

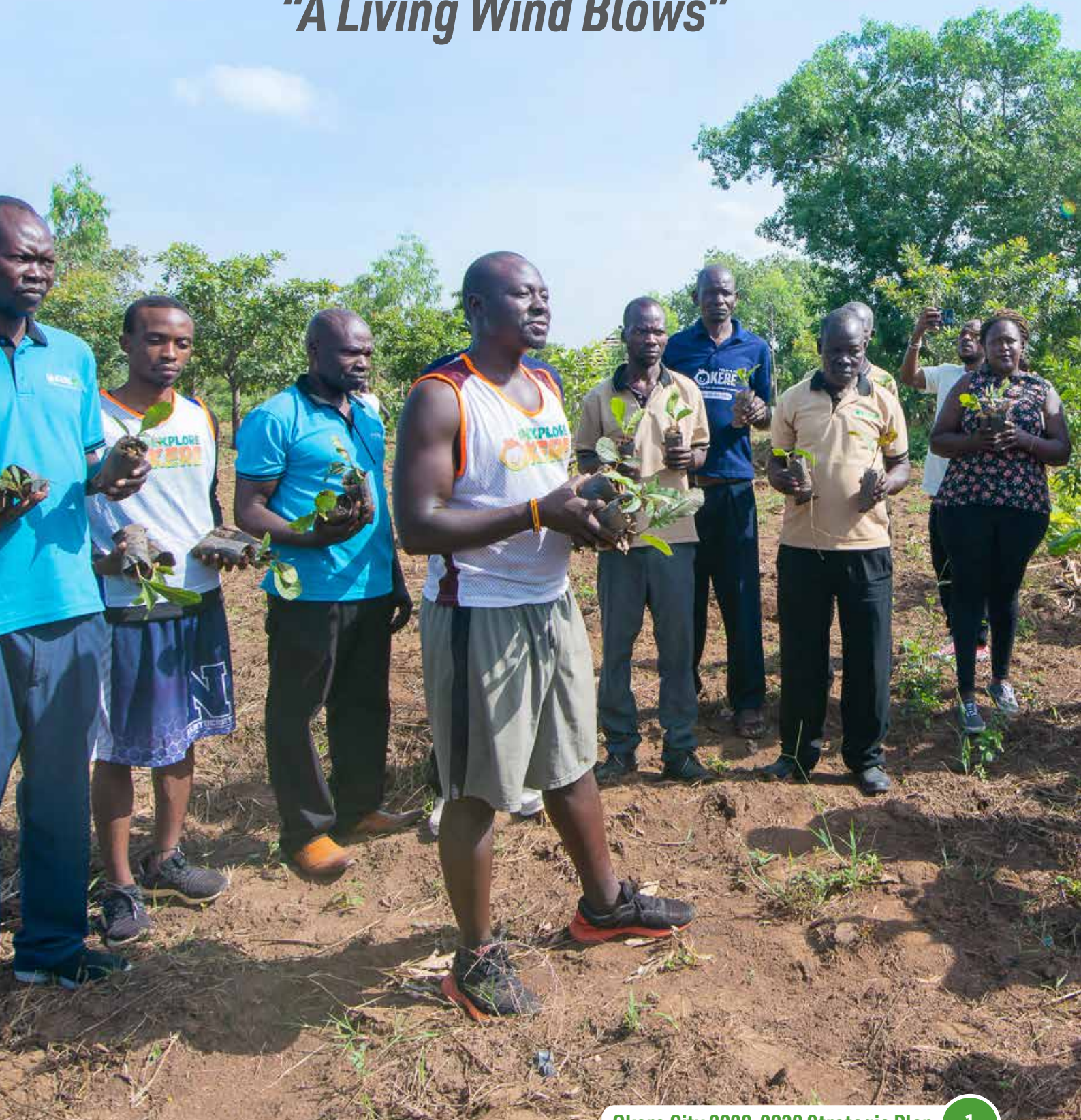


2020-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

STRATEGIC GOALS & OBJECTIVES OF OKERE CITY

OUR MOTTO

*"Yamo Akwo Koddo"
"A Living Wind Blows"*



OUR VISION

To build the first sustainable futuristic rural city in Uganda by 2030.



