

# Theories of Change

We have developed several theories of change over the lifetime of the Accountability Lab. We are proud of the fact that our understanding of our work is evolving as we iterate and learn. At any given time, we are also trying to test more than one theory of change within a given context. Accountability relates to complex social and political dynamics and building it requires multiple inter-related activities- it is not linear, nor is it singular. Our efforts are just one part of the process of change we hope to see.

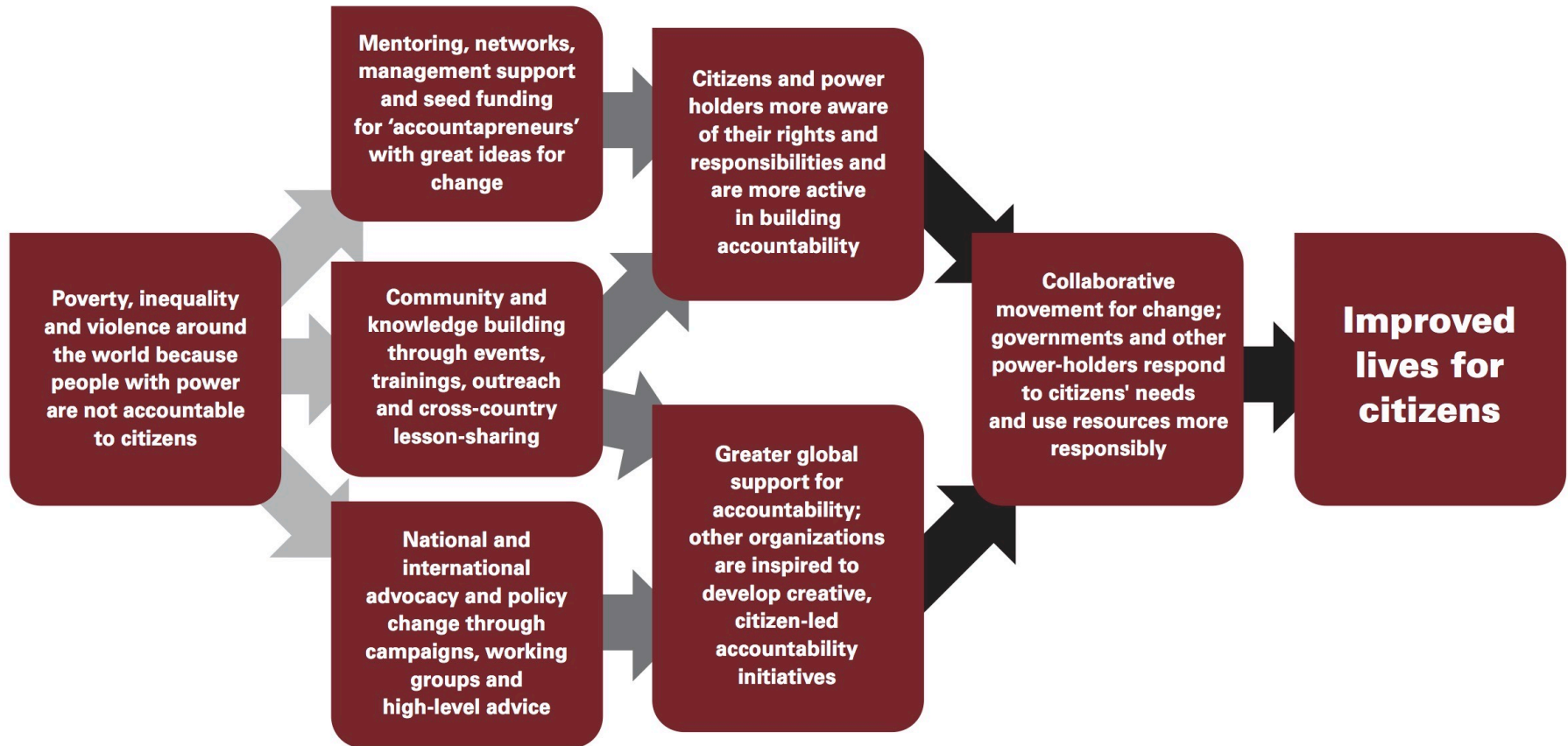
We view a theory of change not just as a way to map out inputs, outputs and outcomes but as a way to understand in practical terms the causality between them; and to support double loop learning (learning that recognizes that the way a problem is defined and solved can be a source of the problem itself). As a result our theory of change is not an agreed, defined diagram- it is a living document that we amend and refine over time as we learn on the ground. Continue to see our various theories of change.



2012-2013

## ACCOUNTABILITY LAB THEORY OF CHANGE



**The Problem****Our Solution****Short-Term Impact****Long-Term Impact****analysis****actions****engagement**

2015

# THEORY OF CHANGE

**The  
Problem**

**Our  
Solution**

**Short-Term  
Impact**

**Long-Term Impact**

**analysis**

**actions**

**engagement**

Poverty,  
inequality and  
violence because  
power-holders  
are not  
accountable  
to citizens

Mentoring,  
networks,  
management,  
advocacy,  
and seed  
funding for  
"accountapreneurs"  
with great ideas  
for integrity

Citizens and  
power-holders  
are more aware  
of their rights  
and responsibilities  
and actively  
work together  
to build  
accountability

Collaborative  
movement  
for change;  
governments and  
other power-holders  
respond to citizens'  
needs and use  
resources more  
responsibly

**Improved  
lives for  
citizens**

**CONTINUAL LEARNING AND ADAPTATION TO IMPROVE**

**ULTIMATE  
GOAL  
(Systemic  
Change)**

**Effective, accountable and transparent public institutions that are responsive to the needs & rights of young people**

Individually and collectively, public servants with integrity can create wider reforms in corruption-prone

