



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Social

3

GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING

ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020

FOREWORD

Greetings from Open Space Centre!

The year 2019-2020 has been a new level of growth, learning and evaluation for the organization amidst the wave of fast paced changing contexts within the country. This year unmasked Open Space's resilience and capability to evolve to new realities with an unwavering goal of improving the lives of young people throughout the country by enhancing their leadership potential and attempting to level youth participation in the governance space.

Since its founding, Open Space Center's work has remained hinged on its mission of 'creating and broadening opportunities for young people to unlock their full potential and therefore contribute to Uganda's Social economic and Political Development. In this manner, the organization has reached over 30,000 young people in and out of school through structured programs and activities that aspire to meet young people's unique needs in their various diversities.

Unlike previous years, the organization's creative abilities were put to the test with the outbreak of the global pandemic. In spite of this new reality, Open Space has grown to be more deliberate in its work for young people amidst the outbreak of the Corona Virus Pandemic by creatively devising new approaches/strategies to engage young people in a bid to navigate emergency protocols that included restrictions on public gatherings which halted some of the organization's signature programs such as the Annual National Youth Festival (ANYF-20). In this

regard, Open Space took to effective use, various online platforms to mobilize and host debates and trainings for young people in the Ready to stand project that is executed through a series of training workshops aimed at equipping young Ugandans with the tools and platforms to run for political office and prepare to participate meaningfully in the upcoming 2021 elections.

In addition to the changing organizational working context, this year 2019-2020, marked the end of the organization's previous strategic plan (2015-2020) and the development of a new strategic plan for the organization. In this new plan, the organization has clearly defined landmarks for leadership development for young people and a vast array of interventions for them to meaningfully influence both national and global policy agendas. Detailed in the plan are new and inclusive approaches that benefit young people in their broad diversities so as to harness their capability to meaningfully engage in political and development processes.

For our partners, we appreciate, recognize and value the support of our partners with whom we jointly design programs and activities that front worthy causes so as to meet young people's diverse needs. This year 2019-2020, the organization has evidently secured new partnerships on an individual and organizational basis most notably from Action Aid, The Platform for Youth Inclusion in Politics among others in a bid to work together on new strategies that involve young people meaningfully engaging in leadership spaces.



Wakibu Bunnya
Team Leader



Ram Abubaker
Board Chairperson

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ABOUT OPEN SPACE

Open Space Centre was founded in the year 2009 as a non-partisan youth development agency whose work was centred on nurturing and expanding opportunities for young people to enhance their potential. The organization has expanded its programs/activities to reach more than 30,000 youth in 14 tertiary institutions and 30 high schools in Uganda since its founding in 2009.

Vision

A vibrant and empowered youth population.

Mission

To broaden space and opportunities for young people to enhance their full physical and expressive potential that meaningfully contributes to national and global development agendas.

Open Space Centre's work in boosting the leadership capacity of young people has thereby championed the use of debate as a tool for enhancing young people's critical thinking skills and leadership skills. We believe the use of debates in the organization's programs for students within institutions is a means to creating platforms for youth voices to raise issues that are pertinent to their communities and countries at large.

Who we stand for

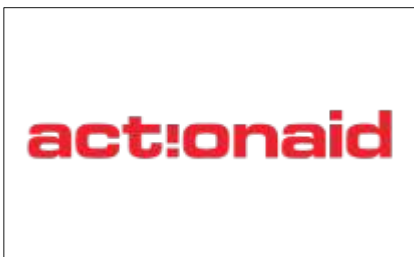
We stand for all Young people in their various diversities and like-minded organizations who seek to expand young people capability to contribute to a changing inclusive civic space.

Our Niche

Our mandate is hinged on broadening opportunities for young people to meaningfully engage in development processes and this has evidently sufficed through the our unmatched ability to effectively carry out community mobilisation activities for National Platforms such as the Annual National Youth Festival that host thousands of young people, Convene debates and dialogue platforms at all levels within institutions and effectively utilise the media to broadcast youth-friendly messages including the usage of digital tools and social media/online platforms to deliver a combination of information and entertainment messages.

