



LIBERIA ANNUAL REPORT 2022

2022 had its highs and lows. Nationwide, CSOs, well-meaning Liberians, and residents were elated when two key pieces of anti-corruption legislation were enacted into law. The first was an amendment to the Liberian Anti-corruption Law that includes granting the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) the autonomy to prosecute corruption suspects. The second was the witness protection and whistleblower law, which provides protection for individuals who would report and testify against corruption cases. While these critical legislations were widely accepted and viewed as a step forward and in the right direction, three senior Liberia government officials were named and sanctioned by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) for their involvement in ongoing public corruption in Liberia.

This report highlights the results and key learnings we took from 2022 to help improve our engagements in the future. These are in line with the framework of the Lab's new strategy (2023-2026) and approach of working with active citizens, their leaders, and development partners to push for greater accountability, transparency, opportunities, and overall development.

CONTENTS

- 2 *Integrity Icon*
- 4 *Accountability Incubator*
- 5 *Voice2Rep*
- 7 *DAI's Civil Society Activity*
- 8 *Looking towards 2023*



INTEGRITY ICON

Integrity Icon Liberia 2022 launched under the theme Integrity Builds a Nation, and the celebration event of the five national Integrity Icons for 2022. The program brought together a host of government officials, diplomats, partners, the press, past icons, and civil society. The keynote speaker was the Swedish Ambassador, Urban Sjostrom. The deputy ambassador also delivered a special remark from the British Embassy for the Diplomatic Corps. The closing program was also used to raise funds to support the national initiative. The Director General of Fishery and Aquaculture Agency served as chief fundraiser.

NUMBERS OF INTEGRITY ICON

963

nominations

1,657

votes

17

volunteers

15

counties

21,124

people reached

3,724

people engaged

OUR WINNERS

Prince Kruah – Registered nurse and serves as the child survival focal point person for the county health team, District 9, Nimba County, Liberia. Prince is an experienced health practitioner with more than ten years of experience.

Arthur Gliklay – Financial Adviser to the Minister of Transport. He previously served as Financial Comptroller General but was transferred, and his salary reduced for refusing to sign a contract document because the information provided lacked clarity and supporting documents for processing.

Albertha Doe – Registered nurse at Liberia Government Hospital in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. She is a proactive and enthusiastic individual with a logical approach to challenges and a huge desire to learn.

Bendu Conneh – Registered nurse at the Liberia Government Hospital in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. She has been reported to be trustworthy, honest, and transparent with funds, medication, and equipment that has been placed in her care.

Moses Peter Roberts – Administrator at the Ministry of Information for about twenty years. He has contributed to the reduction of 'ghost names' on payroll and is widely known within the ministry as a principle-minded person.





CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

- Titus Tikwa (Integrity Icon 2020) participated in the U.S. State Department International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) on Accountability and Transparency in Government. On the U.S. trip he met with a number of accountability and transparency institutions, including; the Government Accountability Office, National Whistleblower Center, National Elections Committee, Open Government Partnership, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Office of Congressional Ethics, and Open Gov Hub. The program brought together rising leaders in their respective fields from around the world.
- Kulubo G. Davis (Integrity Icon 2021) worked with school authorities to establish health clubs in two public schools in rural Montserrado, Brewerville Township. 40 students are enrolled at both health clubs and meet every week. Before founding the health clubs, she started a weekly health awareness meeting with teenage mothers on personal hygiene and preventing sexually transmitted infections (STIs) after noticing the increase in cases, especially in young females visiting the health facility Kulubo works at.
- Samuel G. Ford (Integrity Icon 2019) completed training in the Mid-Level Police Leadership course offered by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the United States with the Department of State through the implementation of the Strategic Capacity Group. He also completed a two-week training scholarship course on integrity and anti-corruption at the Hague Academy in the Netherlands. He worked with the bureaus of civilian affairs and the professional standards division of the Liberia national police to develop and adapt the force's anti-corruption policy.



Impact

- Marsin Tarpeh wrote a book titled "The Earthly Paradise," a primary school reading book.
- Abdullah Bility was elected Vice President for International Affairs of the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY). FLY is the umbrella organization of youth and students in Liberia, and has a statutory responsibility of organizing and coordinating the activities of the youth population of Liberia.
- John McCauley developed an online television channel to increase awareness of accountability and access to information;
- Abraham Weah completed a business plan to establish a greenhouse in Liberia to assist farmers. This project activity is scheduled to begin in early June.

ACCOUNTABILITY INCUBATOR

The Accountability Incubator Program is one of Accountability Lab Liberia's leading programs for sustaining and amplifying the advocacy of Accountability, participation, and open governance for young civil society leaders in Liberia. We encourage enterprising individuals/organizations with innovative ideas to inspire Accountability in their communities and management of public institutions. In 2022, the Incubator program received a total of 17 applications. After thoroughly reviewing the applications and interviews, the panel selected and approved five organizations; The Bassa Youth Caucus, Molding Minds, and Changing Altitude, SATEC Liberia, Peace Agents Network, and Sustainable Youth Capacity & Agriculture Development Initiatives. The interview and selection panel comprised three of AL Liberia's staff and the Secretary General of the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY), Liberia's umbrella national youth organization.



