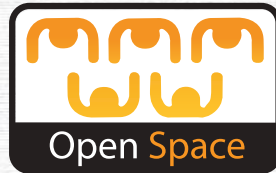


OpenSpace

Annual Report 2021/2022



© Open Space 2022

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means -electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without prior permission of the publisher. The reproduction or use of this publication for academic or charitable purposes or for purposes of informing public policy are exempted from this restriction.

Email: openspaceuganda@gmail.com

Editors:

Tamale Joel baliruno, Wakibu Bunnya, Nakato Rehema Sessimba,
Cover image: © Open Space Centre

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 5	Foreword.
Page 6	Open Space post-pandemic
Page 7	Organizational Resourcing and Fundraising
Page 8	About the Organization. The Vision, Mission, and Values. Open Space Strategic Themes
Page 9	OPEN SPACE 2021-2022 PROGRAMS FOCUS AND PRIORITIES Program Alignment to Open Space strategic goal areas Open Space Program Alignment to the 2030 sustainable development Agenda
Page 10	Open Space Program Alignment to Uganda's National Development Plan 3
Page 12	Summary of our work for the year 2021-2022 Leadership development and enhancement The Meaningful Youth Participation Program (MYPP).
Page 14	Mentoring Youth local government leaders
Page 15	The Give for Good Philanthropy Symposium.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 16	Knowledge development and sharing
Page 17	The Nile Explorer 2.0 (Mobile programming Platform)
Page 18	The Nile Explorer Students' Leadership Retreat.
Page 19	Digital Skills training for youth leaders-SDG Localization Youth Parliaments (Seesaamu sessions) Progress against organizational priorities
Page 20	Impact Stories
Page 21	Stories from the Nile Explorer 2.0 Bus Program Stories from the Youth leader's training under the Meaningful Youth Participation Program
Page 22	Lessons learned
Page 23	Our Partners and supporters

Foreward

The start of the year 2021/2022 served as an opportunity for Open Space Centre to replenish efforts towards empowering young people in Uganda following the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the Centre devised new possibilities to reach and engage young people (ages 15-29) in the country's development and governance processes.

The organization registered outstanding success across all its 3 strategic objectives; firstly, under the leadership development objective; the center acquired new funding through the British High Commission to execute the Meaningful Youth participation program-a project that has strengthened the capacity of youth leaders at the parish level to participate more meaningfully and continuously in governance. Secondly, under the influencing arm of the organization that is designed to empower youth to meaningfully participate in national and global development agendas such as the 2030 SDG Agenda, the center fostered new partnerships with national bodies such as the National Youth Council (NYC) and the Uganda National Students Association (UNSA) through which young people in schools and communities in Uganda have been engaged in SDG implementation.

Under the knowledge development and sharing strategic objective, Open Space with support from the US Embassy in Uganda has implemented the Nile Explorer 2.0 mobile programming platform in 9 districts across the country reaching more than 360 students. This program was designed to reduce the number of school drop-outs among secondary school students by exposing them to STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Technology) trigger their creative abilities and foster innovation to address some of their community problems. In addition, the health component of the bus empowers young learners with age-appropriate information that empowers them to overcome a multitude of health issues such as HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy among others.

Open Space as a youth-led organization commits to continuous learning and discovering new ways to empower Ugandan youth to harness their potential to contribute to their society's growth and realize their aspirations. To this end, the center appreciates the support of all its donors, partners, and beneficiaries with whom we jointly work and support one another to ensure that we realize this noble cause.

Open Space post-pandemic

The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic was a major occurrence in the lives of many young people, individuals, and societies. The pandemic created several setbacks for youth in Uganda as well as their communities and livelihoods which further aggravated poverty, hunger, and their emotional well-being negatively. Additionally, as a result of the pandemic, civil society efforts to empower youth in their diversity were affected due to the inadequate ability to mobilize youth for developmental initiatives.

