Empowering citizens to build the world’s best tools for accountability

Annual Report 2013
## Table of Contents

- Introduction ..... 3
- Highlights from 2013 ..... 4
- Programs: Accountapreneurship in Nepal ..... 5
- Programs: Accountapreneurship in Liberia ..... 7
- 2013 Finances ..... 10
- Partners ..... 11
- Join Us ..... 13
- Contact Us ..... 14

31 January, 2014
The Accountability Lab makes people with power more responsible. We support imaginative projects to fight corruption and build accountability in communities around the world. We identify local changemakers (which we like to call “accountapreneurs”) and provide them with training, mentoring, networking, seed funding, and management support to create innovative and sustainable tools for accountability.

We also strive to fundamentally change development paradigms through innovation within our own operations. This includes - radical financial transparency; alternative revenue models; new, honest impact measurement; clear, contextualized reporting; and creative outreach campaigns.
Highlights from 2013

We supported 13 accountapreneurs

- 40+ community groups
- trained 1,500+ people on accountability and integrity
- engaged 20,000+ citizens in accountability initiatives.

We partnered with Integrity Action to create the Integrity Helpdesk.

We received RSA Catalyst and Challenge Grants and the Case Foundation’s Be Fearless Award.

We received media coverage from:

- BBC
- Council on Foreign Relations
- Forbes
- devex
- FP
- The Guardian
- National Geographic
- The New York Times
- Thomson Reuters Foundation
- Stanford Social Innovation Review
- Transparency International
Accountapreneurship in Nepal...

Dibyesh Giri and Tribhuvan Pokharel | Bolaun

The developers at Smarttech created an online platform called Bolaun (Speak Up!), where Nepali citizens can report and discuss various accountability issues, access useful resources to solve those problems, and build communities for change. Young Innovations is now leading the second phase of the work as the site is rolled out to a larger user base.

Govinda Siwakoti | Accountability Film School

Govinda and his team at Onion Films have created a platform for youth to share compelling stories about accountability issues in their communities. To date, these stories have focused on issues including X and X. They hosted an accountability fellowship for graduates of their program, and in early 2014 they will launch a series of 20-day Accountability Film Workshops for beginner filmmakers.

Pradip Pariyar & Bijay Poudel | My University, My Future

Pradip and Bijay have met with hundreds of stakeholders in Nepal’s public university system to understand the many accountability issues that prevent an effective education system. They presented a comprehensive set of recommendations to the administration, and are currently in the process of developing a Dialogue Center on a university campus through which stakeholders can resolve issues in a peaceful and constructive manner.
Jaymod Thakur’s Story

Jaymod is a health worker and citizen activist in Birgunj, a Nepali border town notorious for corruption. The Lab is supporting him to lead the Right to Information (RTI) movement in his community through the RTI fellowship. With our RTI toolkit in hand, he has filed several successful requests for information. Recently, he discovered that the organization running the Nepal India Trade Fair sold tickets at the door with tax but didn’t deposit the tax, so he submitted a RTI request to the revenue office and was able get the organization to pay the 263,892 Nepali Rupees of misappropriated tax funds. In addition, Jaymod has begun sharing his knowledge with other concerned citizens by facilitating local RTI orientation and training sessions.
Accountapreneurship in Liberia...

Alfred Sirleaf | Daily Talk
Alfred runs a chalk-billboard in one the busiest intersection of Monrovia. Each day he curates the news with colloquial language and illustrations for the 10,000 Liberians who pass by. This year, he added a civic education component to the board, covering everything from how to register a business to how to pay taxes. He is now setting up a second chalk-billboard in another part of the city to help bring necessary information to even more citizens.

Alvarney Rogers | Open Justice Initiative
Alvarney was frustrated with the ineffectiveness and lack of accountability in the local justice system in Liberia. His Open Justice Initiative seeks to do two things on a periodic basis: i) carry out a survey among citizens to judge perceptions of local justice in 4 neighborhoods in Monrovia; and ii) generate a scorecard to assess the efficacy and fairness of courts at the local level.

Divine Anderson | Accountability Film School
Liberian filmmaker Divine established the Accountability Film School to help young people use film as a tool for social change. At the end of each class, students write and produce their own short documentaries about an issue they care about in their communities. The films from the first two sessions were showcased at Accountability Film Festivals in September and December, at video clubs in local communities, and are also available on YouTube.
Dorcas Pewee’s Story

In June, Dorcas - who lost her family in Liberia’s civil war- was on the street, struggling to make ends meet. Divine Anderson, who runs the Lab’s Accountability Film School, brought Dorcas into the first class of students. Dorcas quickly discovered that film was a powerful way for her to tell her story and advocate for change. As part of the class, Dorcas created a short film called “Say It” about sexual harassment in high schools in Liberia - an issue she has suffered from personally. In September, the film won the viewer’s choice award at the first ever film festival in Liberia. Dorcas then developed her technical skills and is teaching a new accountability film school for girls in early 2014.

