

A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER



Dear Friends,

It's been a year of forcing mechanisms – people's votes have laid bare deep racism in society, alongside social movements fervently rejecting that racism and protesting police brutality; a pandemic and economic crisis driving disparities in our world even further apart; and a forced look at the longstanding climate crisis. At Accountability Counsel, this year has sharpened our focus too. We emerge from 2020 with a dedicated team working in solidarity with and deeply inspired by our community partners.

Every day, we collaborate with farmers, workers on plantations, Indigenous and traditional forest dwellers, and families - all of whom maintain struggles for justice and dignity in the face of corporate and institutional abuse. Now they are doing so amidst even greater odds. We emerge with laser-like focus on our mission and our commitment to supporting these communities through the "last mile" of their struggles.

Over a decade ago when I started Accountability Counsel, we couldn't share an annual report about the last mile - the process of supporting communities from the point of vindication of their rights on paper, to vindication in practice so that they achieve a righting of wrongs. There were too few human rights and environmental victories on paper to even begin to explore that process. But today, Accountability Counsel cases have reached that stage in Haiti, India, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, and Papua New Guinea. We can now share both a picture of the collective effort that has produced clear wins for some communities in practice, and a better understanding of the barriers that exist to remedy harm in communities where struggles persist.

'We have learned that we achieve progress from our deeply interdisciplinary approach to human rights and environmental justice."

Our own Communities, Policy Advocacy, and Research program teams work together on a daily basis and in solidarity with the local grassroots organizations, regional partners, and international colleagues who share our goals of affirming and

protecting communities' environmental and and accountability in Africa, as well as other tools human rights. Wins come when we marry strong community lawyering with locally-led research, advocates can directly interact with governments, advocacy to international decision-makers, and using rapidly evolving technology and persuasive offices to be heard. media.

result of leadership gaps at the highest levels of global institutions, where rhetoric surrounding transparency and accountability is hollow when put to the test.

Our Policy Advocacy program team has challenged these gaps this year working in close collaboration with our allies, and producing changed policy at To that end, our Communities program lawyer international institutions. As we have advanced accountability policy at the World Bank Group and the newly established US Development Finance Corporation, the immediate work ahead will enshrine the principle that "if you contribute role that will be filled by our own Lani Inverarity. to harm, you contribute to remedy." When an accountability office delivers on its work of As we look to 2021, we are eager to continue drawing investigating an institution that broke the rules and caused harm, or when its mediators help parties in conflict to reach agreements, people should be protected and supported to see those findings and agreements result in action.

People who put their faith in accountability offices have the right to support, not only through law and policy, but also through institutional cultures and incentives that make these accountability systems meaningful. That is our urgent goal.

Over the past year, our Research program team launched the Accountability Console, a gamechanging database that demonstrates the impact of accountability offices for communities, policy makers, investors, and the public.

Our team is expanding the learning from the 1,400 cases that have been brought to date - from each hard-fought victory to each that resulted in impunity - to make those lessons available and actionable.

We also produced a number of reports this year, including a major new report about financial flows

that are changing the way communities and their global institutions, investors, and accountability

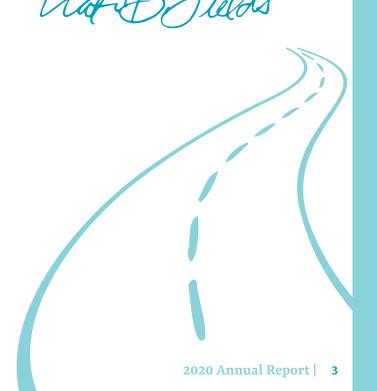
Amidst the pandemic, our whole team working The barriers to remedy we see are often a direct from home, unexpected homeschooling while working (still!), protests, forest fires, and major elections, our organization has continued to evolve.

> Our staff team and board came together to prepare for a scaled up Accountability Counsel that our mission demands in the years to come.

Robi Chacha Mosenda opened our Africa office; we welcomed Annie Lascoe as our first Director of Development; and we are thrilled to announce an incoming Director of Programs and Strategy, a new

inspiration from all of you – our community of allies and supporters who make this work possible.

In solidarity, Natalie Bridgeman Fields



WHAT WE DO

PROGRAMS



COMMUNITIES

Community-led lawyering to defend rights and amplify voices.



POLICY ADVOCACY

Strengthening avenues for accountability and advocacy to create systems change.



