



2021



# THE ANNUAL REPORT

Supporting the oppressed in building  
collective power to achieve social and  
political change



# Table of contents

## Introduction

---

- About
- Our Profile
- Message from Management Team

## Overview of the year

---

- Our work in chapters and affiliates
- National campaigns
- Regional Actions

## Financials & future plans

---

- Financial Report
- Focus for 2022

Solidarity Uganda envisions a liberated Africa where people exercise their power in which all people live in dignity and have the power to secure their rights to equality and justice.

We work towards this vision by supporting the oppressed in building their collective power to achieve social and political change. By empowering and equipping those on the frontline of the struggle against oppression and injustices, we help build stronger, more resilient communities and movements that can take on abusive actors—and win.

To achieve this, we train and organize communities to wage nonviolent resistance against authoritarianism, oppression and injustice.



## Profile

# Our Mission

A liberated Africa where people exercise their power

# Vision

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

# Values

Human and Environmental Freedom

Constructive Alternatives

Solidarity

Shared Leadership and Personal Discipline

Civil Resistance

Intersectional Organizing

Transparency and Accountability



## Message from the Management Team

With the Covid19 pandemic still raging on, this year has been a difficult one for many but especially for those who continue to live under oppression. What is presented in this report is only a drop in the ocean of what many activists and organizers are doing to stand against oppression and repression in their communities.

Even though we still struggle with the impacts of the covid19 pandemic, we are faced with a severely shrinking civic space where the state is ruthlessly cracking down on any differing voices. Activism continues to be criminalized in Uganda with many activists arrested and tortured for standing against oppression and repression. We are challenged by the commitment and dedication of many activists and organizers who despite the fragility of the political climate in Uganda continue to rise, and mostly at the grassroots level.

We are committed to strengthening our mobilization and commitment to supporting the oppressed as we strive for a better Uganda. Even though the journey ahead promises to be more challenging than ever, it also promises to be exciting. Therefore, let us not get tired of organizing and taking action as we build a better Uganda.

Aluta Continua

The Management team

Solidarity Uganda.



After a long year characterized by loss and pain caused by the Covid19 pandemic, increased repression, and oppression from the government, 2021 is a year that we all hoped would be better. We hoped for healing and restoration even though not so much changed in the system that continues to oppress us. There is still grave corruption and mishandling of public resources. Activists continue to be oppressed as they worry for their safety in an increasingly brutal civic space.

Injustices like land grabbing continue to disrupt communities across Uganda, several activists continue to face baseless charges for standing against injustice and corruption while the state relentlessly continues to crack down on dissent.

Even though, the goal of the state is to cause fear in the population to discourage people from taking action and criticizing it, many activists have shown great courage and resilience through actions at the frontline as we shall see later in this report. Many communities that have been silently oppressed began speaking up and challenging injustices.

As climate change becomes more evident around the world, so do we become more aware of the effects it has on our planet and livelihoods. Different groups and communities are becoming more invested in protecting mother earth and standing against actions that destroy the environment causing adverse climate effects. We shall see how different communities are fighting climate change in this report.

Everything has changed since the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic. But because of your courage and support, we are confident that we shall continue to act, learn, and grow together for a better Uganda. Your courage and resilience are not in vain.

## 2021 IN REVIEW



# National Campaigns

The National Action Platform joins together all our chapters, and human rights defenders that we associate with. We therefore organise nation-wide campaigns with a similar theme to be held within a given time frame.





# Environmental Justice Campaigns



# Save Barifa Forest Justice Campaign

The youth chapter in Arua joined by community members marched through the Barifa forest to the National Forestry Authority regional offices demanding that the government stops the ongoing development plans of Barifa into an eco-city. The campaign caught the attention of local leaders.

Gen. Salim Saleh was identified as one of the perpetrators and revealed that he along with other officials surveyed the forest and the community was alerted of the ecotourism plans. Worse, the MP of Maracha County, Hon. Oguzu Lee also showed up with a 49-year lease offer for 10 hectares of the forest to be signed.

Barifa forest was established in 1948 by the community with the intention of conserving the environment for the future.







# Kween Environment Justice Campaign

Serere, Kumi and Kween communities in Eastern Uganda participated in the nationwide campaigns against environmental injustice. In Kween, the community members planted indigenous trees that have been cut down by Uganda Wildlife Authority rangers and as a result are dying out in their ancestral land. This action was done to protect the land for the future generation.



