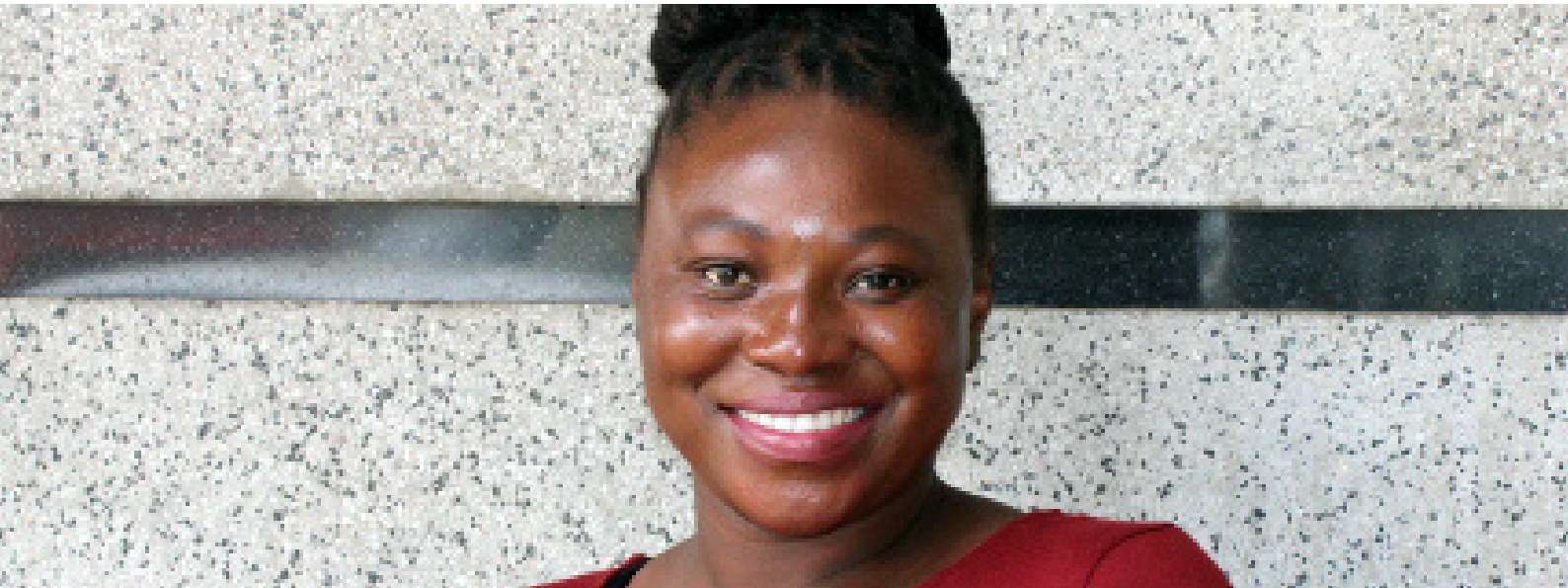
Equipping reformers - inside and outside government - with the knowledge and tools to push for better governance.



INTEGRITY ICON

The Integrity Icon Campaign was launched in Zimbabwe on Thursday 8 April 2021. The media launch event was held on and offline with invited journalists attending a closed in-person briefing that was also live streamed to the Lab's and partner social media channels. Social media livestreams of the media event generated more than 13,4K views. The launch of the campaign was covered in print and online media including the print Sunday Mail of 18 April 2021, RadioVop, CITEZW, and the NGO News Digest.

The launch event opened nominations, which progressed until 30 June 2021, with the Lab receiving 118 nominations from citizens across the country. About 43.2% of nominees were female, while 56.8% were male.