RESEARCH

Understanding, influencing, and sustaining the global movement for accountability.

VISION

We envision a world in which:

- Communities take part in decisions that affect them and secure remedy to realize their human rights
- Effective and robust accountability systems deter abuses
- International institutions and corporations respect communities and prevent abuses.

MISSION

Accountability Counsel amplifies the voices of communities around the world to protect their human rights and environment. As advocates for people harmed by internationally financed projects, we employ community driven and policy level strategies to access justice.









Natalie Bridgeman Fields

Founder and Executive Director

Stephanie Amoako

Senior Policy Associate

Samer Araabi

Research Director

Gregory Berry

Policy Associate

Caitlin Daniel

Senior Communities Associate

Margaux Day

Policy Director

Madigan Griffin

Executive Coordinator

Lani Inverarity

Senior Communities Associate
Director of Programs and Strategy (2021)

Annie Lascoe

Director of Development

Marisa Lenci

Research Associate

Brian McWalters

Policy Associate

Robi Chacha Mosenda

Communities Associate, Africa

Anirudha Nagar

Communities Director

Hannah Schiweck

Global Operations Manager

Megumi Tsutsui

Communities Associate

OUR TEAM

Fellows and Interns

Bamisope Adeyanju

Post-Graduate Policy Fellow, Fall

2020

Caroline Anderson

Executive Intern, Fall 2020

Chinmaya Andukuri Data Intern, Fall 2020

Kelly Armijo

Research Fellow, Fall 2019

- Summer2020

Catherine Chang Research Intern. Fall 2019

Trillium Chang

Law Fellow, Spring 2020

Courtney Christensen Policy Fellow, Fall 2019

Kelly Cruchett

Executive Intern, Summer 2020

Maggie Dougherty

Policy Intern, Summer 2020

Rebecca Dresner Law Fellow, Fall 2020

Kathleen Elliott

Law Fellow, Fall 2019

Christina Ennis

Law Fellow, Summer 2020

Alanna Flores

Data Intern, Summer 2020

Reema Ghabra

Policy Fellow, Summer 2020

Piper Goeking

Executive Intern, Summer-Fall 2020

Jacob Goffin

Research Fellow, Fall 2019-Spring

2020

Astha Guragain

Executive Intern, Spring 2020

Merrell Guzman

Research Intern. Fall 2020

Lydia Hanson

Policy Fellow, Fall 2019

Saideh Herrera

Law Fellow, Fall 2020

Sumaya Hussaini Policy Intern, Fall 2020

Zac Johnson

Research Intern. Summer 2020

Nyambura Kiarie

Post-Graduate Policy Fellow, Fall

2020

Jessica Lu

Law Fellow, Asia, Summer 2020

Lea Main-Klingst

Policy Fellow, Spring 2020

Eliza McCullough

Research Intern. Fall 2019

Shelby McGuire-Smith

Policy Fellow, Summer-Fall 2020

Claire O'Brien

Research Intern, Spring-Summer

2020

Kathryn Pettit

Law Fellow, Summer 2020

Snigdha Ravulapati Law Fellow, Spring 2020

Rocío Trujillo Sosa

Policy Fellow, Summer 2020

Katie Weiner

Executive Intern, Fall 2020

Maria Wong

Research Intern, Summer 2020 Communities Fellow, Fall 2020

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"Throughout her tenure on Accountability Counsel's Board of Directors, Paru has been a champion for the communities we serve and a true partner in our work. Her leadership on the Board's Strategy Committee and her contributions to our strategic planning process in particular have been invaluable and have contributed meaningfully to Accountability Counsel's development and mission. On behalf of our Board, I extend our deepest thanks and wish Paru the best in her new ventures and adventures."

Board Chair Erica Gould,

recognizing outgoing Board Member Paru Desai (pictured opposite page)

ADVISORS

Joanne Bauer
Alfred Brownell
Christy Chin
Lisa Trainer Fields
Ken Greenstein
Gideon Kracov
Libby Marsh
Yvonne Moore

Guillermo Padilla Daniel Peters Erin Ricci Beth Van Schaack Fernanda Venzon Julia Shepardson