During this time, Open Space Centre implemented the **Give for Good campaign** whose objective was to create youth awareness around community philanthropy and ongoing charity causes at a regional and national level and mobilize youth to actively support community philanthropy. This campaign reached and impacted over 4 million young people who participated in online engagements centered around creating dialogue on the role of philanthropy within communities. In addition, the campaign also highlighted youth efforts in mitigating the impacts of the pandemic through community donation drives where over 70 households received food items to mitigate the overarching hunger.



Organizational Resourcing and Fundraising

This year 2021/2022, the center’s funding grew immensely to include new partners such as the US Mission Uganda, USAID/PEPFAR, The NGO Forum, and UKAID who supported projects across all Open Space thematic areas. The organization's fundraising process has remained hinged on the vision to support youth empowerment and development through leadership development, influencing local and global agendas as well as Knowledge development and sharing. The funding arm for the organization has relied mainly on grant/donor-based funding for projects that typically last a period of 1-3 years and pilot projects/campaigns that last a period of 6 months to a year.

Organisation Strategic Theme	New funding source/Donor	Project
Leadership development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UKAID • Uganda National NGO Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful youth participation program • Give for Good
Influencing national and global development agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UKAID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful youth participation program
Knowledge Development and Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Mission Uganda • PEPFAR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nile Explorer 2.0



About the Organisation

Open Space Centre is registered by the national NGO Bureau as a not-for-profit youth development agency that works to create dynamic spaces and opportunities for young people to fulfill their development and civic potential. Founded in 2009, the organization has grown into a leading youth-led and focused agency, with grounded experience in community youth organizing and mobilization as well as convening debate and dialogue platforms at all levels. Beyond physical platforms, the organization has relied on the use of digital tools such as social media to bolster its program delivery and outcomes. Open Space currently has a national-level presence, with a secretariat based in the capital Kampala and a network of partners and field staff spread across the country.

Our Vision:

A society where young people have limitless opportunities and dignity.

Our Mission:

Create dynamic spaces to unlock young people's (15-29) full potential to utilize opportunities and improve their well-being.

Our Values:

Excellence

Equity

Dynamism

Accountability



Our Strategic Themes

- Leadership development.
- Influencing local and global development agenda.
- Knowledge development and sharing
- Organization development and institutional management processes.

Programs Focus and Priorities

Program	Strategic Goal/ Thematic focus
The Localizing SDGs project	Influencing national and global development agendas.
Nile Explorer 2.0	Knowledge development and sharing
Youth Mentorship Program	Leadership development.
Meaningful Youth Participation Program	Influencing national and global development agendas. Leadership development.
Give for Good	Leadership development.

Open Space Program Alignment to the 2030 sustainable development Agenda

Uganda like many countries adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda through the United Nations' 17 global goals. In recognition of this cause, Open people at the forefront of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Space Center remains committed to furthering this development with youth.

Program	SDG Focus
The Localizing SDGs project	SDG 1-17
Nile Explorer 2.0	SDG 4, SDG 3, SDG 5
Youth Mentorship Program	SDG 16
Meaningful Youth Participation Program	SDG 16
Give for Good	SDG 1, 2, 3

Open Space Program Alignment to Uganda's National Development Plan 3

The National Development Plan 3 has identified eighteen (18) programs that have been designed to deliver the required results and address the 13 bottlenecks adopted by the African Union. These programs incorporate the country's commitments to regional and international development frameworks and cross-cutting issues. All programs within the organization have been designed to contribute towards the progress required to achieve the 3rd National Development Plan.

Program	UGANDA NDP 3 Pillar
The Localizing SDGs project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Mobilization and Mindset program Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management Programme.
Nile Explorer 2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital transformation program
Youth Mentorship Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance and security program
Meaningful Youth Participation Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance and security program
Give for Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Mobilization and Mindset program



Goal 1
To promote democratic governance through a transformational leadership development agenda for current and prospective youth leaders to connect, exchange experiences, and receive structured leadership training to enrich their knowledge and advance their leadership.

Under this goal, the center sought to address the ineffective youth participation in local government processes by youth leaders at the local government level. To this end, Open Space embarked on training youth leaders at the local government level at both parish and district levels through two projects; 1) the Meaningful Youth Participation Program and 2) Mentoring local government leaders program using the Local government leadership professional courses (LG-LEAP) prospectus that encompassed a range of leadership concepts (local government planning, budgeting, and accountability) for youth leaders to empower them with information that would enable them to effectively serve their communities and meaningfully participate in local government processes.