One of our comrades, Nivo planted an indigenous tree known as Chepsikayanted in her ancestral home, Mosop in Kween.



# Bushenyi, Kamwenge and Kyenjojo **Environment** justice actions

Our Bushenyi and Kamwenge chapters in Western Uganda also participated in the nation-wide environment justice campaign. The Bushenyi chapter cleaned the towns along Bushenyi-Ishaka Road, the district Health Center IV and planted trees. The Kamwenge chapter cleaned around the Town Council to dispose off plastic bags that .

Members of Straight Talk, Kyenjojo chapter participated in the environmental walk from Mityana to Kyenjojo. They cleaned towns and trading centers along the way and planted trees in reserved wetlands.





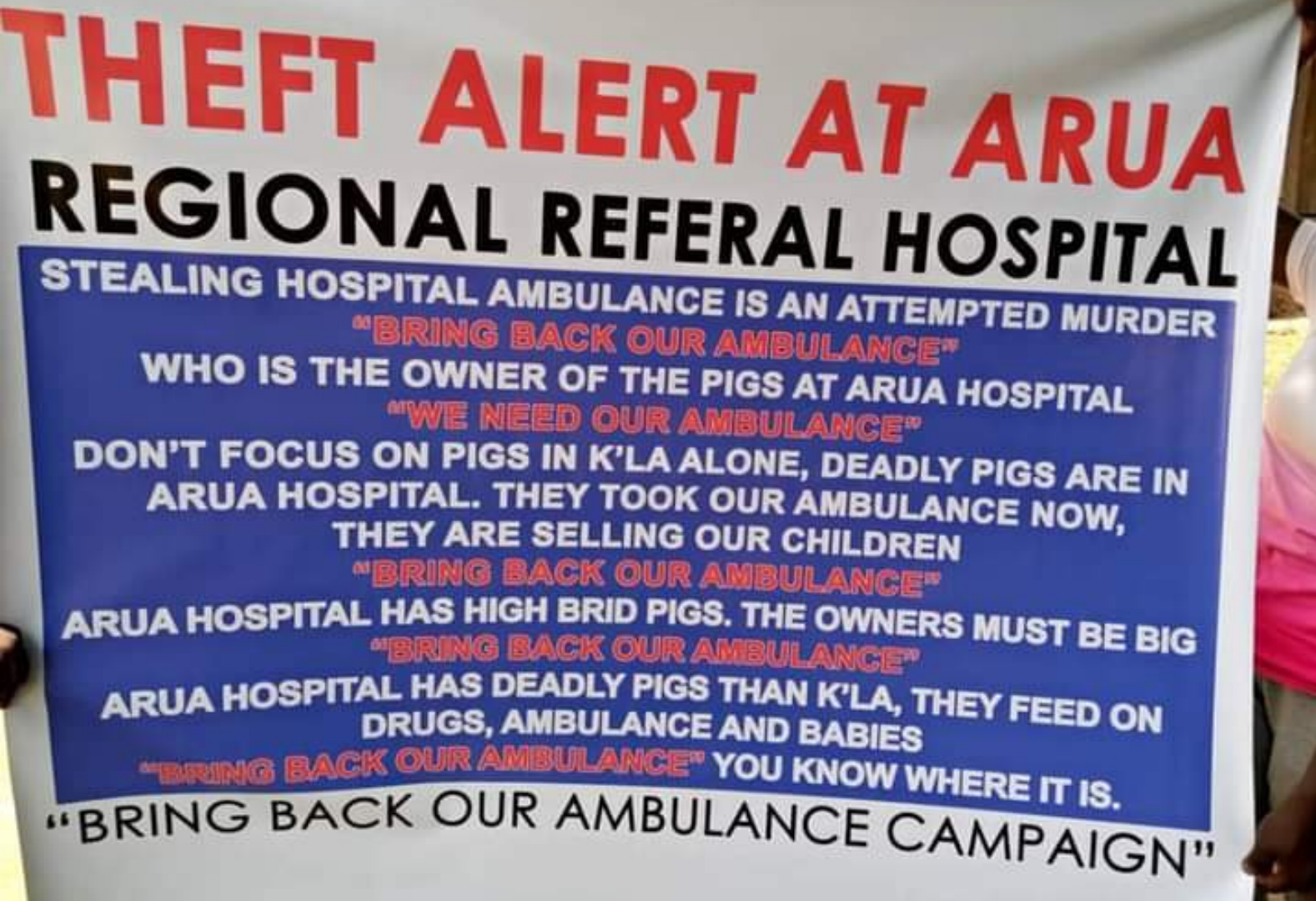
# Covid-19 Relief Campaign

Several activists and Human Rights Defenders across the country stood up to criticize the government on the poor health facilities and inadequacies despite having received trillions of shillings in aid for Covid Relief. Our chapters across the country joined in a peaceful national campaign dubbed **“Reform Healthcare”** demanding that the health-care system be fixed and government accounts for the covid19 relief funds spent. While some petitioned the district and regional offices in charge of the same, others named and shamed the officials involved in the syndicate of stealing funds belonging to the vulnerable people during the pandemic.









## Arua **peaceful demonstration** against corruption by Arua Hospital staff

The youth chapter in Arua organized a peaceful demonstration at Arua Regional Hospital demanding that the hospital management returns a stolen ambulance. The theft of this ambulance resulted in difficulty in access to the facility. The youth, led by Kenzo, a youth community organizer also exposed the negligence and poor health conditions of the hospital staff which has negatively impacted service delivery.

Five hospital staff including the administrator, Mr. Nyeko Gilbert were arrested over the theft of the Hospital Ambulance, including a doctor who confessed to the crime. The Hospital later received a brand new ambulance that is currently being used in operations.





# **Awei women meeting** to protect Kidi Ongora (community rockhill) from privatization

The Awei Women's Group spearheaded a peaceful occupation of a community-owned quarry on Ojul hill in Awei, Alebtong district to oppose the illegal takeover by Bishop Tom Okello of Elim Mission. The community gathered around the hill in fear of losing their only source of income, where the majority quarry. The women demanded the Bishop who was present at the hill for inspection to stop his attempts to possess the hill as his attempt to possess community land threatened the livelihood of many homes in Ojul.

