

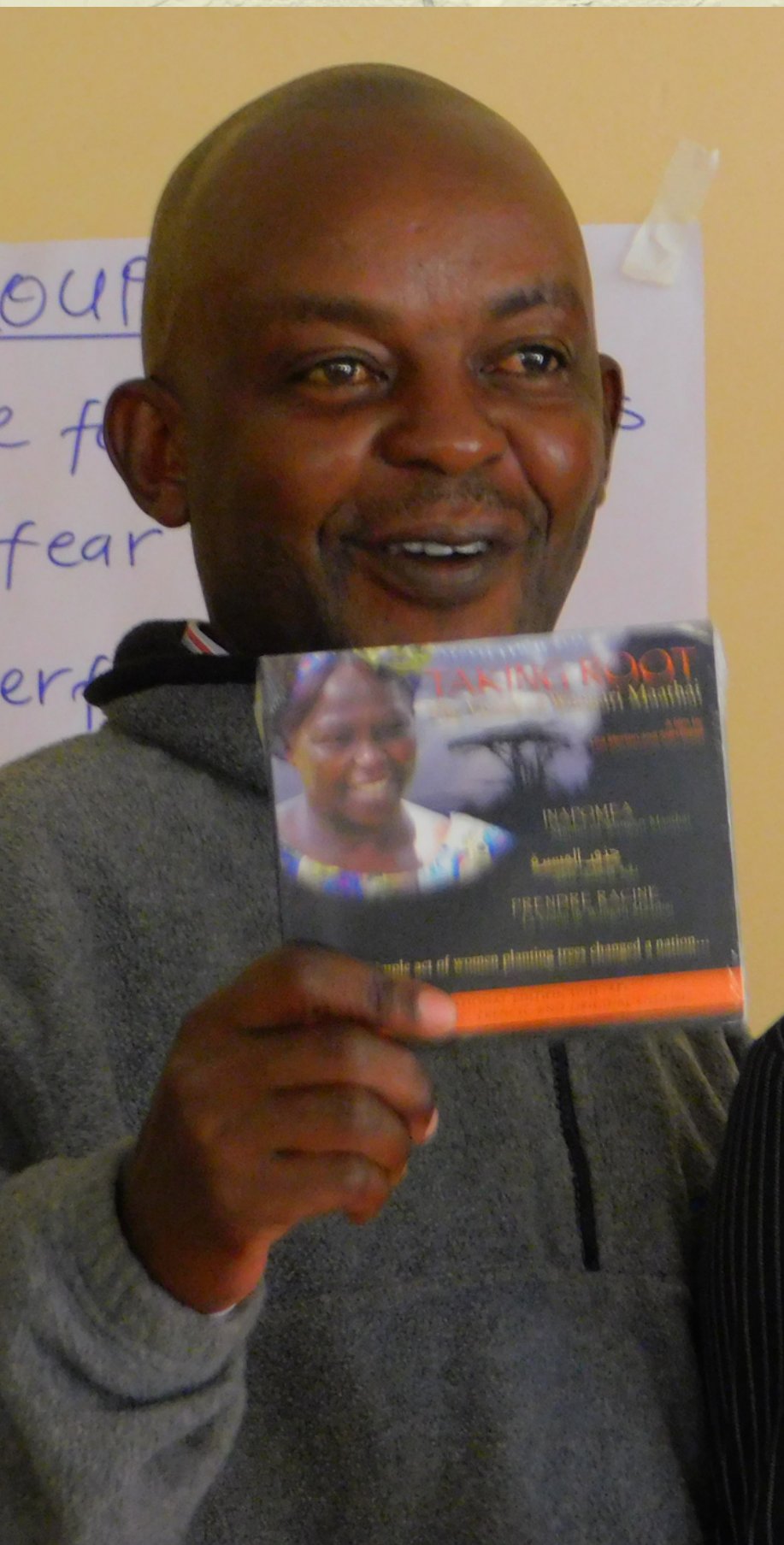


**SOLIDARITY UGANDA  
2019 ANNUAL REPORT**





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# ABOUT SOLIDARITY UGANDA

## Mission

To support the oppressed in building their collective power to achieve social and political change.