OUR BOARD

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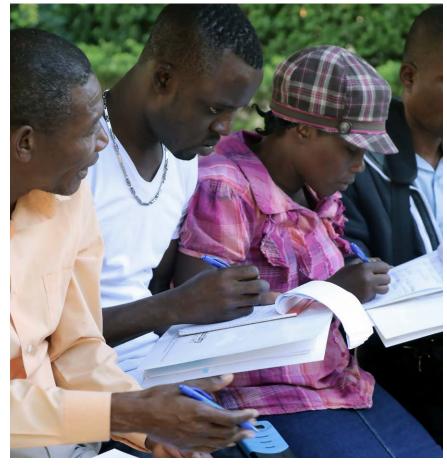
FROM A LANDMARK AGREEMENT TO THE LAST MILE IN HAITI

Relentless Advocacy is Yielding Results

he Kolektif Peyizan Viktim Tè Chabè ("the Kolektif"), a collective of hundreds of Haitian farmers and their families, represents nearly 4,000 people who were forced from their farmland to make way for the Caracol Industrial Park. In December 2018, the Kolektif signed an historic agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Haitian government focused on restoring the farmers' livelihoods after years of advocacy successfully demonstrated that initial compensation provided in 2013 had not enabled the affected community to sustainably reestablish its living conditions.

Accountability Counsel is working to ensure implementation of the agreement, which allows impacted families to benefit from a range of redress measures related to employment, land, farm equipment, training, education, and microenterprise funding.

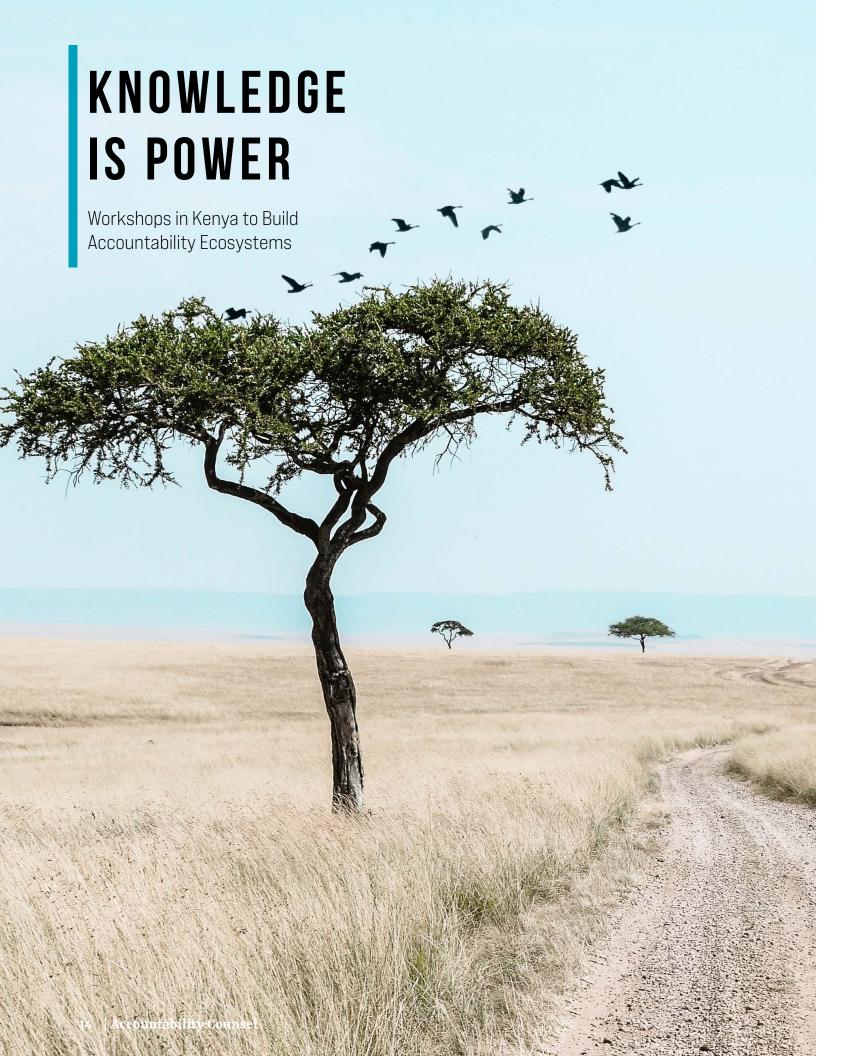
Despite social distancing regulations,



contraction caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that created new obstacles to implementation, Accountability Counsel closely collaborated with Kolektif members and local partners to make significant progress this year. As a result of persistent advocacy, organizing, and problem-solving, the agreement is being implemented piece by piece – 2020 saw the distribution of motorized irrigation equipment; the launch of the microenterprise program; and formal, paid training for employment at the Industrial Park.

