

# UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF A MORE HARNESSSED PARTNERSHIP AMONG OPEN DATA ACTORS IN UGANDA

*A Mapping of Open Data Actors in Uganda*



By

Development Research and Training

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## Table of Contents

<b>List of Acronyms .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Open Data in Uganda.....	3
The open data landscape in Uganda.....	3
The status of collaboration among open data actors in Uganda.....	5
<b>Objectives of the Mapping .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The Project .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Methodology .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Engagement Activities.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Findings .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Government-run Open Data Platforms .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>NGO Initiatives .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Private Sector Initiatives .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Regulatory Agencies.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Geographical Location of the Open Data actors in Uganda .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Findings on existing collaboration and partnership efforts .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Challenges faced by open Data actors in the execution of their work.....</b>	<b>15</b>
Challenges on collaboration and partnerships .....	15
<b>General Recommendations for Open Data Actors in Uganda .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Annex 1: General Survey Questionnaire.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Annex 2: Questionnaire for community based actors .....</b>	<b>18</b>

## List of Acronyms

CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DRT	Development Research and Training
ICT	Information Communication Technology
LGs	Local Governments
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ODDC	Open Data in Developing Countries
UBOS	Uganda Bureau Of Statistics

## Introduction

According to the ‘Open Definition’<sup>1</sup>, **Open Data** is data which is made accessible (usually online), in a standardized machine-readable format, and under a license that allows it to be re-used. In the same stead, an **Open Data initiative** is any organized activity focused on providing open data (supply side), or on securing access to open data (demand side). Our work in the Sub-Saharan African context however has compelled us to call for a broader, context-based definition of open data, to cater for traditional and informal open initiatives that remain the bedrock of data and information sharing in many African countries. This is to ensure that Open Data and the data revolution campaign going on now in the context of the Post 2015 development agenda, guarantees people-centered campaigns with an eye on improving the data that are available, in the formats they in, and the reasons behind that state of affairs. This is a better approach, than a quick transition that doesn’t adequately take into consideration country-specific contexts.<sup>2</sup>

## Open Data in Uganda

### The open data landscape in Uganda

Uganda does not yet have a national government-led open data portal, as of this study, but has several initiatives that contribute to providing free and accessible data and information. Some of these initiatives

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<sup>1</sup> [www.opendefinition.org](http://www.opendefinition.org)

<sup>2</sup> Sabiti, Bernard (2013): Going Beyond the Open Definition in Uganda.

<http://www.opendataresearch.org/content/2013/521/going-beyond-%E2%80%98open-definition%E2%80%99-uganda-case-study>

are government sector-led while others are CSO-led. Some general findings which are further elaborated in the report include:

- I. There are a number of initiatives in Uganda that provide various types of data and information to the public. Some of these initiatives do not know of the existence of similar initiatives.
- II. Some of these initiatives, although considered open data initiatives by in this study (because they make available data to the public), do not fit the open definition<sup>3</sup> of open data. However these initiatives attempt to make data readily available in all various formats that users can analyse. In addition to data, these initiatives provide information that would support citizen participation in decision making.

While globally open data has its foundations in technology, in Uganda, open data is about the provision of data and information largely using off-line methods or when online, pdf and word documents some of which may not be considered “open”. The processes by which citizen voices are expressed, and the methods through which data and information is passed on to citizens to support decision making and advocacy have been hinged on methods that do not require the heavy use of ICTs, with which there can be wider participation of the majority of citizenry. Internet use and coverage in Uganda is growing, but it only covers less than 2% of the population in Uganda and is largely centered in urban areas where only 11% of the population live. On the other hand, 90% of the population in Uganda have radios in their households, while 95% listen to FM radios every week<sup>4</sup>. These statistics are key in determining the practices and processes of open data initiatives in Uganda.