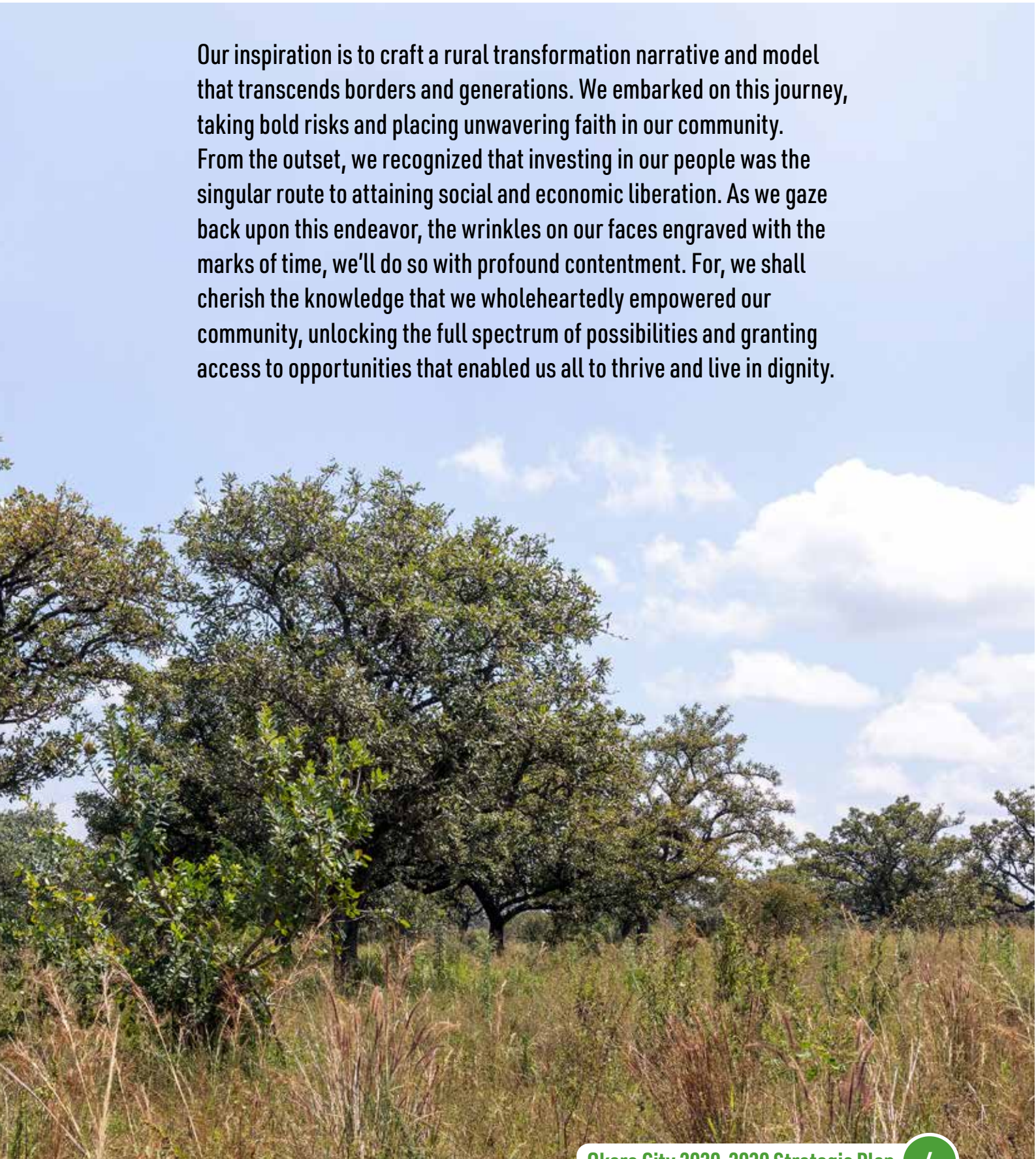
OUR MISSION

To create a resilient, thriving, and self-reliant rural future in Okere by investing in people and infrastructure, deepening relevant collaborations, and creating products and services to expand infinite opportunities and possibilities for the local community.



OUR INSPIRATION

Our inspiration is to craft a rural transformation narrative and model that transcends borders and generations. We embarked on this journey, taking bold risks and placing unwavering faith in our community. From the outset, we recognized that investing in our people was the singular route to attaining social and economic liberation. As we gaze back upon this endeavor, the wrinkles on our faces engraved with the marks of time, we'll do so with profound contentment. For, we shall cherish the knowledge that we wholeheartedly empowered our community, unlocking the full spectrum of possibilities and granting access to opportunities that enabled us all to thrive and live in dignity.



OUR OBJECTIVE



- 1** To empower Okere through dynamic partnerships with diverse rural community stakeholders, leaders, and groups, fostering holistic and enduring social and economic progress.
- 2** To catalyze economic security and self-sufficiency by channeling investments, knowledge, and capacity-building into our partner communities, equipping them to shape their prosperous futures.
- 3** To forge a vibrant knowledge-sharing platform dedicated to propagating sustainable and scalable rural development.

OUR IMPACT 2023



4 Years Serving Our Community

300 Children in School

50 Youth in Skills Development

2,000 Shea Trees Planted

150 Women in Shea Butter Coop

2k Pounds of Shea Butter Sold

10 Businesses Started

25 Direct Employment

2,500 Households Served

65 Indirect Employment

120 Women in Adult Education

30 Medical Access Per Day

70 Legal Training to
Local Councilors

300 Youth Sporting Opportunities

350 Friends of Okere



P.E.R.T.A.I.N. OUR VALUES

Okere City is guided by a set of core values and principles that influences its organizational culture and contributes to the achievement of the overall strategic plan.

PARTNERSHIP

Okere City promotes collaboration and networking with community members, district authorities and other like-minded development partners. Okere City refuses to use the language "beneficiaries" to describe the people engaged in its projects because the success of our projects necessarily hinges on collaboration with rural communities we partner with.

EFFICIENCY

Okere City strives to achieve maximum impact using minimal resources, by utilizing and building on existing assets.

RESPECT

Okere City treats all her partners with dignity and honor by giving them time, space and any kind of platform to fully express themselves. This respect entails humility, patience, and collaboration.

TIMELINESS

Okere City strives to conduct all project and research activities in a timely and accountable fashion.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Okere City strives to ensure openness, honesty, and transparency to all partners, stakeholders and the development community at large.

INNOVATIVE

Our holistic approach to community development brings together the resources required for innovative solutions to address endemic poverty. Our innovativeness is driven by research and understanding the complex realities that rural communities we work with go through.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Okere City does not discriminate against anyone based on age, sex, gender, race, religion, political affiliation, or physical ability.





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO OKERE CITY?

The claim that only what is sustainable is good sounds true to our convictions and beliefs as a community-based organization and social enterprise.

In fact, the concept of sustainability has been integrated into all facets of our operations.

For instance, we have already started implementing sustainable tourism, sustainable agriculture, sustainable education, sustainable livelihoods, sustainable retail businesses, and sustainable energy, among others. Indeed, at Okere City, we are in a relentless pursuit of sustainability. But what does 'sustainability' mean to Okere City?

To us, 'sustainability' is a balancing act of thriving today while being mindful of tomorrow. It is about doing everything right today so that our children, grandchildren, and future generations can inherit a cleaner, sounder, greener, and richer village. It is about creating possibilities that enable our community to be transformed today for continuous reforms for good.

That is why our 2030 Strategy is premised on the framework that supports collective action for the rural community to progressively and sustainability thrive. Our work is thus to ensure that we not only create opportunities for progress today but also shape the best possible future for the people

and planet in Okere. Of course, achieving this is a gigantic challenge. But we believe that with dedication, focus, hard work, and collaboration, nothing can be beyond our reach.

Audaciously, our work in the coming 10 years shall therefore seek to directly contribute to the achievement of all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These efforts will be hinged on the three pillars of sustainability, namely; people, the planet, and profits.

Thus, the Okere City 2030 Strategy is a direct attempt to ensure the fulfillment of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our strategy focuses on the implementation of projects and programs that enable the promotion of and access to education, clean water, and sustainable energy to infrastructure, industry, and agriculture, to the protection of biodiversity, and the fight against climate change. By 2020, we hope to contribute to at least 100 of the 169 sub-goals that are subordinate to the 17 SDGs.

Because human beings are central to the promotion of all these efforts, our initial efforts will be to directly contribute toward human capital development through skills development, knowledge expansion, and mindset change. This is all the more important because human beings influence life in many ways. Therefore, the Okere City 2030 Strategy places the human being at their very core and hence organically considers human behavior in its respective environment. This is the meaning of the term 'anthropogenic': the period in which we live today. Therefore, our work at Okere City will be to not only reduce the anthropogenic impact on the environment but also improve the capacity of the people in Okere to become effective custodians of their ecosystem. Because of the breadth and depth and also due to the crisscrossing nature of the SDGs, we believe that the SDGs can only be achieved more comprehensively using the integrated rural development approach.



OVERVIEW OF OKERE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (OKERE CITY)

Okere Community Development Project (Okere City) is a community development and social enterprise providing a collaborative and holistic ecosystem to promote integrated rural development in Okere parish, Adwari sub-county, Otuke District, Northern Uganda. Okere City project seeks to become an enabler for the rural community in the parish to be more imaginative, cooperative, creative, innovative, and enterprising as prerequisites for building a more resilient and prosperous rural future. Okere City is registered as a community-based organization (CBO) by Otuke District Local Government. Okere City's initiatives are driven by actual community needs and the implementation of project activities are led by community members. Overall, Okere City strives to be a community organization and social enterprise that creates multiple opportunities for agrarian reforms and rural

transformation in Okere Parish by encouraging open and forward-thinking, mobilizing, organizing, and training the rural population through a series of innovative projects, activities, and techniques so that they are able to develop practical solutions to the day to day challenges they face.