Accountability Counsel is dedicated to ensuring that the agreement translates into tangible results that achieve the bureaucratic hurdles, and economic promise of restored livelihoods for impacted farmers.





"As a community, we are very happy to see development projects come up, but this development should not cause friction or be in conflict with our way of life and other communities around us."

Jarso Mokku

Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative

> n Kenya, we are building accountability ecosystems so communities can effectively use accountability offices and craft the types of campaigns required to sustain often multiyear struggles. In September 2020, we led a knowledge sharing workshop for community organizations in Northern Kenya to learn how to use independent accountability mechanisms to demand justice for harm caused by internationally financed projects. In a region flooded with international investment, where communities are often remote from sources of advocacy support, these organizations and communities are now equipped to pursue complaint options. These Accountability Counsel partners have already contributed to conversations about policy issues at international financial institutions where decisions about accountability directly affect them.



"I think it is important for us to seek and make use of other strategies and processes that are available to get justice for communities. As we monitor and document, let us also advocate and demand from different stakeholders."

Maryama Farah

Natural Justice

DEFENDING SACRED GROUND IN INDIA



two villages in Jharkhand, India, a World Bank-funded water supply project is harming Indigenous Adivasi people in violation of World Bank policy. Project construction started amidst beatings of women and children by police, and continues to threaten sacred Adivasi historical, cultural, and spiritual sites, including gravesites. Project construction is continuing absent consent of impacted Adivasi communities through a mandated process protected under Indian law.

Accountability Counsel supported our partners in Jharkhand as they complained to the World Bank Inspection Panel, which completed its investigation in 2020. However, for villagers in Giddhijhopri and Sarjamda Purana Basti, the struggle is far from over: COVID-19 delayed the final stages of the accountability process, even as project construction has continued, and community members remain anxious to see their complaints translate into real - and long overdue - steps to address the water project's harmful impacts.





A PEOPLE'S **PROTOCOL**

Elevating Free, Prior, and Informed Consent in Nepal

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"We are calling on the EIB to ensure a rights-based community decision making process, wherein communities are provided information and consultation about this project, and receive fair community-level and individual-level compensation for any impacts they will suffer."

Khem Jung Gurung

Chairperson of the FPIC & Rights Forum and a local Gurung leader



Communities are concerned about the EIB funded Corridor's Marsyangdi cumulative impacts, with many other hydropower projects already in Lamjung district, including the SinoHydro 50 MW Upper Marsyangdi A dam (pictured below)



together to demand that project authorities in charge of the internationally financed **a** expansion of the hydropower sector respect their rights, including by seeking the free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples. Accountability Counsel is supporting the FPIC & Rights Forum, a community coalition of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples from Lamjung and Manang districts, concerned that their traditional forests and lands along the Marsyangdi River will be harmed by the development of a European Investment Bank (EIB)-financed high-voltage transmission line.

mmunity members meeting

the EIB Complaints Mechanism

in Lamjung District, Nepal

n Nepal, local communities have come Alongside other community partners, we supported the FPIC & Rights Forum with their new FPIC protocol, outlining a framework for community consent that the Marsyangdi Corridor transmission line must follow. The protocol outlines the steps authorities must take, including sharing all project information in local languages; ensuring an environment free of coercion; and fully abiding by decisions of impacted Indigenous communities.



ADVOCACY

Our Policy Advocacy program adapts best practices gleaned from our work with communities to ensure that strong accountability systems exist to prevent harm and provide communities with effective avenues to challenge corporate and institutional power. We work on financial flows at a global level in deep partnership with civil society groups in every world region.

While the first decade of our work focused on cementing an understanding of the best practices that communities can use to elevate their grievances, this next decade focuses on making those processes matter during the last mile.





NARROWING ACCOUNTABILITY GAPS

Progress With Chinese Overseas Finance and Impact Investment

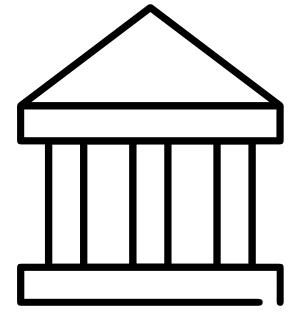
have well-established accountability systems, gaps persist. Two major segments of international finance that flow into communities with the risk of unaccountable harm are Chinese overseas finance and impact investment, with a wide diversity of public and commercial financial actors involved.

