



10th - April - 2023

To: *WHOM IT MAY CONCERN*

RE: RECOMMENDING OKERE CITY FOR YOUR SUPPORT

It is an honor to be a special reference recommending Okere Community Development Project (Okere City). I have known Ojok Okello, the founder and CEO of Okere City as a radical community builder and organizer who is transforming his once war-ravaged rural community in the remote district of Otuke, Northern Uganda. I have known Ojok for close to two years and I have not only been inspired but also significantly supported his work through my role as the Corporate Social Investment Manager at Stanbic Bank Uganda. Indeed, earlier this year, Stanbic Bank supported Okere City to build maternity and laboratory units at Okere Health Center, one of the many projects of Okere City.

Stanbic Bank Uganda has invested in Okere City because of its local-driven and people-centered solutions which are championing a rural transformation in Okere. As we launched the health center that was set up by Stanbic Bank Uganda with a focus on the maternal wing, it was uplifting to see the immediate utilization of the Okere health facility by the community of 5,000. To date, the facility serves at least 50 members daily and provides among others laboratory and dentistry services. Okere City is radical in many ways. Firstly, the organization invests by making sure that the rural people in the community are the ones in charge of the project designs and implementation. This is because they believe that it is important to take engagements and conversations about stuff that matters to the people. Again, their locally-led solutions ensure that people's lives are transformed from where they are. To achieve this, they have invested in critical projects that bring services and products closer to the rural community that for decades were relegated to the margins of progress and development.

In many ways, Okere City is not just a place. It is an experience of a transformational community that endeavors to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through their different initiatives that; promote the preservation of culture; improve literacy rates both among the children and the elderly through the adult literacy program; promote economic development through the Shea Butter business and the plans in motion to develop into an eco-cultural tourism site with the Langi museum underway. One of the items on display will be functional granaries to store seeds and act as a backup if there is a food shortage.

In addition, Okere City is also investing in afforestation by restoring the Shea trees in the area and easing access to health services through its health center. The Okere City story is a powerful testimony of how ownership and progressive actions can transform communities if just one person decides to start something and works in concert with their communities. It would be my greatest delight if you extend any kind of support to advance the bold and audacious vision of Okere City which seeks to build the first rural city in Africa by 2030.

Yours sincerely,

Diana Ondoga

[Diana Ondoga \(April 10 12:13 GMT+3\)](#)

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