



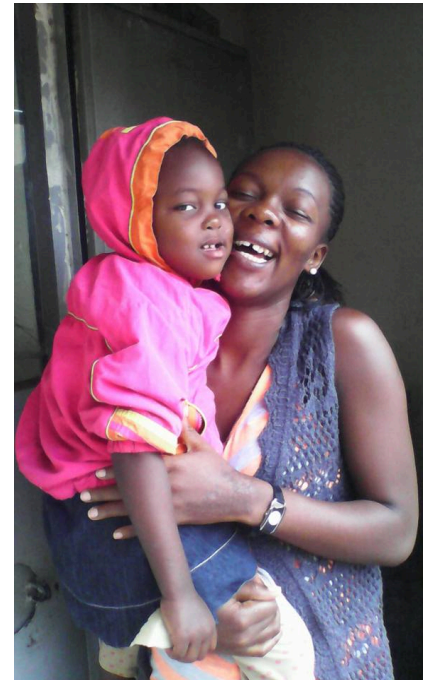
**2016**  
**Annual**  
**Report**



**A journey in building  
Uganda's movements and  
culture of civil resistance**

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## Letter from a Director

2016 was intense. Trainings, procuring release of political prisoners, organizing communities against injustices. I ventured to Mt. Kilimanjaro with women across Africa to lay claim to our land rights. In Nairobi we helped cultivate girl leaders in secondary schools. Solidarity Uganda has been busy demanding accountable leadership and political liberation, building movements and cultivating nonviolence discipline among those attempting to restore sanity in dictatorial countries.

2017 will be a year of adapting from our failures and scaling up our successes. I want to invite you to join us in putting power in the hands of the people!

*Scovia Arinaitwe*  
*Team of Directors*

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# 2016 in Review

## *Election repression*

2016 had a difficult beginning – not only for us, but for Ugandans at large.

30-year dictator Yoweri Museveni stole another election in February in an effort to cling to power for another five years. Mass arrests took place throughout the country.

Frustrated by the apparent idleness of human rights organizations and political parties during this time of intense repression – and a post-electoral genocide in the Rwenzori Mountains – Solidarity Uganda swung into action and visited about 200 political prisoners throughout Uganda, bringing meals and procuring their release.

The following month, director Suzan Abong Wilmot and other former political prisoners attempted to occupy a United Nations office to call upon the world to withdraw financial support of a military state. This attempt was thwarted by police, who despite being surprised by this action, managed to detain Suzan and one organizer of the protest. Dozens of others were left to walk free. Legal aid and sureties who had been on call quickly reached the police station and the two arrestees were released promptly.

## *Women block age limits bill*

A more successful action took place at National Theatre months later when Parliament attempted to table a bill that would scrap age limits for judges – eventually leading to the head of state himself. Currently, Museveni's term is set to expire as he nears 75 years of age, the constitutional limit. He already managed to scrap term limits. The abolishing of age limits would be the icing on the cake for a longstanding regime.

Organized by director Scovia Arinaitwe and a core group of ladies from various civil society organizations and unions, women gathered to encircle Parliament seven times in prayer. Police blocked them with water cannons and riot gear, tossing one participant of the prayer march onto a police truck. Two dozen of her comrades, including a few weak elderly women, demanded to be arrested as well.

Their detainment set off a chain of events that exposed the regime for its brutality, and shortly thereafter, Parliamentary Speaker Rebecca Kadaga scrapped the bill. All women participating refused to comply with orders by police at the site of detainment in Namugongo and were released within a few hours.

## *Scaling up training*

This year, Solidarity Uganda has invested most of its time, energy, and resources in scaling up training and coaching efforts. Among those trained were Uganda's floriculture union, the Women's Movement, and women in various parts of Uganda working on land rights. Many of these ladies marched to Kilimanjaro with our director Scovia and other partner organizations in a Pan-African climb for women's land rights.

In our locality of Lira, a few local youth activists have been undergoing regular mentoring, including one young lady who is implementing our curriculum in local secondary schools. A few organizers of a region-wide agriculture and industrial strike against Asian control of local markets have also been taken under our wing.

