

CLOSE THE GAP 2017 ACTIVITY REPORT

Close the Gap video
close-the-gan org







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COLOPHON

FOREWORD CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

A well-known saying states that "business as usual" leads to rigidity and decline. In modern times innovation is a must. This wisdom is also applicable to Close the Gap.

More and more it became evident that the original business model of Close the Gap, over the years implemented very successfully, had to be reviewed and adapted to recent developments in Africa. The traditional formula of sending preowned high quality refurbished computers to developing and emerging countries to bridge the digital divide had to be extended with initiatives in the field of transfer of digital technologies in the largest sense of the word.

Two novel and significant developments were launched in 2017, namely the introduction of Close the Gap's new strategy with the Leap2 Innovation Challenges and the launch of the unique Belgian Digital 4 Development platform (D4D-Be), after a public call for proposals awarded to Close the Gap and Agoria by the Belgian Development Cooperation.

In 2017, our team has also been investigating opportunities to invest and support African tech entrepreneurs to further boost digital solutions at a scale-up stage of development. Close the Gap has been in contact with many innovative and promising entrepreneurs who confirmed the need for impact investment in the nascent Tech industry in Africa. To be a professional impact investment player, Close the Gap will continue to reinforce its position and competences in the sector through partnerships. All this work and initiatives, demonstrate the strengthening of Close the Gap's position as a **Digital 4 Development expert** leveraging our network in the Private and Public/Non-Profit sector.

Further well-reflected and clearly oriented initiatives are envisaged for 2018 transforming the organisation into **Close the Gap 3.0**. In this context I can already mention the D4D-Be events, such as the Silicon Savannah Mission to Kenya in March 2018. And after the success of the first Leap2 event, the team of Close the Gap is also excited about the upcoming innovation challenges: Kenya in Jan/Feb 2018, Uganda in April/May 2018 and Nigeria in Oct/Nov 2018.

In the beginning of 2018, three board members, Mr. Willem Lageweg, former Executive Director of MVO Nederland, Michel De Brauwer, Chairman of the Pietercil Group N.V. and Guido Vandervorst, Managing partner Innovation Deloitte Belgium, have decided to make their position available. I want to thank them for their long-lasting and much appreciated dedication. Their precious expertise and insight have contributed largely to the growth and prosperity of Close the Gap.

In terms of asset donations, Close the Gap received a record-high of 118.996 assets, which is the highest number of donations ever received in Close the Gap's existence. I consider this as a true success for ICT4Development.

Finally, as chairman of Close the Gap, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to all our sponsors and strategic partners, to our partners in Africa, to the members of the Board and last but not least also to all the committed members of our staff for their continued efforts to maximise the day-to-day activities of Close the Gap in Europe as well as in the developing and emerging countries where we are active.

Prof. em. Dr. Wim A. G. Blonk

Chairman of the Board Close the Gap



THE ROAD AHEAD

Close the Gap has been successfully operating for 14 years following a steadily growing path with one and unique mission in mind: **Bridging the digital divide in developing and emerging countries to make impact**. Since 2004, we reached more than 3 million beneficiaries. This happened mainly thanks to our outstanding leadership team composed by its board members and executive management, the hundreds of reliable partners, clients and donors, and Close the Gap's dedicated operational team.

As part of our DNA, Close the Gap is continuously looking to improve its impact. We are therefore working on the following new approaches:

- Close the Gap Hubs in Africa: To emphasize its impact, Close the Gap wants to concentrate its activities in Africa (where the impact actually happens). This implies an increased presence in Africa taking the form of local social enterprise (for-profit) hubs (that include collecting end-of-use ICT material, refurbishing, distribution, e-waste management activities, etc.)
- 2. Access to Impact Investment: Close the Gap is committed to support starting African Tech Entrepreneurs solving societal issues, through improving the access to impact-first investments. Months of intense research have confirmed real market needs to financially support early-stage scale-ups in Tech 4 Development. Close the Gap will develop further competences, expertise and credentials in Impact Investing in Africa. We are in discussion with renowned Fund Managers for potential collaboration and identifying the most adapted way forward.

Close the Gap will continue to focus on its core activities of refurbishing and distributing pre-owned high-quality ICT material, as well as on the many new and diversified initiatives, such as the implementation of Digitrucks, the Leap2 Innovation Challenges, the access to Impact Investment Strategy referring to existing initiatives and coordinating the D4D-Be platform (Kindling.be). All contributing to make an impact that matters, aligned within Close the Gap's purpose. More than ever, we believe that access to digital solutions is a key enabler for people in developing and emerging countries to improve their lives and realize their full potential.

Olivier Vanden Evnde

Founder & Managing Director Close the Gap



MILESTONES

2013/2

The Close the Gap Foundation is launched to support initiatives in sustainably bridging the digital divide.

2013/1

President Obama visits a Close the Gap computer lap at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation in South Africa.

2012/2

Desmond Tutu refurbishes Close the Gap's 250,000th computer asset.

2012/1

Close the Gap formally launches NGO spin-off WorldLoop to provide sustainable e-waste recycling solutions in Africa.

2009

Launch of Close the Gap's PC Solidarity programme to bridge the digital divide in Belgium in the presence of King Philippe of Belgium (at the time Prince).

2008

Close the Gap formalises local Service Partner programme to support beneficiary projects with IT installation, maintenance and training.

2007*

Close the Gap celebrates its 50,000th donated computer asset in the presence of Archbishop em. Desmond Tutu.

2003

Start-up of Close the Gap as a student "mini-enterprise" at the Solvay Business School of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.





Close the Gap celebrates its 10-year anniversary in the presence of Desmond Tutu, launching the ICT4D Alliance.

2015/1

2015/1

Close the Gap's first digitruck, powered by Arrow Electronics, arrives in Africa to bring ICT literacy to orphans near Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania.

2015/2

Close the Gap, together with Deloitte University Europe, the Middle East and Africa (DU EMEA) hold first ever Entrepreneurship Boot Camp in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

2016

His Majesty King Philippe of Belgium refurbishes Close the Gap's 500,000th donated computer at Arrow Value Recovery's Mechelen facility.

2017/1

Close the Gap and Agoria are awarded the Belgian Digital 4 Development platform project initiated by Minister De Croo.

2017/2

Close the Gap launched Leap2, which is part of its new strategy and supports young African entrepreneurs developing digital solutions that tackle societal issues. Read about it on page 23.



** Caption: Mr. David West
(Computers 4 Africa),
Mr. Tom Musili
(Computers for Schools Kenya),
Mr. John Fitzsimons
(Camara Education),
Ms. Emmy Voltman
(Viafrica),
Mr. Ludovic Gautier
(Computer Aid International),
Mr. Olivier Vanden Eynde
(Close the Gap),
Archbishop Desmond Tutu

* Caption: Ms. Marga Edens (RWE), Archbishop em. Desmond Tutu, Mr. Olivier Vanden Eynde (Managing Director Close the Gap)

FACTS & FIGURES 2017

WEDID IN 2017

SINCE CLOSE THE GAP STARTED IN 2004

118,996 assets donated 95 companies involved in donation

projects supported
tonnes of e-waste collected
offsetting certificates purchased

434
projects supported
tonnes of e-waste collected
offsetting certificates purchased

543
offsetting certificates purchase

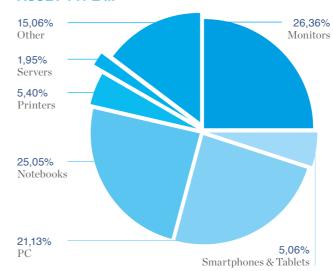
IN 2017

ASSET TYPE ...

732,504

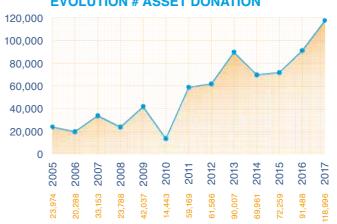
5,406

2,537 58,962



AND ASSET REUSABILITY 21 % Recycled Reused

EVOLUTION # ASSET DONATION





In 2017, Close the Gap received a record high of donations: **118,996 assets were donated**.

REMEMBER, CLOSE THE GAP IS ALSO COLLECTING MOBILE DEVICES!







EVENTS IN 2017





22ND - 26TH MARCH

Strategic partner trip to Kenya

From 22nd March to 26th March, Close the Gap and more than 20 of its partners travelled to Nairobi, Kenya, for a learning journey around Digital 4 Development & Innovation. They visited one of Close the Gap's service partners, Computers for Schools Kenya (CFSK), the WEEE centre (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Centre) and the UN campus in Nairobi. The visit to two hospitals on the second day, hosted by Marleen Temmerman, member of Close the Gap's Board of Recommendation, showed the importance of ICT 4 Health and the need for technology in the health sector. Afterwards, the group attended the inauguration of the computer lab at Ushirika Secondary School. This visit showcased how giving children access to a computer can transform their education and how much happiness and joy it can bring.



