



## ZIMBABWE ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Through its Zimbabwe network lab, the Accountability Lab (AL) is implementing the NNAZ Project in Zimbabwe in collaboration with Magamba Network. The Project seeks to address entrenched negative dynamics around accountability by incentivizing communities to try new, innovative approaches to change governance outcomes from the bottom up.

The year 2022 was edifying for the Lab, with results from the NNAZ project coming to fruition. The CivActs initiative observed improved accountability from service providers, with local authorities and office holders demonstrating increased responsiveness to the challenges raised by communities. Arts4Change alums entered national and international platforms as influencers and thought leaders with visual storytelling projects. Accountapreneurs deepened their praxis, enabling youth participation in the governance process in their communities and representing young people in engagement and innovation platforms.

The Lab onboarded several new partnerships with GIZ and Washington State University during the year. The work supported by GIZ will deepen with the work of the Integrity Icon campaign and CivActs, seeking to address citizen culture and attitudes toward corruption. The collaboration with Washington State University will assess whether community-based interventions can build social trust and community cohesion in Zimbabwe.

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## INTEGRITY ICON

Integrity Icon is a global campaign by Accountability Lab that is powered by citizens in search of honest government officials. In Zimbabwe, the Campaign celebrated its inaugural cohort of Icons in March 2022 at the Integrity Summit and Awards Ceremony themed "Building a Movement around Integrity."

Accountability Lab Zimbabwe celebrated the first cohort of Integrity Icons in March 2022. These were Evermore Tamuka Chakwizira (People's Choice Awardee) Anesu Chinguwa, Rumbidzai Chikwavaire, Nomsa Dhlodhlo, and Ruvimbo Matore.

### CAMPAIGN BY NUMBERS

# 206

nominations

# 7 639

votes

# 151 723

people reached

The Integrity Summit featured discussions and presentations about building Integrity in the public service. The event featured a Q&A between Cheri-Leigh Erasmus, Accountability Lab Global Director of Learning, and Misheck Gondo, the Executive director of the National Association of Youth Organisations, a CivActs partner exploring Accountability Lab's positive deviance approach to building Integrity.

During the conversation, Cheri noted that the Integrity Icon Campaign is a way to shift societal norms and thinking about integrity. She also stated that the Lab aims to find ways to support the Icons to build coalitions, share ideas and support each other to push for integrity within the public service.

In another session, Icons shared their stories of integrity, showcasing their work and communities. Following the discussions, Icons signed the Integrity Pledge promising to continue to work with integrity, demonstrate respect for human rights, and support equity and inclusion of all kinds of voices in decision-making.





## CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

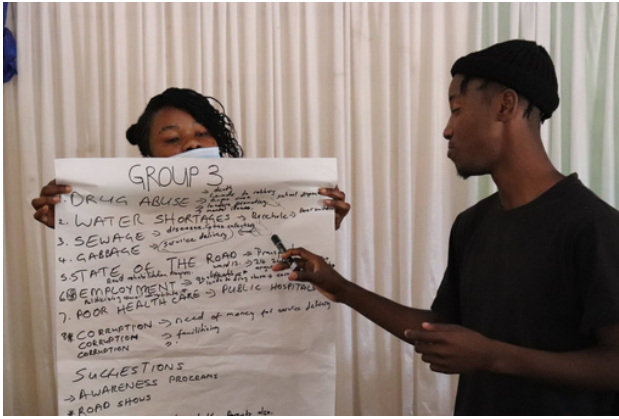


- Anesu implemented a project to create safe spaces for adolescent girls to discuss sexual and reproductive health and any other health-related topics of their choice. She has also created safe spaces for in-patients who are drug and substance abuse survivors to talk about their life experiences. Families have rejected most, and the spaces allow survivors to learn and support each other in rebuilding their relationships. Anesu works closely with social workers and the sister-in-charge to assist discharged patients in returning to their communities. Seven male survivors have reintegrated and are engaged in informal employment. Following a sharp rise in non-communicable, chronic diseases, including hypertension and diabetes, Anesu set up a wellness clinic at Ingutsheni. Staff undergo regular check-ups, and she is advocating for Zumba classes for staff. She is also trying to reinstate hospital tours for adolescents to educate them about mental health services and deter drug use.
- 2021 People's Choice Icon, Mr. Evermore Chakwizira, held one-on-one engagements with colleagues at his school, emphasizing the importance of operating with integrity. He also addressed senior government officials, including the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Goromonzi Provincial Education Officer, and Member of Parliament, on the benefits of operating with integrity as public servants. Mr. Chakwizira was selected as a board member of Deutsch Connect, representing Deutsch Connect in pioneering German language and vocational training in Zimbabwe. Deutsch Connect Academy is a platform that offers scholars the opportunity to learn different languages, find job opportunities, and offer companies opportunities for talent acquisition.