At the time this mapping was conducted, Uganda did not have a formal government-led open data initiative. However, an Open Data Readiness Assessment by the World Bank in 2015<sup>5</sup> found that the government was ready to have one. Similarly, a study by Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and The Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)<sup>6</sup> found that Uganda was ready to implement Open Data (in the Open Definition sense)

While open data is a relatively new term in Uganda, the idea behind the concept isn't new. Uganda has attempted to promote transparency and accountability by adopting extensive decentralisation in the 1990s, and adopting hands on resource tracking tools such as the Public Expenditure and Tracking Surveys (PETS) which was launched in 1996. Other endeavours to promoting openness in Uganda have included; the establishment of institutions like the Auditor General's office, the Inspector General of Government (IGG), the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. These have made government accountability information (including tracking and monitoring) available to the public with varying levels of successes.

The Uganda Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MOFPED) also enhanced budget transparency when it started issuing financial releases of district quarterly financial allocations in the print media. Open data is therefore largely exhibited in the traditional transparency and accountability mechanisms.

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<sup>3</sup> According to the Open Definition (<http://opendefinition.org/>) “A piece of data or content is open if anyone is free to use, reuse, and redistribute it — subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and/or share-alike.”

<sup>4</sup> Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) 2009/10, Uganda Bureau of Statistics

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.nita.go.ug/media/open-data-readiness-assessment-delivery-workshop>

<sup>6</sup> Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and The Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) in April 2012 on “Uganda Open Government data readiness Assessment

## The status of collaboration among open data actors in Uganda

The Open Data movement in Uganda is fairly new and, like all new initiatives/campaigns, has been exemplifying characteristics of being relatively young (energetic and enthusiastic) but still lacking the cohesion, patience and synergy that would enable it to maximize its potential of influence for the common good. A 2004 study of open data actors determined that the different open data actors in the country were “polarized, fractured, share different and conflicting agendas and in some cases, are not even aware of one another’s existence”<sup>7</sup>. They also tend to operate in exclusive sub-groups or ‘cliques’ with apparent tensions between them. Although these tensions are not necessarily a bad thing as they could lead to further innovation, they can and seem to have resulted in duplication of effort, competition for available resources and a pursuit of multi-layered, often conflicting agendas in their efforts to advocate for data access and transparency. The study concluded that this lack of coordination and collaboration among the different players curtailed the impact that the open data movement would otherwise have had on decision making and improvement on the lives of real people in the country

## Objectives of the Mapping

It against the above background that DRT determined that there was need to find carefully crafted and sensitively implemented ways and means to turn the apparent negative diversity into creative tension and a real opportunity for **unlocking the potential for a more harnessed partnership among Open Data Actors in Uganda**. This realization compelled us to seek Indigo Trust support to help carry out a mapping of different players in Uganda’s open data ecosystem and creating a foundation for a sustainable engagement process among key open data components, to achieve the following three key aspects and the associated hierarchy of objectives.

1. Enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of Open Data interventions in Uganda for playing an effective part in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.
2. Information made more readily available on the wide range of open data actors through a web-based tool that acts as a one stop centre for information on all known open data actors in Uganda.
3. A web based discussion forum established for Open Data actors for constant interaction on challenges and opportunities they face in the Open Data space.
4. Identify and widely share previously unidentified gaps and opportunities for new interventions among existing and potential actors and donors.

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<sup>7</sup> (ODDC Kenya/Uganda ODDC Case Study report 2014) <http://opendataresearch.org/project/2013/drt>

5. Offer capacity development opportunities (such as an ICT-based training guide) to new and potential Open Data players and operatives.
6. Secured buy-in by donors to more effectively promote synergy and enhance efficiency and effectiveness among Open Data actors they support (some form of a Sector-Wide approach, which is already the norm with other sectors)

**Among the specific activities envisioned in the mapping exercise were to;**

1. Create and popularize a geomap of the known Open Data (OD) players in Uganda
2. Understand better the drivers of polarization and clique-ism and devise sensitive (non-threatening) modalities to increase synergy among Open Data players (this will include testing out collaboration models that work)
3. Develop capacity development online guides on building and strengthening partnerships across the ecosystem, materials for new entrants; and provide updates on the wider data revolution debate.

## **The Project**

Between January 2015 and December 2015, DRT – with funding from Indigo Trust – carried out a mapping project for Open Data Actors in Uganda. The purpose of the mapping was to identify where the actors are located geographically, what they do and the data they deal with, but also determine the level of their inter- and intra collaboration and partnership.