NUMBERS OF INTEGRITY ICON

5652

votes

118

nominations

6

volunteers

92 385

social media reach and
video views



Nominees included educators providing students with extra lessons for no pay, and others who built after-school programs as a response to the decline in formal education centers due to COVID and other factors. Those nominated from the higher education sector included champions of digital literacy and competency in tertiary educational institutions. From the health sector, nominees included frontline medical personnel who worked tirelessly to treat patients through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Campaign nominations underwent a verification process, finding that from the nominations received, 61% were from the education sector, and Zimbabwe's capital, Harare received the most nominations with 39%, while Goromonzi, a district in the northern part of Zimbabwe received the least. 58% of nominees were men, while 35% were women, and 7% preferred not to say.

The 69 longlisted nominees were reviewed by a high-level panel of judges comprising Kudakwashe Chitsike, Justice James Devitte, Dr. Matthew Wazara, Dr. Greg Powell, Blessing Gorejena, Professor Sunungurai Chingarande and Dr. AzzaMashumba, and shortlisted to ten finalists who underwent investigation by Zimbabwean Investigative journalists, NewsHawks. The investigations produced five Icons, whose exemplary service, dedication to their communities and modeling of integrity is worthy of celebration

Zimbabwe's 2022 Integrity Icons Include:

- Mr. Evermore Chakwizira a headmaster at Chinyika High School in Goromonzi
- Sr. Rumbidzai Primrose Chikwavaire, Nursing Sister and Midwife, Chinyika Clinic Goromonzi
- Ms. Ruvimbo Matore, Senior Teacher and Facilitator, Tendayi Primary School, Mufakose, Harare
- Ms. Nomsa Dhlodhlo, Early Childhood Development Teacher, Helemu Primary School, Bulawayo
- Ms. Anesu Chinguwa, Health Promotions Officer, Ingutsheni Central Hospital, Bulawayo

The Campaign will now enter the voting phase, with the Integrity Summit and Award Ceremony taking place in March 2022.





CIVIC ACTION TEAMS

CivActs convened more than 35 community consultations in partnership with National Association of Youth Organizations (NAYO), Vendors Initiative for Socio Economic Transformation (VISET), Amandla Centre for Development and Zvigogodza Trust in Bulawayo, Chitungwiza, Goromonzi and Harare. Through surveys, listening meetings and engagements with public officials and community leaders, CivActs works with communities to identify and address service delivery challenges.

The community consultations identified residents' developmental challenges with the following being salient:

- Poor service delivery especially in the areas of healthcare, lack of access to clean drinking water and poor water, sanitation, and hygiene;

IMPACT BY NUMBERS

2945

participants

3

problems solved

13

bulletins

37

CFAs trained

- Corruption and its negative impact on service delivery;
- Police harassment including confiscation of informal traders' commodities and stock and use of teargas to disperse people in residential areas during the COVID-19 induced lockdowns.

The year also saw heightened confrontation between municipal and government authorities and informal traders in which informal markets were demolished by municipal authorities, sometimes despite courts granting a stay of execution. In Zimbabwe, CivActs has seen success, such as Goromonzi Council agreeing to provide vending bays for traders, and the accountability mechanisms supporting citizen demand, such as through Harare City Council receiving censure from the Environmental Management Agency. In all areas, CivActs partners are working with communities to address these and other conflicts to repair the trust between authorities and residents.





ACCOUNTABILI-TEA PODCAST

Through the work, the Lab found that among the key challenges were a lack of agency among citizens. In response the Lab created an AccountabiliTEA Zimbabwe podcast series centered on the themes of Citizenship, Participation and Accountability. The podcasts aimed to be an educational tool on aspects such as roles and responsibilities of citizens, to simplify complex terms such as accountability and generate conversations around issues linked to these. Follow up discussions on one of the podcasts were held on Facebook and WhatsApp focusing on the roles and responsibilities of citizens in ensuring effective and efficient service delivery.

You know when you are seated in your home sometimes you will just think that other people are comfortable in this situation that we are in. Coming together to discuss issues helped us to understand that we are all in danger and if we do not act no one will act for us. These discussions have indeed opened our minds...