Okere City is a community where rural development, future aspirations, and cultural connections are consciously uplifted. It is a place that enables our community members to take a deliberate pause to think and be inspired to work towards building a futuristic, sustainable and thriving village. Through this project, we are evidently improving rural livelihoods and conditions and inspiring a radical rural transformation beyond the borders of our village. We are more than a rural development project. We are both an experience and an experiment of reimagining traditional rural development in Africa. More to our work and partnership with the people of Okere, we are also a destination for artists, researchers, activists, writers, thinkers, and dreamers who believe in the potential of the African countryside.



2020-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

**STRATEGIC GOALS
& OBJECTIVES OF
OKERE CITY**

2020-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

Our 2020-2030 Strategic Plan is to lay a formidable foundation for building a futuristic and thriving African village in Okere. We are going to achieve this bold ambition by investing in five key programmatic areas, namely;

1. Championing Local Economic Development (LED)

From 2020 to 2030, our priority is to build and sustain a robust local economy that enables rural dwellers in Okere to have access to dignified jobs and better services and products. We hope to achieve this through;

Improving access to market information through both digital and physical market information systems.

Providing opportunities for market linkages to better buyers of agricultural products for the farmers in Okere.

Creating platforms to add value to agricultural products e.g. establishing bulking centers and/or small warehouses, grain silos, as well as setting up agricultural processing facilities.

Increasing access to financial services through the establishment of a village bank and formation of a Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) and ensuring the effective and efficient functionalization of it.

Creating and promoting Smart-tech agricultural opportunities, such as irrigation systems.

Establishment of social businesses that serve and provide employment opportunities to the rural population in Okere.

Investing in Shea butter processing, marketing, distribution, and local sales/exports.

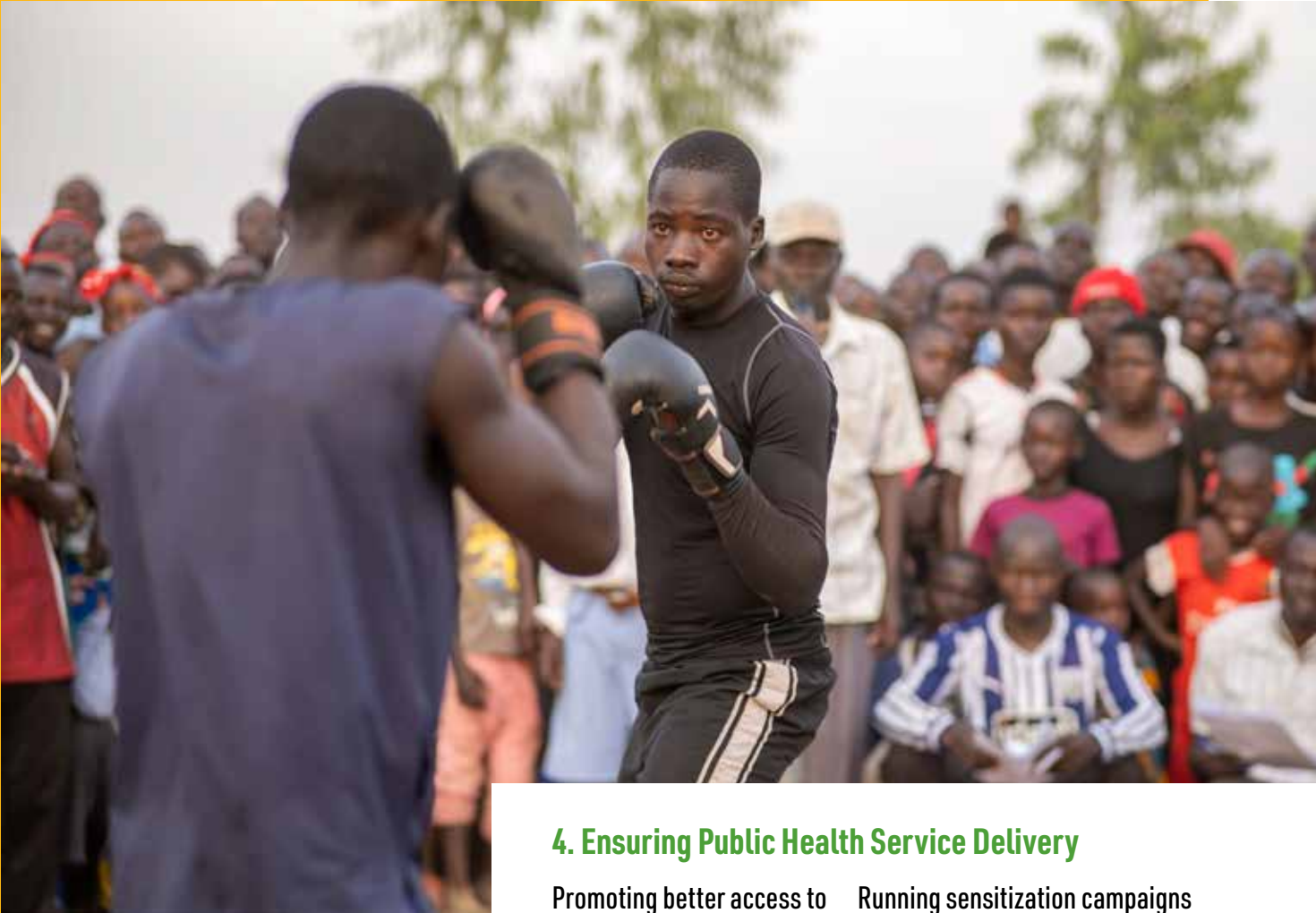
2. Strengthening Community Education

FORMAL LEARNING: Supporting Early Childhood Development (ECD), primary, secondary and tertiary educational programs.

INFORMAL LEARNING: Running Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) programs.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING: Facilitating the rural community in Okere to go for exposure visits, and field trips to various parts of the country for learning.





3. Facilitating Environmental Management

Champion the planting trees, particularly Shea and neem trees, and bamboo.

Carrying out massive community sensitization and awareness campaigns against the destruction of indigenous trees like Shea trees.

Training the local authorities, particularly LC1 councils and clan leaders on environmental management and supporting them to enact and enforce local laws as custodians.

Supporting the local law enforcement agencies, particularly the local police station to enforce laws against the destruction of Shea trees.

4. Ensuring Public Health Service Delivery

Promoting better access to various medical facilities and health services.

Running sensitization campaigns to improve nutrition and better sanitation practices.

