



tjeko

The **power** of
opportunity

Tjeko
the method!

Developing Tjeko

Fun Village



CONTENT



Opportunity	3
Tjeko Method	5
On own land	11
Kids, land & community	12
Tjeko Fun Village	13
Development Partners: Entrepreneurs who want to support us in our mission! ..	16
The best way to experience Tjeko is by being there!	18
Mirai's journey to Uganda	20
Articles about "Opportunities"	22
Adopt a piece of our Fun Forest now and support our mission!	24
Kid's Corner	27
Are you already following us?	28



OPPORTUNITY

When we published our '10-year' magazine two years ago, we could not have imagined that our next magazine would have such a cool new theme: OPPORTUNITY - a word with so many layers of depth! "Chance, Opportunity, Possibility", all three words that we can apply to the Tjeko journey. As an organization, we have had so many opportunities.

Tjeko received such an opportunity in the middle of the coronavirus crisis. "Ferdie, what would you really like right now?"... Well, I didn't have to think about it for long. "Our own piece of land". We got that opportunity! Our team traveled all over the region, and a list of possible pieces of land was compiled. The shortlist got smaller and what remained was a beautiful piece of land, just 15 minutes from Jinja, our long-standing home base. Since the beginning of 2022, Tjeko can call itself a large landowner - an opportunity that we have seized with both hands! A 15-hectare piece of land, 300 meters from a main road to Kampala, just 15 minutes outside Jinja! What a location!

It is an untouched piece of land, full of potential... It seems like a former rainforest, cleared over the years, but never 'ruined'. A piece of land, full of passion to develop itself!

Our dream is to build many fantastic play activities AND a beautiful, attractive food forest here. Full of

fruit and nut trees, bamboo fields. We dream of a campground where children can come to stay. We see school trips and our own academy... So much beauty - in a fixed, own location.

In this magazine, you will read how our Ugandan team operates - how we, together with our partners in the Netherlands, are allowed to let this land grow into a unique project: a Fun Village in a Food Forest

We believe in seizing an OPPORTUNITY. You see an opportunity, you don't exactly know how it will turn out - but you have been dreaming of that chance for years and once there, you are immensely grateful for it. Read this magazine and be inspired. Think while reading if perhaps you too want to seize your chance! Enjoy reading.

Ferdie en Tatiana.



Are you involved in companies that also like to seize an **OPPORTUNITY** when they see one? Then check out pages 16 and 17!

A young boy is riding a white bicycle with a woman standing behind him, holding the handlebars to assist him. The boy is wearing a white t-shirt with a colorful graphic and dark shorts. The woman is wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt with a panda graphic and plaid pants. They are outdoors at an event with a red and yellow tent in the background. A banner on the tent says "WORLD OF SPORTS". There are other people and orange tires in the background.

tjeko

*"When opportunity
presents itself, don't be
afraid to go after it."*

Eddie Kennison

tjeko method

Tjeko is Swahili for "laughter and hilarity." Not the immediate association with a project in Africa! When people think of programs about aid in Africa, they often think of poverty, education, medical clinics, or orphanages. While most organizations help "through the tears," we come from the other side: the side of laughter!



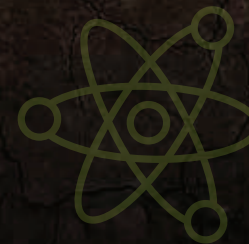
Over the years, we have worked on a method to be there for ALL children in the areas where we work. We want to be there for children deep in rural areas as well as children from the city. For children from any background: healthy, disabled, and sick children, the richest and the poorest! Why? Because all these children have one thing in common: they all develop into healthier adults if they have the chance to play, engage in sports, and express themselves through creative activities - by laughing, dancing, by truly being children!



OUR TJEKO METHOD

In the following pages, our Tjeko staff will take you through our Tjeko Method! So many beautiful stories! So many 'Tjeko' moments! And this is just the beginning!

The Tjeko Method is a combination of charity, social enterprise, and educational programs. For an outsider, it can sometimes be difficult to understand, but for insiders, it is a good strategy to ensure that as many children as possible can enjoy a carefree childhood!





We deliver our lessons on imagination and play to convey the message of the day, but not in a traditional way, rather following the 'edutainment' approach: a mix of entertainment and education! We are active in primary schools in Africa with educational programs called "The Power of

Tjeko Live opens the door to many of our other elements of Tjeko. It gives us the freedom to move in schools, organizations, and communities while having a positive impact on the children we reach.

Imagination and Creativity." The Tjeko LIVE school program is supported by locally trained play and communication experts. They visit schools and provide various lessons and activities. Additionally, they offer special workshops for teachers and childcare providers.

It is difficult to choose what I want to write about because we experience so many wonderful things! One story that touched me last year was the story of Rodric. The education agency Jinja granted Tjeko permission to conduct Tjeko Live in Jinja schools. This was fantastic news! In one of the classes, there was a very reserved boy named Rodric. He was not active at all, not even in the games we played. After each lesson, we ask the children to tune in to our radio program, so when we come back next time, they can even summarize the radio lesson themselves. Despite this boy Rodric always sitting in the background during the Live lessons, he could, step by step, tell the topic and story that was told on the radio every time we returned. Surprisingly, he even

called in and won the contest! He received a gift from Tjeko, and together with his family, he was allowed to come and play in the Play Park. They even visited our Fun Village last year! Rodric is our number one radio listener and caller on 88.6 Kiira FM. I found it so nice, and it really touched me that Tjeko activities changed people's lives, especially in the world of children. We are a blessing to all the children who receive our services. Amen.