Mbare resident

OUR IMPACT

Borehole marshalls trained on conflict resolution

CivActs found that Glen View residents received running water for 3-4 days of the week, and 94% of those surveyed depended on water collected from community boreholes. Twenty-nine percent of the residents consulted reported that they had experienced some form of violence while collecting water at community boreholes, while 79% reported that they had witnessed violence. These findings were presented to the City of Harare Department of Works Manager and the Water Alliance Coordinator for Glenview District Office. The borehole marshalls, who are individuals that man and enforce order at public boreholes, were identified as the main perpetrators of the violence. They were sent for training on conflict resolution at Glen View Community Hall. Since then the levels of violence have reportedly decreased.

Construction of vending markets in Goromonzi

A series of consultations in Goromonzi District, found that informal traders were unhappy about the inadequate vending spaces. One survey found that over 50% of informal traders were not selling from a designated market because there were no vending bays available and 92% described the process of acquiring a vending bay as difficult. CivActs partner, VISET convened several dialogues and engagements with the Goromonzi Rural District Council, resulting in the Council constructing Informal Traders Markets Stalls in wards 16 and 4.

Harare City Council Fined by EMA over uncollected Refuse

Amandla Trust conducted a survey to understand the problem of refuse collection in Mbare. Of the 133 residents surveyed from the area, 55% reported that the Council did not collect their household refuse. Amandla followed up the surveys by hosting public dialogues with local stakeholders including residents, Council representatives and regulatory bodies such as the Environmental Management Agency to find solutions to the issue. Among the concerns were the public health hazards resulting from poor waste management including incidences of communicable diseases such as cholera. In addition, residents had resorted to burning the rubbish, creating further public health and environmental problems. The dialogues prompted the Environmental Management Agency to fine the City of Harare ZWL 800,000 for uncollected refuse in Mbare and Harare's central business district in an effort to hold the municipality accountable.

Impact

- 12 films + 10 episodes of the Film Friday Podcast were produced and screened.
- 10 of the films were made by the film fellows as indicated in the table below along with 2 films from the two film competitions held at Christmas and Independence day respectively.
- Overall the films had 25,000 views on Youtube and 45,000 views on Facebook making a combined 70,000 views for 2021.
- Sikhanyiswe Sebata was nominated and won a creativity award at Ignite Youth for Her: A Disintegrated Notion. She entered the film into the One World Media and the European Union Film Festival. It was shortlisted for the next level of the EU Film Festival competition in the art design component.



FILM FELLOWSHIP

The ALZ Film Fellowship is implemented through Magamba Network. In 2021 the Fellowship recruited the inaugural cohort of Fellows who following the program’s training in storytelling, script writing, film production and the business of film produced 10 films that were screened across 5 provinces. The Fellowship premiered and showcased the Fellows capstone films at the Bokola Film Festival that was hosted offline through five provincial screenings organized in partnership with community-based organizations including Youth Invest, Women’s Institute for Leadership and Development, Amandla and Vision Africa. During the Festival, Fellows also produced a collaborative film. Online the festival received 523 live views on Youtube and 365 live views on Facebook, generating 64 comments daily.





The first year of the Fellowship has been successful in nurturing beneficial relationships with the local film industry. Various notable personalities in Zimbabwe's film industries including Joe Njagu, who's production *Cook Off* is available on Netflix, Trevor Ncube, founder of Zimbabwe's largest independent media conglomerate, Alpha Media Holdings, and Tsitsi Madhodha, Managing Director of regional production house CMedia Africa, have contributed to the learning and development of the Fellows along with the growth of the program.

The Fellowship closed the year with a collaboration with UN Women's African Women Leaders Network, to host the Young Women's Film Screening, followed by an intergenerational conversation on GBV attended by 20 women ranging from 18 (high school) to 40 years of age. The Fellows' films screened during this event included *Cruel Joke* by Connor Zephlen; *Hadassah* by Salima Mangani, and *Her: A Disintegrated Notion* by Sikhanyiswe Sebata.