Drilling and servicing community boreholes to provide access to safe and healthy water for drinking and household use.

5. Supporting Sports, Arts, and Culture

Establish various community sports training grounds for different sporting activities, including tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball courts, and a football pitch among others.

Training and coaching lessons for the talented children and youth in Okere.

Holding various artistic residency programs.

Training local coaches.

Organizing community cultural festivals

Organizing sports tournaments.

Facilitating community theatrical productions

Collaborating with different artists.

Promoting heritage activities.

Participating in relevant theatrical productions, music, and dance competitions.

Organizing cultural and social exposure trips.



SITUATIONAL THEORY OF CHANGE: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE RURAL FUTURE IN OKERE

OKERE AS IT IS (2020)

BARRIERS

- Poor infrastructure
- High adult illiteracy
- Long dry spells/drought
- Poor farming methods
- Lack of exposure
- Limited livelihood/economic options
- Distorted agricultural value chains
- Gender inequality
- Low levels of household income
- Children not going to school
- Limited access to primary health care
- Cultural degeneration

ASSETS

- Shea trees
- Excited and participatory community
- Agricultural land
- Underground water
- Hardworking women
- Dedicated team
- Shared love for culture & traditions
- Credibility and visibility of Okere City
- Existing community groups
- Committed partners and friends
- Strong community/local ownership

NARROWING THE GAP

- 1 Mobilize financial resources
- 2 Mobilize, sensitize, and inspire the local community
- 3 Create and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders: local government, academia, development organizations, private sector, philanthropic foundations, individuals, etc.
- 4 Widen climate adaptation and resilience options
- 5 Innovate and make critical investments to improve health, education, and agriculture outcomes
- 6 Prioritize women's empowerment
- 7 Support sports, arts, and cultural development projects
- 8 Conduct research, monitoring, and evaluation
- 9 Motivate, inspire, and keep the staff and community members hopeful
- 10 Support and operate social businesses for sustainability

OKERE AS IT SHOULD BE (2030)

- A vibrant ecosystem of innovative social businesses
- A resilient and robust local economy
- A productive, wealthier, and healthier population
- A culturally stronger and traditionally rooted society
- A greener and environmentally sound village
- Active and vibrant youth
- A peaceful community
- Educated children and adults
- More opportunities for women

GUIDING PRINCIPLES, VALUES & PHILOSOPHY

1. Bottom-up participation
2. Sustainability for self-reliance
3. Love and respect for Mother Nature
4. Human-centered design
5. Unity & respect for each other
6. Prioritizing women
7. Respecting culture and tradition
8. Documenting stories and data
9. Rural futurism

17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

STRATEGIC GOALS & OBJECTIVES OF OKERE CITY

- 1 Fighting Poverty
- 2 Fighting Hunger
- 3 Work Towards Better Health Outcomes
- 4 Improve Access to Quality Education and Lifelong Learning
- 5 Promote Gender Equality and Empowering Women and Girls
- 6 Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation
- 7 Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy
- 8 Provide Decent Employment Opportunities
- 9 Build Sustainable Infrastructure and Fostering Innovation
- 10 No Goals This Year
- 11 Make Okere City More Inclusive, Safe, Resilient, and Sustainable
- 12 No Goals This Year



- 13 Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impacts
- 14 No Goals This Year
- 15 Protect and Restore Shea Trees and Promote Their Sustainable Use
- 16 Promote Local Peace-Building
- 17 Strengthen Partnerships for Progress

FIGHTING POVERTY AND HUNGER

The majority of rural people in Okere are trapped in absolute poverty and eat just two meals a day. Our baseline data in 2020 indicated that 85% of the households in Okere were living below \$1.5 a day, and 90% of the people were eating just 2 meals a day. Hunger and poverty in Okere is exacerbated by the changing climate which has seen the village experience longer and harsher dry spells making farmers to only realize 15-20% of potential crop yield. Thus, to eliminate absolute poverty and hunger in Okere, we are implementing multi-sectoral sustainable development projects that target expanding livelihood alternatives such as promoting skilling and youth entrepreneurship and employment, retail trade and small business development, and agricultural development through investing in different value chains, among others.



We are working to fight poverty & hunger to achieve the following outcomes;

Increase membership of Okere Shea Coop from 100 women in 2020 to 300 women in 2030.

Facilitate 500 households to graduate from living under \$1 a day in 2020 to \$5 a day by 2030.

Advance affordable credit to 100 small businesses by 2030.

Provide farm equipment and improved seed to 1,000 farmers by 2030.

Increase agricultural productivity from the current 25% to 50% by 2030 among 500 farmers.

Ensure at least 70% of the population is eating three-meals-a-day by 2030, up from, just 10% who could afford three-meals-a-day by 2020.

Ensure school children at community schools are consistently eating three-meals-a-day.

Establish 50 community granaries as food reserve to fight food insecurity during scarcity.

Reduce abject poverty levels (living on less than \$1.5 a day) among households in the village from 85% in 2020 to at least 65% by 2030.



WORKING TOWARDS BETTER HEALTH OUT COMES IN OKERE



Okere, a typical village in Otuke District, Northern Uganda is severely unserved by basic medical services despite the dire need.

The village's 5,000 people are served by a government Health Centre II facility which is ill-equipped both in infrastructural terms and human resources to effectively provide the much-needed health services to the rural residents. In 2020, we carried out a baseline survey to understand the gravity of the problem and the data were heart-wrecking. For instance, 58% of the households in the village have at least a Person Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHIV/AIDS) and 5% of the people living with HIV/AIDS in the village are children under the age of 15 years. Moreover, 85% of the rural residents had suffered from waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery, and bilharzia in the last 12 months. The data also revealed that at least 05 women had lost their lives due to birth-related complications in the past 12 months.

Appalled by these statistics, we decided to prioritize health delivery interventions as a core component of our work. And so in July 2020, we started Okere Community Health Centre to provide quality healthcare services to the rural population of Okere Village.

By 2030, We Hope to Achieve the Following Health Outcomes;

Provide health care services to 10,000 patients in 2030, up from 2,000 served in 2022.

