Amani Initiative
2017 Annual Report

Working Together to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy in the community

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Executive Summary

Strategic Highlights
Amani Initiative has gone a step closer towards achievement of her 5 year (2016-2021) theory of change focused on ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy. The organization appointed 25 community champions that will directly contribute to the four thematic areas of education, adolescent sexual & reproductive health, child protection & advocacy and livelihood development.

The year 2017 also saw the organization working closer with Maracha district technical and political wings under the CSO advocacy led campaign to end child marriage. This is a strategic relationship that has high opportunities to improve our work in the community.

Activity highlights
The organization implemented 3 projects in 2017. These included Keep Me In School Campaign, Step By Step Project and the CSO led advocacy campaign to end child marriage in Uganda. The Keep Me in School Campaign aims at supporting marginalized to keep in school other than being married off. A total of 5 schools were supported through school based mentorship sessions, 1 girl on boarded onto the school fees program, and 200 girls supported with re-usable sanitary towels.

Step by Step project empowers youth in secondary schools to review, prioritize and align the most important steps in their lives through mentorship, banners and storytelling. A total of 7 schools with over 700 youth were reached out during school campaigns under Step by Step project in Maracha and Arua districts.

The CSO led advocacy campaign to end child marriage in Uganda is being on behalf of the Girls Not Brides Uganda National Alliance. The campaign aims to support local governments to be in position to implement the current National Strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy in Uganda. This is an 18 month project that was officially launched in Maracha on the 07/11/2017 with a total of 41 participants out of the 45 expected participants. Representatives at the launch included district leaders such as the Chief Administrative Officer, Religious Leaders, Community Development Officers, representatives of CSO’s in the district, journalist from local radio station, representatives from the sub-counties, representatives from the police. Amani Initiative also collected baseline data on child marriage in Maracha district, mobilized 25 community champions and conducted relevant trainings on approaches of ending child marriage in the community.

The organization also joined members of Girls Not Brides Uganda National alliance to celebrate global events such as the 16 days of Activism in Kalangala district.

Financial Highlights
Amani Initiative 2017 annual income was 33,772,818.60/= of which 49% was community in kind contributions. The total expenditure for 2017 stood at 34,617,652/= giving us a deficit of 844,833/= which is to be covered by the Founder Members in 2018.

Operating Highlights
The organization has been running two offices in Arua (West Nile Coordination Office) and Maracha satellite office (Field Office).
Message from Founder/Team Leader

I am very pleased to present to you our 2017 annual report. Looking back at 2011 when a group of youth joined me to come up with a community led organization with a core focus on ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy, the year 2017 has strengthened my belief that this is possible.

The organization is made up of a group of young people with other personal engagements but have individually committed themselves to ensure that the organization achieves it’s vision of a community whereby each child has an equal opportunity to quality education and develops to full potential without the impact of teenage pregnancy & child marriage. We do our work by mobilizing our personal resources and leveraging the community structures to facilitate the fight against teenage pregnancy and child marriage in the communities.

We successfully implemented three projects in 2017 which included the Keep Me In School campaign, Step by Step project and CSO led advocacy campaign. Through these projects we have been able to support 200 girls with re-usable sanitary pads, mentored over 2000 adolescents, mobilized the political & technocrat leaders in Maracha district to join the campaign to end child marriage, appointed 25 community champions who have volunteered to end child marriage and also collected relevant data on child marriage in Maracha district.

I would wish to thank all individuals and organizations that have committed to support the organization in particular Ms. Inzikuru Everline (Regional Programs Coordinator- West Nile Region), Mr. Dranimva Patrick (District Programs Coordinator- Maracha District), Ms. Florence Amanguru (Field Officer- Maracha). I also thank the Girls Not Brides Uganda National Alliance, Joy for Children- Uganda and Raising Teenagers- Uganda for the technical and financial support that they have rendered to Amani Initiative in 2017.

Looking forward to a stronger 2018, remember ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy is a collective responsibility and it starts with you.