- [Idle Minds](#), [Cruel Joke](#), [Her: A Disintegrated Notion](#) by Lance Chigodo, Connor Zephlen and Sikhanyiswe Sebata's films respectively were featured in the mainstream newspapers as being films that tackled important issues in their community. This generated more interest and engagement with the films.
- Three fellows had their films highlighted in newspapers. That is [Lance Chigodo's Idle Minds](#) and [Connor Zephlen's Cruel Joke](#). [Ska Sebata's Her - A disintegrated notion](#), was also featured in a newspaper article. These stories were a result of the Fellows' profile series which unpacked the thought processes behind the short films in the lead up to the Bokola Film Festival late in August. The stories were an additional promotion of the films ahead of their screening. The podcast served as a platform for interested newswriters to get more accurate details for the stories they write on the fellowship.





The film has had a great and huge impact on my life and career. The response to my film has been good. More young people in my rural community are applying for the next opportunity. Just yesterday my film was featured on a UNFPA platform and I have been offered an opportunity to produce work for the organization. The executive director of UNFPA has been sharing my film within her network. I was also nominated for a creativity award by Ignite youth organization as well as for Girl Empowerment, I have no doubt the film played a role in this. I have more ideas already and gearing up to film another film soon. It has been a great addition to my profile and CV and has helped me get into other programs. I'm grateful for it.

Sikhanyiswe Sebata
(Her: A disintegrated Notion)

IMPACT BY NUMBERS

12

films produced

9

fellows recruited

70%

women fellows

7

of 10 provinces represented

6

provincial screenings

60%

women attendance at provincial screenings

1

state actor engaged on accountability and social justice issues



Accountpreneur inspires citizen action on poor service delivery

Accountpreneur Nkosikhona Dibiti through his initiative, the Community Podium released a documentary titled "Of Elusive Healthcare, Education and Water: The Story of Nkayi" through his initiative the Community Podium. The 24-minute documentary shot in Gwelutshena and Mtshatshane villages in Nkayi District – one of the poorest and most marginalized Districts in Zimbabwe - tells the story of the challenges faced by residents in their day to day lives including shortage of water, lack of access to healthcare and lack of adequate education services. The Community Podium is an online media platform that uses documentaries, news, social media and media practice to bring attention to accountability challenges in rural Matabeleland. Following the release of the documentary, the Citizens Initiative set up a fundraising initiative that has so far raised \$US3,460 towards building classroom blocks in Gwelutshena. The target is to raise \$US10,000. The Citizens Initiative was founded by a group of volunteers to provide a mechanism for citizens to come together to provide relief to the poor, the distressed and/or the underprivileged in Zimbabwe or other African countries.



INCUBATOR

The Zimbabwe Virtual Incubator generated wide interest from among young people in the country, receiving 78 applications, the highest number received from any of the Accountability Labs globally. This competitive candidate pool produced 12 Accountpreneurs, comprising seven men, four women and one non-binary person for the 2021 cohort of the program. In addition, one of the women was deaf.

During the year, the Accountability Incubator held five workshop sessions on civic engagement and accountability; development of purpose documents; fundraising and networking; human-centered design and theory of action; and report writing and narrative building. All twelve accountpreneurs took steps to develop and implement solutions to accountability challenges in their communities. Notably, Courteney Mukoyi's human rights and access to justice mobile phone application, Astrea Justice, received various commendations and awards. Astrea Justice bridges the access to justice gap by facilitating access to important information on citizen's constitutionally guaranteed rights, and Human Rights lawyer's contacts across all provinces.





Accountpreneur wins national Hackathon

Accountpreneur Courtney Mukoyi, won fourth place in the Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe (CBZ) Hackathon Challenge, taking home ZWL 3,500,000, (equivalent to \$US39,000 based on the official exchange rate). The theme of the Hackathon was “towards a digital economy in COVID-19 Zimbabwe”. Courtney’s initiative, Astrea Justice is a mobile based application that provides easy and user-friendly access to information to enable access to justice and human rights, including the Bill of Rights. The application provides users with contact details of police stations, courts and lawyers across Zimbabwe’s ten provinces to enable people to access help when they need it. The application is available on the Android App store and Apple Store. His team is in the process of developing a WhatsApp bot to allow more people to access information that promotes justice and human rights. Some of the prize money was used to finance the planned upgrades for the application.



