



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
SOROTI CITY
AND
STAND FOR DIGNITY UGANDA
FOR COLLABORATION ON INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL TRANSFORMATION**

I. PARTIES

I.1 Soroti City

Soroti City, a city authority established under the laws of the Republic of Uganda, with its offices in Soroti City, Uganda, hereinafter referred to as “the City”, which expression shall, where the context permits, include its authorised representatives, departments, offices and successors.

I.2 Stand for Dignity Uganda

Stand for Dignity Uganda (SDU), a community-based organisation operating in Uganda and working to promote inclusive, rights-based and community-led development, hereinafter referred to as “SDU”, which expression shall, where the context permits, include its authorised representatives and successors.

The City and SDU are individually referred to as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties”.

2. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

- Soroti City recognizes the importance of inclusive and sustainable development that responds to the needs and priorities of communities within the city.
- SDU is a community-focused organisation committed to empowering communities through programmes and partnerships that promote dignity, sustainable livelihoods, inclusion, resilience, rights and community participation.
- The Parties recognise that sustainable community development requires coordinated action among local government, civil society, communities, private-sector actors, development partners, technical institutions and other stakeholders.
- The Parties further recognise the importance of locally led approaches that strengthen community capacity, improve access to opportunities and services, support livelihoods and entrepreneurship, promote environmental sustainability, strengthen protection and social cohesion, and enable communities to participate meaningfully in development processes.
- The Parties wish to establish a broad and long-term framework for collaboration under which specific programmes, projects and initiatives may be jointly developed and implemented.
- This MoU is intended to provide an overarching framework for cooperation, while specific projects may be implemented through agreed work plans, project agreements, addenda, concept notes or other appropriate instruments.

3. PURPOSE OF THE MOU

The purpose of this MoU is to establish a framework through which the City and SDU may collaborate to promote:

- Inclusive community development
- Food security and sustainable livelihoods
- Youth and women's empowerment
- Entrepreneurship, business incubation and innovation
- Digital inclusion and digital transformation
- Wash and community health
- Environmental protection and climate resilience
- Human rights and civic engagement
- Social justice and protection
- Gender equality and prevention of violence
- Peacebuilding and conflict prevention
- Research, learning and evidence generation
- Partnerships and resource mobilisation for community development

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTNERSHIP

1. Strengthen community participation in local development processes.
2. Support vulnerable and underserved communities to access sustainable livelihood and economic opportunities.
3. Promote youth and women's economic empowerment, leadership and participation.
4. Strengthen entrepreneurship, MSME development, innovation and business support systems.
5. Improve access to appropriate digital skills, tools and technologies.
6. Promote access to safe water, sanitation, hygiene and related community health information and services.
7. Support communities to build resilience to environmental and climate-related challenges.
8. Promote human rights, civic participation, social justice and inclusion.
9. Strengthen community-based protection, safeguarding, GBV prevention and referral mechanisms.
10. Promote peaceful coexistence, dialogue, social cohesion and conflict prevention.
11. Generate and use evidence, research and community knowledge to inform programming and local development.
12. Mobilise partnerships, technical expertise and resources to address agreed development priorities within Soroti City.

5. AREAS OF COLLABORATION

5.1 Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods

- Promote food security and sustainable livelihoods
- Support household and community-level food production
- Promote kitchen gardens and agroecological practices
- Support climate-smart agriculture
- Strengthen Village Savings and Loan Associations and similar community mechanisms
- Promote livelihood diversification
- Strengthen market linkages for producers and entrepreneurs
- Support youth and women's participation in livelihood activities

5.2 Youth and Women's Empowerment

- Promote economic empowerment of youth and women
- Provide entrepreneurship and employability skills
- Support leadership and life skills development
- Facilitate access to information, networks and opportunities
- Strengthen women's participation in enterprise and community decision-making
- Support youth-led innovation and enterprise
- Promote digital skills among young people and women

5.3 Entrepreneurship, Business Incubation and Innovation

- Support aspiring and existing entrepreneurs
- Promote business incubation and mentorship
- Strengthen MSME management and business systems
- Provide enterprise development training
- Facilitate business diagnostics and advisory support
- Promote market access and procurement readiness
- Facilitate business networking
- Strengthen financial and investment readiness
- Promote innovation and technology adoption
- Connect entrepreneurs with relevant ecosystem stakeholders

5.4 Digital Inclusion and Digital Transformation

- Promote digital literacy
- Improve access to digital tools and technologies
- Support digital entrepreneurship
- Promote digital financial inclusion
- Strengthen digital productivity
- Support responsible use of emerging technologies

- Promote digital safety and responsible technology use
- Support digital transformation among community organisations and enterprises

