A lack of accountability between power-holders and citizens weakens trust, undermines opportunity and perpetuates inequalities. It is often the root cause of development challenges, such as poverty, exclusion and violence. Committed change-makers know best how to transform their communities, but without basic governance in place this is very difficult. They need transparent and uniform rules for building wealth where they live, decision-making that has the full backing of the law, and the tools to make sure power is used properly. Things can be different. The Accountability Lab has developed a new entrepreneurial approach to harness the creativity of these citizens and help them change their societies, particularly in fragile contexts such as Liberia and Nepal – we call it Accountapreneurship. We are putting our support behind individuals that want to turn their energy and innovation towards governance and transparency in their own communities. We incubate their cost effective, high-impact ideas – through mentorship, networking, training and management support. We empower them to unlock the rich potential for political and economic development in their countries.

Presenter
Blair Glencorse
Executive Director, The Accountability Lab

Discussant
Raymond Muhula
Public Sector Specialist, World Bank in Liberia

Chair
Roby Senderowitsch
Program Manager
Global Partnership for Social Accountability
Speaker Bios

Blair Glencorse is Founder and Executive Director of the Accountability Lab, an award-winning non-profit organization that works to make power-holders responsible in the developing world. The Lab supports the development of almost 2 dozen creative tools for accountability in West Africa and South Asia and is a Global Partner for the GPSA. Blair is also an advisor to the Club de Madrid, the world’s largest forum of former democratic Presidents and Prime Ministers. Previously, Blair worked on issues of post-conflict and fragile states in OPCS, and in 2011 was selected as a UN Fellow for the Middle East and North Africa. In 2012, Blair won the Johns Hopkins Outstanding Recent Graduate Award and in 2013 was selected by American Express as one of 12 global non-profit leaders to be part of the NGen leadership development program.

Raymond Muhula is a Public Sector Management Specialist in PREM (Africa Region). He has worked on Governance and Public Sector reform issues in the Bank since 2005. Since 2010 he has led the Bank’s public sector governance work in post-conflict Liberia, supporting the rebuilding of Liberia’s public service (Civil Service Reform, Institutional Development, and Capacity Building), and Demand for Good Governance (Access to Information, Anti-Corruption, and Access to Justice). Raymond has also managed similar projects in the Gambia and Swaziland, and led the preparation of analytical work on Political economy and Decentralization. His recent publication (with Kelly Krawczyk and Jennie Sweet-Cushman) is “The Road to Good Governance via the Path Less Accountable? The Effectiveness of Fiscal Accountability in Liberia”, International Journal of Public Administration, Vol. 36 (8), 2013.

Roby Senderowitsch serves as Program Manager of the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA). Previously he was Country Manager of the World Bank in the Dominican Republic. His work in the Bank included a strong focus on political economy analysis, building coalitions for change, anti-corruption, and performance based management of public institutions. Before joining the Bank, Roby worked with several NGOs in Argentina and Cuba, where he served as the Field Representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. He has been a lecturer in Human Resource management in nonprofit organizations, as well as director of educational programs community development and human resource management in the private sector. Roby holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Buenos Aires.