Happy New Year

Nixon Ochatre
Founder/Team Leader

Amani Initiative 2017 Annual Report
About Amani Initiative

Amani Initiative is a Ugandan local Non-Governmental Organization that was established in 2011 by a group of Ugandan youths who were directly or indirectly affected by the pertinent issue of teenage pregnancy & early marriage. The organization is registered with the NGO Board under registration number 9539. The organization was established to mobilize the community, households and existing community structures to come together and fight against teenage pregnancy and child marriage.

Amani Initiative has also been recognized by six child based organizations (ANPPCAN-Uganda, Child Fund Uganda, Compassion International, Save the Children in Uganda, UCRNN, World Vision Uganda and UNICEF for its efforts in the fight against teenage pregnancy & early marriage under the 2013 Tumaini Awards. Amani Initiative is also a member of Girls Not Brides Global and Girls Not Brides – Uganda National Alliance.

Our Vision

A community whereby each child has an equal opportunity to quality education and develops to full potential without the impact of teenage pregnancy & child marriage.

Our Mission

To create sustainable solutions to teenage pregnancy & child marriage through the direct involvement of the community

The organization is currently implementing a 5 year theory of change that is focusing on 4 thematic areas under education, adolescent sexual & reproductive health, child protection & advocacy and livelihood development. The theory was designed as a follow of community and institutional observation of the major factors that were causing teenage pregnancy and child marriage in the community.
Our thematic areas of focus in 2017

Amani Initiative advocates against teenage pregnancy & early marriage through four thematic areas with the direct involvement of the community members and structures. Our 2017 activities focused on our four themes ie Sexual & Reproductive Health, Education, Child Protection and Livelihoods Development & Youths empowerment.

**Sexual & Reproductive Health**

This thematic area aims at creating programs and projects that address the issues of sexual & reproductive health amongst adolescents that could lead to teenage pregnancy & early marriage. The activities in 2017 included organizing youth health camps, school awareness campaigns on sexual & reproductive health and directly local health centers to provide adolescent friendly sexual & reproduce health services.

**Education**

To be in position to achieve the vision and mission of the organization, this thematic area concentrates on projects which promote an equal & quality education opportunities for both boys and girls with priority given to keeping children in school and enabling their completion of the full education cycle. Our school fees scholarship that supports vulnerable girls directly or indirectly affected by teenage pregnancy & child marriage increased to 2 beneficiaries. We have continuously supported 10 schools under the Keep Me In School campaign which invests in student leadership, mentorship, providing scholastic materials and menstrual management.
Our thematic areas of focus in 2017

Child Protection

This thematic area concentrates at forms of sexual abuse directed towards children and also establishing structures that facilitate child protection and justice for child sexual abuse. Forms of sexual abuse include child marriage, defilement, child prostitution, rape, and child pornography. We have been able to bring on board the police in Maracha district to follow on cases of child abuse in the community. The local police has also closely worked with the organization to sensitize the community on the existing laws that aim to protect children from abuse.

Livelihoods Development & Youths empowerment.
Poverty is one of the key causes to teenage pregnancy & early marriage amongst most communities in Uganda since it denies many children education and is also used as a source of income. Through livelihoods development amongst vulnerable families and youth’s empowerment through social entrepreneurship & leadership skills, this thematic area facilitates a sustainable solution to the problem of teenage pregnancy & early marriage in the community. We have been able to organize school based entrepreneurship sessions and supported formation of community village saving schemes which provide a platform for economic empowerment in the community.
KEEP ME IN SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

This is a 5 year (2016-2021) campaign by the organization that was created to eliminate barriers that keep boys and girls out of school such as lack of school fees, lack of scholastic materials, corporal punishment, teenage pregnancy, child marriage, household poverty, menstrual hygiene and management.

Since the campaign was launched in 2016, the organization has successful reached out to 2,000 youth of which 60% are girls through mentorship, life skills. 15 schools have been supported to strengthen their student leadership programs with 250 student leaders in 8 UPE schools supported in 2017.

In 2017 the organization was able to enroll one vulnerable girl to the school fees scholarship fund under the campaign. “Hope” who is currently in P.3 was at the verge of dropping out of school due to household poverty where her father with 10 children and 2 wives decided to stop her from school so as his brothers could continue with education.