PARTNER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Open Space Centre deeply appreciates and values the support of all its donors and partners. Special thanks go to;





OUR WORK IN 2019-2020

In 2019-2020, we ran various projects in different districts within the country characterized by both physical and online trainings and debates. In total, we implemented 4 projects. Throughout the year, together with our partners, we engaged 40,000 young people through debates, dialogues, trainings and mentorship projects.

PROJECT	STRATEGY OF IMPLEMENTATION	PARTNERS INVOLVED
<p>Project Soar</p> <p>DISTRICTS Kampala, Mukono</p>	Mentorship workshops.	Project Soar U.S, secondary schools.
<p>Youth Mentorship Program</p> <p>LOCATION Wakiso, Gulu, kampala</p>	Candidate Trainings, Town-hall sessions, Debates, media campaigns, Call centre, online campaigns	National Endowment for Democracy, Action Aid, 6 Political Parties including NUP, DP, Jeema, NRM, FDC and PPP
<p>University Debate Nationals</p> <p>LOCATION Wakiso, Gulu, kampala</p>	Competitive Debates, Debate Trainings, Public Dialogues	18 tertiary Institutions, Uganda National NGO Forum, Parliament of Uganda, Northern Uganda Debate Society
<p>National Youth Manifesto Process. (2021-2026)</p> <p>LOCATION Wakiso, Gulu, kampala</p>	Policy-Dialogues, Consultation meetings, A Write-shop	Youth Coalition on electoral Democracy
<p>SDGs in Reality (Youth SDG awareness Program)</p> <p>LOCATION Wakiso, Gulu, kampala</p>	Debates, Action days, Trainings, National Advocacy platforms,	Crossing Borders, 10 Secondary schools, Office of the Prime Minister, UN Human Rights.

OUR PROJECT LOCATION





OUR SUCCESS STORIES

1

Positioning young people to fulfil their leadership aspirations.

Over 100 Teenage/Adolescent girls graduate as Leaders from project Soar

While for boys, adolescence means greater possibilities and a broadening world, for most girls in underserved communities it means greater limitations. "On the whole, adolescent girls in Uganda spend less time in school than boys, perform a disproportionate share of domestic work, have less mobility outside the home which creates an unequal balance in exposure to opportunities and required/expected level of competitiveness among their peers. This coupled with fewer acceptable public spaces for leadership and mentorship exacerbate the skewed chances of the girl child to flourish within her community.

Open space through our signature empowerment project 'Project Soar' has emphasized teen girl leadership for young girls in underserved secondary schools. The project has been conceptualized to transform adolescent girls into leaders of today and tomorrow.

Swagia Nakanwagi's story, a form two student at Kisaasi College School one of the five sites

where the Project was piloted emerged victorious as the Assistant General Duties Prefect at the school during the course of her project soar journey. In her own words

'I wouldn't have been able to take on this unique opportunity under project soar because I previously didn't feel capable and strong enough to express my reasons to be part of it. At school, so many programs come up for us students but many students like me miss out because they are not confident enough to express why they would want to join such initiatives which is often a first requirement.'

Project soar, was unique in a way that we were openly invited to be part of it without hinderances. I have learned so many new things that have impacted and changed my personality into the girl I am now. After I got into the project, I developed the confidence which enabled me to become a group leader for my discussion group at school. During this time, I started aspiring to become a prefect and the following term, I stood for Assistant General Duties Prefect, a position that I won with overwhelming support from fellow students....'

Project soar has ultimately contributed and boosted the capacity of

100 teenage girls

05 schools

05 girl leader clubs activated

Swagia's story extends beyond the boundaries of the school and the lessons she obtained from the Project were immensely impactful to other girls within her community during the country-wide lockdown that lasted a period of 7 months. She went ahead to mentor and share insights on how her fellow girls can manage their menstruation periods safely and hygienically. She also engaged the girls on ways on how they can remain active and meaningfully occupied during the time outside school.

In this regard, 'Project soar' has ultimately contributed and boosted the capacity of 100 teenage girls in five schools and activated 5 girl leader clubs therein. The project was delivered on five modules (Value, Voice, Path, Body and Rights) that were aimed at uniquely empowering vulnerable teenage girls to appreciate their unique abilities and harness the potential to primarily add their voices to the different shades of inequalities that exist within their schools and communities.