JUNE - JULY 2017

Pilot Leap2 Innovation Challenge

During the month of June, Close the Gap partnered with Nailab and 1% Club to host the **first LEAP2 Innovation Challenge** in Nairobi, Kenya. During the early stages of the challenge, participants explored their innovative business cases as part of a training and co-creation workshop conducted by experts. After an entire month of crowdfunding, which concluded on 4th July, all 10 innovators pitched their "digital solution to societal issues" in front of an international panel of jurors. In Kenya, the LEAP2 Innovation Challenge award went to **Ebursary**, an online platform incorporating smart tools and search capabilities to create a centralised platform serving both students and organisations.

29TH JUNE

Bike to Close the Gap

On 29th June, more than 120 cyclists gathered for our good cause at the Paterberg hill. Bike to Close the Gap is a non-competitive sporting event. All participants cycled for a common goal; raising funds to provide access to ICT for disadvantaged children and young adults, both in Europe and in developing countries. This 7th edition was coorganised and co-sponsored by Close the Gap, DNS Belgium and GUIDO and raised a total of \mathfrak{C} 96,750.



TOTAL CYCLISTS
TOTAL NUMBER OF LAPS
MOST LAPS - WOMEN

MOST LAPS - MEN

124 2300

Marian Vermote of Worldline with 22 laps

Bert De Bisschop of Worldline with 31 laps



Mission to Tanzania

Last April, Close the Gap's Head of Projects Peter Manderick travelled to Tanzania not only to support the training on thin clients, but also to visit some partners and projects. A thin client is a lightweight computer that depends on another computer (its server) to fulfil its computational roles. One of the stops made by Peter was at the orphanage in Neema, home to Close the Gap and Arrow Electronics' first digitruck. Peter met with Mandy Stein, Founder and Executive Director of Neema International, who explained the progress of students and the positive results of the digitruck (read more about the digitrucks on page 21). This mission to Tanzania was also an opportunity to visit a project that is very close to Close the Gap's heart: Msandaka Lions Deaf Centre. Close the Gap's Chairman, Prof. Wim Blonk has been supporting this project for more than 10 years.





SEPTEMBER 2017

Launch of Digital 4 Development Platform (D4D-Be)

Initiated by the Belgian Development Cooperation, the Digital 4 Development platform was launched in September 2017. This **18-month project** is coordinated by Agoria and Close the Gap. The ultimate goal is to build a bridge between the Belgian private sector and the development sector in realising the Sustainable Development Goals and to create new partnerships.







20TH NOVEMBER

D4D-Be kick-off

On 20th November 2017, public authorities, companies, NGOs, civil society organisations, academic institutions and research centres met in Brussels to give the Belgian Development Cooperation a digital impetus. The goal was to increase the effectiveness of projects in the South with digital technologies such as blockchain and big data. The purpose of the kick-off meeting was not only to inform people about the Digital 4 Development platform, but also help to spark partnerships between private sector companies and actors in development cooperation. The event, therefore, also included a best practices panel and a series of 15 pitches from both civil society and private sector companies.

20[™] NOVEMBER

Close the Gap at CIODay2017 in Amsterdam

Speaking in Amsterdam on 20th November, Deputy General Manager and Operations Director Inge Knapen, together with Roy Budjahawan, Head of ING Microfinance, addressed an audience of 350 CIOs on issues relating to banking solutions. CIODay2017 was the largest gathering of CIOs in Europe. One key idea of the evening was: banking the unbanked through innovation, focused on fintech solutions for Africa. In other words, the topic was closely connected with one of Close the Gap's new strategies for 2017: the Leap² Innovation Challenges. In fact, the second Leap² challenge focuses on fintech solutions in Kenya, where entrepreneurs are striving to find digital solutions for local problems concerning financial issues.



28TH NOVEMBER

Last November, Close the Gap's Deputy IT equipment.

The VUB Chair for Social Entrepre**neurship** was founded in 2015 by Close the Gap, together with Solvay Business School (VUB), Wolters Kluwer Belgium and Euroclear. This chair aims to provide support for research on social entrepreneurship.

VUB Social Entrepreneurship

General Manager and Operations Director Inge Knapen was a guest speaker at the VUB Social Entrepreneurship Fair, organised by the VUB Chair for Social Entrepreneurship. The main goal of the event was to share ideas on how to build a sustainable future. Inge Knapen spoke about how Close the Gap aims to bridge the digital divide between developed and developing countries by supporting local projects and supplying donated out-of-date

16[™] DECEMBER

Women Power in Tech

On 16th December 2017, about 15 women in tech from Nairobi's private sector engaged with Berber Kruimel from Rabobank and Inge Knapen from Close the Gap to exchange ideas, experiences and to network. This Women Power in Tech event was co-hosted by Timeless Women of Wonder (TWOW). Close the Gap has been a long-standing partner of TWOW. The event was all about empowering the participants as women and creating a sense of community.

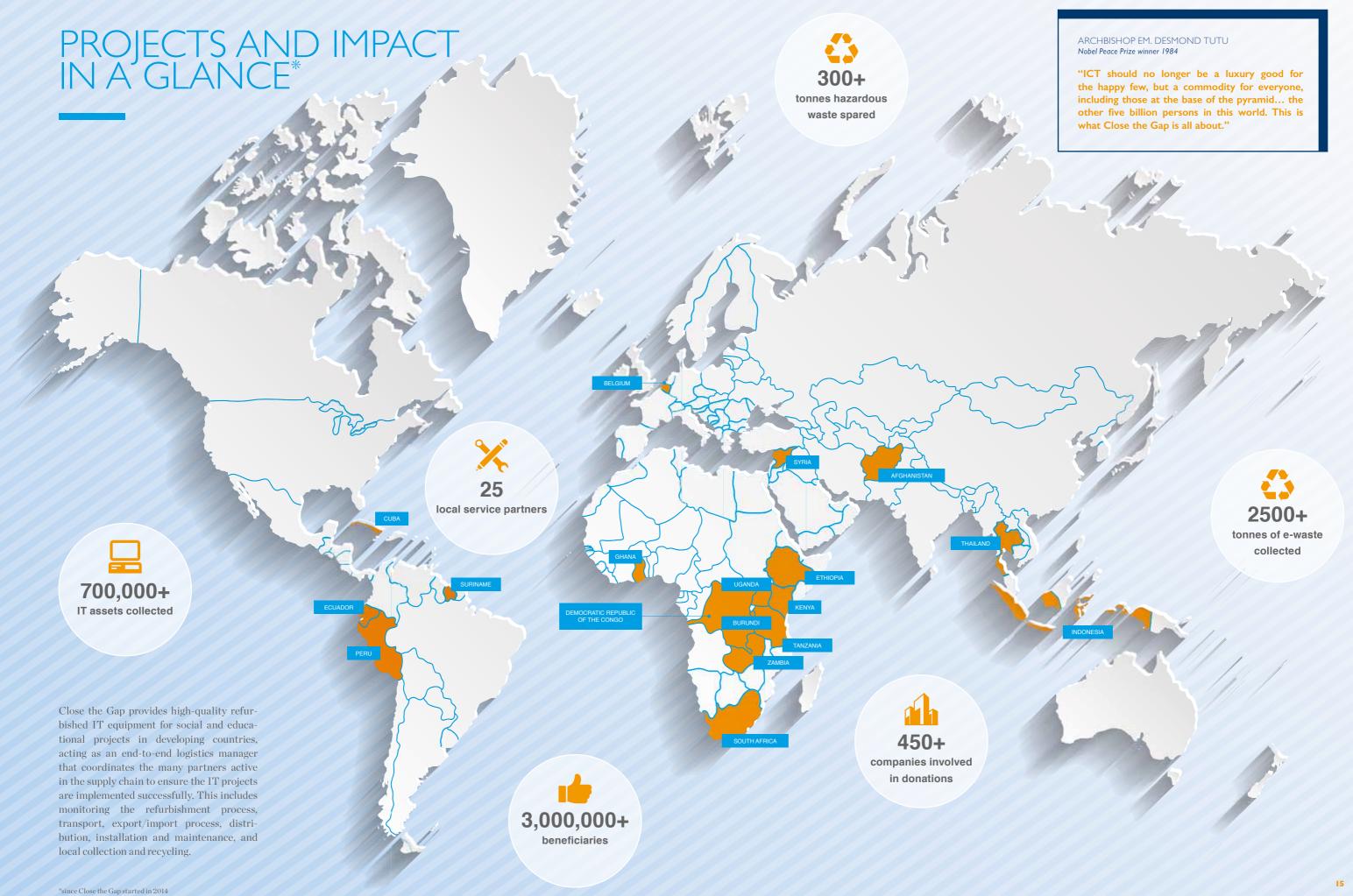


18TH - 24TH DECEMBER

Close the Gap on "De Warmste Week"

"De Warmste Week" is the Flemish charity event of the year and organised by Studio Brussels radio station. It took place the week before Christmas and "warmste" refers to "most generous". Their slogan even says "everybody cares for everybody". During this week, everybody was invited to organise a fundraising action to benefit their chosen charity. Close the Gap was also registered this year, thanks to its new partnership with Teamleader. The initiatives organised by Teamleader's employees for "De Warmste Week" raised more than **€6000**, enabling the installation of at least 3 computer classes in $Africa \ and \ impacting \ nearly \ 1000 \ students.$





SPONSORED PROJECTS

In these type of projects, the donor supports the entire chain, from donation of equipment, refurbishment, export and installation, all the way through to sustainable end-of-life recycling.