After the demonstration, the community continued their quarrying activities freely without fear of reprisal from the Bishop and other perpetrators.

Kidi Ongora Rockhill,  
Awei , Alebtong  
15







## Pagak women and Odungedi community **direct action**

The people in Amuru pulled down a fence put up by Odinga Otto who was attempting to 'develop' part of the communally owned land surrounding Amuru hot springs. The community alerted Amuru Town Council Chairman LC III, who joined them in the struggle.

For many decades, these hot springs have been a cultural heritage of the Pagak clan, where the chieftdom and spiritual leaders perform their rituals, and the surrounding land is communally owned as free grazing land.





## Kumi peaceful road demonstration

Kumi chapter members marched for about 6Km on Akide Ongino road (about 45km) demanding a better safe road. The road which had over 300 potholes had hindered access to Kumi Hospital, one of the best hospitals handling bone surgery in Uganda. The poor state of this road has led to many accidents for years while those in power seemed unconcerned. Many patients' lives have been lost due to delays in transport. Two weeks after this action, the State Minister of Works visited the road and the road was repaired.

## Busia demonstration

The members of Busia chapter carried out a demonstration demanding UNRA to account for the construction of Nsolo bridge connecting Sikuda and Busitema subcounty in Busia which was in dire state. Among the names mentioned were Alex Mugisha, the road contractor and the district engineer who were later questioned by the CAO to answer why the reconstruction of the bridge had failed to take off.





## Kasanje Bibanja Farmers Association peaceful demonstration

More than 600 farmers faced eviction threats from a businessman Joseph Bukenya who claimed to have bought the conflicted land from Patel Prafur in Kasanje – Masaka amidst the Covid-19 lockdown. Bukenya had threatened the community for 12 years. The land in question is approximately 324 acres.

After the action, and being summoned by the community to produce the legal documentation showing his ownership of the land, he disappeared and has never attempted to grab the land.





# Masaka Lives Matter Campaign

On August 29, activists and civilians within the central region of Uganda, led by Stella Nyanzi, staged peaceful demonstrations in Masaka region to protest the district's lack of security as part of the 'MASAKA LIVES MATTER' campaign. Few activists gathered at various locations while adhering to the COVID19 Sops to protest the ongoing killings of unarmed innocent civilians in Uganda and to express collective grief for the lives lost in Masaka.