Open Space Program Alignment to Uganda's National Development Plan 3

Goal 2



To empower youth and youth leaders to advocate for an enabling legal and financial environment to help realize national and global development agendas.

This year, the center leveraged the existing youth structures such as the 2 Community youth task forces in Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono to mobilize youth groups, and implement youth parliaments and SDG awareness events in communities and schools. The center also documented its progress towards the localization of the sustainable development goals through a localization guide that entailed details of best practices and success stories in line with SDG work.

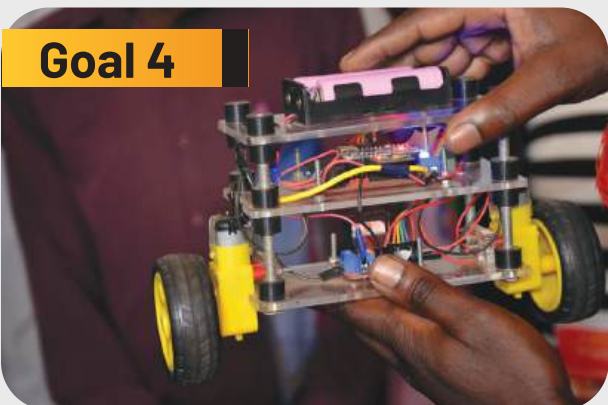
Goal 3



To improve unfettered access to information, tools, and equipment to further the aspirations of vulnerable and marginalized youth in slums and rural communities.

This year marked the launch of the Nile explorer bus program that is supported by the US Embassy in Uganda. The Nile explorer bus was designed by the center as a mobile platform and American space whose overall aim is to contribute to the reduction of school dropouts among school-going teenagers in Uganda. The program encompasses components such as life skills and career guidance, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) that is designed to inspire the spirit of innovation among young people, the health component that is aimed at empowering young people with age-appropriate health information on HIV/AIDS, Malaria and School-related gender-based violence to enable them to live healthier lives.

Goal 4



To enhance the organization's institutional arrangements for pragmatic governance and management.

SUMMARY OF OUR WORK

2021-2022

Program:

Leadership development and enhancement

Training of local government youth leaders using the Local Government Leadership Professional Courses (LG LEAP)

Program:

The Meaningful Youth Participation Program (MYPP).

Meaningful youth participation in governance and development processes has remained inadequate and ineffective, particularly at the government level. In recognition of this, the center in partnership with the British High Commission designed and implemented the meaningful youth participation program that was targeting youth leaders at the parish level. The project targeted youth leaders at the parish level from the model parishes of Namataba B, Maganjo, and Bwaise II in the Mukono, Wakiso, and Kampala districts, respectively. Through structured highly engaging training, the project facilitated an in-depth understanding of the local government processes (planning, budgeting, and advocacy) that would ultimately enable the youth leaders to effectively comprehend and contribute to the development of their communities.

Under the Meaningful youth participation program, over 300 young people from Kampala, Wake, and Mukono were trained, and 12 policymakers were engaged throughout the project activities. The leaders obtained skills in lobbying, community mobilizing, and organizing as one of how they would engage their communities. Similarly, open space established youth desks as points of interaction between the youth leaders and their policymakers across all the model parishes to cultivate dialogue on community issues and also create awareness about the existing development programs that the young people can tap into to ensure sustainable development of their communities.



SUMMARY OF OUR WORK

2021-2022

Program:

Mentoring Youth local government leaders

With the recently concluded 2021 general elections, many young people were ushered into first-time leadership positions across all levels of the local government structure. Many of these young people had limited comprehension of their roles and responsibilities that were key in addressing their community aspirations. In this regard, Open Space designed leadership professional courses for youth leaders at parish and district levels that would serve to orient the leaders on key concepts such as the legal and policy framework such as local government act, decentralization, and local economic development as well as their roles and responsibilities. Furthermore, under the Mentoring of youth local government leaders, over 174 young people from both Kampala and Gulu were actively engaged and trained on the local government planning, budgeting, accountability processes, and the decentralization system of governance.