Belgium

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR	ADOPTER
BECODE	124	Digital Skills	DNS Belgium
CODE N PLAY	7	Digital Skills	Bike to Close the Gap
CODERDOJO BELGIUM	150	Digital Skills	Bike to Close the Gap
COMPUTERS FOR ORGANISATIONS SELECTED BY BNP PARIBAS FORTIS FOUNDATION	98	Social	BNP Parisbas Fortis Foundation
DIGITALENT	24	Digital Skills	Proximus
GOODPLANET PROJECT	375	Education	Proximus
IMSIR	15	Social	Telenet Foundation
MAKS VZW – DE PASSER	15	Digital Skills	Bike to Close the Gap
MYZONE	10	Healthcare	Telenet Foundation
SOS KINDERDORPEN	18	Education	Bike to Close the Gap
STUDENT REFUGEE PROGRAM	31	Migration	Free University of Brussels
WE GO STEM	50	Digital Skills	Telenet Foundation

Burundi

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR	ADOPTER
GREAT LAKES INITIATIVES FOR COMMUNITIES	300	Education	Rabobank
EMPOWERMENT			

Democratic Republic of the Congo

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSI	ETS SECTOR	ADOPTER
BENELUX AFRO CENTER	314	Education	Reynaers Aluminium
UNIVERSITÉ DE LUBUMBASHI	48	Education	VLIR-UOS

EAC

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR	ADOPTER	PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	S
DOK KIO KITIO	000		DNO Bullium	DECELL		
BRCK KIO KIT'S	200	Innovation	DNS Belgium	RECELL	678	

Ghana

Kenya

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR	ADOPTER
COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS KENYA	630	Education	DNS Belgium
DIGITRUCK KENYA	20	Education	Arrow Electronics
MOI UNIVERSITY	610	Education	VLIR-UOS

Peru

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR	ADOPTER
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AGRARIA LA MOLINA	269	Education	VLIR-UOS

South Africa

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR	ADOPTER
CODE 4 CAPE TOWN	20	Digital Skills	Deloitte Belgium
MOTHERS FOR ALL	20	Gender	Deloitte Belgium

Suriname

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR	ADOPTER
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION	630	Education	Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie

Tanzania

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR	ADOPTER
AFFORDABLE COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY TANZANIA	889	Education	DNS Belgium – Rabobank
MZUMBE UNIVERSITY	409	Education	VLIR-UOS

VLIR-UOS

The Flemish Interuniversity Council for University Development Cooperation (VLIR-UOS) and Close the Gap are working in close collaboration to promote better learning outcomes for students in developing countries. With the ICT Outreach programme, universities within the VLIR network can apply to receive Close the Gap's IT equipment.

Aunique differentiator of our partnership is the requirement that all projects that are selected to receive refurbished IT equipment must be linked to a socially minded initiative in the community. This guarantees that every member of the community has the opportunity to benefit from an ICT-based education.

MOI UNIVERSITY, KENYA

With the Institutional University Cooperation programme (IUC), VLIR-UOS is facilitating a 12-year partnership between a university in the South and Flemish universities and university colleges. The programme aims to empower the local university to better fulfil its role as a development actor in society.

The IUC partnership with Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya, started in July 2007. Moi University received 294 desktop sets (computers and monitors), 12 notebooks and 10 printers. Part of this donation (100 desktop sets) went to the Kenya Society for the Blind and Eldoret School for the Hearing Impaired.

KENYA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

The Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB) is a non-profit organisation based in Kenya. Its mission is to prevent blindness and to increase access to services and opportunities for visually impaired persons. Through the Flemish university cooperation for development, VLIR-UOS, KSB received a total of 75 desktops. With this donation, KSB fully revamped its Centre for Adaptive Technology (CAT).

Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie (Flemish Community Commission)

The Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie (VGC) is a body that supports and develops a Dutch-speaking network in Brussels. Its aim is to provide everyone in Brussels with better schools, education, more cultural leisure-time activities and proper care.

In 2017, VGC supported a project with schools in Suriname, for which Close the Gap delivered IT hardware. A collaborative agreement between VGC and the ministry of education, science and culture of Suriname guarantees that the equipment will be used in the schools of three selected districts: Paramaribo, Marowijne and Saramacca. In total, 315 desktop sets have been sent. These desktops reached 25 schools and several local offices of the educational administration of the three districts.

guy vanhengei

Chairman of the Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommission

"The Brussels-Capital Region and the Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie created a cooperation with the Ministery of Education, Science and Culture of Suriname in the spring of 2017. As in Brussels, I visited schools in Suriname. The need for decent ICT material was immediately apparent. Back in Belgium, we found in Close the Gap a suitable partner

to improve ICT activities in Surinamese schools. Thanks to Close the Gap's experience and professional approach, we were able to donate more than 300 computers to schools. This way, students gain access to the digital world."

17

REGULAR PROJECTS

These projects consist of supplying refurbished ICT assets to projects that do not receive external funding from Close the Gap's network of partners.

Afghanistan

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR	
THE WOMANITY FOUNDATION	178	Gender	

Belgium

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	
VIA DON BOSCO	486	Education

Cameroon

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR
AACLB CAMEROON	90	Education

Cambodia

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR
STICHTING HOPEFUL CHILDREN	19	Education

Democratic Republic of the Congo

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR
3 GIRAFFEN VZW	22	Education
ACTEC	70	Education
BERPS	50	Education
ECOLE D'INFORMATIQUE À NDEKESHA	42	Education
ITI SAINT FRANCOIS	64	Education
ITI VYOMBO	100	Education
KAMINA	40	Education
MALAIKA	58	Education

Kenya

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR
KYTABU	30	Innovation

South Africa

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR
BELGIUM CAMPUS	440	Digital Skills
PEBBLES PROJECT	42	Social

South Sudan

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR
CONNECT TO LEARN	50	Education

Thailand

PROJECT NAME	NO. ASSETS	SECTOR
FUND ISAAN	168	Education

The following projects were also supported in 2017, receiving less than 20 assets

Democratic Republic of the Congo

ARTSEN ZONDER VAKANTIE KANANGA KOLWEZI

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE

Belgium

BS HENDRIK CONSCIENCE SCHAARBEEK CARITAS KON. PALEIS RATATOUILLE – D'BROEJ VZW UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE LAS VILLAS VZW JAKOEBOE WITH THEM VZW

Kenya

CHILD & YOUTH FINANCE INTERNATIONAL VZW HELP KAKUMA

Indonesia

HELLO KARIMUNJAWA

Papua New Guinea

KIKORI HOSPITAL

Switzerland

MAISON DE LA FEMME

Tanzania

MOSHI LION'S CLUB
MSANDAKA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Zimbabwe

MVURWI SCHOOL PROJECT

Suriname

STICHTING D'ONS

Togo

TOUCOUTOUNA

Haïti

WERELDOUDERS VZW



ITI VYOMBO & ITI SAINT FRANÇOIS: BTC (ENABEL)

In 2017, Close the Gap supported two technical institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with IT equipment. These institutions are ITI (Institut Technique Industriel) Vyombo and ITI Saint François. This support is made possible by BTC (now Enabel). The donated equipment (44 desktop sets, 4 printers and 8 notebooks) is being used in the ICT classes of local schools.



UNOPS (UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES) CAMEROON

This initiative was set up by a representative of UNOPS and his former classmates (all of them raised in Cameroon). Their organisation is called Amicale des Anciens du Lycée Classique de Bafoussam and they have already supported a primary and secondary school with 45 desktop sets.



Close the Gap is not only active in developing and emerging countries, but also in Europe. European countries also need support with ICT education to provide the most vulnerable communities with better opportunities in the job market, through access to ICT.

BeCode

dnsbelgium

No. assets received 174

Sector IT skills education Adopter **DNS Belgium**

Close the Gap believes access to ICT is crucial for empowering disadvantaged communities. It helps increase their chances in the job market. Like Close the Gap, BeCode supports disadvantaged people by teaching IT skills to improve their chances in the job market. BeCode is a **free coding school**, based in Belgium, which was developed by a group of people, companies and associations passionate about technology and convinced that every motivated person must have the opportunity to learn to code and find a job. BeCode offers six-month training programmes to get the 'students' ready for the professional job market.

As part of the partnership and support for BeCode, Close the Gap provided all the IT equipment needed by the coding schools, with the support of DNS Belgium.

Telenet: WeGoSTEM



No. assets received 50 notebooks

Sector Science, Technology, **Economics, Mathematics** and Education

Adopter

In 2017, Close the Gap supported a project adopted by Telenet and launched by Dwengo vzw and SheGoesICT. This WeGoSTEM project reached 5000 students in more than 100 schools across Belgium. The students from the fifth and sixth grade (elementary education) were encouraged to discover their talent for science and technology in a creative way. The project aimed to spark interest in developing their own projects centred around STEM (science, technology, economics, mathematics), for example by building a drawing robot or coding a computer program. Students were assisted by their own teachers and by passionate IT professionals.