## **Methodology**

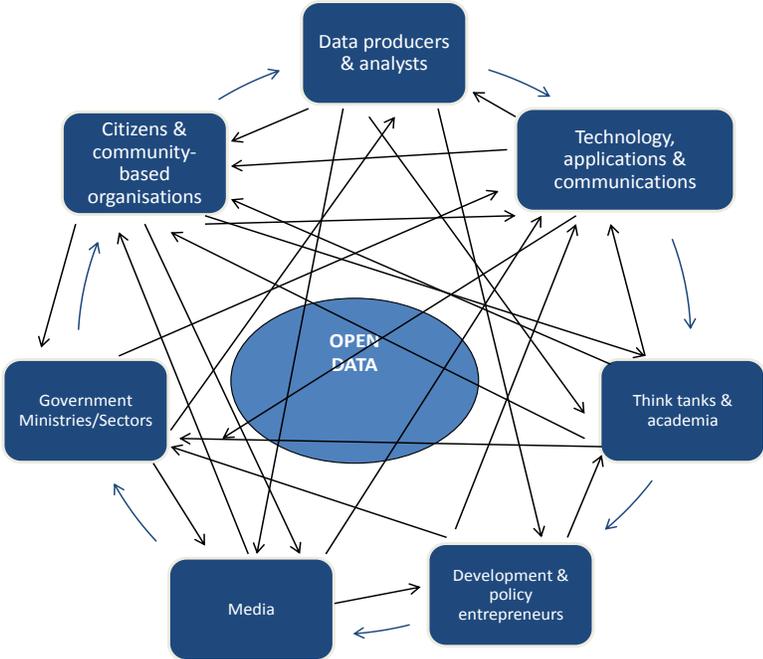
Interviews were conducted with major proprietors of major open data initiatives in Uganda, including those run by the government as well as those by non-governmental entities. 20 organisations doing what we determined was open data related work responded to a set of questions (see appended questionnaires – two were used, to capture a variety of responses from varied actors) by the DRT team that was conducting the mapping.

The questionnaires were administered at the respondent's organisations while other details were collected from the responding organisation's website. For other open data players, the information about the nature of their work was taken from their websites during the desk-research phase of this mapping

### **Rationale for the Methodology**

In order to identify the open data initiatives and players present in Uganda, and to assess their levels of interaction and collaboration, we adopted a holistic “ecosystem” framework which defines and identifies different players on the open data scene, what they do, the data they have and their levels of interaction amongst themselves. We had hypothesized that the interactions between and among the different components are not necessarily well streamlined, and that lack of proper collaboration was undermining the impact that open data movement in the county would otherwise have. Instead there are both individual and institutional interests in availing, accessing and using data and information which in reality makes the interactions ‘chaotic’, ‘uncoordinated’, and ‘haphazard’. Each of the components in the ecosystem simultaneously influences processes and outputs with the aim of influencing its own, mutual or collective outcomes, hence stronger sustainable collaboration must be promoted if the movement is to grow and have more impact.

**Figure 1: A conceptual framework: A stakeholder-based open data ecosystem**



**Data sources:** In this study we used data from both secondary and primary sources. Secondary data collection involved a review of relevant literature, published and grey, on the evolution and functioning of open data programmes in Uganda.

**Data collection methods**

**Desk review:** A desk review was carried out which identified the main issues and processes linked to the open data landscape and the key players. The review further identified some of the open data initiatives existing and was used to arrange and contact individuals or organisations behind the initiatives.

**Semi-structured interviews with key informants:** Using the study objectives, the mapping team developed semi-structured interview guides which were used for key informant discussions with the different players within the open data ecosystem. The interviews focused on understanding the nature of work the initiatives focused on, the challenges, and their level of collaboration amongst each other and with other open data organizations.

**Web-based mapping tool:** Our documentation of the open data actors also included Embedding of a web-based, navigable map showing geographical locations of the open data actors as well as information on the type of open data work they do, hyperlinked to their web presences and online addresses, physical addresses and telephone contacts.

