

Virtual meeting held on 23rd and 24th November

Annual Workshop 2021

Topic: [Dynamic Accountability as a systemic change enabler](#)

Accountable Now is a convener for discussions on the powershift in the civil society sector and on helping CSOs and other actors understand how to have a lasting positive change on the people they work for and with. The [dynamic accountability](#) approach that Accountable Now promotes, takes a *systemic approach* of accountability that puts meaningful, inclusive and locally-led engagement with stakeholders at the forefront.

During our [2019 annual workshop](#), we opened up discussions on the powershift by addressing the barriers that prevent the sector from shifting power to the communities that we serve, with a focus on donor-grantee relations. For our [2020 annual workshop](#), we brought together a diverse group of CSOs and other actors to understand how the Covid-19 pandemic has pushed CSOs to address systemic issues, such as the powershift.

During these discussions we have seen that:

- Most of the sector acknowledges there is a need for systemic change, however progress towards *realising* systemic change is still limited. Particularly in crucial aspects, such as the way we work with local communities.
- Actors in the Global South need more space and prominence so that more balanced and meaningful discussions on systemic change can take place. Check out this [report](#) by the RINGO project which provides insights from Global South actors on the powershift.



- Accountability can and should play an important role in any systemic change processes.

Taking steps towards systemic change:

In this context of mounting interest and acknowledgement of the need of a systemic change our 2021 Annual Workshop will address:

- How can the civil society sector apply a dynamic accountability approach to address the challenges that individuals, organisations, and the sector as a whole face when it comes to creating systemic change?

As an example, see our proposed solutions from our 2019 Annual workshop ([page 8](#))

- What are local actors demanding from ICSOs and how do those demands align with ICSO's missions? How can the powershift be a force for change, advance the sector's vision and at the same time enable fairer and more effective systems?
- Although awareness of the need for systemic change by the sector seems to be increasing, what are the next steps? How can actors in the sector, including ICSOs, start shifting power? How can ICSOs remain accountable to different stakeholders while building efforts towards powershift?

Join us from **23 - 24 November** to discuss how we as a sector can use accountability to inspire systemic changes that will help us achieve our ambitious goals.

We acknowledge that the term 'systemic change' might be understood in several ways. We will be using systemic change to refer to processes (how is a particular new practice systemic?) and to outcomes (how is it contributing to changing a system?)



Objectives of the workshop

In the Accountable Now Annual Workshop, we want to:

- Convene a diverse group of CSOs (international and local), donors, and other actors in the sector to share knowledge, resources and potentially build relationships.
- Identify and understand how dynamic accountability can enable and spark positive systemic changes.
- Identify practices, projects and programmes by all the actors in the sector that are paving the way for realising systemic change.
- Showcase concrete examples of initiatives that demonstrate what systemic change in the sector looks like.

Who is this workshop for?

This workshop is for all kinds of actors working with and for Civil Society Organisations, including social movements. The individuals we want to bring together should broadly fit into one of these categories:

1. Decision-makers and “innovators” from private funds/foundations or institutional/governmental donor departments
2. People working in International Civil Society Organisations (Accountable Now members and beyond).
3. Staff of national-level CSOs.

If you are interested but unsure whether this workshop is for you, please get in touch via email (hpayo@accountablenow.org) and we can assess your individual situation. Also, as we would like to bring voices usually unheard, we offer the possibility for participants to sponsor their partners or other actors.

Co-create with us



At Accountable Now we recognize that preparation is key to delivering a successful workshop. To enable fruitful discussions during a two-day workshop we will build our agenda by including our members, partners and other CSOs.

The Accountable Now team invites workshop participants to codesign and shape the Annual Workshop agenda. Please reach out to Accountable Now (hpayo@accountablenow.org) if you would like to participate in the co-creation or co-facilitation of the workshop.