GoodPlanet Project

pro%Imus

No. assets received 284 Sector Education **Proximus** Adopter

GoodPlanet Belgium's mission is to build a sustainable society by undertaking positive actions and sharing expertise. GoodPlanet develops and supports projects, training and teaching packages on all sustainability themes - consumption and waste management, energy and climate, mobility, nature and biodiversity, coexistence, food and water. Together with **Proximus**, the organisation has developed an inspiring collaborative effort to support schools with ICT: GoodPlanet collects **used phones** in its partner schools and in exchange the schools earn a certain number of points. These points can then be exchanged for IT assets. And this is where Close the Gap steps in – as the provider of IT assets.

DIGITRUCKS

ICT innovation is key to facing societal challenges, common to all emerging and developing countries. In 2014, Close the Gap launched its first digitruck, a solar-powered, mobile multi-purpose IT unit that brings IT education to rural and vulnerable communities which do not have a power supply. The following year, Close the Gap and Arrow Electronics jointly built another digitruck, which is currently at the Neema Orphanage in the Kilimanjaro region, Tanzania. In 2016, Close the Gap proudly joined forces with three different organisations to build three digitrucks.



Tanzania – Neema Orphanage

The Neema Orphanage was the first institution to receive a digitruck. Since its launch, the digitruck has been able to help numerous children. 13 of the students that enrolled for digitruck classes in 2016 were able to re-enrol full-time at a private English medium boarding school to start their secondary school studies at the beginning of 2017. In 2017, the Neema organisation received many applications for digitruck classes. 12 of the applicants were really motivated and ready to commit to their studies and they will be able to return to school at the beginning of January 2018. During the weekends, children living in the orphanage also love to use the computers.

Democratic Republic of the Congo – La Maison des Savoirs

Bianca Debaets, Secretary of State of the Brussels-Capital Region and responsible for development and cooperation, sponsored the construction of a digitruck that was delivered to the non-profit La Maison des Savoirs organisation in Kinshasa. The city of Kinshasa wanted to offer digital educational services and so facilitated the creation of this organisation, which offers IT classes and activities to those who have difficulties accessing IT.

South Africa – Deloitte Belgium

Close the Gap collaborated very closely with Deloitte Belgium to build a 12-metre digitruck, bringing computers and connectivity to students in the Western Cape region. Deloitte encouraged its employees to count their steps in a good cause. All steps were counted with sports watches and converted into credits representing Deloitte's contribution to the initiative. The objective of stepping the equivalent of 500,000 km was reached 3 weeks before the deadline. The resulting digitruck has been operating since 2016 as the computer lab of Quirky30 (Formerly Brothers For All), a non-profit organisation based in the township of Langa, Cape Town, South Africa. The main focus of the organisation is empowering offenders, ex-offenders, inmates and vulnerable youth by giving them technology skills, specifically in coding. This is a disruptive solution for pathways out of poverty and crime, which continue to ravage the townships in South Africa.

South Africa – Dumoulin

Sponsored by United Petfood, this digitruck was built in South Africa and delivered to the Overstrand Training Institute (OTI), a non-profit organisation responding to the digital skills training needs of youth in the Overstrand community. This is an area of coastal and agriculture-based villages an hour drive from Cape Town.

NEW PROJECTS

Digital 4 Development Platform (D4D-Be)

Initiated by the Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD) and set in motion by the Deputy Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, the **Digital 4 Development** platform was launched in September 2017. This 18-month project is coordinated by **Close the Gap and Agoria**. The ultimate goal is to build a bridge and create new partnerships between the Belgian private sector and the development sector in realising the Sustainable Development Goals.



In order to nurture potential partnerships, Close the Gap's programme includes a mix of offline events that offer, on the one hand, face-to-face networking opportunities and, on the other hand, explore different collaboration methodologies. The latter is supported by an online platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration. Known as "**Kindling.be**", this online platform was launched on 20th November 2017. It features best practices, new opportunities, partners (people and organisations) and collaboration workspaces.

Kindling.be's goal is to help organisations **be informed, inspired and collaborate on Digital 4 Development**. On the platform, potential partners can post relevant events, share and comment on content, consult the database of

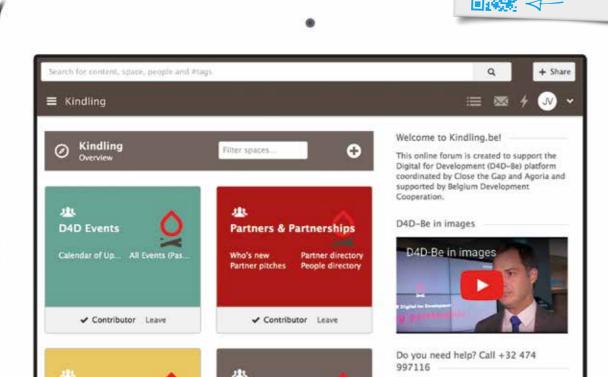


over 190 existing D4D projects, as well as find over 400 potential partners and organisations active in D4D and

The Digital 4 Development platform will continue its activities in 2018 with the Silicon Savannah Mission to Kenya in March, co-creation sessions and a hackathon initiated by Enabel.

their respective pitches.







LEAP²

LEAP² has been part of the new strategy of Close the Gap since 2017. This programme supports

young African entrepreneurs developing and scaling digital solutions for societal issues. Specifically, Close the Gap is organising innovation challenges with GoodUp.

Ten projects are selected and coached for each innovation challenge. The teams selected learn to test their ideas on the market through crowdfunding. They receive matching funding when they reach their crowdfunding goals. In addition, they learn how to pitch and expand their network with the help of experts, coaches and potential investors.

In June 2017, Close the Gap partnered with Nailab and 1%Club to pilot its very first LEAP² Innovation Challenge in **Nairobi, Kenya**. From a pool of 42 strong applicants, 10 successful innovations were selected to take part in the innovation challenge.

Upon completion of a one-day workshop held in June, professional coaches empowered participants with knowledge and tools to launch crowdfunding campaigns to support their business cases over the course of a month. The crowdfunding campaigns concluded on 4th July, when innovators could pitch their business solutions to societal issues to potential investors, in front of an international panel of jurors consisting of social entrepreneurs, impact investors and leaders from the corporate world, including Managing Director and Founder of Close the Gap Olivier Vanden Evnde.

Close the Gap matched the crowdfunding targets of all 4 finalists once their campaigns had reached 50% of their initial targets. The LEAP² Innovation Challenge award went to **Ebursary**: an online platform that incorporates

smart tools and search capabilities to create a centralised platform serving both students and organisations in Kenya and across Africa.

The goal of the LEAP² pilot programme was to provide a digital platform to launch young entrepreneurs in the tech sector and highlight the wide-scale accessibility of **digital solutions and their ability to address societal issues** in Kenya. And for many start-ups like Ebursary, the programme provides an opportunity to secure the seed capital needed to bring to life a simple innovation that can impact the lives of many disadvantages groups in developing countries

The second innovation challenge, which was launched in November 2017 and will continue in 2018, focuses on fintech solutions.

OLIVIER VANDEN EYNDE Founder and Managing Director

"These innovations help us realise the Sustainable Development Goals. In many areas we see that Africa is leapfrogging"





E-RESOURCE CERTIFICATES & COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY



Since the beginning, Close the Gap has practiced a zero-waste-to-landfill policy for all the assets that have been donated to the organisation. In many of the regions that receive IT assets from Close the Gap, there is a lack of local awareness, legislative framework, technical know-how and a financial mechanism to treat potentially hazardous material properly.

That is why in 2012, Close the Gap, strongly supported by Recupel, launched WorldLoop to train its service partners to also offer e-waste collection services. The aim is to ensure the zero-waste-to-landfill policy is applied right to the end of an asset's second life in developing countries. Friends of Close the Gap and Strategic Partners can support the sustainability of Close the Gap's projects by participating in the e-Resource Certificate Programme and offsetting their donation.



IN 2016, THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES BOUGHT E-RESOURCE CERTIFICATES





dnsbelgium



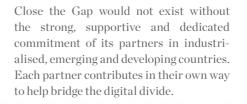




The goal is to deliver sustainable initiatives through the power of ICT.



02



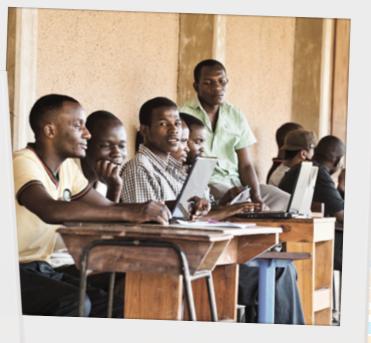


PETER BRICKLEY
Chief Information Officer,
Coca-Cola European Partners

"We are delighted to work closely with Close The Gap. Our partnership enables us to find a secure and meaningful destination for our old IT equipment and support social and educational projects in developing countries."







