

Breaking Barriers, Achieving Justice

2017-2018 Annual Report

accountability
m counsel

Raising Voices | Defending Rights | Demanding Justice

Our 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.

The impact we seek through our theory of change is that: 1) communities take part in decisions that affect them and secure remedy to realize rights; 2) effective and robust accountability systems deter abuses; and 3) international institutions and corporations respect communities and prevent abuses.

How We Work

*Grassroots lawyering
to defend rights and
amplify voices*

*Influencing,
strengthening,
and sustaining
the global
movement for
accountability*



*Driving institutional
change; strengthening
and filling gaps
in international
accountability*



Our People

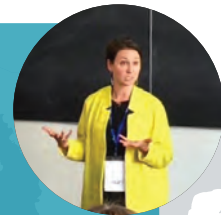
We have a global team of sixteen advocates, based in Asia and North America, with an Africa office forming. We are also supported by our Board of Directors and Advisors. To learn more about our team, please visit: www.accountabilitycounsel.org/team/



ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE NEW U.S. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

The BUILD Act, which creates a new development finance institution for the United States, became law in 2018. Due to our Policy team's active and sustained Congressional advocacy, the law creating the new agency includes strengthened environmental and social provisions and mandates an accountability office to receive complaints of harm related to the agency's activities. As a result of our work, the number of U.S. investment dollars abroad subject to accountability has nearly tripled.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA



BUILDING A MOVEMENT AROUND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR IMPACT INVESTING

Our work with the Stanford Law and Policy Lab has generated investor awareness of harm that can come from impact investments, and how community feedback can address and prevent harm and ensure accountability within the sector. We have launched a discussion among leading impact investors at banks, investment firms, and foundations, with a group now advancing accountability policy and practice for the field.

WASHINGTON, DC

HAITI



RESEARCH TO BUILD COMMUNITY POWER AND INFORM A DIALOGUE PROCESS

Our Research team supported communities in our Haiti case with information to build their negotiating power in a dialogue process about harm from a post-earthquake land grab. By developing surveys, improving the methodology of a bank-commissioned livelihoods evaluation, and undertaking other research, our team has ensured that proposals for solutions are both meaningful and are directly informed by farmers and their families.



STRENGTHENING THE OECD CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

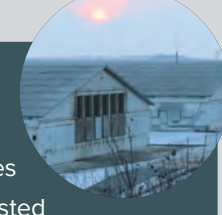
We and our partners issued a report with recommendations to ensure that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) improves the National Contact Point (NCP) process that evaluates the functioning of complaint offices. This has led to pressure on individual NCPs to deliver robust findings about corporate misconduct.

FRANCE

UKRAINE

HOLDING AGRIBUSINESS ACCOUNTABLE

The massive and expanding Vinnytsia Poultry Farm in Ukraine is currently home to over 17 million chickens in over 450 chicken houses that are harming community health and their environment. We assisted community members in filing two complaints to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in June 2018, seeking a facilitated dialogue process to access information and address problems. Our support for the complaints and our media strategy that garnered significant attention across Europe has resulted in the company agreeing to come to the table in this historic dialogue.



MONGOLIA

REALIZING REMEDY FOR MINING-AFFECTED SOUTH GOBI HERDERS

We are working with nomadic herders who are affected by the IFC-funded Oyu Tolgoi mine to help them achieve benefits from the historic agreements they reached with our support in 2017. These agreements aim to help local herders continue their traditional way of life while accessing support for alternative livelihoods. While challenges remain, implementation of agreements to date includes: 114 households have been found eligible for new compensation; 10 herder wells have been furnished with solar-powered pumps; 20 children have received university scholarships; and a new veterinary clinic and laboratory has been constructed.



DEFENDING RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

We supported Indigenous communities in Lamjung to file a complaint demanding that development of a hydropower transmission line respect their rights, including by seeking their free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC). Our support with a complaint and media strategy garnered media coverage in Nepal and regionally. The European Investment Bank's (EIB) accountability office registered the complaint and is now conducting an initial assessment.



NEPAL

INDIA



UNCOVERING IFC'S ROLE IN LABOR RIGHTS ABUSES ON TATA TEA PLANTATIONS

On the nine year anniversary of the IFC's investment in tea plantations in Assam, we worked with our local partners PAJHRA and PAD to expose the investor's role in contributing to deaths and injuries on the plantations. We sent a letter that documents our investigation of seven stories of death and injury, which had previously not come to light due to strict surveillance on the plantations and only skim the surface of a systematic and widespread problem. The letter was covered in Indian and international media, bringing attention to the inhumane living and working conditions on the tea plantations, and resulting in IFC engagement.