The awards ceremony was an exciting affair, held in the evening of the same day. Each Icon received their award, and the Lab announced Mr. Evermore Chakwizira as the People's Choice Winner. Evermore, the former headmaster of Chinyika High School, transformed the local community through his work with the school. The school lacked the staff and materials to fulfill its mandate. Evermore established several projects to supplement the school's income. He also led the initiative to build a modern sciences laboratory, which has enabled the school to be accorded A-level status by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. The pioneer group of 37 students who wrote their A-level exams during the pandemic in 2021 under severe constraints, achieved a 71.3% pass rate. He has also created conditions in which teaching staff are retained and remunerated. The income also contributes to scholarships for orphans and vulnerable children, keeping them in school. During his tenure, the school built and equipped a library, added new classroom blocks, and sunk a borehole providing a newly built ablution facility with running water. Mr. Chakwizira remains an outstanding Icon and champion of the campaign.

The second iteration of the campaign opened for nominations in March 2022 and was opened to all sectors those represented in the public service. Previously, the campaign had been limited to the health and education sectors. Accountability Lab Zimbabwe received 68 nominations, validated from an initial pool of 206. The validated nominees comprised unique individuals including 26 women, 41 men, and one unknown. The public nominated individuals from various government departments; most in the health and education sectors, but others in agriculture, labor and social welfare, and even the President's Office..



## CIVIC ACTION TEAMS

The Civic Action Teams (CivActs) are a pioneering citizen feedback, dialogue, and community voice platform to ensure accountability in the development process. In Zimbabwe, CivActs works with residents in Goromonzi, Bulawayo, Harare, and Chitungwiza to organize evidence-based dialogues. At baseline, the Lab established that less than 20% of respondents had participated in platforms to communicate concerns with power holders. Only 4% of citizens participated in identifying the challenges affecting them in the 12 months preceding. CivActs dialogues enable power holders, including councilors, and officials from responsible and relevant institutions to access accurate information directly from citizens on the challenges affecting them. The dialogues allow power holders to engage with residents and respond to their challenges and concerns to close the feedback loop.

### CIVACTS IN NUMBERS

**4**

operational areas

**34,839**

people reached

**26**

community listening meetings

**32**

community briefings

**24**

community radio shows  
and podcasts

**24**

bulletins produced

## OUR IMPACT

**Bulawayo City Council creates a desk to deal with the concerns of informal traders**

The Council's actions followed advocacy by a committee of residents from Cowdray Park tasked to engage with Bulawayo City Council regularly. Among the issues that surfaced through the CivActs process was a lack of designated areas for trading and conflict between municipal authorities and informal traders. The International Labour Organization estimates that while 84% of working-age Zimbabweans are employed, 76% are in informal employment, 58.8% of whom are women. CivActs conducted several surveys in Bulawayo in 2022, finding that most traders (more than 60%) did not sell from designated areas, and those who did were unsatisfied with their location. Some traders (40%) could not operate from designated areas, and others reported that it was somewhat or very difficult (+70%) to acquire a designated trading space. The committee used evidence gathered through CivActs to advocate for informal traders with council officials. Through these engagements, the Council approved a more accessible site where informal traders could operate. The Council also committed to servicing and developing the site to improve access and trade. Beyond these commitments, the Council also established a dedicated resource to assist in dealing with issues related to informal traders.

**Goromonzi Rural District Council (RDC) constructs a market stall for informal traders**

As in Bulawayo, CivActs found that informal traders were concerned about conflict with municipal authorities, challenges in accessing trading space, limited market infrastructure, and deficiencies in service delivery. Residents utilized CivActs dialogue platforms attended by councilors to advocate for designated space, successfully motivating the RDC to allocate and commit to developing a market for informal trading.

**Power holders more responsive to service delivery issues**

Residents in Chitungwiza reported that refuse collection became more consistent following engagement meetings and advocacy. The municipality publishes a refuse collection schedule for each ward and provides updates on any delays or disruptions in service. The Chitungwiza Municipality also publishes a water availability schedule that allows residents to plan. Where there are changes to the schedule, they communicate timeously to residents.

**CivActs provides a platform for information dissemination by government departments**

Residents in Goromonzi frequently cite challenges in accessing business startup capital as an issue of concern. Through engagements, this has allowed the local office of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Community Small and Medium Enterprises to share information about the Community Development Fund and the Women's Development Fund. These are government-backed loans to encourage women's entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency.