Program:

The Give for Good Philanthropy Symposium.

Open Space Centre with support from the Uganda National NGO Forum launched the Give for Good Campaign that was aimed at engaging youth in community philanthropy awareness drives at various levels. The Campaign was supported under Uganda National NGO Forum's Philanthropy for Development Programme with a bold vision for transforming how "development is done" by focusing specifically on the recognition and importance of domestic resources in increasing local ownership, unlocking agency, and strengthening communities' ability to claim entitlements from different actors. On the 21st of December 2021, Uganda National NGO Forum in partnership with Open Space Centre convened the "2021 Philanthropy Symposium" that was focusing on the Give4Good campaign at the silver springs hotel in Bugolobi. The philanthropy symposium brought together a cluster of stakeholders with the overall aim of redefining how development through philanthropy is done. The theme for the 2021 Philanthropy symposium was 'Giving for Good



The symposium was complemented by a live broadcast on NBS TV and was also streamed live on the organization's social media channels. The symposium brought together over 120 youth, youth leaders, youth-led/focused organizations, and key community decision-makers for topical discussions on philanthropic endeavors within the country. The discussions throughout the philanthropy symposium offered several emerging issues: the need to define philanthropy and Giving for Good in policy and legislation and the need to invest in philanthropy leadership development, innovation, and capacity building.

Summary Progress & Results

Knowledge development and sharing Program

The Nile Explorer 2.0
(Mobile programming Platform)

The Nile Explorer is a mobile American space that was designed to contribute to a reduction in school dropout among secondary school-going learners aged 12-19 years across districts in Uganda. With the outbreak of the covid 19 pandemic, the situation was grimmer for many young people to the extent that those living in underserved communities left school permanently due to a lack of access to technology to continue with their studies or because of unplanned teenage pregnancy. Upon this background, Open Space kicked off the Nile Explorer 2.0 project in 9 districts i.e., Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Gulu, Rakai, Sembabule, and Amolatar that successfully reached out to over 360 students in this year with information and skills in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) to enable them to harness their innovative abilities to address some of their most pressing school/community issues.



The STEM sessions involved the use of computers, and practical sessions in science and engineering such as liquid soap making, building bridges, and launching a rocket among others. Additionally, the program components also included age-appropriate health education on key health issues such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and school Gender-based violence. The Bus also

allowed students to discuss key life skills and obtain career guidance on how to thrive in their schools/communities and overcome life's challenges that could ultimately contribute to school dropouts.

Summary Progress & Results

Program:

The Nile Explorer Students' Leadership Retreat.

The Nile Explorer student's leadership retreat was designed as a complementary platform of engagement for students beyond the Nile Explorer bus training. The leadership retreat capitalized on strengthening youth leadership for students aged 12-19 years in underserved schools in Uganda. A total of 24 students had the opportunity to engage further on the bus components in STEM and health in a bid to reinforce their leadership capabilities and support their schools/communities with information in health and STEM. During the retreat, students enjoyed sessions with the U.S. Ambassador to Uganda, her excellency Ms. Natalie Brown who shared her experiences in leadership and her passion for technology. Other sessions focused on health awareness creation and student-led innovation with different facilitators and approaches.

At the end of the retreat, all students received key information on how to lead healthier lives and utilize their knowledge and skills in STEM to address some of their community issues.





Digital Skills training for youth leaders - SDG Localization

In the past years, the center through different workshops and dialogues has equipped young leaders with a range of skills such as public speaking for advocacy and community mobilization in a bid to enable them to understand and explain the various development agendas to young people in their communities. Building on from the establishment of youth task forces in Kampala wakes, and Mukono districts, whose mandate is to drive youth action toward the localization of sustainable development goals, Open Space center with our partners in Zambia(Circus Zambia)and Ghana(Ghana community radio network) implemented a week-long Digital skills training workshop that focused on empowering the young leaders to incorporate the use of technology in the localization of the sustainable development goals. The training included information on how to utilize e- conferencing platforms like zoom, and social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to mobilize young people and create awareness of the Sustainable development goals. The training workshop beneficiaries included youth leaders, teachers, and Leaders from youth-focused NGOs, the training was also extended to youth with physical disabilities. The training workshop had both theory and practical sessions where the participants were allowed to put into practice what they were learning.