## Engagement Activities

*A number of events were organized by DRT in the course of this mapping. These were intended to bring together already identified actors on the Ugandan open data scene to learn more about their work, discuss the latest happenings in the movement but also to identify newer players we were not yet aware of. The following are some of the events we hosted, co-hosted or participated in as part of the study*

### *1. Organizing the Open Data Day*

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015, together with Outbox, we organized the [Kampala Chapter](#) of [the Open Data Day](#), an annual international event marked across the world to bring together techies, policy makers, data producers and analysts to deliberate on open data issues. The Kampala ODD was a success. It was [attended](#) by over 80 people that included all key components of the Open Data Ecosystem; data producers, analysts, app makers, and donors. A brief of what happened can be found [here](#), and pictures [here](#). The ODD was a big opportunity for us to meet some new actors we didn't know before and we continued to engage them as the mapping and engagement work continues.

### *2. Convening a parallel session at the annual civil society fair*

In June, we convened a gathering of key actors on the open data scene in Uganda, to discuss collaboration and to meet and know those who could be active but were not on our radar as the coordinators of the Uganda Open Development Partnership Platform (<http://opendev.ug/>). We framed the meeting in the context of what had been happening then, on the Open data scene across Africa,

which were discussions on the path Africa should take in the “Data Revolution” Agenda. We then linked the importance of collaboration to the effort, and registered several new members who we were to later add in the mapping process. This event took place at the annual ‘Civil Society Fair’ in Kampala and it helped us encounter several new actors we didn’t know before. We wrote a blog summarizing the proceeds of this event here (<http://www.drt-ug.org/operationalising-the-data-revolution-in-uganda/>)

### *3. Upcountry Open Data Engagements*

A workshop was held in the western Uganda town of Fort Portal that brought together a variety of data users and intermediaries to discuss the status of open data in Uganda. It was the equivalent of the above mentioned civil society fair event that was held in Kampala. The event comprised of experience sharing on the nature of open data at subnational levels, and the impact open data have on real peoples’s lives.

We also used the opportunity of this workshop to seek other key interlocutors and players in the open data ecosystem from this level, to get a comprehensive view of the open data scene in Uganda.

This was done by administering questionnaires to key officials in these organizations and reading online and hardcopy materials on their open data work including reports, and other publications.

## Findings

### Summary

There is a significant presence of a variety of open data stakeholders in Uganda.

- Most are located in Kampala and other urban areas
- There is a big digital and gender divides, between rural and urban OD actors.
- There is still lack of adequate collaboration and interaction among different open data actors.

## Government-run Open Data Platforms

initiative	Nature of initiative
<b>Budget Monitoring Portal</b> - <a href="http://www.budget.go.ug">http://www.budget.go.ug</a>	Established by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the portal enables citizens to access and give feedback on budget performance at both the national and local levels and makes available all budget allocation figures in excel and PDGf
Ask Your Government Uganda - <a href="http://www.askyou.ug">www.askyou.ug</a>	Portal enables citizens to make information requests to Information officers from the different Government ministries, departments and agencies. Registered users are able to send information requests to various government departments and receive responses.
Integrated Management Information System - <a href="http://ugandadata.org/imis/">http://ugandadata.org/imis/</a>	IMIS promotes access to and analysis of census and other data for informed decision making for sectoral and local development programmes and policies.
CountrySTAT <a href="http://countrystat.org/home.aspx?c=UGA">http://countrystat.org/home.aspx?c=UGA</a> ,	CountrySTAT is a statistical framework and applied information system for analysis and policy-making designed in order to organize, integrate and disseminate statistical data and metadata on food and agriculture coming from different sources. Owned by Ministry of Agriculture
UgandaInfo; <a href="http://www.ugandadata.org/ugandainfo/libraries/asp/Home.aspx">http://www.ugandadata.org/ugandainfo/libraries/asp/Home.aspx</a>	UgandaInfo is an adaptation of DevInfo7 for the dissemination of MDG and national indicators for Uganda . Provides statistics to monitor progress made on national development frameworks
Uganda Bureau of Statistics National Data Archive - <a href="http://www.ubos.org/unda/index.php/catalog/central/about">http://www.ubos.org/unda/index.php/catalog/central/about</a>	The Uganda National Data Archive provides a catalog of surveys that have been documented and released for user access across the national statistical system according to the PNSD- Plan for National Statistical Development.
Development Assistance Management System - <a href="http://www.finance.go.ug/amp/portal">http://www.finance.go.ug/amp/portal</a>	Is Uganda Government's official online database of aid funded projects and programs in Uganda. It is managed by the Aid Liaison Department in the Ministry of finance
Ministry of Water and Environment Uganda Water supply database - <a href="http://ipsanad.com">http://ipsanad.com</a>	Provides citizens with data on current safe water supply coverage, functionality and distribution of water among others.
Inventory of Public Sanitation Facilities <a href="http://www.publicsan.ug/index.php">http://www.publicsan.ug/index.php</a>	This is a web-based database containing information on all public toilets in Small Towns and Rural Growth Centres in Uganda. managed by the Ministry of Water and Environment through the Urban Water and Sewerage Department (UWSD)
<a href="http://www.gov.ug/">http://www.gov.ug/</a>	The National information portal for the government of Uganda. Run by the office of the Prime Minister and NITA
Environmental Information Network in Uganda <a href="http://maps.nemaug.org/">http://maps.nemaug.org/</a>	Portal contains environmental information in form of maps. Run by the National Environmental Management Authority

