OPENING OPPORTUNITIES ANNUAL THEME 2021

round this time last year COVID
19 was one of the biggest frights around the world and Uganda was waiting on when it would be registering its first case.
Almost a year later, here we are living with COV-ID-19 as the New Normal or you can call it the new abnormal depending on your point of view.

Uganda registered its first COVID19 case on 21st March 2020 leading to total lockdown measures which disrupted business all over the country including access to ART has very real consequences for YPLHIV with issues of poor adherence, low viral load, taking drug holidays, mental health issues among others therefore an urgent need for a combination of HIV prevention interventions, supportive environment and strengthening community systems as well as targeted approaches to effectively address the unique needs of young people in their diversities. On the other hand, COVID=19 posed a great challenge to the world irrespective of the sector. People had to work, shop, and meet online which provided opportunities for the technology wizards. This doesn't necessarily imply that the other communities were left out. Beyond technology, a pool of other opportunities

emerged. However the question is; does the community know these opportunities? Are they accessible, are they known and are they open to the community of Young people living with HIV in Uganda?

Today, the resilience that has taken us this far is being tested. Now more than ever we must come together to create new innovations for the YPLHIV where they can be able to access HIV/SRHR services, create extra seats for them, on forums, to front issues that are affecting them, as well as, brain storm ways of creating an enabling environment and safe spaces in Uganda. Also, not leaving out the key attributes that have made the HIV response so unique, ensuring that we push forward integrated care and prevention approaches that will work for all people living with or at risk of HIV hence the necessary adaptations in the current setting is key to help set the emerging new generation of YPLHIV leaders on the path to future success.

Walk with us this year as we strive towards "OPENING
OPPORTUNITIES" for YPLHIV in Uganda and beyond as
we adapt to the new normal