Mentorship Program

The Accountability Lab paired all twelve Accountpreneurs with mentors to help them to develop their ideas and grow their projects. Among the mentors were development practitioners, media experts and researchers with extensive technical and administrative experience. Mentors included Dr. Fortunate Machingura – Research Director, Key Populations at Center for Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Research Zimbabwe, Nigel Mugamu – Founder and Chief Storyteller, 263Chat, Washington Katema – Team leader and Head of Programs, Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN), and Nyasha Musandu – Strategic Communications and Knowledge Management Specialist; Advisor, Mercy Corps. Accountpreneurs benefitted from the mentors extensive networks, access to information and resources. The Lab plans to continue mentorship for the 2021 Accountpreneurs as part of their alumni experience.

Despite the financial and operational space challenges, I am motivated to keep going by the knowledge that no matter how small my efforts are, they contribute to hundreds of other initiatives and efforts to make this world a better place. The plight of the marginalized also keeps me going because if I do not do what I do, then who will?

Mthokozisi Ndebele

INCUBATOR BY NUMBERS IN 2021

12

participants

5

trainings

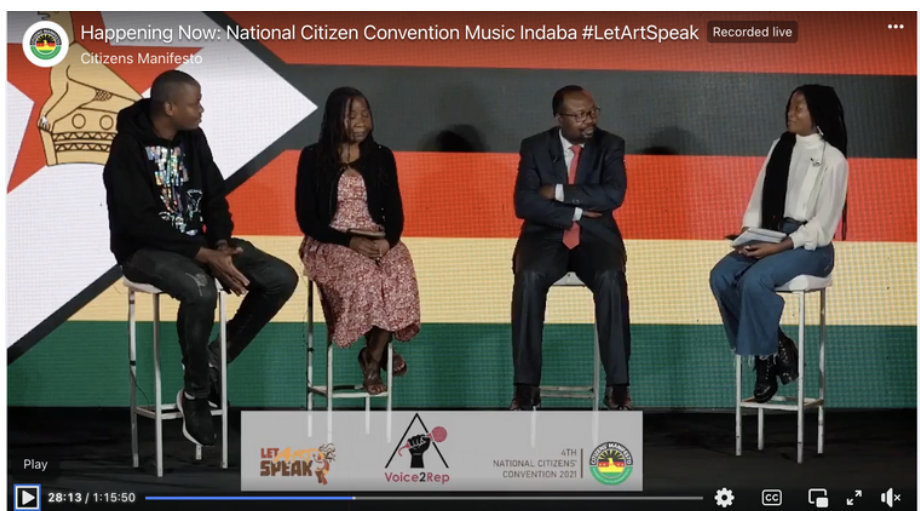
VOICE2REP

Voice2Rep Zimbabwe launched the 2020 music album, Freedom, on 31 December 2020, with promotion of the album continuing into the new year. Freedom features 10 songs by each of the participants, one collaborative song featuring all ten 10 artists, and one bonus track featuring a guest artist ULenni OkaNdlovu. The album was uploaded onto various platforms, and has achieved more than 37,000 streams across platforms (Spotify, iTunes and Youtube). In addition, Voice2Rep recorded five music videos on the album, sharing these on YouTube.

During the year, Voice2Rep also launched flagship projects including;

- the Music Indaba in collaboration with the National Citizens Convention which provided a platform for V2R artists to interface with elected MPs on issues raised in their music, as well as the role of artists in holding the government to account.
- the Rap Report, a news show that uses rap music to highlight some of the prevalent issues in Zimbabwe. The pilot episode was done in collaboration with 2020 alumni SVSHV and KNG BL, and has been positively received with 4,093 views across Facebook, Youtube, Instagram & Twitter.