## NGO Initiatives

Initiative	Nature of initiative
CIPESA - Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa – <a href="http://www.cipesa.org">www.cipesa.org</a>	Centre for research and analysis of information aimed to enable policy makers in the region to understand ICT policy issues, and for various multi-stakeholders to use ICT to improve livelihoods.
Toro Development Network <a href="http://www.torodev.co.ug">www.torodev.co.ug</a>	Key infomediary for citizens. The emphasis is put on how the people in the community can exploit services and opportunities provided by ICT tools and equipment to inform and generate knowledge for demanding accountability form their leaders
Africa Freedom of Information centre (AFIC) <a href="http://www.africafoicentre.org">www.africafoicentre.org</a>	Promotes access to information initiatives in Africa
Rwenzori Information centers network <a href="http://www.ricnet.co.ug">www.ricnet.co.ug</a>	Promotes access to information in the Rwenzori region of western uganda, supporting rural ICT centres to provide data to citizens
Agrinet Uganda <a href="http://www.agrinetug.net/">http://www.agrinetug.net/</a>	“agricultural market intelligence” and data on agroproduce markets
Infotrade uganda <a href="http://www.infotradeuganda.com/">http://www.infotradeuganda.com/</a>	Promoting Business and agricultural marketing Information in the country. This service involves collecting, analyzing, tabulating and disseminating data from 22 major markets covering a total of 46 commodities.
Bwera Information Centre	Providing data on climate, markets to rural farmers in Bwera, Kasese district – c/o <a href="http://www.ricnet.co.ug">www.ricnet.co.ug</a>
Northern Uganda Media Club – <a href="http://www.numec.ug">www.numec.ug</a>	Promoting good media practices by training local journalist in, among other things, practicing data journalism
U-Touch- <a href="http://www.u-touch.org">www.u-touch.org</a>	A technology innovation hub based in Gulu, Northern Uganda, that is Bridging the digital divide to transform lives
Media Association of Northern Uganda	Promoting citizen journalism through info access
Kasese District E-society centre <a href="http://www.kasese.go.ug">www.kasese.go.ug</a>	Provides kaseses District local government with ICT services, and disseminates kasese district sectoral data to stakeholders
Outbox <a href="http://www.outbox.co.ug">www.outbox.co.ug</a>	An innovation hub providing space and expertise to young digital innovators
World Bank <a href="http://data.worldbank.org/country/uganda">http://data.worldbank.org/country/uganda</a>	Major funder of open data in uganda. Runs a number of open data initiatives and major source of credible data on uganda
Unicef <a href="http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/uganda_statistics.html">http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/uganda_statistics.html</a>	Major projects on open data including U-report, Data on education, and Health
UTAMU – Uganda Technology and Management University	University focuses on ICT. Boasts key faculty and students active on the open data scene, including as app developers, ICT policy analysts, and data evangelists. <a href="http://www.utamu.ac.ug">www.utamu.ac.ug</a>
EPRC – Economic policy research centre, Makerere University <a href="http://www.eprc.or.ug">www.eprc.or.ug</a>	One of Uganda’s leading think tanks. Major producer and user of data, regular analysis on economics.
Makerere University School of Computing and ICT – <a href="http://www.makerere.ac.ug">www.makerere.ac.ug</a>	Training centre for computer studies. Graduates key app developers, data scientists and analysts