FRIENDS OF

Friends of Close the Gap are companies or organisations that help Close the Gap by donating their decommissioned ICT equipment. Today, Close the Gap receives computers from companies internationally. Through its refurbishment partner, Close the Gap is able to receive equipment from companies all over the world.

Donors in 2017





STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Strategic Partners not only donate computers but they also help Close the Gap on a day-to-day basis by providing equipment, financial or in-kind donations and/or e-resource contributions or through project adoptions. Close the Gap collaborates with corporate and non-profit partners and network organisations.

Acerta is a leading human resources services provider in Belgium that specialises in consultancy, the digitisation and organisation of administrative processes for payroll, social security, child benefit and branch procedures. Acerta supports Close the Gap by offering social secretariat, payroll services and training.

ACERTA



Air France and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines have strategically supported Close the Gap across all its operations, including donating IT assets and e-waste offsetting, and cargo transport for donated computers on a standby basis to selected destinations. Close the Gap also participates in the KLM TAKES CARE programme, which generates publicity for ICT for Development and Close the Gap's mission through Air France-KLM channels, including in-flight promotional films, articles in its magazines, sharing information on their corporate website and through social media. The group also initiates special campaigns, takes part in fundraising activities and makes it possible for their passengers to donate air miles to Close the Gap.

AIR FRANCE AND KLM

AIDEDANCE / KLM

The Executives' Circle was founded with the purpose of gathering the foremost business leaders and intellectual elite within an exclusive forum that addresses today's key management, leadership and societal challenges. Close the Gap engages with the Executives' Circle network to drive shared-value initiatives.

THE EXECUTIVES' CIRCLE

The Executives' Circle

Arrow Electronics is a global provider of products, services and solutions to industrial and commercial users of electronic components and enterprise computing solutions, providing specialised services and expertise across the product life cycle.

ARROW ELECTRONICS



Arrow Value Recovery, part of Arrow Electronics, is a worldwide provider of IT asset disposition (ITAD) solutions designed to deliver data security, efficiency and value. With specialised expertise in the reuse of IT equipment, Arrow enables organisations to uncover hidden value and increase sustainability at the end of their IT product life cycle. Arrow has worked to refurbish more than 600,000 computer devices donated to Close the Gap, giving the equipment a second life in support of essential programmes facilitated by Close the Gap.

ARROW VALUE RECOVERY



BNP Paribas Fortis Foundation supports Belgian-based projects that help to integrate children and young people facing difficulties through training and promoting employee engagement. Thanks to the support of the BNP Paribas Fortis Foundation and in conjunction with ICT donations from the BNP Paribas Fortis bank (Friend of Close the Gap), Close the Gap is able to deliver hundreds of assets per year to organisations that support the social integration of vulnerable children.

BNP PARIBAS FORTIS



CharlTy, founded by ICT Media, aims to involve the Dutch IT community in CSR projects. Using the intrinsic value of networks, ideas, knowledge, expertise and partnerships, the foundation strives to contribute more than just what is offered by their own corporate (marketing communication) funds within existing CSR initiatives or projects.

CHARITY



CSR Europe is the leading European business network for Corporate Social Responsibility, acting as a platform for those businesses looking to enhance sustainable growth and contribute positively to society. Close the Gap engages with the CSR Europe network to drive shared-value initiatives.

CSR EUROPE



Computer Task Group is an IT solutions company active in North America and Europe that specialises in services which improve the management and delivery of both business and IT projects. Computer Task Group manages all the network services of Close the Gap.

COMPUTER TASK GROUP



In collaboration with Rabobank, **Dell** supports Close the Gap's computer donation and e-waste offsetting programme by purchasing e-resource certificates.*





*See page 24. 31

The auditing and consulting firm **Deloitte** is an important and long-time loyal supporter of Close the Gap, helping to guarantee the transparent and professional use of funds raised through sponsors and donors. Deloitte Belgium assists Close the Gap with external audits, tax advice, accountancy, legal services as well as business development. In 2016, Deloitte Belgium sponsored a Digitruck*.

Deloitte Societas Europaea (SE) is a European Deloitte organisation that enables Deloitte companies in Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Central Europe and Luxembourg to collaborate on various issues, including corporate social responsibility.

DELOITTE

Deloitte.

Deloitte University Europe formalised a partnership with Close the Gap in 2014 to bring entrepreneurial training to Close the Gap's service partners in Africa.

DELOITTE UNIVERSITY



Design is Dead is a cross-disciplinary creative agency of craftspeople with keyboards. Delivering solid strategies, out-of-the-box concepts and highly addictive visual eye candy is what they have been doing since 1998. "We don't just execute your briefing. We blow your mind." Design is Dead is the brain behind Close the Gap's communication strategy and branding material, and designs the activity report.

DESIGN IS DEAD



DHL commits its expertise in international express, air and ocean freight, road and rail transportation, contract logistics and international mail services to its customers. DHL accepts its corporate social responsibility by supporting climate protection, disaster management and education. DHL puts its knowledge at Close the Gap's disposal by offering training on customs formalities and by advising Close the Gap's partners abroad about the import process.

DHL



DNS Belgium is a non-profit organisation founded by Agoria, BELTUG and ISPA, and its mission is to register be domain names, make the Internet more accessible and encourage its use. This also means helping to close the digital divide among disadvantaged groups as well as stimulating the digital economy. DNS Belgium is involved in voluntary work for projects in Belgium and was an early adopter of Close the Gap's e-waste offsetting programme now operated by WorldLoop.

DNS Belgium continues to support Close the Gap's service partners in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania through co-funding, enabling these service partners to support more IT labs in schools and run more Close the Gap pilot projects..

DNS BELGIUM

dnsbelgium

EFQM is a non-profit foundation that promotes and deploys the concepts of business excellence "to meet or exceed the expectations of all their stakeholders". EFQM uses its knowledge and expertise to help Close the Gap develop its internal capabilities and improve its overall performance. EFQM also connects Close the Gap to members of its network to drive shared-value initiatives.





Emakina is a full-service digital native agency. Every day new digital tools are opening up new ways of expression for brands. Native to this world of complexity, Emakina fuses imagination and innovation and orchestrates relevant points of convergence to build brand experiences that engage consumers. Emakina designed Close the Gap's website.

EMAKINA



Essent/RWE is the largest energy company in the Netherlands and also operates in Germany and Belgium. As a long-time supporter of Close the Gap, Essent/RWE is continuously looking for opportunities to continue its strategic partnership.

ESSENT/RWE



The Gillès Foundation was established in 1991 with private funds from shareholders of ETAP to support small-scale economic initiatives that increase the autonomy of local populations. The Gillès Foundation is supporting Close the Gap's service in DRC to collect and dismantle e-waste.

THE GILLÈS FOUNDATION



GRANT THORNTON



IMS is a Luxembourg-based network that assists organisations in their commitment to corporate social responsibility by enhancing dialogue with their stakeholders. Close the Gap works with the IMS network to drive shared-value initiatives.

IMS



KBC Bank & Insurance is a Belgian universal multi-channel bank that focuses on private clients and small and medium-sized enterprises. KBC has been a long-time supporter of Close the Gap and is not only one of Close the Gap's largest donor organisations, but it also works with Close the Gap to provide banking services.

KBC BANK & INSURANCE



* For more information on the digitruck, go to page 21.

Liberty Foundation supports social projects financially. With support from the foundation, Close the Gap has been able to set up a revolving fund to pre-finance computer deliveries to Close the Gap's service partners in the East African community. Close the Gap uses this fund to finance shipments to our partners in Kenya and Tanzania.

LIBERTY FOUNDATION



Mediataal is a storytelling company that uses film as its medium. No matter how well-made and professional a film is, a good story is fundamental to delivering a strong, credible message. Mediataal has helped Close the Gap's storytelling through the production of numerous videos and testimonials.

MEDIATAAL



Microsoft develops, manufactures, licences and supports a wide range of products and services predominantly related to computing through its various product divisions. Close the Gap has been working with Microsoft for years to bring high-quality software solutions to beneficiary projects in developing countries.

MICROSOFT



MVO Nederland is the Centre of Excellence for Dutch companies that are striving for corporate social responsibility. Close the Gap engages with MVO Nederland's network to drive shared-value initiatives.

MVO NEDERLAND



NileDutch is one of the 25 largest container shipping companies in the world, focusing on the links between (West) Africa and the rest of the world. NileDutch supports Close the Gap with logistical shipping support for beneficiary projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. NileDutch also contributes to Best-of-2-World activities by supporting WorldLoop with the transport of e-waste from Africa back to Europe for proper treatment.

NILEDUTCH



Out Of Office develops and introduces, both nationally and internationally, future ways of working in order to improve business by enabling flexibility, freedom, informal communication and interaction, information and knowledge sharing, collaboration, creativity and innovation. Because the way we do our work is changing, Out Of Office developed and implemented a new way of working for the Close the Gap team through an open-office concept that stimulates interaction and collaboration, information and knowledge sharing, creativity and innovation.