Activating student leaders in tertiary institutions

Open Space Centre has over the years built the leadership capacity of young people in tertiary institutions through the use of debate as a tool for engaging young people in meaningful contextual discussions on different public issues. Well-structured debates will develop learners into coherent social, economic and political actors able to contribute to national political discussions and development processes. Unfortunately, debate is no longer a regular activity in most tertiary institutions, denying students opportunities to sharpen their conceptual, analytical and investigative skills critical to enabling them become effectual leaders and rational citizens.

Through the Youth Mentorship Program, more than 100 students in 6 core tertiary institutions have been trained in debating and involved in debating activities where they were able to develop critical leadership skills including public speaking, critical thinking, community organizing and problem solving among others. The program also engaged with 8 other tertiary institutions through the University Debate Nationals - the country's biggest annual debate gathering for university students - which was held in Gulu University at the start of November 2019. During the program, student leaders were also mentored through mentorship sessions, leadership transition workshops, Guild presidential debates, student issue manifesto development sessions and one on one coaching.

Despite the lockdown and stay home guidelines issued by government of Uganda following the Covid19 crisis, Open Space continued to support student leaders through opening up online discussion and support groups on WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook. One such group that stands out is the "Big Debate" WhatsApp group where

members hosted competitive debating sessions with topics of their choice during the lock down and the winners were rewarded with Data packages.

Akello Wanga, a second-year student of YMCA comprehensive University was one of the success stories from this program and In her own words she narrates her story below:

"It all seemed like a joke at first. But then, schools were closed, Churches, public gatherings and public transport as well. I reminded in my small world, confined in the one room of my hostel, left with nothing but my mind, How am I going to cope a lone? Who am I going to talk to? The thoughts raced through my mind. Emotions of anger, bargaining and sadness enveloped me until I accepted the fact that I have to live whether I am alone or with my family.

Soon, I got other ways of involvement with the outside world. I joined a number of young people in a debate tournament which made me busy and later, I was introduced to another group, The big debate at 9 where we debated every day at 9 in the morning and evening. This group became my family in this crisis because all I wanted was company and also they helped me to develop intellectually because it provoked me to learn and listen.

In this group, I occasionally became a winner for data bundles given out by Open Space Center for winning a debate. It's from the same group that I got into close contact with the person I have as a mentor, Isabella Akiteng. She was someone I admired from a distance but because she was in the group, I got her contact and reached out to her. She encouraged me to start writing and I have been writing words of hope to my friends and my followers on my Word Press since."



Mentoring Youth aspiring for electoral positions in the 2021 elections:

As the 2021 elections advanced, OSC responded to the growing optimism and desire among youth to shape the future of the country by designing and implementing a training and mentoring program for young people interested in running for office. The program not only established a first of its kind call center and information hub for youth candidates but also ran candidate trainings and further hosted debate competitions and policy dialogues to encourage meaningful youth political participation.

Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy, the program trained 120 young aspirants for elective office in districts of Kampala, Wakiso and Gulu through both online and offline training workshops. Trainings focused on Preparing for party primaries, candidate profiling, campaign management, message development, fundraising and Putting together a campaign team. All these sessions were part of a training curriculum prepared at the start of the program and later delivered by 10 pretrained facilitators. of the

Below is an extract from an article that run in the daily monitor profiling and detailing the uniqueness and success story of our youth candidate training support program:

Muzamiru Muwanga, 32, a lecturer at Makerere Business Training Center in Kapchorwa shows the zeal for leadership in his everyday work. He trains a

small capacity building team for youth in Agriculture and has a small training center for people interested in learning computer.

"I've always had leadership positions but in low places," Muwanga comments. He expresses gratitude when he was notified that there would be a training on leadership for youth interested in political positions in the upcoming 2021 elections via Zoom. Although he had never used the zoom app, he was willing to learn. Now he wants to vie for a position as the District councillor for PWDs in Kapchorwa District in the 2021 elections.