## Private Sector Initiatives

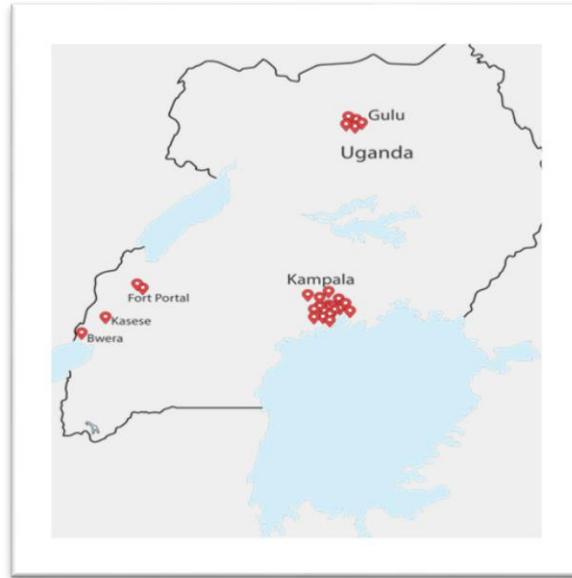
Initiative	Custodian	Nature
Mapping Day Uganda - <a href="http://mappingday.com/home">http://mappingday.com/home</a>	Fruit of Thought	Mapping Day Uganda is an initiative that generates maps using <a href="#">OpenStreetMap (OSM)</a> . The initiative is run by Fruits of Thought ( <a href="http://www.fruitsofthought.org/">http://www.fruitsofthought.org/</a> ) with support from Mountbatten ( <a href="http://www.mountbatten.net/">http://www.mountbatten.net/</a> )
Open data Uganda - <a href="http://uganda.opendataforafrica.org/">http://uganda.opendataforafrica.org/</a>	Africa Development Bank	Developed by the Africa development Bank, the portal provides data on the bank's projects in Uganda
Opendedvdata- <a href="http://opendedvdata.ug/">http://opendedvdata.ug/</a>	Development Research and Training	Establishing and maintaining a learning space for players in open development in Uganda
Open Data Uganda – <a href="http://www.data.ug">www.data.ug</a>	Mountbatten	Provides data on datasets sourced from different sources. The portal is managed by Mountbatten.net.
Hive Colab <a href="http://www.hivecolab.org">www.hivecolab.org</a>		Innovation hub that acts as a meeting place for app developers and policy makers to discuss the intersection of ICTs and development

## Regulatory Agencies

Initiative	Nature of initiative
Uganda Communications Commission	<b>The regulator of communication industry in Uganda. Has important data on communications such as radio penetration, TV, and other media</b>
Bank of Uganda	Has Responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics on key economic indicators such as BOP estimates from various data-producing agencies, and data on monetary and financial industry . <a href="https://www.bou.or.ug/bou/rates_statistics/statistics.html">https://www.bou.or.ug/bou/rates_statistics/statistics.html</a>
National IT Authority (NITA)	The Government regulatory body for ICT industry and one setting the policy agenda for open data in Uganda. <a href="http://www.nita.go.ug">www.nita.go.ug</a>

## Geographical Location of the Open Data actors in Uganda

This map shows the distribution of these actors, and clearly shows the concentration is in urban areas, especially in central Uganda where the capital city Kampala is. This has implications for engagement, reach and impact of open data actors. This spatial distribution shows the extent to which the urban-rural divide is apparent, and given that urbanization is only 15 percent of Uganda's population, and that 85 percent of the people still live in rural areas, to broaden the possible impact of open data on development, this divide needs to be bridged.