OUT OF OFFICE



Proximus is the largest telecommunications company in Belgium. In 2016, Close the Gap delivered almost 400 computer assets to non-profit organisations and schools selected by Proximus.

PROXIMUS



The Rabobank Group is an international financial services provider operating on the basis of cooperative principles. It offers retail banking, wholesale banking, asset management, leasing and real estate services. Its focus is on all-finance services in the Netherlands and on retail and wholesale banking, and food and agriculture internationally. In 2011, Rabobank started an important partnership with Close the Gap. By the beginning of 2016, this partnership had reached the milestone of more than 20,000 computer assets shipped to educational institutions in East African communities. Rabobank took their commitment to invest in society to the next level by also supporting sustainable takeback of ICT assets in East Africa through Close the Gap's e-Resource Certificate Programme.

THE RABOBANK GROUP



Readolmen is one of the largest ICT companies serving the Benelux region, offering integrated ICT solutions such as infrastructure, applications and communication for the entire ICT life cycle from the design phase through deployment and maintenance to recycling. Realdolmen provides IT donations and raises awareness about Close the Gap through its customer base and network.

REALDOLMEN



Reynaers Aluminium is a leading European specialist in the development and marketing of innovative and sustainable solutions for aluminium windows, doors, curtain walls, sliding systems, sun screens and conservatories. It is driven by energy efficiency and the willingness to take responsibility for the environment.

REYNAERS ALUMINIUM



Ricoh, one of the world's leading manufacturers and suppliers of office automation equipment and document solutions, has been supporting Close the Gap since its creation with core business, knowledge and products.

Ricoh Belgium has supplied printers to Belgian non-profit organisations that have received a computer donation through PC Solidarity. The company has also supported Close the Gap through financial donations and prints the activity report.

In addition to financial support, **Ricoh Netherlands** also donates used printers which, after refurbishment, can be ordered by the projects.

RICOH



The SAS Institute is a leading provider of business analytics software and services, and the largest independent vendor in the business intelligence market. In addition to financial support, SAS developed a tailor-made reporting tool for Close the Gap.

THE SAS INSTITUTE



Sidius is a specialist in the selection and recruitment of top-level assistants, personal, executive and management assistants, for various managers/departments (sales, marketing, human resources, legal, finance, etc.), office managers, personnel/HR managers and payroll/recruitment officers, event organisers and telephonists/receptionists. Sidius supports Close the Gap by offering its recruitment services.

SIDIUS



The Telenet Foundation supports social projects that promote digital inclusion. In 2016, Close the Gap delivered computers to projects which were selected through the foundation. Moreover, Telenet hosts Close the Gap's e-mail.

THE TELENET FOUNDATION



The Shift is Belgium's meeting point for sustainability. Formed by the merger of KAURI and Business & Society Belgium in 2015, the organisation now manages the Belgian secretariat of the United Nation's Global Compact Belgian Chapter. Close the Gap engages with The Shift's network to drive shared-value initiatives and is a founding member of the Belgian Chapter of the United Nation's Global Compact.

THE SHIFT



Umicore is a global materials technology group. It focuses on application areas where its expertise in materials science, chemistry and metallurgy makes a real difference.

Umicore provides recycling and disposal services to Close the Gap's sister organisation WorldLoop, facilitating environmentally sound and closed-loop recycling in WorldLoop's operations. Since 2013, Umicore has been donating computers from its organisations worldwide to Close the Gap and offsetting its donation.

UMICORE



The Flemish Interuniversity Council for University Development Cooperation (VLIR-UOS) supports research and higher education institutions in the South through partnerships with Flemish universities and higher education institutions. VLIR-UOS wants to improve the capacity of institutions in the South and therefore asks Close the Gap to supply computers to its partner universities in developing countries and to social projects supported by the South-based educational institutions. VLIR-UOS guarantees sustainability by providing ICT maintenance and training for local staff.

VLIR-UOS



Vintage Productions is a pan-European communication agency. "One should not only focus on the differences between people but look for commonality and similarity." This quote, from Theodore Levitt, serves as the guiding principle of what Vintage stands for as a communication agency.

VINTAGE PRODUCTIONS



The **Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)**, Brussels' Flemish university, welcomes more than 14,000 students every year. It is through the support and expertise of the VUB that Close the Gap was founded. The VUB provides Close the Gap with logistical assistance by offering office space. Additionally, the office costs of telecommunication and postal services are partly sponsored by the VUB.

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL



1% Club is an organisation that builds do-good crowdfunding platforms to kick-start interesting and impactful initiatives. 1% Club and Close the Gap started collaborating in 2016. Together, we boost innovative digital solutions to create an impact LEAP for societal challenges.

1% CLUB



COMPANY	ASSET DONATION	ADOPT	FINANCIAL	NETWORK ACCESS	IN-KIND	E-WASTE OFFSETTING
ACERTA						
AIR FRANCE-KLM						
THE EXECUTIVES' CIRCLE						
ARROW ELECTRONICS						
ARROW VALUE RECOVERY						
BNP PARIBAS FORTIS FOUNDATION						
CharlTy				•	•	
CHG MERIDIAN						
CSR EUROPE				•		
СТС						
DELOITTE						
DELOITTE UNIVERSITY						
DELL						
DESIGN IS DEAD						
DHL						
DNS.BE					•	
EFQM						
EMAKINA						
ESSENT/RWE						
GILLÈS FOUNDATION						
GRANT THORNTON						
IMS						
КВС						
LIBERTY FOUNDATION						
MEDIATAAL						
MICROSOFT						
MVO Nederland						
NILEDUTCH						
OUT OF OFFICE						
PROXIMUS						
RABOBANK						
REALDOLMEN						
REYNAERS						
RICOH						
SAS INSTITUTE						
SIDUS						
TELENET FOUNDATION						
THE SHIFT						
UMICORE						
VLIR-UOS						
VINTAGE						
VINTAGE						
1% CLUB						
1% CLUB				•		

Close the Gap also engages with the following organisations

Agoria ICT
BELTUG
CIO Europe
DataNews
EDM
Educaid
Ethicom
FINAKI
Lions Clubs
PACE
Rotary Clubs
SteP
TEDx
TechSoup

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

















37

SERVICE PARTNERS

When refurbished ICT equipment is ready for projects, Close the Gap tries to work through local businesses as much as possible. These organisations become Close the Gap's local Service Partners, who work as intermediaries between Close the Gap and beneficiary organisations. They know and understand the local problems and challenges and have expertise in local project management.

Service Partners are an important aspect of quality assurance as they are responsible for preparing the local infrastructure. They make sure that donated devices have a secure location and all the necessary utilities, such as electricity, Internet connections if available, etc. They are also responsible for the distribution and transport of computers to the beneficiaries, installation and maintenance of ICT equipment, training project managers/teachers/users and finally, taking back the ICT equipment for proper recycling once it reaches its end-of-life state.

Name of the organisation	Import administration	Distribution & transport	Preparation suitable infrastructure	Installation & maintenance	Training	E-waste management
	В	JRUNDI				
GLICE Burundi	•	•	•	•	•	•
	H	KENYA				
Computers for Schools Kenya	•	•	•	•	•	•
DEMO	CRATIC REF	PUBLIC OF TH	IE CONGO			
Benelux Afro Centre	•	•	•	•	•	•
	R	WANDA				
ICT4ALL	•	•	•	•	•	
	SE	NEGAL				
Seneclic		•	•	•	•	•
BATUK		•	•	•	•	
	SOU	TH AFRICA				
Belgium Campus	•	•				
MMTM Technologies & THUDO NPO		•	•	•	•	
	TH	AILAND				
Fund Isaan	•	•	•	•	•	
	TA	NZANIA				
ACTT	•	•	•	•	•	•
ICT4D - Tanzania Foundation	•	•	•	•	•	
Exponential Technology		•	•	•	•	





BAC

Benelux Afro Center (BAC) was created in 1998 by members of the African diaspora in Belgium. Their goal is to make learned skills available to communities in their (African) home countries, in order to create jobs in the social economy and the recycling area. The organisation originally focused on supporting initiatives in the healthcare sector in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. However, they soon realised that ICT plays a vital role in further developing the capabilities of their target audience in DRC and developed a local organisation, based in Kinshasa, to provide ICT access, hardware and training for non-profit organisations in the surrounding region.

Together with Reynaers Aluminium, Close the Gap and BAC set up a three-year project, which started in 2014 and ended in 2017. In total, 500 PCs were shipped, 30 labs were created and 60 teachers were trained. Through these efforts, the projects managed to reach approximately 20,000 students.