"The training opened up my mind to bigger possibilities and stressed the fact that we can also compete. We learnt about how electoral structures work from the grass root-up, how one starts from the village to parish, sub-county and then the district councillor electoral college."

Muwanga opens up.

Other things he learnt include, how do you come up with the message for your electorates, deliver it, what is the plight of those particular people? What makes them feel that you are part of their fight? How do you get a theme for your campaign? Creating a team to increase your chances of winning by making allegiance with someone credible and dependable in society and also how to get resources to run the campaign including involving family members, friends, soliciting from people and the alternative of going through a political party as a flag bearer.

2 Young people influencing policy



Activating and sustaining national level platforms for youth advocacy

– every year, Open Space Centre convenes a number of national level platforms for youth advocacy linked to the National Youth Manifesto issues and any other emerging youth issues. At the start of the 2019-2020 implementation period, Open Space organized a policy dialogue around African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) with the Deputy Speaker among the policy makers invited. From the meeting, young people present not only signed up to join the ACDEG Uganda Chapter but also added their voice towards advocating for the Charter to be domesticated in Uganda.

Another advocacy platform convened by Open Space included the High-level dialogue Series on Education with support from Action Aid. Four separate dialogues were organized across the country one in Gulu, another in Kampala, a third

in Mable a forth in Fort Portal. The dialogues were designed to bring out pertinent education issues and put them on the national agenda of policy makers. With over 200 youth participants including teachers, government education officers and youth leaders, a policy briefing paper detailing a list of issues that need urgent attention in the education sector compiled and presented to policy makers in the post advocacy engagements after the dialogue.

Unfortunately, the Annual National Youth Festival which is one of Uganda's largest youth high-level platform for young people to engage with Policy makers from different fields couldn't happen as scheduled in April 2020 due to the covid19 crisis and government ban on public gathering. However, Open Space continued to be active in convening online youth policy advocacy platforms online on zoom and twitter interfacing youth with policy makers.

Putting Young people at the forefront of the SDG implementation and Monitoring

Under its SDG in Reality project, Open Space Centre was able to implement a series of activities that put young people at the fore front of the SDGs Implementation and monitoring. The project which was implemented in partnership with Crossing Borders (CB) and with support from CISU included a Youth Symposium on SDGs where close to 150 young people mainly students from 20 high schools interfaced with the Office of the Prime Minister representatives, CSO leaders form the core reference group on SDGs and representatives from the Parliamentary Committee on SDGs among other policy makers. The project also included the launch of the Youth panel on SDGs a framework through which youth organisations implementing SDGs related programming will be consolidating their efforts and coming together for reflection, learning, capacity building and joint advocacy. During the implementation period at least 20 youth organisations were signed up to the Youth panel on SDGs.

Supporting the YCED to launch the National Youth Manifesto-The National Youth Manifesto is a youth led political framework that presents the demands of young people to policy makers vying for political offices. After elections, this document becomes a relevant compass for evaluating government responsiveness to youth issues and needs. Open Space Centre through support from the National Endowment for democracy has been a key player in reviving the Youth Manifesto work for the 2021 electoral period. Part of the work undertaken included the revival of the Youth Coalition on Electoral Democracy, the institution that oversees the process of development of the Youth Manifesto. The Youth Coalition on Electoral Democracy (YCED) is a coalition of members from youth organizations active in the leadership space within which Open Space Centre is a key member. Open Space Centre's support included conducting an Audit for the previous Youth Manifesto 2016 -2020 process, hosting reflection platforms for the coalition members and spearheading the development of a road map for the coalition engagements in the 2021 electoral calendar.





PARTNERSHIPS AND COALITIONS

Open Space Centre works together with a network of people and organizations with whom a shared objective has been realized so as to front a worthy cause. Many of the organization's partnerships arise from joint programming activities and media related activities so as to further support the mutual benefit and the overall wellbeing of young people. The year 2019-2020, brought on board a new wave of partners at both individual and organizational/coalition level. Among this year's new grounded partnerships, Open Space Centre worked with the following organizations;

Action Aid: Open Space Centre with support from Action Aid Uganda implemented the High-level dialogue on Education and also engaged in work around the Youth Manifesto. The partnership with Action Aid is mainly hinged around creating joint activities that provide opportunities for young people to meaningfully engage in the country's political processes. In order to achieve the desired social change that is 'to expand young people's participation in democratic spaces, especially young women and harness their collective power in pursuit of social justice' both organizations aspire to work jointly on programmes and activities that effect this worthy cause.