## Vision

A liberated Africa where people exercise their power.

## Values

- Human and Environmental freedom
- Civil Resistance
- Constructive Alternatives
- Inter-sectional organizing
- Solidarity
- Transparency and accountability
- Shared leadership and personal discipline





# Message from the Outgoing Director

Friends and comrades,

The past decade building power with you has been the privilege of a lifetime. I remember the subversive conversations we had as university students, long before systematic political change even felt possible. With the years to follow— in the forests of Amuru, the mountains of Benet, the hills of Tooro, the cacophony of Kampala — I was blessed to bask in the inspiration and wisdom of so many of your struggles and triumphs. Now, I am attempting to harness that power you gave me, and share it with those movements, unions, and allies near and far who are doing their own work to defeat injustice and attain their liberation. I hope I will be but one of your many vessels.

For the past two to three years, I have mentored a team of five tenacious women and youth organizers who, in addition to their own pursuits, will do what I have been doing. They'll achieve even greater things than those who have gone before them, and they will build up more and more power with those of you taking action throughout Uganda



This will free me up to lend more adequate support to the powerful forces around the world who strive like us for a utopian future, and to learn more intimately from them. My commitment to my values is firstly a calling to be in solidarity, and I promise to do my best to live with humility, in a way congruent with that calling.

It's not without a heavy heart that I step aside from the leadership I've offered to the Solidarity Uganda family. In addition to the tremendous power we have built, and the astounding victories our comrades have won in Uganda, our work has reached over 70 countries, including countless struggles across this continent. We have been able to share lessons in resistance and strategic organizing with a Pan-African spirit, and as someone not born on the soil of humanity's Motherland, it's with great humility that I thank the Creator for this privilege to more deeply understand and participate in so many worthy thrusts for change.

As a co-founder of Solidarity Uganda, I pledge to remain supportive to the network and its chapters across the country. I will become increasingly supportive to those organizers and progressive forces beyond these borders, while also pledging myself to the strategic risks and direct actions we must undertake to win Uganda's freedom from military dictatorship and the neoliberal economy.

If I am entitled to a personal dream for this phenomenal institution called Solidarity Uganda that continues to support the oppressed in their quest for liberation, it is that its people — the staff, members of chapters, and all who choose to affiliate with it — discover a richness of purpose and wellbeing within themselves, and when they lose sight of it, they find themselves able to lean upon the rock of a community we have built together. Even in the face of brutal gerontocracy, vicious corporatocracy, and unrelenting authoritarianism, I have seen so many grow in their own power, their self-actualization. I have seen people once used against each other (due to the propaganda of the powerful) unite and wage resistance together. I have touched the shadows of so many grandmothers whose power transcends what I've thought fathomable. I am certain we have the tools we need to weather the storms and cultivate a new Uganda together. We only need to use them.

On ward

**PHIL WILMOT**  
OUTGOING DIRECTOR



# SOLIDARITY UGANDA'S VISION FOR CHANGE

Solidarity Uganda is determined to support the oppressed in building collective power to achieve social and political change by mobilising the power of people against oppression, repression and authoritarianism. We work to find practical innovative ways for people to lift themselves out of oppression, land grabbing and all other kinds of repression and injustices in order to achieve meaningful social and political change.

We train and equip grass root communities activists and community organisers helping them build strong resilient communities that are able to fight and push back against oppression from state and non-state actors that are constantly infringing on their livelihoods, rights and freedoms. We stand with communities and individuals so that their voices are heard at local, national and global levels of decision making. Their voices matter!

In all we do, Solidarity Uganda works with partner organisations and alongside vulnerable women and men to end the injustices that cause inequality and power imbalances in the world.

Our goal for the 2019 was to scale up and decentralize community organizing in order to tap into the spirit of citizens' action for democratic transformation.

To achieve this, we focused on organising networks of self-affiliating chapters of community organizers and activists with emphasis on youth and women; who subscribe to our core values of Human and Environmental Freedom, Civil Resistance, Constructive Alternatives, Intersectional Organizing, Solidarity, Transparency and Accountability, Shared Leadership, and Personal Discipline.