*These open data actors can be seen on our web-based navigable tool where their locations and addresses can be found, and where more information about them can be learned. Below is a screenshot of the webpage on [www.opendevdata.ug](http://www.opendevdata.ug)*



*A screenshot from [www.opendevdata.ug](http://www.opendevdata.ug) where information on Uganda's Open Data Actors can be accessed.*

## Findings on existing collaboration and partnership efforts

### Collaboration and Networking efforts by open data actors in Uganda

Some organizations have come up with initiatives that are increasing interaction and collaboration in the open data ecosystem in Uganda.

**1. Mobile Monday Kampala:** This is the Uganda Chapter of Mobile Monday Global<sup>8</sup>, which, similar to the Open Data Day, is a community of mobile industry visionaries, developers and other influentials fostering cooperation and cross-border business development through virtual and live networking events to share ideas, best practices and trends from global markets. Of recent they have expanded their activities to include objectives such as;

- To encourage innovation within the ICT sector.
- To facilitate networking between small and large companies, and between local and foreign.
- To help local companies effectively participate in international initiatives through the import and export of visions, concepts, technologies, know-how and best practices.
- To present innovative visions, trends, studies and forecasts from the mobile marketplace.
- To build networks between people, companies and finance.
- To bridge the gap between local and global mobile industries
- To share the knowledge of mobile industry experts

This, in addition to the annual Open Data Day as well as a slew of hackathons for young techie geeks, innovation days by Outbox, etc, are increasing interaction in different open data spaces in the country.

**2. Boot camps and Hackathons at Hive Colab:** Hive Colab is an innovation and incubation hub, a collaborative co-working space for Uganda's business and tech community. It is the first Tech Hub in Uganda collaborating with academia and private sector to inspire this and the next generation of Ugandan Technologists to build and develop apps, guiding youth into creativity and innovation to produce quality and world class technology. Hive colab is a bustling space where regular events bringing together different stakeholders in the techie community to discuss and demonstrate different relationships between technology and development.

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<sup>8</sup> Mobile Monday, or MoMo, is an open global network of mobile industry professionals, visionaries, developers and entrepreneurs, in over 100 cities worldwide. MoMo Kampala was created to discuss issues specific to the needs of local communities, including the underserved, through the convening of regular fora, exploring how needs may be more effectively met through mobile applications, by supporting the work of developer entrepreneurs.

## Challenges faced by open Data actors in the execution of their work

Asked about the challenges faced when collecting, processing, dissemination data and other open data work, the following were captured as given by the survey respondents

- Limited financial resources: Most MDAs, and by extension districts, have very small (if any) budget lines for data collection. Most NGOs as well as government agencies ideally should have statisticians, data analysts and other staff equipped with knowledge of data handling but most do not have resources to hire such talent, which affects the quality of data produced, analysis, and interpretation. Furthermore, all data collection stages are expensive to carry out, including processing and aggregation (in the case of private organizations and individuals who collate government' traditional data to create open data)
- Human Resources: There are staffing gaps and a lack of sufficient expertise at different levels to generate, analyse, and synthesise data. This is a problem from right at the centre of government to non state actors involved in open data. Data professionals cannot easily be attracted to the government meager salaries when the private sector and NGOs are equally desirous of their service and pay more. Some of these institutions improvise and use staff members who are not statisticians to perform the role. This affects quality of data scrapping, analysis and use.
- Unreliable data: The methodologies employed in data collection and tools used in analysis and executions are questionable and some data aggregators, most of them non-governmental initiatives doubt some of the data. The most reliable source of data is the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, UBOS, which is the government's official statistics agency. Some officials may overstate or understate figures for a host of reasons including anticipation of more funding or reluctance to portray a bad picture of their ministry, department or agency

## Challenges on collaboration and partnerships

- Limited resources: actors face a general problem of lack of adequate resource to facilitate engagements such as periodic meetings, hackathons, etc
- There is a feeling among some that working together may lead to some actors copying what they are doing and in the process become competitors for same donor funding
- Government actors and non-governmental actors do not have adequate formal partnership initiatives. Government-CSO working groups that exist in some sectors have yet to exist in the data communities. UBOS however has of recent established the office for community and civil society outreach intended to address this gap
- There is disconnect between the largely Kampala based, more formal open data initiatives, and the more informal, rural based actors who are important infomediaries in the data dissemination chain. There are disconnects in conceptualization, approach and use of open

data. These gaps need to be filled since community based actors are nearer to the people and can act as important partners in the completion of the data-development chain