We are seeing hopeful signs in our longstanding advocacy around the Chinese overseas finance accountability gap, where there are now concrete steps to create an accountability office at the level of a major Chinese financial regulator. Our work is reflected in the accountability framework now being advanced, and this year we are focused on the details of the accountability policy that will govern this new system.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES AT A NEW MECHANISM

Big Changes in US Development Finance

fter years of sustained advocacy Accountability Counsel and partner organizations, the new US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) created its independent accountability mechanism in September 2020. The DFC is a massive new US agency financing investment in a variety of sectors around the world that replaces the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and part of USAID. As a result of Accountability Counsel's advocacy, this new institution is taking an important first step toward creating a platform for accountability for the impact of its investments on local people and the environment. Building upon our longstanding effort to hold USAID and OPIC accountable for abuses these agencies financed in Haiti, Liberia, and Mexico, our team brought a community-centered perspective to our DFC policy recommendations. We continue working alongside our partners to ensure that this new DFC mechanism becomes an accessible and effective tool for communities.



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SPOTLIGHTING THE ACCOUNTABILITY REFORMS AT THE IFC AND MIGA

An External Review Charts the Path, With IFC Leadership Now Needed

he World Bank Group's two privatesector arms, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), have one of the world's leading accountability offices - the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO). We have supported communities from India, Mongolia, Panama, Peru, and Ukraine to use this mechanism for compliance investigations and dispute resolution. Our experience with these cases, and the research we conduct in the field broadly, demonstrates that reforms are required at the IFC and MIGA to ensure that the CAO can deliver on its promise of accountability. This year, an External Review validated many of Accountability Counsel's policy recommendations to address problems within the World Bank Group's accountability system.

While the External Review report is strong, the review process was unnecessarily opaque. Accountability Counsel's Policy Advocacy team pushed for transparency and community inclusion, successfully demanding the public disclosure of the final report and creating a crucial window for public feedback in July 2020. We are now advocating that the IFC and MIGA work to implement the External Review's roadmap of reforms, including a key advance needed throughout international institutions: where there is harm from an institution's actions, that institution must support and fund the remedial measures required to repair damage and make communities whole.

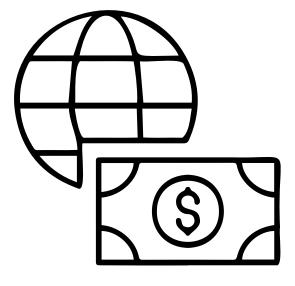




A NEW ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK AT THE WORLD **BANK**

Transforming the World's First Accountability Office, the Inspection Panel

n a watershed moment, the World Bank announced in March 2020 a set of sweeping changes to its accountability framework that governs the Bank's public-sector activity. Throughout the drafting process, Accountability Counsel's Policy team drew on key relationships to both protest and navigate a closed-off and non-transparent process. Drawing on direct experience with communities who use the World Bank's accountability office, our input guaranteed that the new framework included several key recommendations designed to expand the role of dispute resolution and to prevent restrictive time limits from impeding communities' ability to access accountability. As implementation of this new accountability mechanism begins to affect communities in practice, Accountability Counsel is committed to engaging in proactive policy advocacy to protect and strengthen this new World Bank accountability framework.



RESEARCH

Accountability Counsel's Research program ensures that our unique skills and knowledge have a wider reach and deeper impact. Our team creates actionable reports, data gathering and analysis, and shared resources that our staff, civil society colleagues, and the broader accountability movement can leverage to develop our collective capacity and spur stakeholders to advance justice.

In a space where information remains inaccessible to many, Accountability Counsel is working to create transparent, easily navigable tools that empower community campaigns for justice and allow all stakeholders to make informed choices to prevent and redress harm. This year, we launched a major new tool that exposes patterns in harm from international finance and shows advocates, policy-makers, corporations, and institutions where action is needed. Our Research team's tools also promote innovative ways to track developments in the accountability sphere so that we can monitor the implementation of agreements, ensuring that commitments on paper translate into real results for communities.

A TRANSFORMATIVE TOOL: THE ACCOUNTABILITY CONSOLE

Transparency, Access, and Insight

n November 2019, Accountability Counsel launched the Accountability Console, the world's most comprehensive database of community complaints filed with independent accountability mechanisms (IAMs) about the impacts of internationally financed projects. In the following year, hundreds of community members, advocates, investors, policy-makers, and researchers have used the Console to track and compare trends across the accountability ecosystem, allowing for new insights and data-driven advocacy that come directly from community complaints.