## MEET OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM

There is a saying that leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality. Our management team has been built to guide the organization into translating Solidarity Uganda's vision of supporting the oppressed in building collective power to achieve social and political change into a reality. The team has done this by setting our strategic direction and ensuring we are the most effective organisation we can be.



Regina Asinde is the Head of Programs and Administration at Solidarity Uganda. She has trained and provided strategic guidance on nonviolent resistance to various chapters and communities across Uganda. She currently leads the programs team at Solidarity Uganda.



Phionah Kyokusiima is the Head of organising at Solidarity Uganda. She also doubles as the Western Region coordinator. She is a firm believer in social justice, dignity, and equality. She has trained and mentored several activists and community organisers in the western region where she spearheaded the formation of women bicycle riding caravans that have been central in standing against patriarchy and land grabbing.



Otim Dickens is the Head of Education and Capacity Building. He also doubles as the Northern Uganda Regional Coordinator for Solidarity Uganda, where he coordinates local activist groups across several tribes and issues. He has helped several communities successfully defend themselves from large-scale land grabs and has facilitated training on building grassroots power since 2015



Ajok Ann Rose is the Head of Finance and Administration at Solidarity Uganda. She leads the finance team in distributing the financial resources of the organisation. She supports the management team by offering insights and financial advice that allow us to make the best strategic decisions for the organisation.



Ingabire Merab is the head of Media and communications at Solidarity Uganda where she leads and directs digital campaigns. She has worked with many solidarity communities across the country where she trains, listens, observes and documents stories of impact, and also assists solidarity chapters to make their struggles visible through mainstream and social media.





## THE ANTI-LAND GRABBING WOMEN BICYCLE RIDING Caravan

Women in the Albertine region unite against land grabbing

The Albertine region is famous for the oil discovered in the region a couple of years ago. The Albertine region is made up of several districts that include Buliisa and Hoima. While the oil discovery would be a source of economic growth and development for the region, it hasn't been the case. Since these discoveries communities have suffered massive land grabs and other injustices associated with such developments like evictions, murder, and rape among others. The Oil exploration and development activities have breed more suffering than the said development for local communities. It is alongside this that women in this region united to defend their land against land grabbing and evictions that have characterized the oil discoveries.

In many African communities around the world, a woman's voice doesn't count for much. Women are barred from active participation in politics, leadership and sometimes communal gatherings. Certain cultural norms are put in place to keep them out of important decision making processes even when some of these decisions are about them like marriage and land ownership among st other things. However, in Western Uganda, women and the youth are being empowered to speak up and act on issues that affect their lives. In most parts this region it is considered a taboo for women to ride bicycles, the reason why they chose to use a bicycle riding caravan to challenge the patriarchal systems and land injustices that have prevailed in their community for a long time. Through a bicycle riding they were able to have a unified voice against a system that has considerably infringed on their rights as women and on their source of livelihood-LAND.

At Solidarity Uganda we believe in the power of women, their commitment and strength to organize and for effective change to take place women must be involved at all levels





## THE FILM SCREENING Caravan

This year we travelled across the country to different communities screening films on civil resistance and non-violence. "Taking Root, the vision of Wangari Mathai" is one of the films screened. Taking root is a Kenyan documentary acted by rural women led by Wangari Maathai. The women stood up against deforestation that was claiming Kenya's environment and livelihoods and consequently rising against the dictatorial government of President Moi which was characterized by corruption, unfair arrests and murders amongst others injustice.

Taking root inspired these communities more than any other methods we have possibly applied in reaching out to them. Sometimes the oppressed are afraid of standing up to injustice because they think they are not powerful enough to cause influence but Wangari Maathai and the other women refuted that for them. Rural and ordinary as the women appeared, they shook the whole Nation in very non-violent ways. They did not just save the trees, they also saved the entire Nation from the despotic government of President Daniel Arap Moi. These actions challenged the communities to rise and speak against injustice and oppression

We believe that films can change lives. Films have the power to influence minds and change attitudes. Through film communities are able to understand their rights, justice and injustice, and they are able to be inspired to stand up for their rights and what they believe in. The film screening caravan is meant to educate and inspire communities towards fighting and advocating for their rights at community, national and global levels. Oppressed communities need information and empowerment.