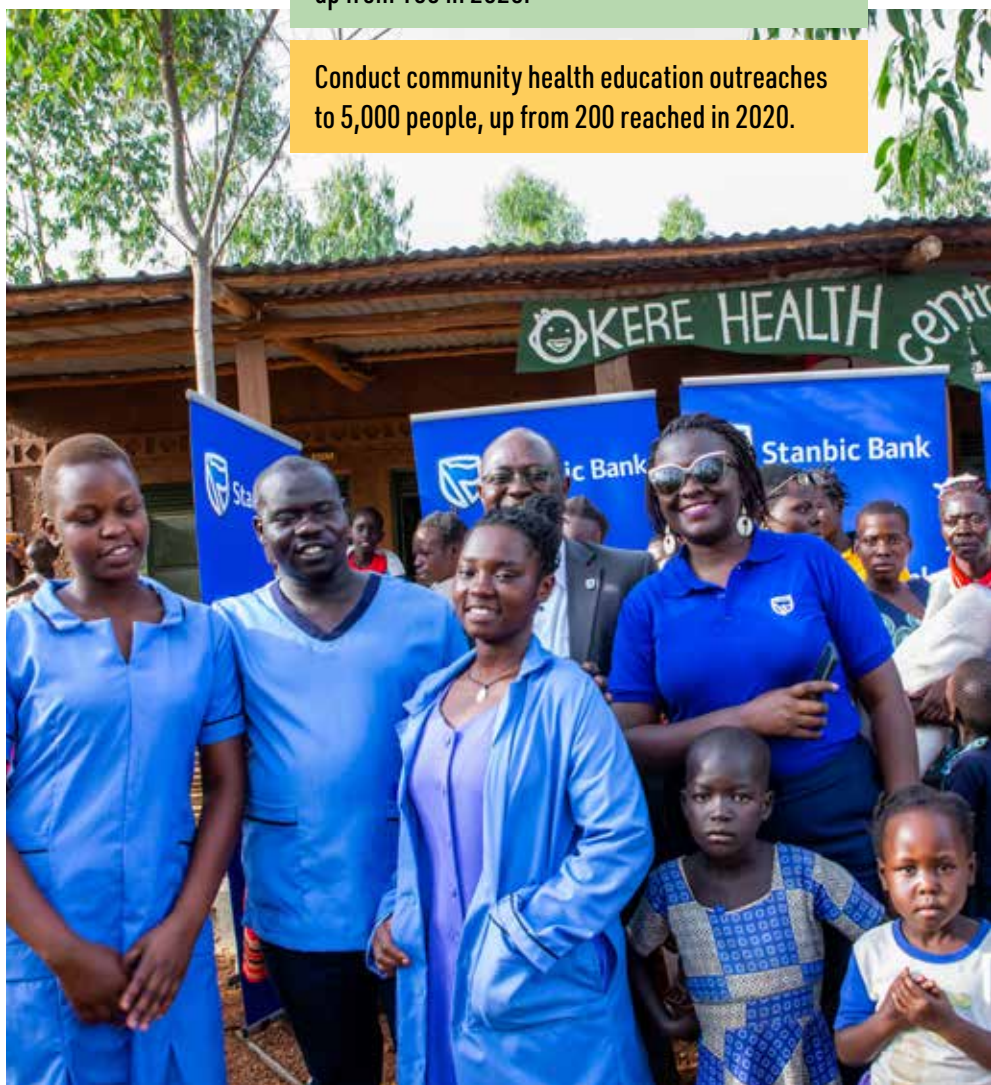
Ensure access to safe drinking water to 5,000 community members by 2030.

Provide HIV & AIDS services to 1,000 PLHVA by 2030, up from 100 PLHVA served in 2020.

Provide pre and post maternal health services to 1,000 mothers by 2030.

Provide dental service to 1,000 patients by 2030, up from 100 in 2020.

Conduct community health education outreaches to 5,000 people, up from 200 reached in 2020.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING IN OKERE

Education is the key to developing any society. Education gives children and young people the opportunity to develop themselves and their talents – and thus find their place in the

Quality education also gives community members the tools to advance positive change in their societies.

societies in which they live. Quality education also gives community members the tools to advance positive change in their societies.

Unfortunately, rural dwellers in Okere are lowly skilled and less

knowledgeable because of multiple factors such as the LRA conflict. Indeed, many rural dwellers do not even have basic numeracy and literacy skills. For instance, in Okere, up to 72% of the adult population did not go beyond primary school. Worst still, only 5% of the children below the age of 6 were undertaking early childhood education by 2020. 98% of children below 10 years old in Okere could not read and comprehend a simple text (learning poverty) in 2020. 78% of the children who sat their Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) dropped out of school in 2020. Less than 10% of young adults (16-40 years) could be categorized as technically skilled in any vocational discipline by 2020.

We are working to reverse educational outcomes by investing in;

Adult Literacy Education:

Ensure that 50% of the adults in Okere are literate in 2030, up from just 18% in 2020 through Aero-Kwan Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) program.

Early Childhood Development: Ensure that 75% of the children between the ages of 3-6 years are undergoing early childhood development in 2030, up from just 5% in 2020 through Okere ECD Centre.

Primary Education: Provide access to quality primary educational services to 5,000 children in Okere and neighboring villages by 2030. Build Okere Community Primary emerges as one of the leading primary schools in Lango Sub-region.

Secondary Education: Ensure that 90% of children who sit for their PLE from our community school graduate attain secondary education by 2030. Currently, only 05% of the pupils who sit for their PLE are proceed to secondary school.

Vocational Skilling: Ensure that 30% of young adults (15-45 years) in Okere are skilled in different technical and vocational skills, like carpentry and joinery, tailoring and fashion design, etc.). Train 500 youth in Okere in practical vocational skills by 2030.

Arts and Culture: Organizing 100 cultural festivals and theatrical productions to provide an authentic platform for community engagement, celebrations, and learning attracting 5,000 community members.

Hosting at least 100 artists-in-residency by 2030 up from just 06 in 2023.

Business and Entrepreneurship Training: Access to training is a major constraint among rural people.

Nearly 98 percent of the rural labor force in Okere has no formal business or technical training. Rural girls and women are often the most disadvantaged; deliberate attempts must be made to ensure that they receive the training needed to change the trajectory of their households. Training outside the formal training system is often the most important source of skills training in Africa.

Provide business training to at least 500 men and women in Okere by 2030, up from just 50 in 2020.

Promote gender equality and empowering women & girls.



PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN OKERE



We are still a long way from complete equal treatment of men and women.

Consider for example the minimal share of women in leadership positions in Okere. For instance, all the 15 local council chairpersons in Okere are men. Most of the children dropping out of school in Okere are also girls. By 2020, 65% of the children who had dropped out were girls. Yet, we believe that our education initiatives are a key factor in attaining gender equality. Women also continue to be discriminated against by cultural norms and practices due to the highly patriarchal nature of our society.

To achieve the goals detailed in SDG 5, we aim to;

Strengthen adult learning to benefit 500 rural women in Okere in 2030, up from 50 in 2020.