Africa freedom of Information Centre: On the 30th of September 2020 Open Space Centre and the Africa Freedom of Information Centre jointly commemorated the International day of Universal Access to Information that is celebrated on the 28th of September each year. Among the joint activities implemented included a townhall debate session that provided over 100 young student debaters from across the country with a platform to interrogate issues surrounding Access to Information.

Platform for Youth Inclusion in Politics: The Platform for Youth Inclusion in Politics (PYIP) was launched on the 26th of July 2020. The platform consists of a group of civil society organizations active in the leadership space. PYIP is a special purpose vehicle for collective engagement by young people in Uganda's governance and political processes. Its goal is "Meaningful and inclusive participation of young people in Uganda's governance and politics". PYIP was formed in the build up to Uganda's 2021 elections, to facilitate collective engagement in the elections and beyond, after a six months' consultative process with and amongst young people's organizations. Open Space Centre is among the founding members of PYIP and in taking leadership for the component on Youth Manifesto under the subthemes of PYIP's core focus areas.





WHAT WE LEARNT

Debate.

We have learned that the use of debate in institutions of learning is a powerful tool that can be used to inculcate young people's intrigue about National and Global policy agendas. Through the use of Debates in the Youth SDGs Awareness Program, it was markedly easy to reinforce the SDG agenda in High schools.

Leadership skills enhancement.

a) **Young people have a strong willingness** to learn and engage with processes that offer transformation from their preconceived stereotypical mentality (*young and unproductive*) from other age groups in the country. Many young people aspire to be leaders who can change their societies evidently through a variety of ways that is to say; the responsiveness of youth in the ongoing electoral processes.

Gender, equity and marginalized groups

A focus on Girl-centered initiatives- Through ongoing leadership projects that incorporate the use of student debate, it was markedly observed that the number of young girls participating in this process was disproportionate to that of male students. In this regard, the organization initiated and piloted a leadership project for vulnerable teenage girls in underserved communities "Project Soar" whose focus is to empower young girls through modules of Voice, Body, rights and Path.

In this regard it is important to streamline interventions towards the girl-child with a gender transformative lens that gives them the power to be their own leaders without fear and freedom constraints.

FINANCIAL REPORT

OPEN SPACE CENTRE LIMITED REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2020



Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

	Notes	2020 "Ugx".	2019 "Ugx".
Grants & donations	4	352,672,875	315,574,714
Gross Profit		352,672,875	315,574,714
Program costs	5	(221,877,900)	(203,631,978)
Administration expenses	6	(56,741,050)	(51,731,850)
Professional fees	7	(2,500,000)	(3,000,000)
Employment expenses	8	(70,350,019)	(55,325,500)
Surplus/(Deficit) before depreciation, finance costs & tax		1,203,906	1,885,386
Net finance costs	9	(1,203,906)	(1,885,386)
Surplus/(Deficit) before depreciation & tax		-	-
Depreciation		-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) before tax		-	-
Tax expense		-	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		-	-

The statement of profit or loss & other comprehensive income is to be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the financial statements set out on pages 11 to 17.

**OPEN SPACE CENTRE LIMITED
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2020**



Results of the Year

The results of the company for the period are shown in the statement of profit or loss on page 8 :