The film caravan provided both to thousands of people suffering the effects of oppression, repression, authoritarianism, land grabbing, and all kinds of injustice. Films offer a way to reach many people at once: overcoming language and literacy boundaries, providing information where it is needed, and inspiring hope where it is lacking.

Important to note is that most communities in Uganda are facing a lot of repression in form of land grabbing, unfair and brutal evictions, corrupt and dictatorial leadership among others. Like the Kenyan women, it is vital that we understand that no one will fight our battles if we do not fight them ourselves. Others will always join the struggle but they will not start it for us.

*"No matter how desperate the situation is, we will not give up. We will fight for our land, our children and our nation just like Wangari Maathia did...my fellow women do not underestimate your potential you can do so much..." Clara saidbAlebtong district.*





# DIRECT ACTION

## AMURU YOUTH DEFEAT CHARCOAL BUSINESSMEN USING DIRECT ACTION

WHEN CITIZENS RISE, GREAT THINGS HAPPEN,,,



## WHAT IS DIRECT ACTION

Direct action is taking the action you want without asking a third party to intervene.

## COMMON USES

To shut things down; to open things up; to pressure a target; to re-imagine what's possible; to intervene in a system; to empower people; to defend something good; to shine a spotlight on something bad.  
Source; *Beautiful Trouble*



## FORWARD WITH DIRECT ACTION AGAINST EXPLOITATION,

Often in Uganda, we find people "calling upon government" to make the changes they want. Amuru youth decided not to waste time lobbying authorities. Instead, they blocked numerous truckloads of charcoal from leaving their district. They seized the charcoal and set it on fire which resulted in losses for businessmen exploiting the environment.

With their protracted actions against the exploiters, the youth managed to greatly minimize the ruthless exploitation of their land, forests and environment which has continued to distress climate in the region. We believe it is time for similar youth groups from across the country to seize their power and stand up against exploitation of this kind in their communities.



## RAPID RESPONSE

Our rapid response network has grown with over 12 working groups across the country. Through the rapid response network hundreds of victims of politically-motivated human rights abuses have been offered legal support, medical care, and counseling. Hundreds have been released from detention, assisted with security grants, and most importantly - offered the solidarity of their neighbors and fellow activists.

Over 30 victims were arrested and detained at different police stations across the country this year, these were released from detention and offered other forms of support under our rapid response network.

The Rapid Response Network wields both defensive and offensive functions. Friends throughout Uganda and beyond contribute time, energy, and money to ensure the protection and well-being of nonviolent activists unjustly abused. In addition, opponents of our rights and freedoms are put on their heels through wide scale mobilizations, thus forcing them to hesitate to exact repression in the future.

### *Jail Solidarity*

We organized and coordinated a number of solidarity visits to different activists through the rapid response working groups. These included jail solidarity where we visited activists in Jail; among these is Dr Stella Nyanzi who is serving 18 months for cyber harassment and Habib Buwembo who was arrested and charged with inciting violence when he mobilized City traders to reject the unlawful taxation policies implemented by the Kampala City Council Authority. We also offered jail solidarity to 45 Makerere Students who were arrested during peaceful protests against the 15% cumulative tuition increment.

*Activists, community organisers and HRDs are able to carry on the struggle knowing that they have a community that cares and protects them*







## MEET THE FINANCE TEAM

*Our team is comprised of financial experts led by The Head of finance and administration, Ajok Ann Rose*

Our goal for 2019 was to establish a national network of at least eight (8) vibrant chapters for national power consolidation by 31st December 2019. We are happy that we managed to establish over twenty grassroots chapters exceeding our target across the country with nine (9) of these chapters vibrant. This has been our greatest success in 2019 because the chapters enable us decentralize the organizational structure to the grassroots level while at the same time ensuring that collective power is consolidated at a national level.