# Namasuba Bookclub

In collaboration with Kitara Nation, an arts company promoting poetry in secondary schools and higher institutions of learning, we launched the Namasuba Bookclub. The bookclub has brought together different writers, poets and other creatives to share their work and inspire others.

Once every month, book lovers gather to read and share Ugandan literature and experiences in building the nation through art.

Several writers including Prof. Timothy Wangusa (Anthem for Africa), Kakwenza Rukirabashaija (The Greedy Barbarian), Dr. Stella Nyanzi (No Roses from My Mouth), Dr. Jimmy Spire Ssentongo (Quarantined), and Dr. Busingye Kabumba (Militarism and the Dilemma of Post Colonial Statehood), were invited to share their experiences as writers and activists. Their experiences are sources of lessons and inspiration for young writers and creatives in this space.





**OBUNTU BOOK CLUBS**

**Vision**  
To consolidate the power of artists in Uganda

**Mission**  
Improving the reading culture of our community

**Core Attributes**  
Artist's Empathy  
Ubuntu (Solidarity)  
Visibility of Ugandan literature and authors

Uganda  
SolidarityUganda  
wiiotemcommunity  
www.solidarityuganda.org







# Kitagata Hot springs occupation

The people of Sheema District defied the RDC's order to stop visiting the Kitagata hot springs, a sacred location for cultural rituals. In order to stop the hot springs from being sold to Hungarian investors who intended to develop it and isolate the locals, a huge crowd gathered and occupied the hot springs.

Later, the Minister of Local Government issued an order to form a new committee to create guidelines for the local people to abide by as they utilize the hot springs, and to stop construction of the holy ground.





# Buseruka Bicycle Riding Caravan

The Kwataniza Women Group in Buseruka, Hoima district held a bicycle caravan while demanding access to clean and safe water for their families. This move was taken in response to an increase in sick patient cases brought on by the usage of contaminated water from a stream that was also utilized for grazing livestock. Women are not often allowed to ride bicycles in the western region of Uganda due to cultural norms; this action was taken to draw attention to the issue and arouse awareness.

Under the direction of the town council, National Water and Sewerage Cooperation extended piped water to Buseruka Town Council two weeks following the action.







## Ihunga Road Demonstration

Ihunga women in Isingiro District held a peaceful demonstration demanding the fixture of the road connecting Kendobo to Rushasha subcounty, which happens to be the only road leading to the closest medical facility. They also demanded clean and safe since many families contracted many diseases as a result of the contaminated water.

Following the action, the Kendobo-Rushasha route was filled with marrum and is currently slated for construction. Two boreholes were also constructed in Kendobo trading center to provide the people with clean and safe for communal use.





# Ibanda direct **action**

The Ibanda chapter staged a peaceful protest and delivered a petition to the RDC's office, demanding that the district to stop developing the Saza Forest Reserve which would destroy majority of the trees in the forest. Over 70 boda-boda riders joined them, as other community members tore down the fence put up by developers.

Development on Saza Forest Reserve in the Ibanda District was stopped as a result of a protest.





# Buseruka Bicycle Riding Caravan

The Kwataniza Women Group in Buseruka, Hoima district held a bicycle caravan while demanding access to clean and safe water for their families. This move was taken in response to an increase in sick patient cases brought on by the usage of contaminated water from a stream that was also utilized for grazing livestock. Women are not often allowed to ride bicycles in the western region of Uganda due to cultural norms; this action was taken to draw attention to the issue and arouse awareness.

Under the direction of the town council, National Water and Sewerage Cooperation extended piped water to Buseruka Town Council two weeks following the action.





# Kaswiina peaceful demonstration on Nakivaale camp Management

The people of Kaswiina village, Kashojwa occupied the Kityaaza trading centre in protest of the management of Nakivaale Refugee Settlement Camp which was marred by corruption and land grabbing of community settlement land by resettling refugees on the community land without the consent of the local communities.

The community demanded that the boundaries for the refugee camp be clearly defined to stop its expansion into bordering villages like Kaswiina. They also expressed concern on the lack of basic service delivery.

Following the actions, Mr. David Mugenyi was sucked from Nakivale Resettlement Camp and the Parish also received 42 million Ugx for construction of its parish headquarters in Kashojwa. Additionally, two classrooms were built in Kashojwa to complement the available temporary structures utilised for learning.