Name of the organisation	Import administration	Distribution & transport	Preparation suitable infrastructure	Installation & maintenance	Training	E-waste management
	U	GANDA				
Computers for Schools Uganda	•	•	•	•	•	•
UConnect	•	•	•	•	•	
	Z	AMBIA				
Crescent Future Kids	•	•	•	•	•	•
	ZIN	/IBABWE				
World Links Zimbabwe	•	•	•	•	•	
	(SHANA				
Savana Signatures	•	•	•	•	•	
Africa ICT Rights	•	•	•	•	•	
Recell Ghana	•	•	•	•	•	
	E	ГНІОРІА				
CRTC Ethiopia	•	•			•	•
		тодо				
Education Science Experience	•	•	•	•		

CLOSETHE GAP & THE UNITED NATIONS































Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) play a crucial role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and have been transforming societies over decades by contributing to economic growth, bringing new ways to deliver education, healthcare and government services as well as creating a global information society. ICT is seen as an enabler for global economic and social development, since it has the potential to work as a catalyst for the three pillars of sustainable development; economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection.

For more than a decade now, Close the Gap has been working on bridging the global digital divide, facilitating access to ICT in the sectors of education, healthcare and economic transformation of developing communities. Close the Gap believes in the power of education to achieve the SDGs and improve the future prospects of our planet, where providing basic prosperity for all and environmental protection will be the global norm.



GOAL 1 - END POVERTY

Having a quality education will improve chances in the job market, since digital skills are a primary requirement for most jobs. Therefore, ICT helps to reduce poverty.



GOAL 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION

Education is one of the most powerful instruments for reducing poverty and inequality and lays a foundation for sustained economic growth. Yet many children in developing countries lack access to quality education and knowledge. Bridging the digital divide and providing access to IT equipment is the key driver for improving the educational and economic prospects of a country in today's modern world.



GOAL 5 - GENDER EQUALITY

Access to ICT for women empowers them to stand up for their rights and demand equality.



GOAL 8 - DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Digital skills are a primary requirement for most jobs. Children with access to ICT at school learn valuable IT skills that improve their chances in the job market, which in turn stimulates the economy.

Close the Gap has been recognised as a United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) signatory, is a member of the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development (UN GAID) and the United **Nations Department of Public Information** (UNDPI). In addition, Close the Gap has a permanent Youth Representative who represents the organisation at the **United Nations headquarters** in New York.



UN GAID



ICT and Development (UN GAID) was information and communication technology in development.



UN GLOBAL COMPACT

The United Nations Global Alliance for The United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) is a strategic initiative for launched in 2006 by Kofi Annan to facilitate businesses to align strategies and operations and promote integration through a platform with universal principles of human rights, Compact (UNGC). The Shift aims to for an open, inclusive, multi-stakeholder, labour, environment and anti-corruption, develop innovative solutions to deal with the cross-sectoral policy dialogue on the role of and take actions that advance societal goals, biggest challenges faced by our planet, our such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with an emphasis on collaboration the SDGs in a local context, Belgium, and and innovation.

THE SHIFT

SHIFT

For many years, Close the Gap was a member of the sustainability network KAURI. In 2015, KAURI merged with Business & Society Belgium to become The Shift, with the mission to become the Belgian contact for the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and UN Global population and our prosperity by promoting among its members.

UNDPI & FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Close the Gap is a member of the United Nations Department of Public Information, which helps non-governmental organisations to disseminate information to the public about the United Nations. Close the Gap has a unique partnership with Fordham University, New York, which selects a master's student each year

to be the Youth Representative for Close the Gap at the United Nations in New York. For the 2017 academic year (September to June), Oruada Oruada represented Close the Gap.

ORUADA ORUADA

UN Youth Representative for Close the Gab

"My experience at Close the Gap as the NGO Youth Rep to the United Nations Department of Public Information was a great international exposure. During my time at the UNDPI I participated in committee and subcommittee meetings, events

> and also presented on how Close the Gap is achieving the SDGs. Working in this multicultural environment made it possible to network with other Youth Reps from all over the world. The most enjoyable part of being a Youth Rep was acting as the liaison between Close the Gap and the UNDPI/NGOs. I am grateful for this opportunity and honoured to be part of an organisation changing the lives of the developing world by bridging the digital divide."



TRANSPARENCY ACCOUNTABILITY AND FINANCIAL REPORT



Close the Gap has demonstrated over the last decade its ability to fulfil its mission with clear and tangible impact and hard deliverables, without relying on a traditional donor-driven and grant-money structure. A healthy, innovative, well-balanced and leading social business model has enabled Close the Gap to simultaneously fulfil its commitments to its partners on the ground in Africa, whilst maintaining a solid financial position to further grow and innovate.

Profitable results in 2017

While our organization has been able to realize a positive (economical) result for the financial year 2017, note the accounting result shows a loss of $\[\in \]$ -229,635.48. This is purely due to a technical accounting reason. During the Annual General Meeting in 2017, it was decided to donate the 2016 financial year result (see the before last item "withdrawals from allocated funds": $\[\in \]$ 436,721.05 on page 47) to the Close the Gap Foundation. This donation was accounted as a cost in 2017 and thus deducted from the 2017 result.

The "economic" profit for the 2017 financial year is therefore equal to $\[Color=0.05, 0.$

Close the Gap foundation

Part of the innovation agenda is the ever-growing entrepreneurial context in developing countries. The steady rise of general recognition for social entrepreneurs positively changing the ecosystem is increasing. Hence, the Close the Gap Foundation has been established to support the road ahead for Close the Gap Int. vzw, its mission and its partners. The Close the Gap Foundation will have a bigger role to play in the near future concerning our joint mission to bridge the digital divide. It enables Close the Gap to further innovate and start new pilot projects.





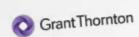
AUDITOR'S REPORT



Close The Gap International vzw

1050 BRUSSEL RPR: BE 0860.353.772

Auditor's report on the financial year as per 31 December 2017



Auditor's report to the general meeting of members of the organisation Close The Gap International vzw for the year ended 31 December 2017

In the context of the audit of the annual accounts of Close The Gap International vzw. (the In the context of the audit of the annual accounts of Cause the Cap international via Organisation), we bereby present our soditor's report. It includes our opinion on the sodit of the annual accounts as well as our report on the other legal and regulatory reporting nts incumbent on the auditor. These reports form part of an integrated whole and

We have performed the audit of the annual accounts of Close The Gap International vzw

Report on the audit of the annual accounts

We have suched the annual accounts of the Organization, which comprise the balance sheet we have authors the annual accounts of the Organization, which comprise the basines sheet as at 31 December 2017, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes to the annual accounts, characterised by a balance sheet total of 6.3.762.226,98 and a profit and loss account showing a negative result for the year of \in 229.635,48.

In our opinion, the annual accounts give a true and fair view of the Organisation's net equity and financial position as at 31 December 2017, as well as of its results for the year them ended, in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as we considered our augus in accordance with international Standards on Assuming (1894) as applicable in Belginim. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts' section in this report. We have complied with all the ethical requirements that are relevant to the sadit of annual accounts in Belgium, including those concerning independence.

We have obtained from the board of directors and the officials of the Organisation the explanations and information necessary for performing our stadit.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



Responsibilities of the board of directors for the annual accounts

The board of directors is responsible for the preparation of annual accounts that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium, and for such internal control as the board of directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of annual accounts that are free from material ministatement, whether due to

In preparing the annual accounts, the board of directors is responsible for assessing the on preparing the annual accounts, the count of directors is responsible for assessing the Organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, marters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board of directors either intends to liquidate the Organisation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a but is not a guarantee that an arout conquered in accordance who lates who assess seems material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual accounts.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual accounts, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain sudit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional
- omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

 Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstrances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organisation's internal control, Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board of directors;
- accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board of directors.

 Conclude on the appropriaturess of the board of directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our suditor's report to the related uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the sadit evidence obtained up to the date of our audine's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organisation to cease to continue as a going concern;



 Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual accounts and whether the annual accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the board of directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identified during our sodit.

Report on other legal and regulatory reporting requirements incumbent on

Responsibilities of the board of directors

The board of directors is responsible for the compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements regarding bookkerping, as well as for compliance with the Law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit organisations, foundations, European political parties and European political foundations, and with the Organisation's by-laws.

Responsibilities of the auditor

In the context of our mandate and in accordance with the Belgian standard which is complementary to the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium it is our responsibility to verify, in all material aspects, compliance with certain provisions of the Law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit organisations, foundations, European political parties and European political foundations and with the by-laws, as well as to report on

Statement related to independence

Our audit firm and our network did not provide services which are incompatible with the sudit of annual accounts, and our audit firm remained independent of the Organisation throughout the course of our mandate.

 Without prejudice to certain formal aspects of nunor importance, the accounting records are maintained in accordance with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium.



- There are no trac ssections undertaken or decisions taken in breach of the by-laws or of there are no transactions undereasen or decisions taken in breach of the by-laws or of the Law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit organisations, foundations, European political parties and European political foundations that we have to report to you.