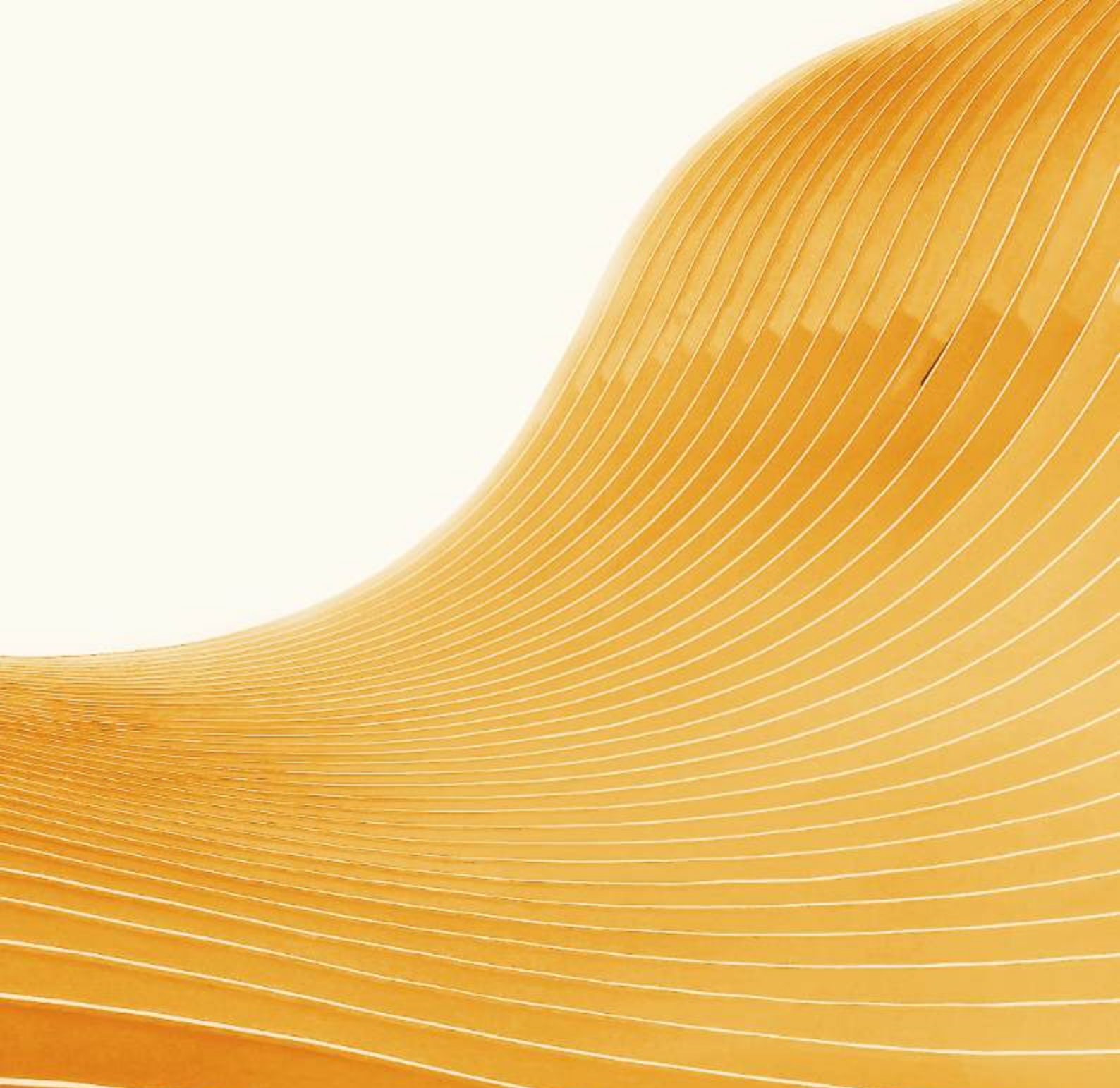
	2020 "Ugx".
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-
Tax expense	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-

Auditors

Wade & Partners, Certified Public Accountant of Uganda were appointed having expressed their willingness to continue in office in accordance with Uganda Companies Act, No. 1 of 2012.

By Order of the Board
Sophia .N. Kigozi
 ADVOCATE
 P. O. Box 28661, Kampala
 Tel: 0774517341
 Email: s.kigozi100@gmail.com
 Company Secretary





Open Space Centre

Plot 1564, Odur Lane,

Ntinda –Kiwatule

P.O.BOX 30888 Kampala

T:+256414695170

E.openspaceuganda@gmail.com

www.openspaceyouth.org