Over 200 trainees from villages and slums across Uganda enjoyed our 2016 trainings.



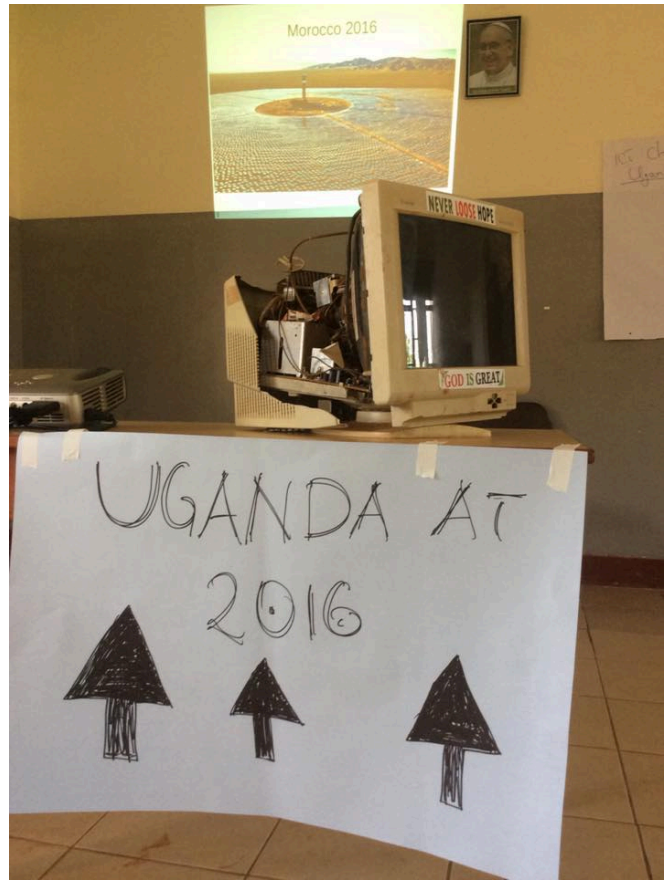
*Trainees perform a coordination exercise.*



*Trainees block Kenya border and successfully abolish regressive tax on grains.*



*Solidarity Uganda visits primary school girls admitted to a local hospital after they were tear-gassed by police in Lira town.*



*Solidarity Uganda convenes café owners, MPs, CSOs, and media for a Pan-African campaign for affordable, faster Internet.*



*Solidarity Uganda and its partners form Northern Uganda Women's Land Rights Platform, which marches around Gulu and then climbs Fort Patiko.*

*Looking for training in nonviolent strategy and community organizing skills? Write to us at [info@solidarityuganda.com](mailto:info@solidarityuganda.com) or visit us at [www.solidarityuganda.org](http://www.solidarityuganda.org).*

## New curriculum for all

Did you know Solidarity Uganda has an electronic folder full of resources on nonviolent action? A new curriculum is also published, and it is available for free! Email [suzan@solidarityuganda.com](mailto:suzan@solidarityuganda.com) to request access to these materials.