Amani Initiative conducted school sessions on menstrual management to both boys and girls in 5 primary schools in Maracha and Arua. The sessions were aimed at eliminating the stigma associated to menstruation and also provide the adolescent girls with information on how to manage their menstruation to keep health and stay in school. Raising Teenagers- Uganda supported Amani Initiative with 200 re-usable sanitary pads and knickers that were distributed to girls in the 5 schools. The priority was given to the P.7 students that were preparing for their final examinations.
ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE IN UGANDA; A CSO LED ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN PROJECT IN MARACHA DISTRICT

Amani Initiative was selected to implement the Ending Child Marriage in Uganda, A CSO led advocacy campaign on behalf of the Girls Not Brides Uganda National Alliance.

Girls Not Brides Uganda received a strengthening grant from Amplify Change through Joy for Children Uganda. The Grant will be implemented in the Districts of Maracha, Moroto, Butaleja, Masindi, Lyantonde and Kasese for a period of 18 months to achieve the following objectives:

1. Strengthened capacity of CSO network and political mapping, gathering evidence and advocating at national and district levels to combat child marriage in Uganda.
2. To build a sound resource and knowledge base of evidence research, tools and publications to inform, strengthen and guide both the advocacy work and capacity building of the local district governments work on the project.
3. Increased commitment of policy and decision makers at national and district levels to the effective implementation of the NSCM &TP and other laws and strategies related to child marriage.
4. To overcome barriers to implementation of the NSCM &TP at district level by strengthening the understanding, support and capacity of district and sub-county level officials to implement the NSCM & TP.

Amani Initiative will be implementing the campaign in Maracha district with a focus on four sub-counties of Yivu, Nyadri, Kijomoro and Olufe as well as the district Town Council. The selection of the sub-counties where selected due to the high prevalence of child marriage and teenage pregnancy in those particular areas as demonstrated below,

- Kijomoro subcounty (39.9%)
- Nyadri sub county (22.6%)
- Yivu Sub county (20.2%)
- Oluffe Sub County (17.4%)

Figure 3 Amani Initiative team joins the other implementing partners from Masindi, Butaleja, Kasese, Moroto, and Lyantonde during the campaign launch in Kampala

Figure 4 Everline and Patrick staff of Amani Initiative during the training on the project in Kampala
LAUNCH OF THE CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD MARRIAGE IN MARACHA DISTRICT

The project launch was carried out on the 07/11/2017 with a total of 41 participants out of the 45 expected participants. Representitives at the launch included district leaders such as the Chief Administrative Officer, Religious Leaders, Community Development Officers, representatives of CSO’s in the district, journalist from local radio station, representatives from the sub-counties, representatives from the police.

The Amani Initiative introduced the campaign to the stakeholders through sharing the campaign objectives, background and roles of the stakeholders at the meeting. The stakeholders were expected to come up with an action point and commitments to the campaign after the launch.

According to the CAO (Mr. Batia Andama James) in Maracha district, the issue of child marriage is so appalling and appreciated Amani initiative for the intervention they are under taking to end child marriage in Maracha district."I blame all the stakeholders that is the parents, political leaders, technical leaders, religious and cultural leaders, the police” because they are the very people who are supposed to be helping the children and preventing them from early marriages but they are virtually doing nothing and their efforts are not enough. Cases of early marriages are high in West Nile region in general but the situation is worse in Maracha district because most of the parents whose children end up marrying early are uneducated, so they don’t value education so much thus the children end up dropping out of school and engage in early sex and marry early he urged religious leaders to take the lead in fighting early marriages in the district because they deal directly with the community and they are respected. and he urged all the other stakeholders to join hand with Amani Initiative in the fight to end child marriage in Maracha district.