Brussels, 27 June 2018

Grant Thornton Bednifszevisoren CVBA

Gunther Lors Registered auditor

FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE SHEET	Codes	31.12.2017	31.12.2016	31.12.2015	31.12.2014	31.12.2013	31.12.2012	31.12.2011
ASSETS								
FIXED ASSET Intangible assets	20/28	44.577,31 9.000,00	45.251,99 12.000,00	37.351,13 0,00	47.828,27 0,00	58.745,20 0,00	15.460,18 0,00	15.867,62 0,00
Tangible assets	22/27	35.577,31	33.251,99	37.351,13	47.828,27	58.745,20	15.460,18	15.867,62
Plant, machinery and equipment				0,00	90,00	246,11	402,22	900,32
Furniture and vehicles	24	22.534,66	17.650,40	19.190,60	27.018,80	36.044,28	13.125,96	12.759,30
Other tangible fixed assets		13.042,65	15.601,59	18.160,53	20.719,47	22.454,81	1.932,00	2.208,00
CURRENT ASSETS	29/58	3.717.649,67	4.428.720,36	4.292.091,72	5.124.722,57	6.209.113,42	5.517.578,36	5.559.033,89
Stocks and contracts in progress	3	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00
Stocks	30/36	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00
Goods purchased for resale	34	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00	1,00
Amounts receivable within	40/41	867.771,22	1.095.214,29	675.869,15	703.497,87	1.122.889,51	960.809,51	778.536,89
one year Trade Debtors	40	763.488,83	1.040.117,76	650.066,72	636.008,02	944.740,13	788.671.20	741.099,04
Other amounts receivable	41	104.282,39	55.096,53	25.802,43	67.489,85	178.149,38	172.138,31	37.437,85
Cash at bank and in hand	54/58	2.562.912,73	3.248.270,71	3.492.977,84	4.326.962,33	4.893.573,54	4.478.351,07	4.692.292,10
Short term investments Cash assets		0,00 2.562.912,73	302.902,84 2.945.367,87	302.519,52 3.190.458,32	301.519,59 4.025.442.74	1.303.288,45 3.590.285,09	1.871.671,67 2.606.679,40	2.346.735,72 2.345.556,38
Deferred charges and	490/1	286.964,72	85.234,36	123.243.73	94.261,37	192.649.37	78.416,78	88.203,90
accrued income	430/1	200.304,72	05.254,50	120.240,70	34.201,37	132.043,37	70.410,70	00.200,30
TOTAL ASSETS	20/58	3.762.226,98	4.473.972,35	4.329.442,85	5.172.550,84	6.267.858,62	5.533.038,54	5.574.901,51
CAPITAL AND RESERVES	10/15	1.493.998,07	1.723.633,55	1.580.253,69	2.036.912,50	2.920.272,37	2.658.014,60	2.423.925,57
Association's funds	10 100	9.461,62	9.461,62	9.461,62	9.461,62	9.461,62	9.461,62	9.461,62
Starting Capital Allocated Funds	13	9.461,62 605.000,00	9.461,62 1.011.721,05	9.461,62 868.341,19	9.461,62 1.325.000,00	9.461,62 1.596.761,25	9.461,62 584.503,48	9.461,62 589.719,25
Result carried forward	140	879.536,45	702.450,88	702.450,88	702.450,88	1.314.049,50	2.064.049,50	1.824.744,70
PROVISIONS		46.372,99	52.284,13	37.819,78	37.819,78	35.419,28	35.064,63	97.197,42
Provisions for liabilities and charges		46.372,99	52.284,13	37.819,78	37.819,78	35.419,28	35.064,63	97.197,42
CREDITORS	17/49	2.221.855,92	2.698.054,67	2.711.369,38	3.097.818,56	3.312.166,97	2.839.959,31	3.053.778,52
Amounts payable within one year	42/48	2.031.927,35	2.577.399,69	2.444.277,76	2.767.748,05	2.862.541,55	2.443.325,12	2.595.068,04
Financial Debts								
Trade debts	44	330.027,16	763.582,08	289.650,44	476.563,91	556.461,44	313.880,07	534.633,15
Suppliers Advances received on	440/4	330.027,16	763.582,08	289.650,44	476.563,91	556.461,44	313.880,07	534.633,15
contracts in progress	46	1.623.872,26	1.707.236,28	2.048.962,78	2.232.157,26	2.260.096,21	2.090.927,88	2.033.899,71
Taxes, renumeration, and social security taxes	45	78.027,93	106.581,33	105.664,54	59.026,88	45.983,90	38.517,17	19.935,18
Taxes Renumeration and social		10.410,34	11.653,51	9.973,19	8.683,15	9.705,83	0,00	0,05
security	454/9	67.617,59	94.927,82	95.691,35	50.343,73	36.278,07	38.517,17	19.935,13
Other amounts payable Accrued charges and	47/48						0,00	6.600,00
deffered income	492/3	189.928,57	120.654,98	267.091,62	330.070,51	449.625,42	396.634,19	458.710,48
TOTAL LIABILITIES	10/49	3.762.226,98	4.473.972,35	4.329.442,85	5.172.550,84	6.267.858,62	5.533.038,54	5.574.901,51

	Codes	31.12.2017	31.12.2016	31.12.2015	31.12.2014	31.12.2013	31.12.2012	31.12.2011
INCOME S	ΤΔΤ	EMENI	TS					
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Operating income	70/74	1.726.730,31	2.072.919,08	1.837.712,18	1.668.482,67	1.603.473,74	1.752.669,28	1.851.958,90
Turnover	70	1.423.871,05	1.728.848,47	1.403.105,68	1.284.668,86	1.353.285,36	1.516.977,10	1.457.542,55
Contributions, donations, grants, etc	72	267.788,08	320.970,19	398.286,96	341.277,01	220.594,32	206.918,15	384.954,64
Other operating income	74	35.071,18	23.100,42	36.319,54	42.536,80	29.594,06	28.774,03	9.461,71
Operating charges	60/64	1.954.486,29	1.933.092,65	2.319.955,76	2.582.055,69	1.364.088,48	1.621.425,13	1.305.011,34
Intermediate consumption	60/61	1.080.609,41	1.188.141,81	1.111.426,66	1.086.475,15	962.703,90	1.241.186,57	973.842,05
Raw materials, consumables and goods for resale	60	471.893,31	705.100,43	695.496,36	676.082,42	538.230,49	840.042,38	667.479,35
Purchases		471.893,31	705100,43	695.496,36	676.082,42	538.230,49	840.042,38	667.479,35
Increase (-);decrease(+) in stocks	609							
Services and other goods	61	608.716,10	483.041,38	415.930,30	410.392,73	424.473,41	401.144,19	306.362,70
Gross Margin Remunerations, social	70/61	646.120,90	884.777,27	726.285,52	582.007,52	640.769,84	511.482,71	878.116,85
security costs and pensions	62	337.935,33	398.447,11	422.095,91	375.737,50	337.536,00	336.953,38	214.442,51
Depreciation of fixed assets	630	13.774,71	9.688,38	10.899,34	12.883,46	13.747,54	5.918,16	5.896,21
Provisions for Liabilities and c Appropriations (+/-)	harges:	25.249,24	16.317,75	0,00	2.400,50	354,65	-62.132,79	29.310,32
Other operating charges	640/8	496.917,60	320.497,60	775.533,85	1.106.959,58	50.101,04	37.367,02	110.830,57
Operating result	70/64	-227.755,98	139.826,43	-482.243,58	-915.973,52	239.030,61	193.376,94	517.637,24
Financial income	75 751	376,27 1.818,71	7.996,73 6.019,67	28.443,51 25.634.23	35.190,86 34.185.49	26.472,55 25.330,23	42.507,78 42.012,78	56.677,25 55.996,83
Income from current assets Other financial income	752/9	-1.442,44	1.977,06	2.809,28	1.005,37	1.142,32	495,00	680,42
Financial charges	65	-2.255,77	-4.443,30	-2.858,74	-1.197,21	-1.441,04	-1.795,69	-1.517,04
Interest nad other debt charge		,	-,	,	- ,	,-	43,65	0,00
Other financial charges	652/0	2.255,77	4.443,30	2.858,74	1.197,21	1.441,04	1.752,04	1.517,04
Result on ordinary activities	70/65	-229.635,48	143.379,86	-456.658,81	-881.979,87	264.062,12	234.089,03	572.797,45
Extraordinary income (+)/ cost (-)				0,00	-1380,00	-1804,35	0,00	0,00
Write-back of depreciations	70/07	000 005 40	140.070.00	0,00	-1380,00	-1804,35	004 000 00	F70 707 4F
Result for the year Result carried forward	70/67	-229.635,48 702.450,88	143.379,86 702.450,88	-456.658,81 702.450,88	-883.359,87 1.314.049,50	262.257,77 2.064.049,50	234.089,03 1.824.744,70	572.797,45 1.343.540,26
Withdrawals from allocated								1.545.540,20
funds		436.721,05	293.341,19	750.000,00	1.196.761,25	0,00	5.215,77	
Addition to allocated funds	70/68	-30.000,00	-436.721,05	-293.341,19	-925.000,00	-1.012.257,77	0,00	-91.593,01
Result to be carried forward	70/68	879.536,45	702.450,88	702.450,88	702.450,88	1.314.049,50	2.064.049,50	1.824.744,70

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Some of Close the Gap's beneficiaries