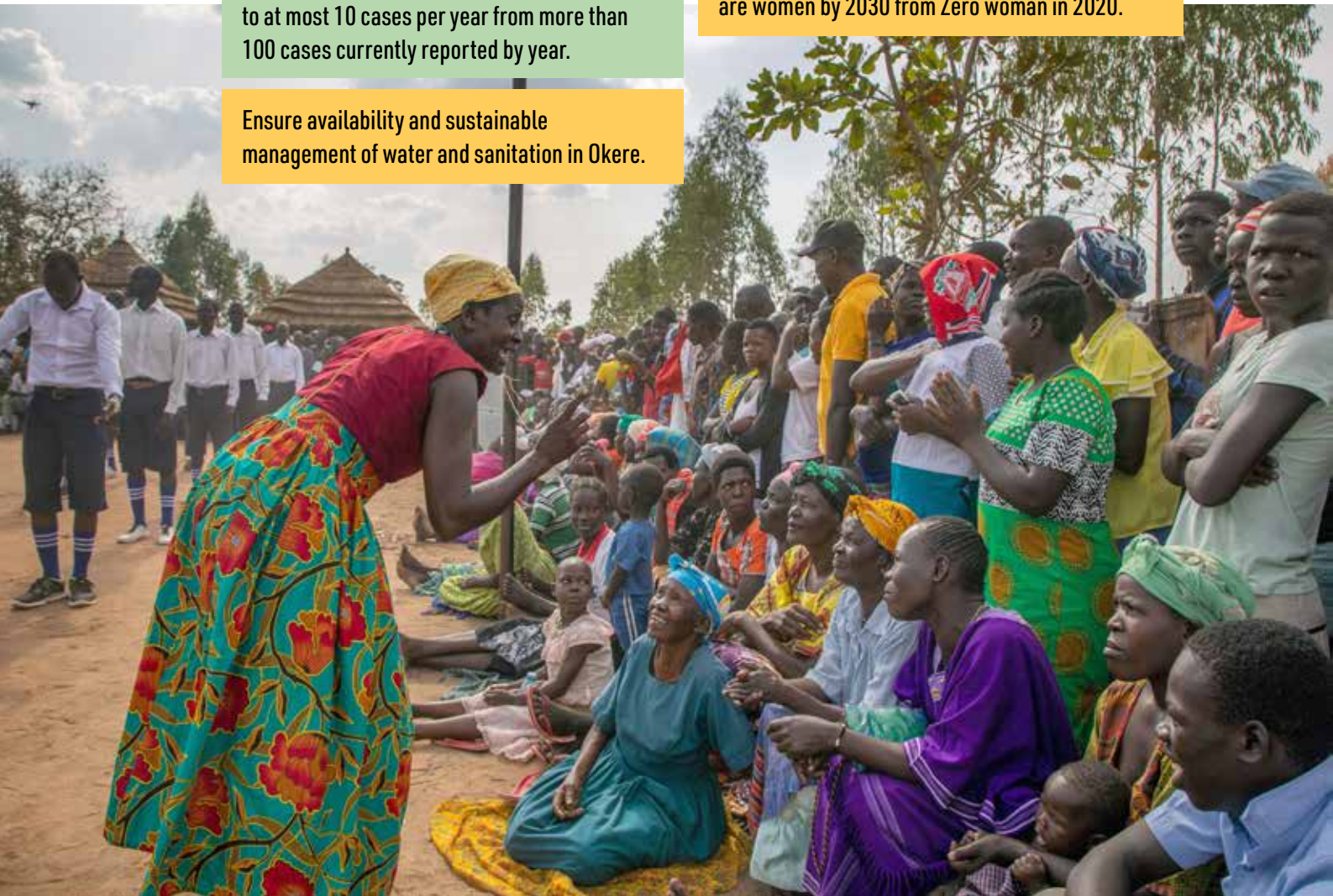
Provide scholarship opportunities to more girls than boys. Advance educational opportunities to 1,000 girls by 2030, up from 10 in 2020.

Support women to run for political offices at the local level through Okere Leadership Lab, our flagship leadership development initiative.

Ensure at least five out of 15 local councilors are women by 2030 from Zero woman in 2020.

Reduce incidences of gender-based violence to at most 10 cases per year from more than 100 cases currently reported by year.

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation in Okere.



ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION IN OKERE



For decades, one of the direst development challenges in Okere is access to safe drinking water.

For most households, women and girls have to trek for over 4KM to fetch a jerry can of water from the nearest borehole. For many, the easiest option was to resort to water collection from unprotected open wells. Because of this, outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as typhoid, and dysentery are very rampant in recent years. In Dec 2018, a dysentery outbreak affected 65% of the households in the village and one child died. The water access challenge is also further exacerbated during the prolonged dry season (Nov - March) when the open wells and a shallow borehole that serve the community dry off.

To improve access to water and sanitation service, we aim to;

Construct 5 boreholes to enable access to clean water by 2030.

Construct 1 water pumping system to supply the city center with clean water by 2030.

Form and support 5 Water Management Committees (WMC).

Conduct 20 community water and sanitation workshops.

Support the 100 local councils to enforce homestead sanitation monitoring and evaluation.

Support the local council in Okere to formulate and enact the homestead hygiene bylaw.

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy in Okere.



ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE, AND MODERN ENERGY IN OKERE



Energy poverty is one of the direst development challenges.

During a baseline survey we conducted in 2020 to assess the socio-economic landscape in Okere, it was found out that energy poverty is one of the direst development challenges. For instance, 98% were categorized as being energy-poor, i.e. they did not have access to both grid and off-grid electricity connections; they used kerosene lamps for lighting their homes at night; they used firewood for cooking food; they rely on rain-fed agriculture to conduct subsistence agriculture, among others. Resultantly, 85% of the households in Okere are living below the poverty line. Thus, addressing energy poverty is one of the immediate development interventions required to promote rural progress and prosperity in the village. More than 95% of Uganda's population cater for their energy needs using traditional biomass energy options (firewood, charcoal, plant, and animal residues) which are unclean and mostly inefficient whereas only about 5% of the population use other forms of improved energy like electricity, solar power, and petroleum-powered energy options. Moreover, rural women in Okere carry the greatest burden of energy poverty.

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To address the challenge of energy poverty, we hope to achieve the following by 2030;

Install a solar farm at Okere City that can provide sufficient energy for powering 50 profitable small businesses and 100 households.

Establish a 10-acre solar-powered irrigation scheme enabling 100 farmers to facilitate year-long agricultural production activities by 2030

Install solar-powered street lighting with Okere City hub by 2030.