## Highlights

- Mary Yuki Mundeza had already produced several documentaries as a journalist when she applied to the AL Film Fellowship in 2022, hoping to improve her skills as a visual storyteller. Mary was already an award-winning journalist, and the skills she gained through the Fellowship enhanced her ability to tell powerful stories about accountability. Following her participation, Mary produced a documentary about the lived experiences of young women in Zimbabwe's informal sector for the Economic Women's Justice Project. She presented the documentary at the #SheConnects Conference in 2022, and entered the film directed through the Fellowship to apply for the International Anti-Corruption Conference in Washington D.C. She will be the first Zimbabwean journalist to attend. Mary hopes to empower other women journalists to use their skills to tell stories that make a difference within communities.
- Ska Sebata produced an experimental short film, *Her: A Disintegrated Notion*, during the Fellowship, exploring gender accountability. Ska filmed in rural Victoria Falls, where she lives and works, featuring local community members. The film is visually engaging, showcasing Ska's costume design contrasted against the rugged surroundings. The film's visuals are an interesting juxtaposition to its soundtrack and narration. Ska wanted the film to evoke empathy among its audiences. She hopes it will inspire audiences to engage with and challenge the various gender issues raised. Ska Sebata actively promotes the film to



## ARTS4CHANGE PROJECTS

The project introduced new and unusual voices to the accountability space whose productions sparked engagement and conversations about accountability. Film Fellowship alumnus, Ska Sebata's film, *HER: A Disintegrated Notion*, spread alternative perspectives about gender and accountability. The film was a conversation starter locally and internationally, appearing at several film festivals. Fellow alumnus Mary Mundeza produced documentary films to spotlight community accountability issues, and Voice2Rep alumnus, Oxzy organized his community to support orphans and vulnerable children.

The project continued to produce music and films related to accountability. *Power*, produced through Voice2Rep, was launched on Zimbabwe's Independence Day, April 18.



- inspire conversations and spread knowledge about gender and accountability in and outside Africa. She has entered several festivals across the world. So far, the Zimbabwe International Film Festival, the Sotambe Film Festival in Zambia, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and African Union's 'Africa Celebrates' in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the African Film Festival in Auckland, Aotearoa (New Zealand) have screened the film to wide acclaim.
- Since participating in the Voice2Rep competition in 2020, Bulawayo-based artist Oxzy, has used his time and skills to uplift his community. He organizes an annual concert in collaboration with upcoming artists from the community, who contribute their time and access to their networks. Nkulumane is a low-income suburb, so entry to the concert is charged in cash or kind. Oxzy donates both to the orphanage. His charitable work and Voice2Rep production Lay'nela earned him the 2021 Prince Claus Seed Award, which recognizes emerging artists and provides support to those whose artistic work engages with local social and/or political issues. He used his award to establish a recording studio in his community. He identifies talented young men and women from orphanages and helps them on their journey as artists by providing free studio time. Oxzy has spoken about how the Voice2Rep experience taught him to use his musical talent for good and as a way to bring about change, which motivates his various community initiatives.



Tanaka Stephen Moyo, also known as Ndonzi BeatX, won the public vote for the 2021 Voice2Rep Zimbabwe Competition. Tanaka joined the competition aiming to gain skills to "work with the youth in my community to fight every situation till the solution is found and to empower every youth with my talents and everything possible because I know how it feels since I was one of the people who were in a tough situation since all my parents passed away."

Tanaka's winning song, 'Escape' is available on Power.

Since winning Voice2Rep, Tanaka, or Ndonzi has participated in several music projects. He performed in Rwanda at a show organized by Accountability Lab, sharing the stage with the African rhumba star Fally Ipupa. He has also collaborated with the Zimbabwe CivActs Project to produce Mhere, a song about the challenges Mbare residents face.







## ACCOUNTABILITY INCUBATOR

The Accountability Incubator program provides training, mentorship, and other support to young civic actors and social entrepreneurs with innovative ideas to promote accountability, open government, and participation in their communities.

The Incubator received 92 applications to participate in the second cohort. The Incubator selected ten from these, comprising six women and four men. The ten finalists represented diverse ideas and early-stage initiatives, including an online platform promoting accountability and transparency in the mining sector, an initiative seeking to promote good practice in public resources management with a focus on agriculture, and schemes such as command agriculture and the Presidential Input Scheme. Another initiative aimed to advance food security by training farmers in climate-smart farming techniques and engaging the government on climate strategies for smallholder farmers, while another leveraged young people's interest in martial arts to empower young girls against early marriage and sexual abuse and as a platform for training and discourse on policies on child marriage and women's rights.