Youth Parliaments (Seesaamu sessions)

To strengthen the localization of the sustainable development goals in communities, Open Space through the pre-formed community task forces conducted 6 youth parliaments in communities in Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono districts. The youth parliaments were designed to serve as a platform through which meaningful dialogue on community issues that align to specific SDGs can be obtained and plausible solutions derived. as a platform that brings together young people to share their pressing concerns with their leaders. Some of the issues raised by the community members strongly resonated with SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, and SDG 5 on gender equality among others. The youth parliaments also brought on board policymakers within communities.

Progress against organizational priorities

Program	Localizing SDGs	Nile Explorer	BHC	Giving 4 Good	NED
Total reach achieved (young people and their policymakers.)	630	408	256	243	309
Percentage contribution to total reach	34.1%	22.1%	13.9%	13.2%	16.7%



Impact Stories

Stories from the Nile Explorer 2.0 Bus Program

1 Eron Namirimu

Eron Namirimu, a 17-year-old resident of Masulita Town dreaming to become a lawyer someday, had a chance to attend the Nile Explorer's sessions and activities. She said that she learned new things aboard the Nile Explorer bus. *"I learned how to start a computer, and how to use Microsoft office to write words. I also learned how to speak up when something is not right, and to see how I can solve some issues. Like how they spoke about HIV/AIDS and its danger, and how I'm supposed to handle the situation when a friend of mine confides in me,"* she articulated. Namirimu grew passionate about physics, engineering, and computer literacy during the STEM training sessions. "The activities where we were connecting wires and voltages in the electromagnetic experiment, and even the computers were interesting," she expressed.

2 Kevin Apio

Kevin Apio from Gulu Crested Crane College in senior 3 class shares that 'the Nile explorer has enabled me to learn how to use a computer to save my work and also use the internet. I have also learned how to say no and refuse to engage in sexual practices while still in school to protect myself against HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy.

3 Immaculate Twine

During the Innovation session at Mukono talents College school, **Immaculate Twine** one of the students shared that the Nile explorer bus enabled her to feel confident in the idea of developing a phone book for students to store their reading material. She explained that 'This Phone-Book can not be stolen, because it can be tracked. It belongs to the owner, and even if you take it, you can not get the password,' Immaculate, a student at Talents College School, Mukono. We are going to ensure that we create a school club that will make learning science, technology, engineering, and math easier and more exciting for the students. This will also help us maintain the interest and improve their grades at school," said Alison Atuhaire, the Senior Woman Teacher at Talents College School Mukono.

Stories from the Youth leader's training under the Meaningful Youth Participation Program

4 Ssebunya Jeremiah

young people that they will be preparing and skilling to enable them to benefit from PDM. They will be registering the group as a community-based organization, and they are working out a partnership with Limkokwing University to give the six youths a weeklong training in crop and livestock farming. The group was named vision 2022/2026.

Ssebunya Jeremiah, Youth chairperson: Jeremiah spearheaded his fellow youth leaders to open up a farmers' association aimed at empowering youth in their communities through agriculture. Through the association, *they lobbied for three million Ugandan shillings from an organization in their town council which money they used to hire 1.5 acres of land for two years.* They are planning to use the land for tomato growing. From the knowledge they got from the training about the parish development model, the youth leaders as a starting point decided to create a group of six

5 Nyombi Peter

Nyombi Peter, Youth Councilor: The training boosted his confidence in public speaking which skill he greatly used when he went back to his Parish. After the training, Peter became very active in the council seating mainly advocating for a reduction in taxes for the youth, this caught the Mayor's attention and he appointed him as his assistant. It however did not stop that, Peter was also offered a position as a minister on the Finance committee at Namataba B town council. In just a short span of three months, the training he got helped him achieve all this.