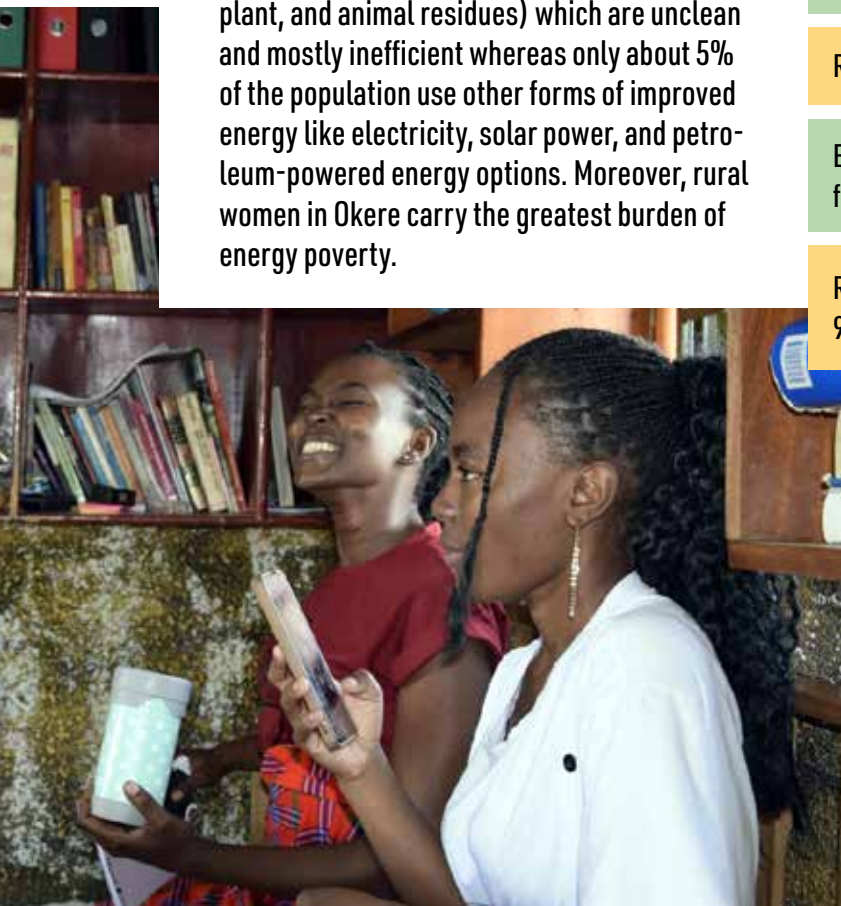
Establish a solar-powered multipurpose agro-processing plant to contribute towards value addition to agricultural produce.

Build a green kitchen for Okere Community School.

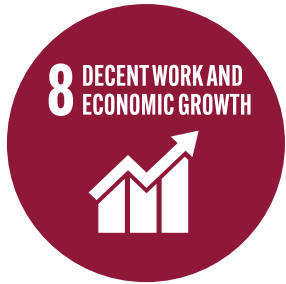
Reduce charcoal trade in Okere by 90% in 2030.

Eradicate the cutting down of Shea trees for charcoal production by 2030.

Reduce energy poverty from 98% in 2020 to 85% by 2030.



PROVIDING DECENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE IN OKERE



Promoting local economic development in Okere is one of our foremost strategic objectives. If we can create a robust rural economy in Okere, then many employment opportunities shall be created at the same time. Once decent jobs are created, we shall be able to build a community where people are thriving in dignity.

We hope to;

Create 100 direct employment opportunities by 2030, up from just 10 jobs created in 2020.

Build a network of 50 thriving social and local businesses by 2030, up from just 10 businesses run by Okere City in 2020.

Provide social security benefits to 20 staff of Okere City by 2030.

Build a network of 100 local entrepreneurs in Okere by providing affordable credit and business development support services through Okere Village Bank.

Develop Okere Shea Butter as a global brand supporting 100 households in Okere by 2030.

Support 100 cultural and community tourism incoming generating projects by 2030.



BUILDING SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND FOSTERING INNOVATION IN OKERE



Local economic development is not going to be possible without operational and resilient infrastructures for energy, transportation, water, finance, and communication. These infrastructures allow people to live and work in dignity, produce goods, and trade them through distribution markets. Therefore, the people in Okere should have access to the vital infrastructure under affordable and safe conditions.



To guarantee access to infrastructure in Okere, we seek to;

Tarmac 1KM of Okere City's Lacito Street equipped with solar lights by 2030.

Establish a Shea butter processing facility by 2030.

Construct classroom blocks, laboratories, a library, and other essential infrastructure to support educational service provision to 1,000 pupils/students at once by 2030.

Construct a museum and a community amphitheater to support artistic and cultural activities/productions by 2030.

Establish a digital lab that provides digital literacy and offers public Wi-Fi by 2030.

Establish an irrigation project to support year-round agricultural production.



MAKE OKERE CITY MORE INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT, & SUSTAINABLE



Since 2019, Okere City is striving to offer a diverse set of services and opportunities for the local area.

Within our space, access to work, health, technology, education, politics and culture has been significantly eased. But as Okere City grows, so shall new problems also emerge, for example concerning safety, access to affordable housing, general cleanliness and hygiene. Negative ecological consequences such as environmental degradation, exhaust pollution and farmland consumption.

We shall take deliberate actions to build a resilient, safe and sustainable community in Okere by 2030 in the following ways;

Utilization of bamboo as the mainstream sustainable construction material in Okere.

Provide affordable and decent transportation services between Lira and Okere cities by 2030.

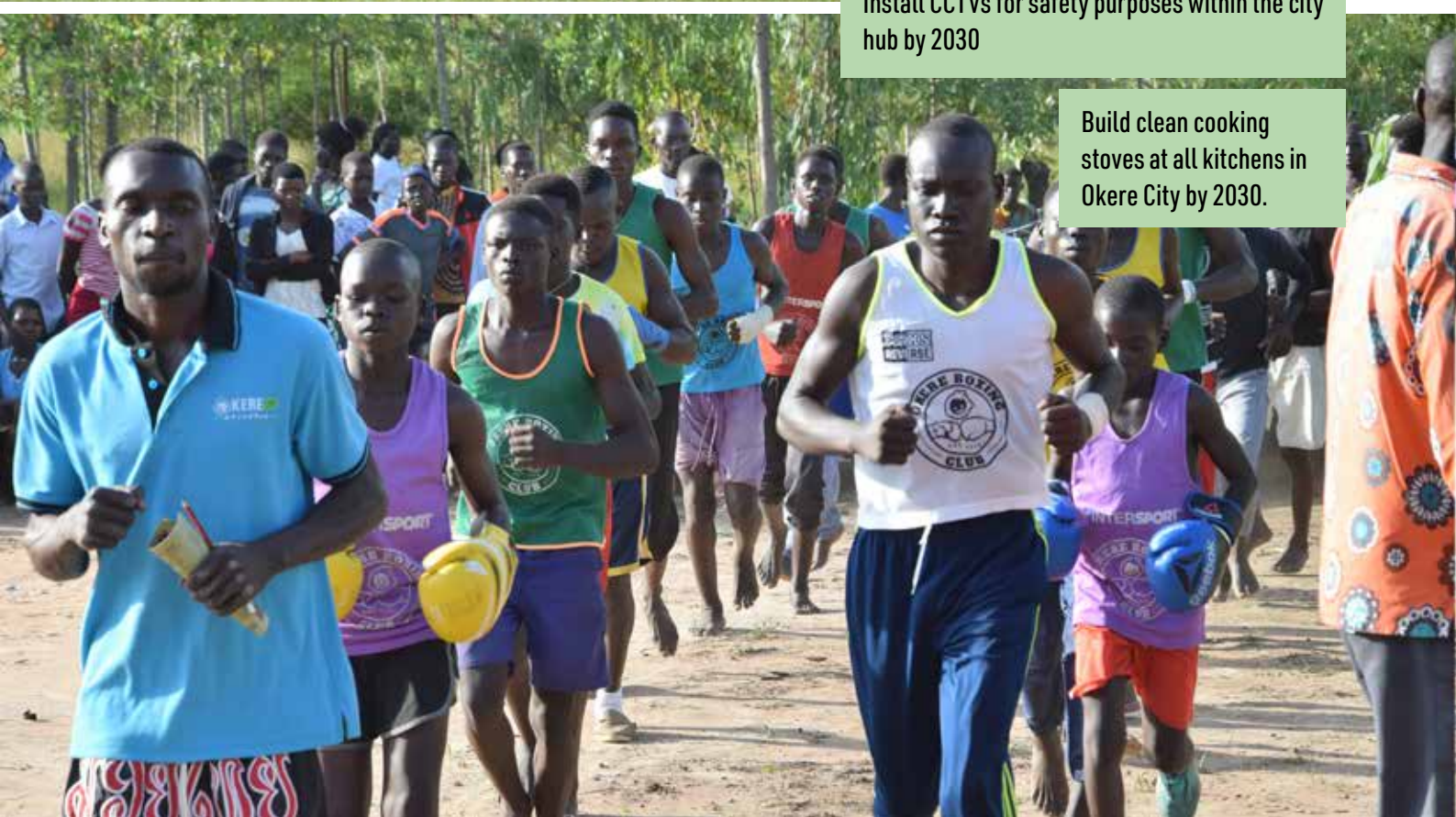
Establish a Botanical Garden, Green Park, Sculpture Parks, Children's Playground, and Community Gym