### IMPACT BY NUMBERS

**92**

Applications submitted for the 2022 Zimbabwe Incubator

**10**

Accountpreneurs, comprising 6 women and 4 men

**8**

training workshops

**12**

acceleration grants for the 2021 cohort of Accountpreneurs





## HIGHLIGHTS

### Members of the Chidobe radio listening club follow proceedings at a listening session held in May 2022

Nomqhele Siziba's initiative, Youth Invest, mobilized Kachechete (Ward 3) members in Chidobe village into a radio listening club – the Chidobe Radio Listening Club. Youth Invest mobilized villagers by holding community meetings and engaging with the Kachechete ward councilor, Givemore Moyo.

The club convened listening sessions throughout the year, with participants learning about citizens' rights and responsibilities and the accountability nexus. The villagers raised concerns about the payment of herd tax which they said was not accompanied by any service delivery from the government. Through her initiative Mupopoma Pachedu, Vimbai Nhengu hosted dialogue sessions on ways of upholding accountability. In the sessions, community members role-play scenarios depicting different accountability situations and their resolutions. The Mupopoma Pachedu is building accountability in agricultural programs and contributing to food security in Buhera District in Manicaland Province.

### Justice Code Foundation Breaks Ground with Innovation for Civic Engagement

Since enrolling in the Accountability Incubator in 2021, Courteney Mukoyi has continued to innovate and increase citizen participation, spotlight accountability issues, and promote open government. He developed VoteBot, a WhatsApp bot to make it easier for young people to register to vote and access information about electoral rights and the election process. The platform, supported by the African Union Civic Tech Fund, reached more than 15 000 people in 6 months, helping more than 700 people to register as voters. While participating in the the Accountability Incubator Courteney gained access to a network of young people working on civic engagement. He collaborated with fellow accountapreneur Descent Dube, who operates the Matobo Youth Development Initiative. It was in Matobo that Courteney iterated, making the application more relevant to people in rural settings.

Courteney has won several awards, including the World Democracy Innovation Award in Paris.







### **Natsiraishe Argues for Holistic Approaches to Mitigate Against GBV**

In May 2022, the Vulnerable Under-Aged Peoples' Auditorium, an initiative of Natsiraishe Maritsa, made submissions on gender-based violence, child marriages, and sexual abuse and exploitation of women at an inquiry hosted by the Zimbabwe Gender Commission in Epworth Harare. She argued that young people, especially girls, needed safe spaces to engage with their peers and occupy their time with positive activities. Moreover, psychological stress brought about by the dire economic situation in Zimbabwe led to some parents and guardians abusing children in their care and, in some instances, marrying them off for financial gain.

Natsiraishe further argued that the challenges of child marriage and child abuse in Zimbabwe required holistic approaches that addressed socio-economic and cultural issues. Natsiraishe argued that intervention should include providing recreational facilities, empowering girls with skills and knowledge to ensure they can participate in the economy, and raising awareness in communities. Natsiraishe's initiative uses taekwondo to teach girls self-defense and the dangers of early marriages. She has also begun distributing sanitary pads as part of awareness-raising campaigns in Epworth and Bulawayo. In September 2022, Natsiraishe hosted the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and the Zimbabwe Olympic Committee, who were interested in gaining a deeper understanding of her work in the community. Earlier this year, the International Olympic Committee awarded Natsiraishe the Women and Sports Award for Africa for using taekwondo to empower girls in her community.



### **Accountapreneur Makes Input into National Budget**

In May 2022, Accountapreneur Roselilly Ushewokunze made submissions at a public hearing convened by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Finance and Economic Development through her initiative, Litebulwa. The public hearing was to assess the performance of the 2022 national budget. In their submissions, the Litebulwa Initiative argued that full incorporation of the informal sector in the country's economy would require more than simply taxing informal traders. They argued that there was a need to ensure tax justice for informal traders by providing that payment of taxes was accompanied by tax justice, including availing of funds through loans and strategic subsidies for informal actors in specific sectors. This would be critical in ensuring that the taxes that informal players pay benefit them and broader society, thereby incentivizing small and medium-scale enterprises to enter the economy formally.

Roselilly is an eco-feminist who promotes food sovereignty and addresses social and economic challenges affecting women and young people. The Litebulwa Initiative, based in Victoria Falls, Matabeleland North, works to alleviate poverty by mobilizing citizens to participate in governance processes and advocating for food sovereignty in rural communities.





BUDGET

1	US\$1,954,194.99	23	45
Award funded by USAID under Democracy and Governance	total budget for 2022	staff members	participants in Integrity Icon, Voice2Rep, Accountability Incubator and Film Fellowship

