

ACTION IN THE SPOTLIGHT



April to June Edition



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PIP IN ACTION

From Low-Value Crops to High-Value Horticulture: Mr. Ongom Denis Okidi's Remarkable Turnaround

Mr. Ongom Denis Okidi, a 40-year-old father of five, used to depend on low-value crops like maize and cassava. Like many smallholder farmers, his family struggled with low income and limited progress despite hard work.

The Turning Point

Through the INSPIRE Project's Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) training, Mr. Ongom and his family drew their Household Current Situation, Vision, and Integrated Action Plan. This exercise opened their eyes to the power of purposeful planning. He realized that without a clear plan, his family's future would remain uncertain.

Motivated by Possibility, Mr. Ongom made a bold decision — to shift from low-value subsistence crops to high-value horticulture, specifically cabbage production.

Impressive Results

He started with $\frac{1}{4}$ hectare of cabbage (Fanaka F1 variety) and earned UGX 500,000 after the first harvest.

He has since expanded to $\frac{3}{4}$ hectare and expects to earn between UGX 3 million to 4 million in the current season. He sells each head of cabbage



for at least UGX 1,000, mainly in Otuke District markets.

He now plans to expand to 2 hectares next year and integrate 100 local chickens while constructing a permanent house.

This transition has significantly boosted his household income and confidence in commercial farming.

Challenges Faced

Prolonged drought affecting crop quality

Limited technical knowledge in nursery management and horticulture best practices
Theft of mature cabbages from the garden.

Key Lessons Learned

Mr. Ongom's success demonstrates that diversifying into high-value crops can increase farm income

to traditional maize and cassava. He also learned the importance of integration — combining horticulture with livestock — and the need for better security by growing closer to the homestead.

Voice of the Farmer

"PIP helped me see that farming without a plan is like walking in darkness. Now I have a clear vision and I'm earning more from less land."

— Mr. Ongom Denis Okidi

Field Extension Officer Edii Ronald notes that Mr. Ongom and other farmers in the community will receive additional training on horticulture production and irrigation techniques to sustain and scale their success.



INSPIRE PROJECT LAUNCHED IN KOLE

INSPIRE Project was officially launched in Kole District on 6th May 2026 during a meeting held at Kole District Headquarters Boardroom. The launch brought together district leaders and stakeholders from GOAL Uganda, FINASP, and Agriterra, marking the beginning of the project's implementation in the district from June 2026 to 2029. The session was moderated by the District Community Development Officer, who welcomed participants and highlighted the importance of collaboration in transforming communities.

In attendance were the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), District Natural Resources Management Officer, the District Police Commander, the Operation Wealth Creation Officer for Kole, and the Officer In Charge of Kole Prisons,

among other district officials and technical staff. In her remarks while opening the launch, the RDC appreciated the coming of the INSPIRE Project to Kole and noted that the district stands to benefit greatly from initiatives that focus on household empowerment, sustainable farming, and community participation. She encouraged local leaders and communities to fully embrace the project for long-term impact.

District officials shared their appreciation for the expansion of the INSPIRE Project from Lira, Alebtong, and Dokolo into Kole District. They emphasized that the project comes at a time when communities need practical solutions that improve livelihoods, strengthen environmental conservation, and encourage collective responsibility.



collective responsibility. The officials also applauded the Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) approach for promoting mindset change, planning at household level, and stronger community engagement.

The meeting ended with optimism and commitment from both the implementing partners and district leadership to work together in ensuring successful implementation of the project across the 9 subcounties in Kole District over the next three years.

From Idle Youth to Skilled Future: How Adeknino Skilling Hub is Transforming Lives and Restoring Peace



Aerial Photo of Adeknino Community Vision Skilling Hub located in Adeknino Parish, Adeknino subcounty, Dokolo District

Adeknino, a fishing community with about 480 households, was once plagued by high youth unemployment, school dropouts, early marriages, and rising cases of theft. Many young people who could not continue with formal education were idle and vulnerable to negative social behaviors.

The Turning Point

Motivated by the desire to secure their children's future, reduce unemployment, prevent early marriages, and restore peace, the Community Vision Committee (CVC), local leaders, and parents embraced the Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) process. They identified skills development as a practical and sustainable solution for both boys and girls.

Community-Led Innovation
With support from the INSPI-

Project, the community established the Adeknino Skilling Hub. One member donated a 5-roomed house to serve as the training facility, while another donated a sewing machine. Through a general community meeting, members agreed to contribute a small fee per student to pay instructors, buy tools, register the hub, and provide meals.