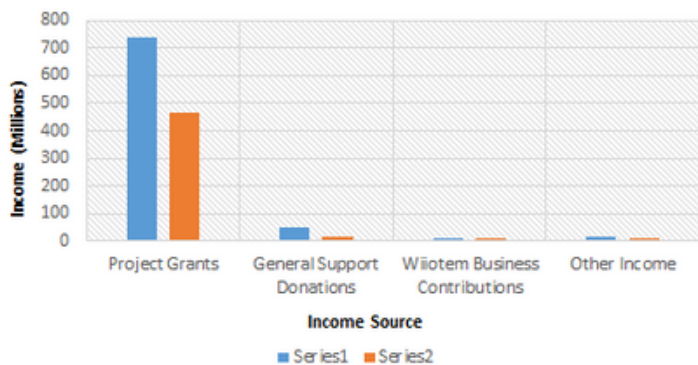
# FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION'S FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019

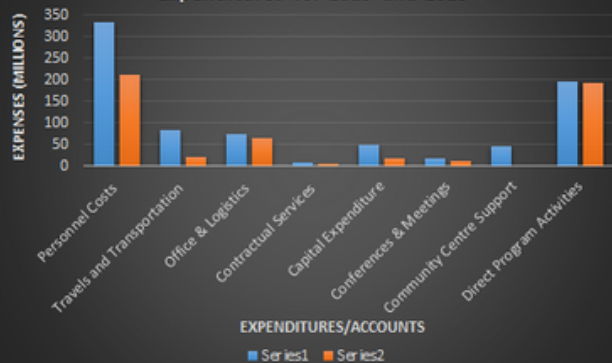
	2019 Ushs	2018 Ushs
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Property and Equipment	111,961,620	26,131,950
	<b>111,961,620</b>	<b>26,131,950</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Receivables	299,035,561	186,291,561
Prepayments	-	5,004
Cash and cash Equivalents	226,827,502	96,601,891
	<b>525,863,063</b>	<b>282,898,456</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>637,824,683</b>	<b>309,030,406</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Equity</b>		
	48,979,023	41,914,344
	<b>48,979,023</b>	<b>41,914,344</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Deferred Income	64,235,440	8,414,600
	<b>64,235,440</b>	<b>8,414,600</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Current Deferred Income	519,610,220	252,362,709
Payables	5,000,000	6,338,753
	<b>524,610,220</b>	<b>258,701,462</b>

Our goal for 2019 was to establish a national network of at least eight (8) vibrant chapters for national power consolidation by 31st December 2019. We are happy that we managed to establish over twenty grassroots chapters exceeding our target across the country with nine (9) of these chapters vibrant. This has been our greatest success in 2019 because the chapters enable us decentralize the organizational structure to the grassroots level while at the same time ensuring that collective power is consolidated at a national level.

Comparative Organizational Income for 2019 and 2018



Bar Graph showing Comparative Organizational Expenditures for 2019 and 2018







# We couldn't do it without you

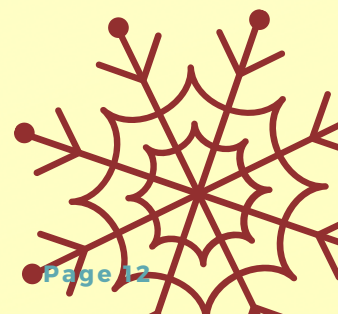
We are extremely grateful to all our donors, partners allies, and individuals who gave to Solidarity Uganda in 2019, we couldnt do it without you.

Do you desire to support our struggles?

Grassroots organizations thrive on support from the grassroots.

Here are the top three ways you can help most in this moment:

- Pledge a monthly contribution of any amount at [www.solidarityuganda.org/give-2](http://www.solidarityuganda.org/give-2) Email us at [info@solidarityuganda.com](mailto:info@solidarityuganda.com) about your contribution so that we can confirm receipt - or about getting involved in other capacities.
- Form your own chapter of Solidarity Uganda and practice nonviolent direct action. Learn how by getting in touch with us via Facebook, Twitter, or email





# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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