The district Chairperson (Mr. Adiga W. Lawrence) informed the stakeholders that it was a great opportunity for Maracha district to have Amani Initiative spear heading the fight against teenage pregnancy and child marriage. He thanked the organization for this great initiative and pledged that the district is ready to support and work with the organization. Child marriage and teenage pregnancy is so rampant in the district that this has led to rapid population growth, Poor quality children who don’t take more than one meal a day, Children taking care of children, High levels of poverty, High school dropout rates, Moral decay, Insecurity, High illiteracy levels, High poverty levels, decay of cultural values.
He informed the stakeholder that the causes of this vice which include; poverty, drug abuse, lack of implementation of laws and policies that safeguard children, parental neglect, ignorance, low levels of education etc, “we are sitting on a time bomb we need to do something to end early child marriages and teenage pregnancies” can be controlled if only all the stakeholders work hand in hand. It is not one person to work but for everybody to take action.

- He cautioned religious leaders to take action and spearhead the fight since they act as role models and are respected in the community and they always meet with the community.
- He also urged the police to always uphold the law and help victims of child abuse to get justice without favor.
- The district should be able to establish and pass ordinances that protect children and implement them.
- CSOs should have the component to fight child marriage and teenage pregnancies in their objectives.

In conclusion he informed the stakeholders that up bring children should be a responsibility of everybody but not limited to biological parents.

**Local leaders commitments**

- The district council pledged to spread the gospel of early marriages in all social gatherings.
- By-laws at Sub County and ordinance at the district level should be passed and implemented.
- Supervision of the school institutions should be done regularly by the different stakeholders.
- No blessing of holy matrimony by religious institutions in Maracha district.
- No discos during funeral/vigils.
- Ordinance on operation of discos should be passed and implemented.
- Sensitization of parents on the impacts of child marriage and teenage pregnancies and to encourage them to spend more time with their parents to fill the information gap.
Highlights of our 2017 activities

C.S.Os such as Amani Initiative, local leaders, parents commitment to end child marriage in the district

- Amani initiative to organize community outreach to reach early marriage survivors
- Community sensitization on the importance of education and emphasizes should be put on girl child education at all levels
- Entrepreneurships skills and livelihood development for youths and young people
- Roles of senior men and women teachers should be emphasized
- Health talks to girl child at school institutions on menstrual periods
- Filling the office of the probation officer and community development officer of the district
- There should be methods of population check put on ground to reduce on the population growth
- Parents should follow cases of child marriage and teenage pregnancy that are already under the law and they should also keep on reporting on cases that arise
- More emphasizes should be on culture and tradition
- There should be increase on the number of champions by engaging religious leaders
- Censoring of disco operation especially those below 18 years of age should not be allowed to enter
- Community dialogues should be organized
- Ordinance on late markets should be passed and implanted
- Integration of extra programs alongside areas of thematic concerns
- Formation of teen groups/ girls who have dropped out of school (champions)
- Reporting hotlines at sub county levels
- Sensitization on media-radios
- Reviving the local council levels systems
- Youth friendly services should be provided at the health centers
- Build the capacity of District Orphan Vulnerable Children and Sub- County Orphan Vulnerable Children Committees.
COLLECTION OF DATA ON CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN MARACHA DISTRICT

Data analysis on child marriage based on both literature review and district records. Literature review focussed on information from the 2014 census report, Uganda Democratic Health Survey, 2011 and reports from civil society organizations.

Data at national level:-
- 15% of ever-married women aged 20-49 were married by the age of 15, and 49% were married by age 18, with a decline from 56% (1996) for women aged 20 - 49 married below the age of 18, and 19.6% for women married below the age of 15. (UDHS 2011)
- In 2013 Uganda was ranked 16th among 25 countries with the highest rates of early marriages; with 46% of girls marrying before 18 years, and 12% before they are 15 years (World Vision 2013)

Data at district level from literature review:-
- Total population of Maracha (186,134)
- Total male population - 87,900 (47.2%)
- Total female population - 98,234 (52.8%)
- Population aged 0-17 years - 106,189 (57.3%)
- 23.5% of children between 0-17 years own a birth certificate
- 14.2% of females aged 12-19 who have given birth
- 13.8% of females aged 10-19 have ever been married

Sub-County based data based on district records
Statistical data by the District Health Officer on teenage pregnancy thus child marriage in Maracha district. According to a report from health centers in Maracha district(2016/2017) on teenage pregnancy and child marriage, the statistics show that the total percentage of teenage pregnancy is at 22.3% in the district and it is segregated by sub county as follows;
- Kijomoro subcounty 39.9% ; Oleba Sub County 19.6%
- Nyadri sub county 22.6% ; Tara Sub County 19.4%
- Yivu Sub county 20.2% ; Oluvu Sub County 17.7%
- Oluffe Sub County 17.4%
Highlights of our 2017 activities

The baseline evaluation was conducted from 09-15/11/2017 to get information from the community, opinion/cultural leaders, district stakeholders, and the Civil society organizations operating in the district to assess the causes, impacts and possible solutions that can be identified to help fight child marriages in the communities.