# National Land Defence League

National Land Defence League (NLDL) is a farmer-led movement against impunity, injustice, and corruption in Land Governance and Management. It brings together grassroots communities affected by land injustices who use non-violent strategies, and civil resistance in their efforts to wage against land injustices in their communities.

NLDL is a subsidiary of Solidarity Uganda run by grassroots women and men who have chased away ruthless land grabbers. We work with several communities in Uganda and we engage them fully in participatory movement building.





## NLDL Anti-land grabbing Bicycle Caravan

Grassroots women in several regions of the country rode bicycles as a sign of unity and solidarity against land grabbing and corruption in their communities. The women recognized that their families suffer most when land is grabbed or when evictions occur. The purpose of the action in cultures where riding is forbidden was to bring the issue to the community's notice, and in cultures where it is permitted, it was to confront the various patriarchal traditions that restrict women and prevent them from participating in leadership and decision-making.

The communities included: Amuru, Kumi, Serere, Ihunga, Kamwenge, Buliisa, and Logiri.





# Okavu Community March

The Okavu community, spearheaded by women held a name and shame demonstration demanding the NFA to stop expanding the Okavureru reserve; which is also part of the land they gave up for the 40-year project. The action was after community members spotted NFA farmers and ranger planting pine trees on the local people's farmland outside the forest boundaries. The extension has now encroached on the land of the people by 250 hectares.

NFA halted these specific activities.





# Rapid Response Department

Rapid Response is a department that provides immediate response to crisis. The department was put in place after realizing HRDs and activists face a lot of challenges while implementing civil resistance initiatives. The key response areas are; medical support, psychological support, legal support, and jail solidarity support.

The department linked 46 victims of unjust arrest and detentions to our legal partners; Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET), Network of Public Interest Lawyers (NETPIL), Strategic Response Initiative (SRI), and Uganda Law Society (ULS)

The department received 15 cases that needed medical response and all these victims were referred to African Center for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV). Continuous follow-up happens until recovery of the patient.

17 Jail solidarity visits and 05 community support visits



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF  
DECEMBER 31, 2021  
(with summarized comparative financial position as  
of December 31, 2020)

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2021 Ugsh</b>	<b>2020 Ugsh</b>
Property and Equipment, net	78,615,500	100,019,090
Contribution receivable, net	222,903,924	354,964,144
Prepaid expenses and other assets	-	6,895,000
Cash and cash Equivalents	173,557,606	179,936,792
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>475,077,030</b>	<b>641,815,027</b>

<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2021 Ugsh</b>	<b>2020 Ugsh</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Deferred revenue	445,541,998	584,059,789
Accounts Payable and accrued expenses	2,336,700	15,351,700
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>447,878,698</b>	<b>599,411,489</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
<b>Without donor restrictions:</b>		
Designated for reserve fund	27,198,332	42,403,538
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>27,198,332</b>	<b>42,403,538</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>475,077,030</b>	<b>641,815,027</b>



# Solidarity Uganda

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021  
(with summarized comparative financial position as of December 31, 2020)

REVENUES AND SUPPORT	2021 Ush	2020 Ush
Foundations and Corporations	1,079,469,696	761,881,813
Individuals and Businesses	2,163,708	20,824,671
Other revenues (Interest, forex gain, and assets disposal)	16,433,385	20,824,671
<b>Total revenues and support</b>	<b>1,098,066,789</b>	<b>836,140,984</b>

EXPENSES		
	2021 Ush	2020 Ush
Program services		
Programs	418,785,424	221,059,846
<b>Total program services expenses</b>	<b>418,785,424</b>	<b>221,059,846</b>
SUPPORTING SERVICES		
Management and General	694,486,571	621,989,924
<b>Total Supporting services expenses</b>	<b>694,486,571</b>	<b>621,989,924</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,113,271,995</b>	<b>843,049,770</b>
Change in net assets	- 15,205,206	-6,908,786
Beginning net assets	42,403,538	49,312,324
Ending net assets	27,198,332	42,403,538





## 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 2019/2020, we couldn't 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 at this moment:

- Pledge a monthly contribution of any amount at [www.solidarityuganda.org/give-2](http://www.solidarityuganda.org/give-2) Email us at [management@solidarityuganda.org](mailto:management@solidarityuganda.org) 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