Public officials with integrity are progressive champions of youth issues and rights

Accountability is strengthened through citizen engagement

There is political space for young people to play an active role in accountability

**LONG TERM  
OUTCOMES**

**Increased sphere of influence of honest & accountable public servants in corruption-prone sectors**

**Young people are empowered to hold government accountable and participate in political processes**

**ASSUMPTIONS**

Role models can motivate current and future public servants to practice integrity, thereby decreasing corruption

Public support can increase influence of public servants

Different youth movements can be motivated to work together in one campaign

The influence of youth movements on accountability can be strengthened through working together

With capacity building and greater visibility, public servants can increase the impact of their work

Public servants can be motivated to influence wider reforms

Public servants welcome public recognition of their integrity

Young people can freely express views and opinions

There is political support for public servants with integrity to create wider reform

**SHORT TERM  
(PROGRAMME)  
OUTCOMES**

**INTEGRITY IDOL**

**"Name & Fame" public servants with integrity & support them to lead by example**

**Support youth to take collective action (campaign) for integrity**

**Provide platforms for YP to safely & effectively voice concerns & demands directly to public servants, incl elected officials**

**INCUBATOR**

**Accounta-preneurs: Support YP to develop & scale their ideas for strengthening social accountability**

**Movements: Convene and support different youth movements to develop a common agenda in the push for accountability**

**OUTPUTS  
OF  
ACTIVITIES**

1. Their good work (acts of integrity) are shared with seniors & peers.
2. Public more aware of good work and who has integrity
3. Finalists have capacity built through coaching and technical support.
4. Acts of integrity are replicated nationally and regionally.
5. IIs are more connected with other reformers nationally and regionally.
6. Different youth movements come together to design and lead campaign promoting integrity.
7. YP have more capacity (tools, resources and coaching) to run effective campaigns.



# THEORY OF CHANGE

## ASSUMPTIONS

- All communities & voices are equal
- Individuals have the ability to change institutions and systems
- Our team lives by its values

Relationships



Human Capital



Financial Resources



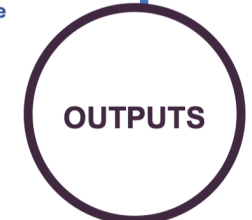
Information



## PRE-CONDITIONS

- Need for accountability exists
- Political/civic space to operate
- Communities willing to participate
- Partnerships to facilitate change

OUTPUTS



CAMPAIGNS  
COLLABORATION HUBS



INCUBATORS & TRAINING  
FEEDBACK MECHANISMS



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER INITIATIVES  
POLICY CHANGE

## COALITION BUILDING



INTERMEDIATE  
OUTCOMES



KNOWLEDGE &  
SKILLS



COMMUNITIES FOR  
CHANGE

LONG-TERM  
OUTCOMES

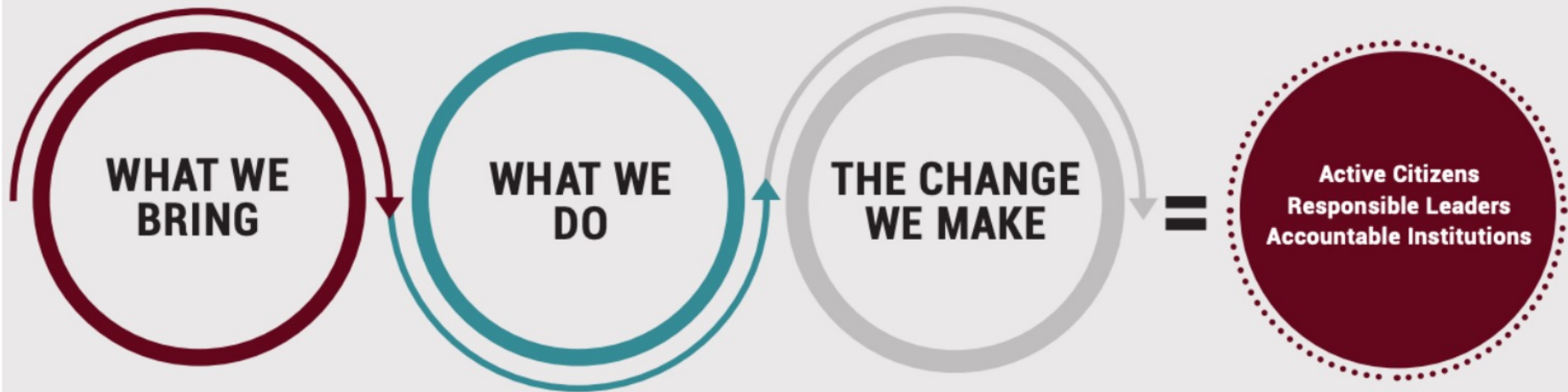
ACTIVE, ENGAGED CITIZENS  
&  
RESPONSIBLE LEADERS

OUR IMPACT

MORE INCLUSIVE &  
ACCOUNTABLE SOCIETIES

CROSS CUTTING THEMES:  
ADAPTIVE LEARNING | GENDER EQUITY | SUSTAINED ENGAGEMENT

## MAKING GOVERNANCE WORK FOR PEOPLE



### What we bring

- Positive narrative-building
- “Unlikely networks”
- “Insider-outsider” coalitions
- South-South feedback and learning

### What we do

- Campaigns and Learning
- Training and Collaborative Spaces
- Coalition Building and Convening

### The change we make

- Collective action for systems change
- Norm shifts and behavior change
- Influence policies, processes & practice

2023