The baseline survey was conducted in four sub counties of Yivu, Nyadri, Kijomoro and Olufu with expected 8 correspondents from each sub county and a total of 32 correspondents were reached.

Amani Initiative appoints 25 community champions to advocate the fight against child marriage and teenage pregnancy in the community.

A total of 25 champions out of the 30 expected have been identified and these include local leaders, religious leaders, parents, sub-county chiefs, parents and victims of child marriage. Distribution of selected champions at different levels is illustrated below:-

- **District:** 2
- **Yivu Sub-County:** 8
- **Nyadri Sub-County:** 3
- **Kijomoro Sub-County:** 5
- **Olufu Sub-County:** 7

Amani Initiative will be closely working with the champions to create awareness on the dangers of child marriage, identify cases of child marriage and also stop child marriage in the community. The champions are well respected members of the community whose opinions matter a lot on how the community behaves hence they will be our role models and ambassadors in the effort to fight against child marriage in the community.
Highlights of our 2017 activities

Quarterly briefing meetings with champions and district on progress in the fight against child marriage and teenage pregnancy in Maracha district.

Amani Initiative organized a meeting with the different sector heads, CSOs, police and opinion leaders with expected 15 participants but 17 were attended to give feedback on the activities that have been carried out in the district and also to get feedback from the district stakeholders on the impact of our work aimed at fighting against teenage pregnancy and child marriage and how best to incorporate it the different departmental sectors in the district.

Reactions /resolutions from the 2017 district quarterly meetings

District Probation and Welfare Officer

- Most national programs are been implemented by the district but there are a number of these programs that remain on paper and are not implemented due to due to inadequate funds received from the government the budget is not very flexible to address all the developing issues arising, challenges of few implementing partners has also greatly affect the fight against child marriages in the district.

- The district does not celebrate some of the national and international days like the day of the African child, the international day of the girl child, due to limited funds.

- The community does not want to use or people do not know how to use the child help line which is 116. And yet it is free. It’s therefore our duty to sensitize the community on the usage of the child help line to report cases of child abuse.

Secretary for social services

- The national strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy has to be incorporated in the district work plan of the various departments to fight child marriage cases in the district and to ensure that the strategy is implemented despite in adequate funds

- Some of the sub counties are in the process of establishing bi-laws to fight child marriages and since this is the planning period in the district as council all departments should incorporate the national strategy in the next financial year’s budget.

- Opinion and cultural leaders should always be involved in such meetings because the lugbara culture does not favor girls since they are looked at as source of meat and wealth thus incase of any child marriage issues the parents take it as an advantage to get wealth and the community takes it as source of feasting thus compromising the life of the young girl who has no voice in the society.

CSO representative (OLRYDS)

- Child marriage and teenage pregnancy cases are so rampant in our community because most of adolescent youth only think about experimenting sex which escalates into allot of life challenges. It therefore needs massive sensitization of the community by the different stake holders.

Amani Initiative 2017 Annual Report
Highlights of our 2017 activities

District Youth Chair Person

- The budget for youths is so minimal that it is insufficient to fight such cases. Inadequate parental guidance is causing the problem of child marriages to increase in our community. Youth friendly services should be provided in the different health facilities in order to help give right services to the youths and children.
- Sub county youth chair persons should be involved in the advocacy process since they directly work with the young people in the communities.

District Health Officer.