In addition to the complaint data itself, the Console provides critical information on the investments, projects, and actors about which communities have filed complaints. The Console aggregates projects with investments across multiple banks, and traces and identifies the public and private implementers of these projects. All this information can be cross-referenced with IAM policies, and searchable through thousands of scanned and processed documents. New features and capabilities are being added regularly, and we expect the Console to continue to be a powerful tool for accountability and transparency in the years to come.



Accountability Counsel's Research Director Samer Arabi presents the new Accountability Console at the November 2019 launch event

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INNOVATING COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY TOOLS

Community-Driven Design in Action

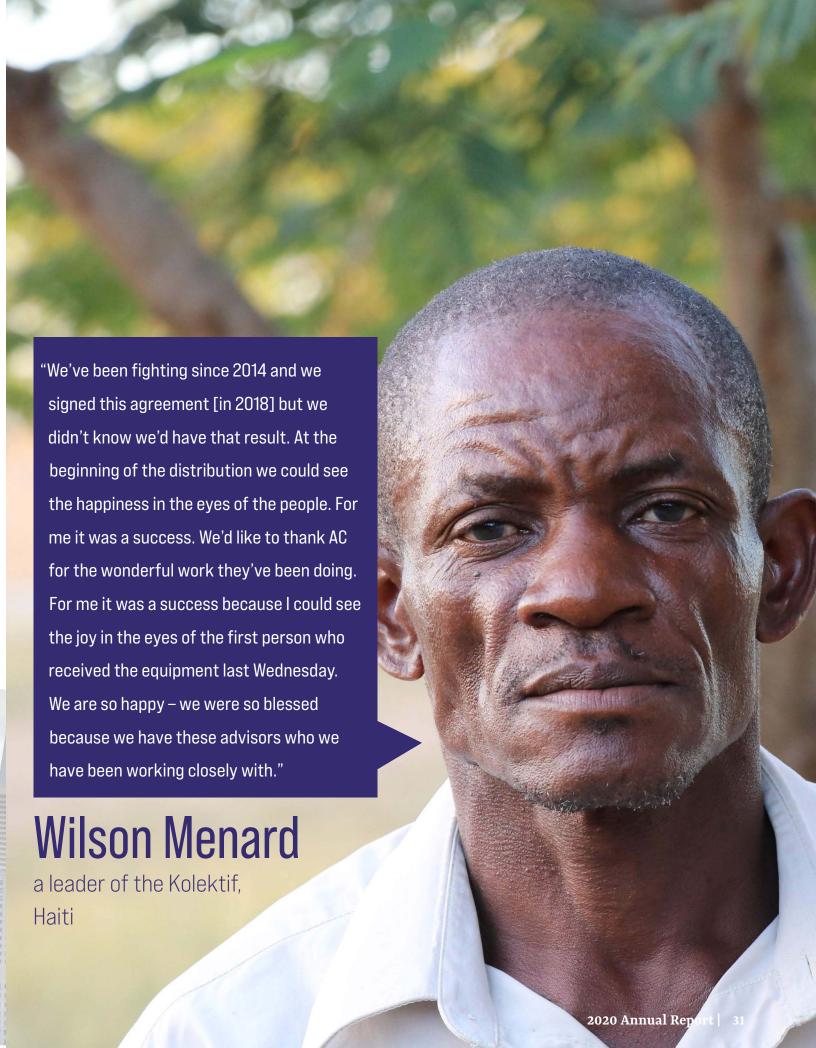
ccountability Counsel has developed a suite of innovative tools to respond to challenges in access, communication, and community consultation. In close collaboration with partners in Haiti, the Research team developed Zwazo, a surveying and messaging tool that enables community feedback and promotes two-way access to information. Already, Zwazo has allowed us to communicate in real time with client communities facing environmental and human rights abuses – even in areas with no internet access, limited adult literacy, and low smartphone adoption rates. Mobilizing this tool during the COVID-19 pandemic has enabled communication with communities

about ongoing cases, as well as health and safety, public service, and official pandemic responses.