## **General Recommendations for Open Data Actors in Uganda**

- a) There is need for open data pioneering institutions (civil society, media, academic) to work closely with government to form and execute the necessary policy on open development that bases on the right to information laws of Uganda (Such as the access to information act of 2005). The need comes from the fact that government is a high priority player in almost all development initiatives in the country, not only because it's a key consumer or producer of data but because it plays a leading role in national development.
- b) The pioneering institutions in this work should focus on creating awareness and conceptualisation of open data behavior or culture in Uganda by explaining what it is, who it serves and why the country needs comprehensive, fully fledged open data initiatives at this level of national development.
- c) There are more potential open data enables in the country that are waiting 'for the right time' to start work on open data. Although it's vital to explain the potential to all potential stakeholders in the country, the ready institutions need to join others that have started, and also start with the little available data and improve along the way.
- d) Open Data needs to be built into the processes of national development programme, vision and general planning for Uganda's development. This needs to secure government directive on open development to all its departments and agencies. The government under NITA and the ministry of ICT are working on this under the "E-Government Master Plan", a grand plan to 'put government online' that aims at digitizing most government work.
- e) There is need for more collaboration among all the stakeholders to ensure there is less competition and more complementarity. This will lead to more positive outcomes of open data in Uganda.

## Annex 1: General Survey Questionnaire

1. What is your Organization's Name?
2. How long has your Organization been in Existence?
3. Where is your organization located (be as specific as possible)?
4. What are you (generally) involved in?
5. What kind of open data/information work do you do? (List the datasets you have, and in what form they are in)
6. Which other Open Data CSOs and Open Data Initiatives are you currently aware of in Uganda?
7. What kind of relationship do you have with the organizations (data supplier, user, analyst etc.)
8. How long have you been partnered with that organization?
9. Why did you partner on with the organization/initiative in question?
10. Rank your relationship with each of the organizations named. between 1 and 5, with each number referring to the following key:
  - 5: Positive Relationship. Partner frequently with (More than 1 project per year)
  4. Positive Relationship. Partner Occasionally with (Less than 1 project per year).
  3. Positive Relationship. Never Partnered.
  2. Negative Relationship. Have disagreement over direction of open data movement, or methodology, etc
  1. Negative Relationship. Believe the other organization is detrimental to furthering your goals?
11. Do you believe that the Open Data movement in Uganda has been successful? Why or why not?
12. Have all the other open data actors been willing to work with your organization on improving open data capacity and projects? How, Why and Why not?
13. What ideas would you suggest for more partnership and collaboration among open data actors in the future?

## Annex 2: Questionnaire for community based actors

### Mapping of, and engagement with Open Data/Open-Information Actors at Sub-national Levels.

#### Part 1:

##### Geographical Location of Organisation/initiative

Level	Latitude	Longitude
District		
County		
Subcounty		
Parish		
Village (s)		

*Note: coordinates for these areas and locations to be ascertained by Smartphone GPS and UBOS' latest shapefile data*

#### Part 2:

##### Questions

1. Tell us generally about your work on access to information
2. What role do Data and information play in Development?
3. With Specific examples, how have you used Data and information to impact your own or you beneficiaries' lives?
4. What are the challenges of Data/Information;
  - Production?
  - Processing (analysis)?
  - Dissemination?
  - Inter-intra organizational sharing?
  - Access by Data/info Users?
5. Where are most data producers and data/information-focused organization located geographically?
6. What is the nature of collaboration among data/information/ICT-based stakeholders in this region?
7. What are the challenges of collaboration?
8. How can collaboration be improved?
9. What is your (or your org/office) role in the Data/information ecosystem of actors? (Are you a producer, analyst, enabler, user, etc?)
10. What are your experiences like in your role as a member of the information/data value chain?
11. What role has communication technologies played in the information landscape in the region?
12. What is the ICTs penetration like in the region?
13. Any thoughts on what can be done to ensure more effective information/data ecosystems in Local, regional and national development?