IMPACT BY NUMBERS

5

participants

4

structured sessions

4

mentoring sessions



Impact

- Gender Inclusion – Women were encouraged to form part of the awareness-raising campaign.
- National Ownership and Sustainability – In addition to anti-corruption awareness created in the four sectors, Accountability Lab Liberia worked with five CSOs (one per county) who were trained to use the "TALKAY" platform which assists community members in reporting suspicion of corruption. These CSOs will also be tracking and writing about corruption cases in the court systems in their counties.



VOICE2REP

NED County Democracy Tours and Concerts

The Lab, in collaboration with the Hip-co Accountability Network, conducted two audition and concert exercises in Bomi and Margibi counties. Immediately following the audition exercises for the social change art project, the AL Liberia team, the local artists, and student volunteers organized and held two concerts in Kakata, Margibi County, and Tubmanburg, Bomi County. The two winners from the audition exercises, Praise M. Konneh aka Trap Co and Junior Kai aka Uncle Rap J, were invited to our New Media Lab studio in Monrovia to write and record two civic education songs. The music mentors at the Lab engaged the artists to draft lyrics around some of the key issues in Liberia during elections, including but not limited to; electoral violence, vote raking, incomplete voter roll register, buying/selling votes, and others. The winner from Tubmanburg City recorded a song called 'Future' and the winning song from Kakatas City was named, 'Change'. Two successful concerts were staged in the counties that brought together thousands of participants.

"This is the third musical audition exercise I have participated in as an artist, and I have learned much from it. I particularly liked the feedback provided at the end of my performance. It was honest and professional"

– George Kollie, V2R participant Kakata City, Margibi County.



VOICE2REP CONTINUED

UNDP Anti-Corruption Awareness Project

Two of Hipco's accountability network's finest artists, Henry Toe aka Amaze and Alfred Flomo aka Super 7, recorded another three conscious songs in late 2022, covering the mining and forestry sectors. We used the songs to carry out awareness-raising activities on anti-corruption focusing on these national issues and sectors; under the Mining Sector, with the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Forestry Sector, under the Forestry Development Authority (FDA). Awareness activities included flyers, short videos, songs, and community street jams/meetings. They mainly focused on some of the poorest communities that are vulnerable and easy grounds/prey for politicians. Some communities include Monrovia Junction, Small Fanti town, Gbakoni, Bold Dallah, and Atlantic Street Community in Grand Bassa County; Ganta City, Blohdiala, Kparlee, Senkipa and Zuluwee in Nimba County; Millionaire Quarter, Korkoyah Road Community, Rubber Factory Community, Bong Mines, and David Dane's Town in Bong County; Kakata and Marshall Cities in Margibi County. Community members acknowledged corruption in the mining and forestry sectors, which results in poor services, including delayed response, inadequate capacity, and weak monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. Links to the songs of the exercises are attached [here](#) and [here](#), and the videos are [here](#) and [here](#).

IMPACT BY NUMBERS

6

artists

5

songs
produced

18

street
jams

6,189

participants
engaged

217,194

participants reached
(47.2% women and girls)



Critical findings

- The top three donor funding priority areas in the next 3-5 years are; Education, Health, and Gender-related projects
- The donors proffered that CSOs can raise additional funds through developing new partnerships with private sector businesses and developing other types of income-generating or revenue models
- Donor funding planned for the next 3-5 years is to reduce by about 30% because some donors plan to disengage and exit.

DAI'S CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVITY

Accountability Lab Liberia and DAI collaborated on a USAID-funded Civil Society Activity project and implemented its first set of activities. Financial sustainability remains a critical challenge for national CSOs in Liberia. This constraint limits organizational autonomy by inhibiting long-term planning and flexibility in designing and implementing activities. The project aims to strengthen Liberians' ability to advocate for policy reforms, policy implementation, and service delivery through multi-stakeholder coalitions that build feedback loops between government, CSOs, and citizens.

The samples for the Liberian CSOs' funding streams mapping included; resident and non-resident overseas donors, diaspora-based associations and networks of Liberian communities, online overseas fundraising platforms, and the Liberian private sector. Accountability Lab Liberia developed two separate lists of respondents; a list of 53 national private sector companies/organizations and 40 Liberian diaspora donor organizations, each of whom were formally written to and called. The final report and recommendations have been written and shared with the donor.





LOOKING TOWARDS 2023

Even though three senior Liberia government officials were named and sanctioned by the U.S. government and Liberia had a -3 score change in 2022 on the PCI index by Transparency International, we remain motivated and hopeful that with the passage of new key anti-corruption legislation, the fight against corruption has been strengthened. Citizens and residents, especially those working in the public sector, will be more confident and cooperative in reporting suspicion and alleged corrupt practices throughout the public sector. There is still much work to be done around raising awareness of the new laws, accountability, the rule of law, and good governance in Liberia. The Lab will continue to work with the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), other anti-corruption CSOs, development partners, and the government to ensure that the fight against corruption is sustained through a holistic approach involving all stakeholders.

We are also hopeful that the October 2023 general and presidential elections will be conducted in a free, fair, and transparent manner. Due to lots of pockets of violence experienced during the senatorial elections of 2020, the Lab intends to work with other key stakeholders to ensure an anti-violence campaign is developed and implemented



BUDGET & STAFF

3

total grants

U\$163,211.39

total budget

8

staff

27

volunteers