## Board Members

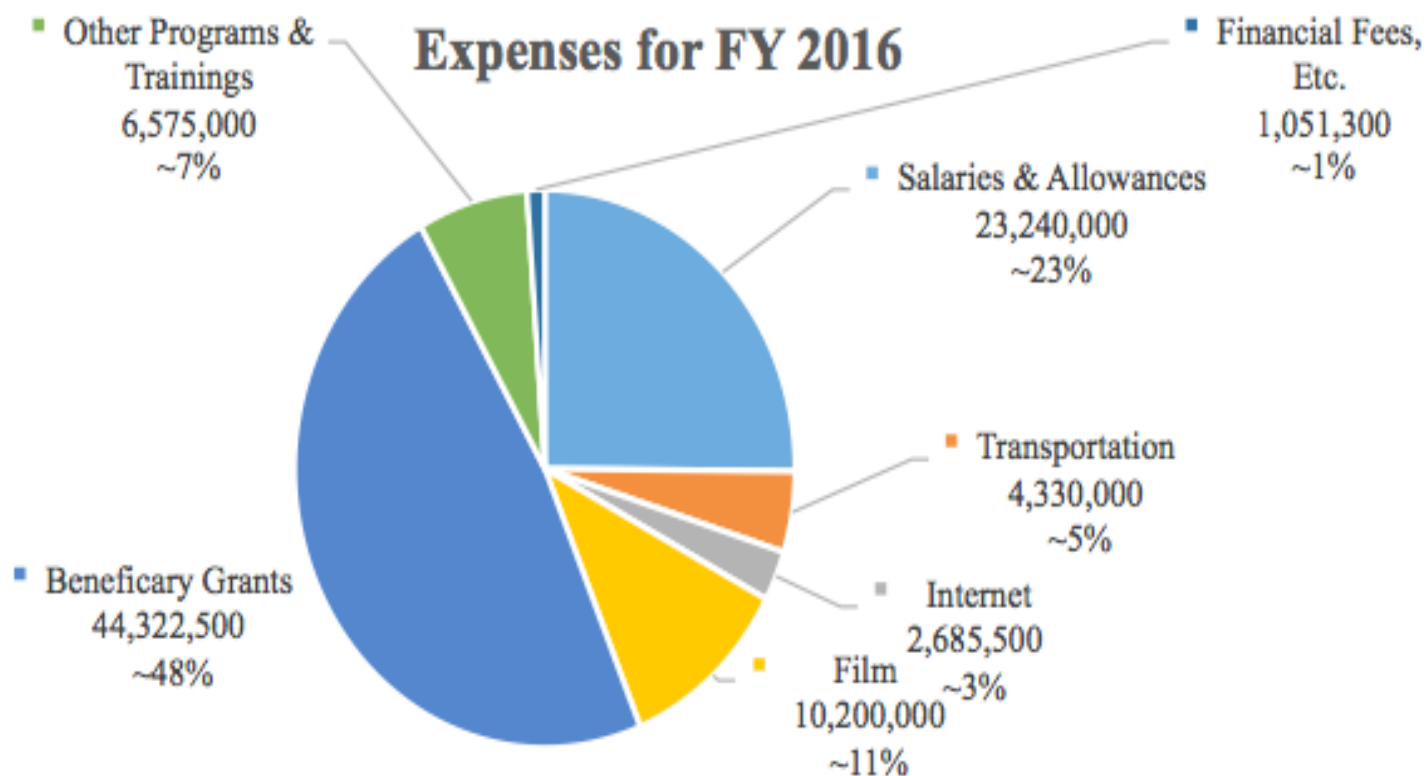
Oyaka Makmot  
Jackie Asiimwe-Mwesige  
Irene Ovunji  
Phil Wilmot

## Financial Report

Expenses 2016 (Uganda Shillings)	
Salaries & Allowances	23,240,000
Transportation	4,330,000
Internet	2,685,500
Film	10,200,000
Sub Grants	44,322,500
Other Programs & Training	6,575,000
Financial Fees, Etc.	1,051,300
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>92,404,300</b>