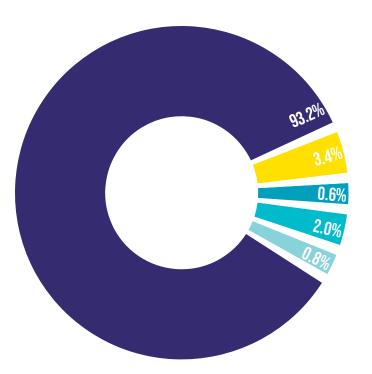
The Research team has also developed a new implementation tracker called LastMile, in order to better coordinate the fulfillment of agreements and action plans. LastMile is currently tracking over 200 action items across 93 commitments in several of our cases, identifying bottlenecks, overdue implementation steps, and expected timelines. The system allows for community feedback directly into monitoring processes, providing a shared repository for testimonials, photos, and survey responses.

Below: Members of the Accountability Counsel team at the Accountability Console launch event in November 2019





FINANCIAL SUMMARY

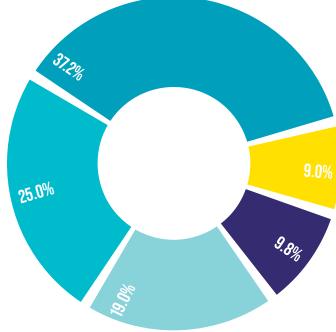


FY20 REVENUE

Foundation Grants	\$2,298,646
Individual Donations	\$83,680
Corporate Contributions	\$15,995
Pro Bono & In-Kind Support	\$49,234
Earned & Other Income	\$18,794
Total Revenue	\$2,466,349

FY20 EXPENSES

Communities	\$684,457
Policy Advocacy	\$460,327
Research	\$348,617
Administration	\$180,806
Fundraising	\$165,108
Total Expenses	\$1,839,315



DONORS

Foundation

11th Hour Project

Anonymous

The Christensen Fund

David & Anita Keller Foundation

Foundation to Promote Open Society

Luminate

NoVo Foundation

Open Road Alliance

JaMel and Tom Perkins Family Foundation Fund at

The Chicago Community Foundation

JaMel and Tom Perkins Foundation

Sall Family Foundation

Sigrid Rausing Trust

Trust for Mutual Understanding

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati Foundation

Woodcock Foundation

Individual

Eduardo Abbott

Emelia Pappoe Amoako

Kwadwo Amoako

Anonymous (10)