Lessons learned



1. **The use of hybrid/blended approaches in program delivery.**

Since the year 2020, the center took on new measures to mitigate and navigate the restrictions on operations within the new country context which included the use of mixed approaches to reach young people through online and offline platforms in the various projects.

Most of the organization's events took on a hybrid approach to incorporate online audiences.

2. **Leveraging partnerships.**

This period was instrumental in highlighting the unique role of partnerships in furthering the organizations aspirations. During this year, the center established partnerships with the national bodies such as UNSA, the National Youth Council among others to further reach their target audience. In this regard, the center was able to mitigate challenges that halted operations on mobilizing groups of young people particularly those marginalised within communitities.

3. **Utilization of exposure visits**

The center adopted new ways in which young people would learn and harness opportunities such as visits to the American Centre for young people to readily learn and have more information regarding the various opportunities that they want to get in life.

Financial Statements



OPEN SPACE CENTRE LIMITED REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

	Notes	2022 "Ugx".	2021 "Ugx".
Grants & donations	4	1,540,177,926	775,278,295
Gross Profit		1,540,177,926	775,278,295
Program costs	5	(1,006,774,934)	(354,682,372)
Administration expenses	6	(127,094,253)	(70,431,375)
Professional fees	7	(8,143,600)	(2,400,000)
Employment expenses	8	(189,172,216)	(82,742,754)
Surplus/(Deficit) before depreciation, finance costs & tax		208,992,923	265,021,794
Net finance costs	9	(1,786,943)	(2,283,400)
Surplus/(Deficit) before depreciation & tax		207,205,980	262,738,394
Depreciation		-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) before tax		207,205,980	262,738,394
Tax expense		-	-
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		207,205,980	262,738,394

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 15 to 22.

Financial Statements

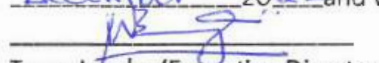


**OPEN SPACE CENTRE LIMITED
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

Statement of Financial Position

	Notes	2022 "Ugx".	2021 "Ugx".
Current Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents	11	187,881,201	188,568,561
Prepayments	12	19,324,779	102,519,833
Total Current Assets		207,205,980	291,088,394
Total Assets		207,205,980	291,088,394
Accumulated Funds & Liabilities			
Accumulated Funds		207,205,980	262,738,394
		207,205,980	262,738,394
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	13	-	28,350,000
Total Accumulated Funds & Liabilities		207,205,980	291,088,394

The financial statements on pages 9 to 22 were approved by the Directors on the 15th day of December 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:-


Team Leader/Executive Director

The statement of financial position is to be read in conjunction with the notes to and forming part of the financial statements set out on pages 15 to 22.

Financial Statements



OPEN SPACE CENTRE LIMITED REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Results of the Year

The results of the company for the period are shown in the statement of profit or loss on page 9 :

	2022 "Ugx".
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	207,205,980
Tax expense	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>207,205,980</u>

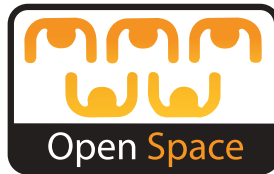
Auditors

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.

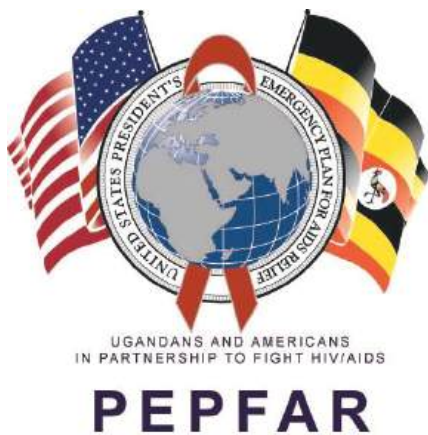
By Order of the Board

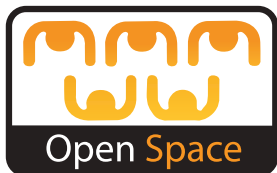
Company Secretary





Our Partners and supporters





Open Space Annual Report 2022

Follow us on:



@OpenSpaceUganda



Open Space Forum