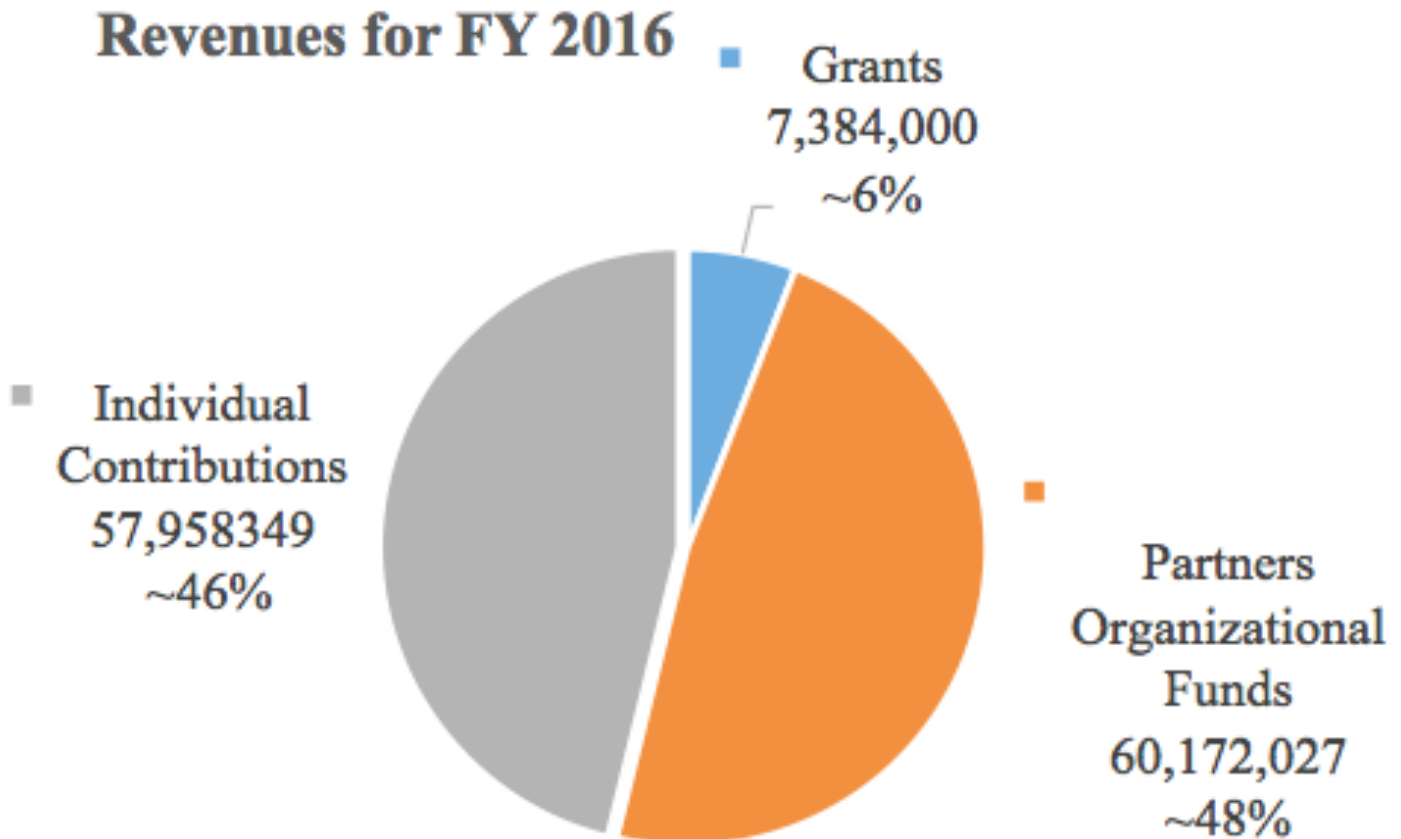
In 2016, Solidarity Uganda spent **92,404,300** Uganda shillings (nearly \$30,000). The majority was spent on **programs** (our own and our grantees), **trainings**, and the **film** we are producing ([www.facebook.com/ourfeetarerooted](http://www.facebook.com/ourfeetarerooted)).

*Despite our 2016 campaign for faster and more affordable Internet in Uganda (which included café owners, media, non-profit organizations, and our Members of Parliament), the cost still lingers at nearly \$100 / month – too slow and expensive!*



Revenues 2016 (Uganda Shillings)	
Grants	7,384,000
Partners Organizational Funding	60,172,027
Individual Contributions	57,958,349
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>125,514,376</b>

In 2016, our revenues reached **125,514,276** Uganda shillings. Nearly **half** came from **individual supporters**. Such donations are the most useful for us, as they have very few strings attached, which is important for the dynamic work of building movements in repressive contexts. Thanks for your support!



As we scale up our training and coaching programs across Uganda and launch our learning center in Lango in 2017, **we will need your help to make it all happen!** Contributions from individual supporters go the furthest in empowering us to fulfill our mission. Go to [www.solidarityuganda.org/give-2](http://www.solidarityuganda.org/give-2) and join our team of monthly supporters at any level. Organizational partners can reach us at [info@solidarityuganda.com](mailto:info@solidarityuganda.com) or +256 752 703 284. Throw your support behind the risk-takers making change and transforming communities in East Africa today!