5.5 Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Community Health

- Community and school WASH
- Sanitation and hygiene promotion
- Menstrual health and hygiene
- Access to appropriate sanitation facilities
- Promotion of safe water practices
- Reusable menstrual hygiene solutions where appropriate
- Community health awareness
- Community mobilisation

5.6 Environmental Protection and Climate Resilience

- Promote environmental stewardship
- Support climate-resilient livelihoods
- Promote agroecological approaches
- Increase community awareness of environmental risks
- Support community-led environmental initiatives
- Promote sustainable natural-resource use
- Strengthen community preparedness and resilience to climate-related shocks

5.7 Human Rights, Civic Engagement and Social Justice

- Promote awareness of rights and responsibilities
- Strengthen community participation in development processes
- Promote inclusive civic engagement
- Support community dialogue
- Strengthen awareness of social justice issues
- Support participation of marginalised groups
- Promote accountability and community feedback mechanisms

5.8 Protection, Gender and Safeguarding

- Promote protection of children and vulnerable persons
- Prevent and respond to gender-based violence
- Strengthen community awareness on protection risks
- Strengthen referral pathways
- Promote safeguarding
- Support community-based protection mechanisms
- Promote gender equality and inclusion

5.9 Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention

- Promote community dialogue
- Support peaceful coexistence
- Strengthen social cohesion
- Promote conflict prevention
- Facilitate community-led peace initiatives
- Support awareness and dialogue around local drivers of conflict

5.10 Research, Learning and Evidence

- Conduct community assessments
- Undertake research relevant to local development priorities
- Document community experiences and good practices
- Generate evidence to inform programming
- Facilitate knowledge exchange
- Strengthen monitoring, evaluation and learning
- Use evidence to improve programme design and implementation

5.3.1 Teso Enterprise & Digital Innovation Hub

As one mechanism for advancing entrepreneurship, business incubation and innovation, the Parties may jointly support the establishment and operation of the Teso Enterprise & Digital Innovation Hub in Soroti.

The Hub may provide or facilitate access to:

Space → Skills → Digital Tools → Business Advisory → Markets → Networks → Finance Readiness.

The Hub shall be designed as an enterprise-support platform rather than solely as a training or ICT centre and may serve youth, women, MSMEs, aspiring entrepreneurs and other eligible community members.

Specific arrangements relating to premises, equipment, management, financing, maintenance and partner contributions may be documented through a separate work plan, addendum or implementation agreement.

5.11 Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation

- Development partners
- Foundations
- Private-sector organisations
- Financial institutions
- Universities and TVET institutions
- Government agencies
- Professional associations

- Community-based organisations
- Other civil society organisations
- Entrepreneurship Support Organisations
- Technology partners
- Other relevant stakeholders

The Parties may jointly develop concepts, proposals, programmes and partnerships around mutually agreed priorities. Where a funding opportunity or partnership requires a separate agreement, the Parties shall enter into such agreement before implementation.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOROTI CITY

1. Provide appropriate institutional support for agreed areas of collaboration.
2. Facilitate engagement between SDU and relevant City departments and technical personnel.
3. Where appropriate, facilitate access to relevant City facilities, information and structures required for agreed activities.
4. Support community mobilisation through appropriate City structures where mutually agreed.
5. Facilitate linkages between SDU programmes and relevant City development priorities.
6. Participate in agreed programme planning, implementation, monitoring and review processes.
7. Provide relevant technical guidance through appropriate City departments where available.
8. Facilitate appropriate engagement with other local government and public-sector stakeholders.
9. Support coordination of activities to minimise duplication and strengthen complementarity with City programmes.
10. Participate in resource mobilisation and partnership development where mutually agreed.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAND FOR DIGNITY UGANDA

11. Develop and implement agreed programmes in accordance with approved plans and applicable requirements.
12. Mobilise communities and target participants for agreed activities.
13. Provide appropriate technical and programme-management capacity.
14. Develop training, mentorship, enterprise-support and community-development interventions relevant to agreed priorities.
15. Mobilise partnerships and resources to support agreed programmes.
16. Maintain appropriate programme, financial and asset-management systems for activities under its responsibility.
17. Monitor and document programme outputs, outcomes and lessons.
18. Share relevant reports and information with the City as mutually agreed.
19. Promote safeguarding, inclusion, dignity and non-discrimination across activities.

20. Coordinate with relevant City departments and avoid duplication of existing government programmes.
21. Ensure that activities undertaken under this MoU comply with applicable laws, regulations, organisational policies and funding requirements.

8. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- Involve communities in identifying priorities
- Promote meaningful participation in programme design
- Use community knowledge and locally appropriate solutions
- Establish appropriate feedback mechanisms
- Promote inclusion of women, youth and persons with disabilities
- Strengthen community ownership and sustainability

9. USE OF CITY FACILITIES AND SPACE

1. Where the City agrees to make premises or facilities available for SDU activities, the specific premises shall be identified and agreed in writing.
2. The permitted use, access arrangements, maintenance responsibilities and duration shall be agreed by the Parties.
3. Use of City property shall not constitute transfer of ownership to SDU.
4. SDU shall use the premises responsibly and only for agreed purposes.
5. SDU shall not undertake structural modifications without prior written approval from the City.
6. Where necessary, specific facility arrangements shall be captured in an addendum or separate facility-use agreement.

This provision may provide the institutional basis for the proposed Teso Enterprise & Digital Innovation Hub, without making the Hub the sole purpose of this MoU.

10. EQUIPMENT AND ASSETS

1. Ownership of equipment acquired through a specific project or third-party contribution shall be determined by the applicable funding, donation or project agreement.
2. Where equipment is provided to SDU for programme implementation, SDU shall maintain appropriate asset records and ensure responsible use.
3. City-owned assets shall remain the property of the City unless otherwise agreed in writing.
4. The Parties shall maintain appropriate records for jointly managed assets where applicable.

11. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

This MoU shall provide the overall framework for cooperation. Specific initiatives may be implemented through:

- Annual joint work plans
- Project-specific agreements
- Implementation agreements
- Addenda
- Concept notes
- Programme-specific memoranda
- Other mutually agreed instruments

Each specific programme should, where appropriate, define objectives, target beneficiaries, geographic scope, activities, roles and responsibilities, budget and financing arrangements, implementation period, monitoring indicators, reporting requirements and sustainability arrangements.

12. FUNDING AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. This MoU does not, by itself, create a financial obligation on either Party.
2. Each Party shall bear its own costs unless otherwise agreed in writing.
3. Financial contributions to specific projects shall be governed by separate agreements.
4. The Parties may jointly mobilise financial and in-kind resources from third parties.
5. All funds received for specific programmes shall be managed in accordance with applicable funding agreements and relevant financial management requirements.

13. SUSTAINABILITY

The Parties shall seek to promote sustainability beyond individual projects.

- Community ownership
- Strengthening local institutions
- Partnership development
- Skills transfer
- Private-sector engagement
- Appropriate cost-recovery mechanisms
- Enterprise-generated income
- Capacity building
- Integration with relevant City priorities
- Resource mobilisation

For enterprise-related initiatives, including the Teso Enterprise & Digital Innovation Hub, SDU may develop appropriate earned-income mechanisms such as affordable workspace, paid advanced training, advisory services, business clinics and sponsored programmes.

14. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

The Parties shall cooperate in monitoring and reviewing activities implemented under this MoU.

Where appropriate, indicators may include:

- People and communities reached
- Youth and women participating
- Enterprises supported
- Businesses receiving advisory support
- Entrepreneurs linked to markets
- Entrepreneurs linked to finance
- People receiving WASH support
- Communities participating in environmental initiatives
- Protection and referral activities undertaken
- Partnerships established
- Resources mobilised
- Jobs or livelihoods supported
- Other indicators agreed on specific programmes

The Parties may conduct periodic joint reviews to assess progress, identify challenges and document lessons.

15. DATA PROTECTION AND CONFIDENTIALITY

1. Each Party shall take reasonable measures to protect confidential information received through implementation of this MoU.
2. Personal information shall be collected, stored, used and shared responsibly and in accordance with applicable laws and agreed procedures.
3. Confidential information shall not be disclosed to third parties without appropriate authorisation, except where disclosure is required by law.

16. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

1. The Parties may jointly communicate activities and achievements arising from this partnership.
2. Use of either Party's name, logo or official communication channels shall require appropriate authorisation.
3. Where a programme is supported by a third party, applicable branding and visibility requirements shall be observed.

17. SAFEGUARDING AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Parties shall promote safe, inclusive and respectful participation in all activities undertaken under this MoU.

The Parties shall seek to prevent discrimination, exploitation, abuse, harassment and other forms of misconduct.

Particular attention shall be given to the protection and meaningful participation of children, women, youth, persons with disabilities and other potentially vulnerable groups.

18. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

1. Each Party shall retain ownership of intellectual property developed or owned prior to this MoU.
2. Ownership and permitted use of materials jointly developed under a specific programme shall be agreed by the Parties.
3. Neither Party shall commercially exploit the proprietary materials of the other without appropriate authorisation.

19. GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

19.1 Focal Persons

Each Party shall designate a focal person responsible for coordinating implementation of this MoU.

19.2 Joint Coordination Committee

The Parties may establish a Joint Coordination Committee comprising representatives of the City and SDU. The Committee may:

- Provide strategic oversight
- Review implementation progress
- Identify opportunities and challenges
- Coordinate stakeholder engagement
- Review joint work plans
- Support resource mobilisation
- Promote alignment with City priorities
- Make recommendations on future areas of collaboration

19.3 Meetings

The Committee may meet at least quarterly, or as otherwise agreed.

20. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. Any disagreement arising from implementation of this MoU shall first be addressed through consultation and good-faith dialogue between the Parties.

2. Unresolved matters shall be referred to the senior authorised representatives of the Parties.
3. Where appropriate, the Parties may agree to use an alternative dispute-resolution mechanism consistent with applicable laws.

21. AMENDMENT

This MoU may be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties. Any amendment shall be signed by duly authorised representatives of both Parties.

22. TERM AND RENEWAL

1. This MoU shall take effect on the date of the last signature.
2. The MoU shall remain in force for three (3) years, unless terminated earlier in accordance with its provisions.
3. The Parties may renew the MoU by mutual written agreement.
4. The Parties shall endeavour to review the MoU at least six months before its expiry.

23. TERMINATION

1. Either Party may terminate this MoU by giving the other Party ninety (90) days' written notice.
2. The Parties shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that termination does not unnecessarily disrupt ongoing activities benefiting communities.
3. Termination of this MoU shall not automatically terminate a separate project agreement unless that agreement provides otherwise.

24. NOTICES

All formal notices relating to this MoU shall be made in writing and delivered to the official addresses designated by the Parties.

For Soroti City

City Town Clerk/Authorized Representative

Soroti City

Soroti, Uganda

Email: Carolnadekira@gmail.com

Telephone: 0773441558



For Stand for Dignity Uganda

Executive Director / Authorized Representative

Stand for Dignity Uganda

Soroti City, Uganda

Email: standforddignity@gmail.com

Telephone: 0782146517

25. NATURE OF THE MOU

1. This MoU establishes a framework for cooperation between the Parties.
2. Except where expressly provided in a separate agreement, this MoU does not create a joint venture, partnership, employment relationship, agency relationship or financial obligation between the Parties.
3. Neither Party shall have authority to bind the other Party without prior written authorisation.

26. ENTIRE UNDERSTANDING

This MoU represents the framework agreed between the Parties concerning the areas described herein and supersedes previous discussions or understandings relating to the same subject matter, unless the Parties expressly agree that an earlier arrangement shall remain in force.

27. SIGNATURES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by their duly authorized representatives.

For Soroti City	For Stand for Dignity Uganda
Name: <u>DEKUIRA CAROLINE</u> Signature & Date: <u>[Signature]</u> City Town Clerk/Authorized Representative	Name: <u>ILUILOL SOLOMON LEAN</u> Signature & Date: <u>29/05/2025</u> Executive Director / Authorized Representative
WITNESS (Name, Signature, Date) 	WITNESS (Name, Signature, Date) <u>OYARA SAM</u> <u>[Signature]</u> Operations lead Stand for dignity.

ANNEX 1: INITIAL PRIORITY AREAS

The Parties may initially prioritise the following areas, subject to available resources and jointly agreed work plans.

SDU–City Priority	Collaboration	Government Linkages
Food security & livelihoods	Agroecology, climate-smart agriculture, VSLAs, markets	PDM, OWC, City Production
Youth empowerment	Enterprise, skills, leadership	YLP, PDM, Emyooga
Women's empowerment	Enterprise, skills, finance readiness	UWEP, PDM, Emyooga
Enterprise & innovation	Incubation, mentorship, markets, finance readiness	PDM BDS/financial inclusion, Emyooga, City Trade/LED
Teso Enterprise & Digital Innovation Hub	Workspace, training, digital tools, enterprise clinics	Complementary platform for eligible PDM/Emyooga/UWEP/YLP linkages
Digital inclusion	Digital literacy, digital entrepreneurship	PDM digital/e-service elements and relevant ICT programmes
WASH & health	Community/school WASH, hygiene	City Health/WASH structures
Environment	Climate resilience, environmental stewardship	City Natural Resources and relevant programmes
Protection	Child protection, GBV, referral	City Community Based Services/Probation & Social Welfare
Peacebuilding	Dialogue, social cohesion	City leadership and relevant structures

ANNEX 2: PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION ARCHITECTURE

The Parties intend to use the following structure to translate this overarching MoU into practical programmes:

1. GENERAL MOU — Overall SDU–Soroti City partnership framework.
2. JOINT ANNUAL WORK PLAN — Agreed priorities, activities, responsibilities and coordination for a defined period.
3. SPECIFIC PROGRAMME / PROJECT — A defined intervention addressing an agreed priority.
4. PROJECT-SPECIFIC AGREEMENT OR ADDENDUM — Detailed implementation, financing, asset, facility or partnership arrangements where required.
5. FUNDING / IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS — Additional agreements with third parties where funding, technical support, equipment, market access or other contributions are involved.