KENYA



PROTECTING ECOSYSTEMS AND LIVELIHOODS THREATENED BY A COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT

In partnership with Save Lamu, a community-based organization in Kenya, we have exposed significant flaws in the environmental and social review process for a coal-fired power plant. We supported Save Lamu to send detailed comments to the African Development Bank (AfDB) about these deficiencies. Days after the letter was sent, we received notice that the planned vote to approve support for the coal project was removed from the AfDB Board's meeting agenda. To date, the AfDB has not provided support for the plant.

COMPELLING INFORMATION ACCESS AT THE WORLD BANK

We supported communities in Sindhuli to compel the World Bank to release a report commissioned in the midst of a conflict between communities and their government over a transmission line. After the Bank's Access to Information team denied our request, we assisted with two levels of appeal while applying public pressure. In a remarkable victory, one of only three successful appeals in a decade, we won release of the report in a strong opinion. The report vindicated the community's demands, and is now an important piece of public discourse in ongoing transmission line development.



GLOBAL

A DATABASE TO INFORM THE MOVEMENT FOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

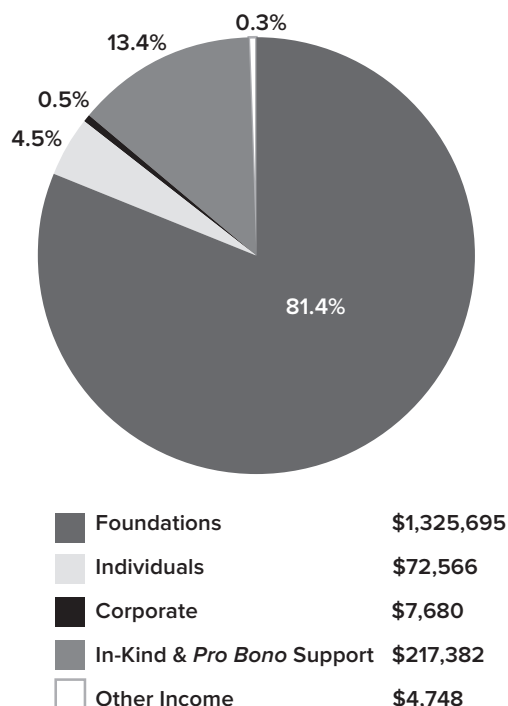
Our Research team is preparing the "Accountability Console" for release as a public resource. The Console includes an interactive database of every publicly-recorded case ever submitted to an accountability office, analytics of this data, and a benchmarking tool comparing the policies and practices across accountability offices. The Console is, for the first time, exposing patterns in our field that show advocates, policymakers, and the institutions themselves best practice and where improvement is needed most.



Financials and Donors

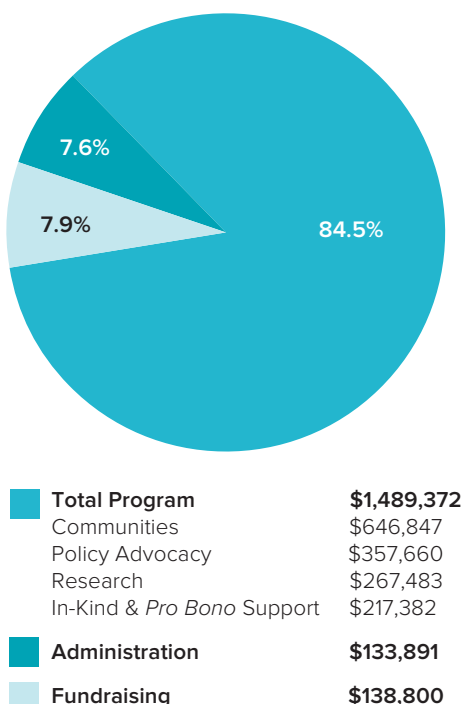
September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018

FY 17/18 Revenue



Total Revenue: \$1,628,071

FY 17/18 Expenses



Total Expenses: \$1,762,063

Our work over the past fiscal year is made possible thanks to the generous support of the following donors:

FOUNDATIONS

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