The hub officially opened on 25th May 2026, offering four practical courses:

- Brick Laying and Concrete Practice
- Fashion and Design
- Hair Dressing
- Carpentry and Joinery

Remarkable Impact in Just Four Months

- 100 students enrolled (64 females and 36 males)



Janet demonstrates her new skills in Garment Tailoring and Design



INSPIRE team pose for a photo with Community Vision Committee and the students at the hub

- No single case of theft reported in the community since the hub started
- All children in the community are now either in primary school, Adeknino Seed Secondary School, or the Skilling Hub

Youths are acquiring employable skills that will improve their future incomes and contribute positively to their households and the wider community. This story demonstrates the

power of community-owned initiatives. When communities take the lead with local contributions and ownership, solutions become more sustainable and impactful. The equal participation of boys and girls also promotes gender inclusion and broader community benefits.

Adeknino Skilling Hub proves that when communities plan together using the PIP approach, they don't just solve problems — they build lasting hope and peace.

Voice of a Parent

"Before the skilling hub, many of our young people were idle and getting into trouble. Now my daughter is learning Fashion and Design and my son is doing Brick Laying. There is peace in our homes and no more theft. This hub has given our children hope."

— Amolo Lucy, Parent and Community Member

TITLE: TIC AME PACO REV. STEPHEN ONGOL ATIYO 2025-2029

GOAL: MEDO RWOM ME DONGO ME PACU REV. STEPHEN TUNU IMWAKA 2030.

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LIVESTOCK
PITO
LEYI

Rev Stephen Ongol displays his Intergrated House Hold Plan that will run from 2025-2029

From Many Ideas to Clear Direction: How PIP Unlocked Poultry Success for Rev. Stephen

Before joining the INSPIRE Project, Reverend Ongol Stephen, like many smallholder farmers, relied on traditional crop farming, coffee, and fruit trees. His income was low and irregular, making it difficult to meet household needs or invest in meaningful farm improvements. Although he had several ideas, he lacked a clear plan to turn them into reality.

The Turning Point
Through Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) process, Reverend Ongol Stephen developed his Household Vision and Integrated Plot Plan (IPP). This exercise helped him clearly visualize his desired future and identify practical steps to achieve it.

He realized that poultry production could become a viable enterprise — one that would generate quick returns while complementing his other farming activities.

Motivation

His main drive was to improve household income, enhance food security, and create a sustainable livelihood for his family. The PIP training gave him the confidence and structure to move from subsistence farming to a more purposeful and commercial approach.

Intervention

Guided by the INSPIRE Project, he established a poultry enterprise focused on buying day-old chicks, brooding

them under good management conditions, and selling them at one month old to fellow farmers. He improved a room into a poultry house, acquired brooding equipment, and adopted best practices in feeding, vaccination, sanitation, and disease prevention. The poultry enterprise was carefully integrated into his broader farm plan, which includes maize, soybeans, coffee, matooke, tomatoes, cabbages, and a kitchen garden.

Results & Impact

The poultry enterprise has become one of the most successful parts of his household plan. By selling one-month-old chicks, he now enjoys a reliable source



Day Old chicks raised by Rev Stephen Ongol

His farm has become a learning site — farmers from other communities visit during exchange visits to learn from his integrated farming model.

This story clearly shows that the PIP approach helps farmers move from vague ideas to focused action. Proper planning, enterprise diversification, and integration of livestock with crops can significantly improve household resilience and income.

of income that supports his family and allows him to reinvest in the farm. His success has created a positive ripple effect in the community:

Many farmers now prefer buying one-month-old chicks from him because they have higher survival rates. Several youths have started small poultry businesses by buying chicks from him and reselling them in neighboring villages, creating a local value chain and employment opportunities.

Voice of the Farmer

"Before developing my PIP, I had many ideas but no clear direction. The household vision helped me identify poultry as a business opportunity. Today I am earning income from selling one-month-old chicks and helping other farmers start poultry enterprises. I now believe that every household can improve its livelihood through proper planning and commitment."

— Reverend Ongol Stephen

Rev Ongol Stephen's farm is an excellent example of what is possible when farmers fully embrace PIP. I recommend continued technical support, linkage to financial services, and using his farm as a demonstration and learning site for other farmers.

Rev Ongol Stephen's success demonstrates that when smallholder farmers are supported to plan intentionally, they can transform their livelihoods and become catalysts of change in their communities.



PIP Innovators during a Cross Learning Visit at Rev. Stephen's poultry farm in Ajwati-AyetAyet, Okwongodul subcounty



Banana Plantation at Rev Stephen's farm with adopted agroecology and integrated farming practices



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