- Health department has an interface with the community in the various sub counties and health facilities through dialogues therefore they have packaged issues on child marriage and teenage pregnancy to be delivered during such dialogues.
- There is upcoming support from PICOT and RICE-WN, as implementing partners as their activities have components of ending child marriages and teenage pregnancies, it’s going to be joint efforts to fight the vice in our communities.
- During celebration of national and international days, information should be packaged to include addressing the problem of child marriages in our community.
- Many young people now fear to go to health facilities to access services due to shame and many girls resort to traditional birth attendants whereby at the end the young girls develop problems with their reproductive system and are exposed to infections and complications like fistula, child mortality, poor health of children etc.

Police representative

- Despite the complains that the police force does not handle issues of cases related to child abuse in accordance with the law is not true because many time when such cases are reported the parents begin to complain about it and always opt to resolve it at home to avoid disunity and enmity between the affected families and the affected family members refuse to stand as witnesses when such cases are to be taken to court thus the young girls sometimes forcefully end up getting married. Therefore it becomes difficult for the law to take its course.

District Education Officer

- The rate of child marriages are so high in maracha and this explains why there is high school dropout rates in the district. The numbers of girls that complete P.7 are very few. Parents cannot support their children in education and these children have uneducated parents thus they don’t look up to any of them as role models. Education should be taken seriously in Maracha and the performances of these children are not good in their final exams.
- Although there are limited funds the education department shall try its best to carry out school inspections and monitor the education progress in the district.
District Chair Person

- What Amani Initiative and other development partners are doing is an eye opener to the district and activities implemented should be incorporated in the activities planned by the district. It is not good to see young girls been wasted with no future and uncertainties.

- There is need for shared information such that the issue can be tackled at an evidence based view and many other partners should come on board to fight the problem and the different organization should always inform Amani about their programs.

- The police should be fully involved in the campaign as many people fear to report cases to police and are ignorant of the law it will a great opportunity for community policing.

The district coordinators and head office team carried out field monitoring visits to check progress of the project implementation and feedback from the district stakeholders. The information from the monitoring visits has been included in the recommendations to improve project implementation.
Step by Step project

Step by Step is an initiative of the Founder Members of Maracha district that aims at engaging youth to come up with key steps in life towards achieving their personal goals.

The initiative brings mentors to schools and youth groups who share with the youth their life stories and how they have been able to through these steps.

The initiative focuses on four key steps after birth and before death, these include education, career, love and marriage.

1. Education- The youth are informed that education is the most powerful weapon they have to change the world, they should be able to use this opportunity and desist from any situations that can force them to drop out such as pregnancy or marriage.

2. Career- The youth are guided to take up career choices that will be able to fulfil their life choices and what courses they should study for the different career choices.

3. Love- The youth are informed that relationship with the opposite sex is okay but should have limits. Sexual relationships at a young age are not safe as most young people are not socially, economically and socially ready for outcomes of these relationships such as pregnancy.

4. Marriage- The youth are informed that marriage is a blessing from God and there is always a right time for marriage.

A total of 7 schools with over 700 youth were reached out during school campaigns under Step by Step project in Maracha and Arua districts.
Highlights of our 2017 activities

16 days of Activism

Amani Initiative joined members of Girls Not Brides Uganda National Alliance at a 3 day outreach in Kalangala district. The outreach brought together the members of the alliance to reach out to vulnerable youth especially the girls.

Kalangala is an island with most of the people being temporally residents, there is also limited to necessary services such as health care, education and strong community/family support systems. This has put children especially girls at high risk of abuse such as defilement, child marriage, HIV/AIDS, and school dropout.

Amani Initiative together with the members of the alliance conducted school outreaches where we provided the children with scholastic materials and re-usable sanitary pads.

The children also received mentorship, and career guidance. The over 400 youth reached by a group of 30 people were sensitized about HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy and child marriage.
The faces of 2017
## Amani Initiative Income Statement

For the year ended 31st December, 2019

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<td>Raising Teenagers- Uganda</td>
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<td>Staff and payroll expenses</td>
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<td>Establishment Costs</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>34,617,652.00</strong></td>
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| Bal c/d                                     | (844,833.00) |
## Amani Initiative Statement of Financial Position

**As at 31\textsuperscript{st} December, 2017**

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<th>Non- current assets</th>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Reserves</td>
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<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>8,157,667</td>
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Whom we worked with in 2017

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