Nadia & Nassib Araabi

Elisa & Nathan Armstrong

Anne Bellows

Michelle & Richard Bellows

Lauren & Joshua Benjamin

Anna Benson

Richard Bissell

Tanya Nauenberg & Tim Blakeslee

Eve Bogle

Diane Bridgeman

Tess Bridgeman & Beth George

Edith Brown Weiss

Clayton Burke

Sandy Coliver

Alison Cooke

Gary Cookhorn

Celia Cummings

Carolyn & Paul Daniel

Stephen Diamond

Nancy Quinn & Thomas Driscoll

Roo & Tim Duncan

Orlando Economos

Leanne Farrell

Lisa & David B. Fields

Mary Fields

Natalie & Carter Fields

Jacqueline Lainez Flanagan

Florrie Forrest

Jonathan Fox

Jonathan Freese

Lyndsey Garcia

Bryce Gee

Erica Gould & Timothy Bei

Alexandra Grayner

Amanda Greco

Kenneth Greenstein

Jason Haggins

Mary Hardin

Cynthia Hunter Lang

Linda Arnold & Ned Hearn

Kristen Hite

Chen Yek Hong

Brent Horowitz

DIEIIL HUIUWILZ

Elizabeth & Peter Horowitz

Matthew Horowitz

Margaret Bowman & David Hunter

Anitha Ibrahim

David Isbister

Brian Jaffe

Richard Jaffe

Sarah Jornsay-Silverberg

Michael Kaufman

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Daniel Keller

George Kenny & Chris Moore

Alaina Kipps

Marty Krasney

Meissa Lee

Catherine Lemon

Regine Lotlikar

D. Lloyd Macdonald

Peggy & Robert MacDonald

Micheline Markey

Darlene Markovich

Jonathan Matloff

Joan McKenna

Mercersburg Academy Accountability Counsel

Club

Selma Meyerowitz

Christopher Molthrop

Remi Moncel

Robi Chacha Mosenda

Josette Nauenberg

Saskia Nauenberg Dunkell

Charlotte P. Newton

Doug Norlen

Bethany Pereira

JaMel & Tom Perkins

Meriam Pope

Prathmesh Prabhu

Victor Jacob & Angelo Presicci

Stephanie Smith & Ted Radosevich

Rachel Reichenbach & Doug Mitarotonda

Amy Reisch

Courtney Rennicke

Erin Ricci

Bruce M. Rich

Joannie Rich

Mary Ellen & David Rogers

Ellen & Steve Rosenblum

Armin Rosencranz

Delilah Rothenberg

Julia Schiweck

Michael Scott

Julia Shepardson

Marco Simons

Faith Horowitz & Richard Speizman

Sydney Speizman

Brock Stein

Christine Jacobson & Jason Stephens

Lauri Tanner

Tarun Theogaraj

Kathy & Joseph Timko

Joe Timko

Kivozou Tsutsui

Tyler Wakefield

Douglas Walder

Sam Walder

Yuriko & Jock Walker

Alonzo Wind

Harriet Young

Corporate Matching

Anonymous

BlackRock

Bohemian Companies LLC

Genentech

Google

Netflix

The Omidyar Group Spring Point Partners

T. Rowe Price

Wisk

Pro Bono & In Kind

Bowmans

Florian Brinda (Catchafire) Laura K. Lee Dellinger, WiseBridge

Healy and Associates

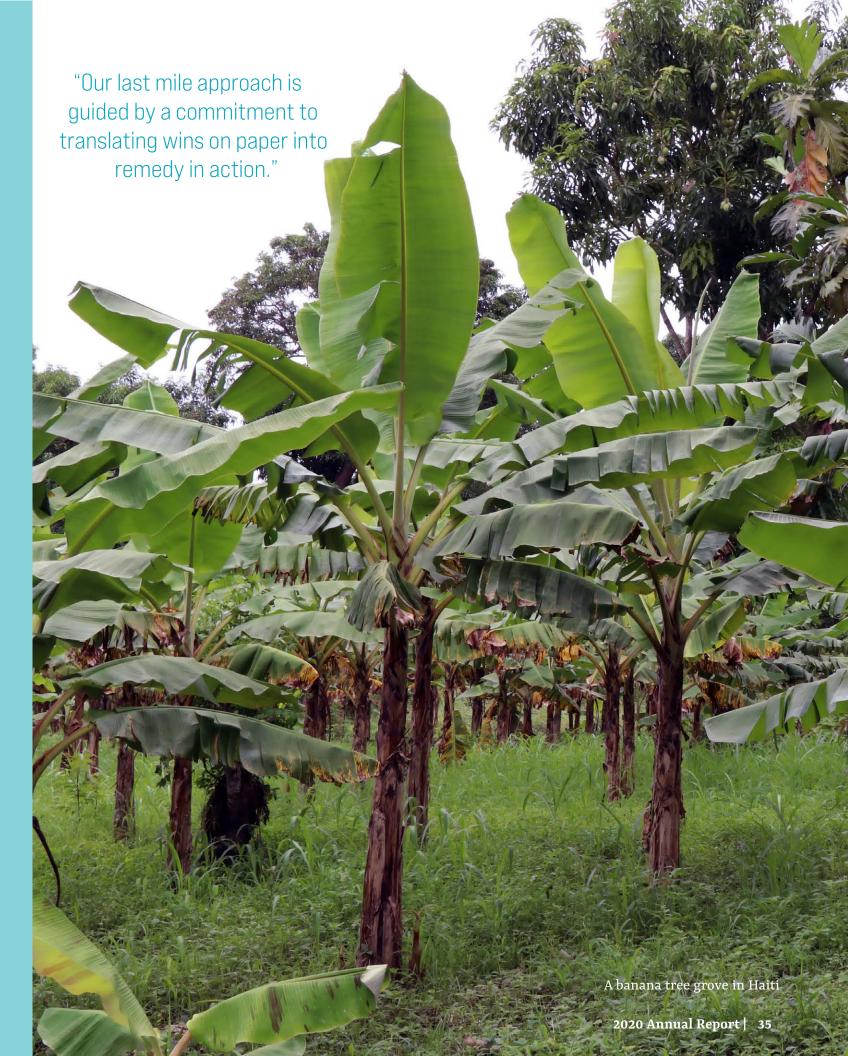
Jane Kogan (Taproot)

Annie Luttropp (Catchafire)

Angelica Rodriguez (Catchafire)

Lucy Swett (Catchafire)

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati





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