Startup sporting events, such as; the Okere Marathon, Tour de Okere attracting 1,000 people.

Establish Okere Arts Centre by 2030.

Install CCTVs for safety purposes within the city hub by 2030

Build clean cooking stoves at all kitchens in Okere City by 2030.



TAKING URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS IN OKERE



Located on a semi-arid belt, Okere suffers from long and devastating dry spells.

Climate change has compounded the challenge making Okere experience extremely hot temperatures, averaging 30 degrees centigrade. Already, the agricultural productivity in Okere is less than 25%, making hunger and starvation one of the biggest threats to livelihoods and survival. Of course, we understand that our action as a single village shall not make a significant enough contribution to fighting climate change, but we shall try nonetheless.

We are going to respond in a coordinated manner through small radical actions, such as;

Plant 10,000 bamboos by 2030.

Educate the local community in Okere about the dangers of bush burning and working towards curbing the practice by 2030.

Conduct 100 seminars, conferences, and workshops to sensitize the local community in Okere about climate change and its dangers.

Completely eradicate the cutting down of Shea trees to zero by 2030 from 200 Shea trees that were cut in 2020.



PROTECT & RESTORE SHEA TREES & PROMOTE THEIR SUSTAINABLE USE IN OKERE



Human livelihoods are closely linked to the natural abundance of flora and fauna. Should this wealth be destroyed through short-sighted interventions in the various ecosystems, humans are robbing their very basis for survival. Okere's population is rising rapidly. To be able to feed everyone in the future, ample agricultural land is of utmost importance. Currently, however, land productivity is being lost due to bush burning.

Just as important to our survival in Okere are Shea trees and other natural trees species which are being cut down to make charcoal. In Okere, 80% of the natural trees' cover were destroyed over the past 20 years. Yet, Shea trees provide food, absorb carbon, and are significant cultural assets. Importantly, the medical and economic benefits of Shea trees are immense. Hence, there is an urgent need to find ways to stop deforestation and implement reforestation initiatives that will allow sustainable use.

We seek to achieve this by;

Start up a Shea Butter Cooperative Society and increase active membership to 500 by 2030, from 20 members in 2020.

Increase the sale/supply of Okere Shea Butter from 1 ton in 2020 to 1,000 tons by 2030.

Reduce to zero the cutting down of Shea trees for charcoal production from 10 trees that were cut down on average per week in 2020.

Organize community awareness campaigns to completely stop the destruction of Shea trees.

Support local councils and police to enforce bylaws against the destruction of Shea trees.

Support 100 cultural and community tourism incoming generating projects by 2030.

Plant 100,000 Shea trees by 2030.

Conducting awareness campaigns to stop the destruction of 1M Shea trees by 2030.

Adding value to Shea wood that has been harvested due to old age or destroyed by calamities such as heavy storms.

Ensure that all the 15 village councils in Okere have a by-law against the destruction of Shea trees by 2030.



PROMOTE LOCAL PEACE-BUILDING IN OKERE



For over thirty years, the LRA conflict and Karamojong cattle rustling disrupted the daily lives of people in Okere. Therefore, most of the work of Okere City is an attempt to address the legacies stemming from the conflicts in the four areas of education, health provision, food security, and livelihood, as well as community relations. This makes Okere City to become characterized as a local peace-building effort.

Our work to promote local peace-building shall be achieved through;

Facilitating peace and reconciliation meetings.

Be fair in all our dealings and strive to ensure justice.

Work with 50 religious and cultural organizations in Okere to act as peace-building bridges.

Protect children in Okere from all forms of abuse by instituting and strictly enforcing a safeguarding policy.

Train 500 local leaders in political and community leadership to deepen their knowledge and understanding of key components for successful leadership, such as, civics and politics, community organizing, research, monitoring and evaluation, peacebuilding, human rights, local governance, etc.

Conduct at least 100 peace-building and conflict-resolution workshops for 1,000 community members.

Organize 50 memorialization and remembrance activities to bring the local community in Okere to terms with past incidences of war and conflict.



STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR PROGRESS IN OKERE



The only way we can emerge as a sustainable village where most of the indicators are achieved is if we can create relevant partnerships, and nurture and sustain it over time. Of course, our most important partner is the local community in Okere. But to enable us to champion radical rural transformation in Okere, we need to work hand-in-hand with the local government in Otuke District starting from the smallest unit (LC1) to the highest one which is the LC5. We all need to collaborate with philanthropic foundations, local and international NGOs, multilateral institutions (e.g. UN, EU) as well as private enterprises from small businesses to large, international corporations, as well as the media, organized civil society (clubs, associations, trade unions, parties.)

Our work and target on partnership are;

Organize Okere SDGs Summit every year to bring different development partners to Okere to understand the meaning of sustainability in practice.

Widen our partnership portfolio from just 1 in 2020 to 50 by 2030.

Work hard to be awarded and/or recognized by at least 20 global platforms/organizations by 2030.

Enlist 1,000 individuals as Friends of Okere by 2030, up from just 20 in 2020.





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