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.
ACCOUNTABILITY LAB
THEORY OF CHANGE

ACCOUNTABILITY OF
POWER-HOLDERS

IMPROVED LIVES
FOR CITIZENS
& INCREASED
EXPECTATIONS OF
ACCOUNTABILITY

MORE EFFICIENT
USE OF PUBLIC &
PRIVATE RESOURCES

RESPONSIBLE
DECISIONS &
ACTIONS
accountabilitylab
Partnering with Citizens Around the World to Build Accountability

The Problem

Poverty, inequality and violence around the world because people with power are not accountable to citizens

Our Solution

Mentoring, networks, management support and seed funding for ‘accountapreneurs’ with great ideas for change

Community and knowledge building through events, trainings, outreach and cross-country lesson-sharing

National and international advocacy and policy change through campaigns, working groups and high-level advice

Short-Term Impact

Citizens and power holders more aware of their rights and responsibilities and are more active in building accountability

Greater global support for accountability; other organizations are inspired to develop creative, citizen-led accountability initiatives

Long-Term Impact

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

Improved lives for citizens
THEORY OF CHANGE

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

Our Solution
Mentoring, networks, management, advocacy, and seed funding for "accountpreneurs" with great ideas for integrity

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

Long-Term Impact
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
Effective, accountable and transparent public institutions that are responsive to the needs & rights of young people

Assumptions:

- With capacity building and greater visibility, public servants can increase the impact of their work.
- Public servants can be motivated to influence wider reforms.
- Young people can freely express views and opinions.
- There is political support for public servants with integrity to create wider reform.

Ultimate Goal (Systemic Change):
Individually and collectively, public servants with integrity can create wider reforms in corruption-prone sectors.
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.

Short Term (Programme) Outcomes:

- 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.
- Public servants welcome public recognition of their integrity.
- The influence of youth movements on accountability can be strengthened through working together.
- Public servants can be motivated to influence wider reforms.

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

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES
ACTIVE, ENGAGED CITIZENS & RESPONSIBLE LEADERS

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES
- Knowledge & Skills
- Communities for Change

COALITION BUILDING

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

OUR IMPACT
MORE INCLUSIVE & ACCOUNTABLE SOCIETIES
MAKING GOVERNANCE WORK FOR PEOPLE

WHAT WE BRING

What we bring
- Positive narrative-building
- "Unlikely networks"
- "Insider-outsider" coalitions
- South-South feedback and learning

WHAT WE DO

What we do
- Campaigns and Learning
- Training and Collaborative Spaces
- Coalition Building and Convening

THE CHANGE WE MAKE

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

Active Citizens
Responsible Leaders
Accountable Institutions
**WHO WE ARE**

*We are a translocal network* - a collective of local organizations with a shared purpose and strategy working together to **make governance work for people.**

**WHAT WE BRING**
- Positive narrative-building
- Unlikely networks
- Insider-outsider coalitions
- South-South feedback, and learning
- Contextual understanding

**HOW WE WORK**
In our translocal network, we:
- Bring together local, emergent ideas
- Evolve based on real-time learning
- Grow and replicates intentionally
- Create shared discourse and identity
- Support and amplify efforts

**THE CHANGE WE ENVISION**
Active citizens, accountability leaders and responsive institutions

**WHAT WE DO**
- Campaigns and Advocacy
- Learning and Training
- Building and convening networks and coalitions of reformers