Gborboe Gblinwon | Kick Out Corruption

Football is universally popular in Liberia and can be used as a tool to bring people together, develop new ideas and learn about accountability in a fun, interactive way. Coach Gblinwon and the Accountability Lab Liberia team have teamed-up on the “Kick Out Corruption” campaign to engage with youth on issues including cheating, bribery, robbery, corruption and nepotism.

Kabah Trawalay | Inter-Religious Committee on Accountability

Kabah is working with local Christian and Muslim religious leaders to develop an inter-religious committee to promote accountability in their communities. They are working to build consensus on an “Accountability Accord” which will include core principles for accountability that can be used collectively as an advocacy tool.
Accountapreneurship in Liberia

Maria Fahnbullah | TELL-it-True

TELL-it-True was designed as an SMS system to allow students and professors to anonymously report problems and solutions related to corruption at a college in Monrovia. The resulting data, revealing professor absenteeism, sexual harassment, bribery, and more—has been shared with the administration to serve as the basis for action. Maria is now working to roll out the system in 50 public high schools in Monrovia.

Takun J | Hip Co Accountability Network

Takun J - one of Liberia’s most influential musicians—has helped to gather a group of 12 artists, DJs and producers as part of the Hip Co Accountability Network. The group is working on the core accountability issues that impact the music industry— including strengthening and enforcing copyright laws to protect their music, establishing minimum play laws to ensure local music does not get overlooked, and mobilizing artists to create effective mechanisms to represent their interests.

Thomas Tweh | Community Justice Teams

Thomas and the West Point Health and Sanitation Community Organization trained 8 mediators to resolve community disputes at the local level; and work with the Township Commissioner and the local police to feed cases down to the mediators that would otherwise overburden the formal justice system. Over 65 cases were processed in 2013, saving citizens thousands of dollars and many days of time.
Statement of Activities*
Year Ended December 31, 2013

Revenues
Contributions from Corporations, Individuals, Law Firms and Trade Associations $ 194,346

Total Revenues $ 194,346

Expenditures
Program Services
Accountability Change Agency $ 27,128
Accountability Initiative $ 29,338
Accountability Entrepreneurship Fund $ 87,764
Total Program Services $ 144,230

Supporting Services
Management and General $ 26,180
Fundraising $ 18,183
Total Supporting Services $ 44,363

Total Expenditures $ 188,593
Change in Net Assets $ 5,753
Net Assets at Beginning of Year $ (60,154)
Net Assets at End of year $ (54,401)

Statement of Financial Position*
Year Ended December 31, 2013

Current Assets
Cash and Cash Equivalents $ 17,299
Contributions Receivable $ -
Accounts Receivable $ 596
Prepaid Expenses $ 395
Total Current Assets $ 18,290

Liabilities
Current Liabilities $ 2,691
Long-term liabilities $ 70,000
Total Liabilities $ 72,691

Net Assets
Unrestricted $ (57,175)
Temporarily Restricted $ 2,774
Total Net Assets $ (54,401)

Total Liabilities and Net Assets $ 18,290

* All amounts are in US $
Accountability Lab’s work is made possible through the generosity, vision, and partnership of many organizations and individuals within our network.
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**Brain Trust**
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**Kitchen Cabinet**
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Nepal Country Representative

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Associate Director

Suman Parajuli
Country Resident

Francis Lansana
Country Resident

Partners
Join Us

We love to partner to grow the global movement for accountability.

Here are five easy ways you can get involved:

i) **Help spread the word** - follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn and mention our work to your friends and networks.

ii) **Send us ideas and feedback** - we are a learning organization and love feedback. Let us know your thoughts at: info@accountabilitylab.org

iii) **Write for the blog** - we’d love to feature your great ideas for accountability tools on www.bloggingonaccountability.org, which we’ll then cross post widely. E-mail us your thoughts: info@accountabilitylab.org

iv) **Work for us** - our best asset is our people and we support our staff 100% in everything they do. Want to work for us? Check out our staff page for vacancies. If there isn’t a fit, e-mail us and tell us why you are exactly what we need: info@accountabilitylab.org

v) **Support the Lab** - through a tax-deductible donation here and through asking your employer for corporate matching or sponsorship. We make sure every dollar goes as far as it possibly can to improve lives.
Contact Us

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