The second Voice2Rep cohort was onboarded, mid-year in July and participated in the annual residency, dubbed the Voice2Rep House. This cohort participated in the Voice2Rep Concert that was streamed on the Facebook pages of Voice2Rep; Moto Republik; Nash TV and Shoko Festival). In addition to artist performances, the Concert also featured a behind the scenes of the V2R House video, and the music videos for the V2R 2020 winner and two other lyric videos for Britto and Rumbi Mundeta. The Concert hashtags #V2R2021 (789.8K impressions on Twitter) and #BreakOut (581.5K impressions on Twitter) were trending in the top 2 in Zimbabwe on the night.



The Music Indaba

Voice2Rep partnered with the National Citizens Convention to host the Music Indaba, providing a platform for artists to present their music to Members of Parliament and discuss some of the issues that they highlighted in their songs.

For the first episode, Britto from the 2020 cohort and Tadisana from the 2021 cohort were featured. Two members of parliament were present, Daniel Molekele (MDC Alliance) and Fortune Chasi (ZANU PF). The program opened with the V2R artists performing their music, this was then followed by a panel discussion with other conscious artists and the invited MPs. A discussion on Twitter followed the Indaba, where young people submitted their questions. During the event, Daniel Molekele shared that, “young people need to be more vocal about these issues, and the responsibility is theirs to make leaders accountable.”

Other project alumni performed at the National Citizen’s Convention concert in Bulawayo through the facilitation of Voice2Rep 2020 alumni KNG BL.



Rap Report one of the most innovative projects in Zimbabwe in a long time

The first episode of Rap Report launched with a focus on the transport crisis in Zimbabwe. The first episode was launched on all social media platforms with comments from other established conscious artists including Awa Kiwe and the platform Earground calling it “one of the most innovative projects in Zimbabwe in a long time.”

Socially conscious artists exercising citizen agency after incubation

Incubator alumnus, Oxzy, was featured in the Chronicle newspaper for his fundraising drive benefiting an orphanage. Oxzy also received the Prince Claus Seed Award which recognizes emerging artists and provides initial support to the career development, creativity, and experimentation of cultural practitioners whose artistic work engages with pressing social and/or political issues within their own local context. The project recommended the award to him, and submitted a reference letter to validate his impactful work in Zimbabwe.

Sarah Bonne, the winner from the first year, was incubated by Women's Institute for Leadership Development (WILD). Her song that she recorded for the V2R album Hear Me Now which addresses GBV was used as part of a campaign where she is addressing issues of GBV through the WILD’s platforms. She also headlined the launch of the Matabeleland voter education and mobilization project, EKhaya Vote, which aims to increase the rural vote in the region.

Marve Tee, a 2020 finalist was featured in the magazine Divas Inc where she discussed her various campaigns for people living with albinism, as she faces the same struggles. Marve Tee promotes awareness, and the rights of disabled people through her music. She is also involved in fundraising activities to support people living with albinism

KNG BL, through his marketing agency, 14th Avenue Digital, resourced the recording of a music video for his Voice2Rep song, Nehanda. The video has 31.6K views on YouTube. Voice2Rep has also collaborated with KNG BL in the National Citizens Convention's lineup for the Bulawayo music concert. His understanding of socially conscious music makes him best placed to help identify up and coming artists for such programs as the NCC. He continues to expand on socially conscious music through mentoring other artists, and is another exemplary ambassador of the Voice2Rep program.

V2R BY NUMBERS IN 2021

10

songs produced

5

music videos recorded

20

participants recruited

50%

woman participants

7

provinces represented by
year 2 & 3 cohort

7

issues covered
by year 2
cohort

4

provincial outreaches
conducted

300

applicants (year 2 & 3)

2

state actors engaged on
accountability and social
justice issues



BUDGET

1

Award funded by USAID under Democracy and Governance

US\$1,395,339.99

total budget for 2021

23

staff members