Peace 33, Tjeko Live, and Tjeko Academy



Peace Nankwanga



It really touched me that Tjeko activities changed people's lives.

tjeko fun services

When Tjeko Live moves from one school to another organization, it gains recognition and connects with our other methods, including Tjeko Fun Services. Tjeko Fun Services is part of Tjeko Social Enterprise. Our local team rents out Tjeko Fun materials and is present at parties and events. Income is generated from the rental of materials to finance Tjeko's activities. The goal is for each team to grow towards financial self-sustainability.



SUMMER GARDENS HOTELS

I was at the Summer Gardens hotel in the Mukono district, distributing flyers to various hotels. The surroundings looked beautiful, but the security was strict, and I had to answer many questions, like "Who are you?" and "Where are you from?"

Later, I was referred to the reception area, where I met Madame Olive. I greeted her and explained who I was and what Tjeko does. Then, I kindly asked her if she could refer me to her boss

Madame Olive asked me a few more questions, which I answered. Afterward, she pointed out a place for me to set up the stand with Tjeko brochures. After asking her once again if she could please refer me to her boss, she smiled and asked if I had come all the way from Jinja. Then she told me that she would pass on the information about Tjeko.

A month later, I received a phone call from Madame Olive, who told me that she wanted to hire our services. It was only then that I realized she was the boss of the hotel. She came to our office with her manager, who was very enthusiastic about our services

They told us why they chose to leave all other providers in Kampala and how convincing my words had been in persuading them to choose us. Madame Olive even said that I had "power in my mouth" (Akamwako kalina amanyi). I felt proud and empowered. I thanked God for how He made me and appreciated Tjeko for recognizing and developing my talents.

From that day on, the Summer Garden hotels became our regular customers.

Phiona 30, Tjeko Connect



tjeko academy

Tjeko Academy is the breeding ground of Tjeko. Here, we train loyal, available, and eager game professionals who help us carry out the Tjeko programs.

From 2011 to 2022, we recruited hundreds of young men and women. Out of them, we have retained 13 employees who keep Tjeko running. Others work as alumni at different Tjeko locations, host programs on the radio, teach at schools, and assist in organizing events. Additionally, Tjeko encourages them to work constructively toward their future and provides them with useful tools. The primary purpose of Tjeko Academy is to train competent and enthusiastic leaders. These young adults take the acquired knowledge and skills with them, benefiting even outside the Tjeko Fun Village.



During my time at the Tjeko Academy, I met Robinah, a mother of two school-going children. Robinah was very quiet and mostly stayed in the background. One day, I took pictures of the artworks the students were making for the festival.

I struck up a conversation with Robinah and understood that in addition to attending the Tjeko Academy, she also runs her own sales business. She told me about her process. After the classes at Tjeko are over, she goes shopping for fresh cassava and ingredients for the pancakes she makes and sells. Every day, she wakes up at 3 a.m. and spends 2 hours preparing her dishes, which she then gives to

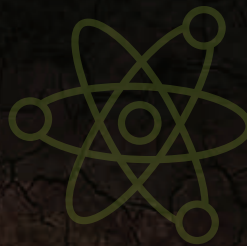
her colleague to sell. After that, she prepares breakfast for her two children and gets them ready for school.

At 8 o'clock, she is expected at Tjeko Academy, and you know what I find so beautiful? Even then, during the lessons, Robinah is determined to do her best. It inspires and motivates me to see the sacrifices and dedication Robinah makes to do what she loves most: learning about and working with children!

Mirai 29, Tjeko NL



tjeko fun village



Tjeko's Fun Village is the beating heart of all Tjeko events and products. Our 15-hectare land is being transformed into a food forest, playground, and campsite in the coming years. Here, young adults receive education through our academy, we organize the Play Park weekly for children from diverse backgrounds, and coordinate our other activities.

During the Tjeko Fun Festival in December, we received a visit from clients of Home Sweet Home, an organization for youth with disabilities. I wondered how to interact with these children. A voice inside me said that EVERY CHILD SHOULD HAVE A CHILDHOOD. This gave me confidence, and I decided to try something with music in the theater tent.

Before our guests went to the different worlds, they gathered together, and I was pleasantly surprised! Our guests responded enthusiastically to the Tjeko Chant! Even those who couldn't stand tried to stand while trying to control their bodies. This was an amazing experience, and even those with mental issues joined us in visiting the different worlds after dancing.

"Unfortunately, they could only stay for a few

hours. When it was time to leave, we asked if they could stay a little longer so we could show them the theater program. Their caregivers didn't know what would happen in the theater but decided to give us an extra 20 minutes. When the theater started, the caregivers even participated in the games, and the children enjoyed it. It was a joyful evening, and the caregivers couldn't even remember that they had given us extra time.

We concluded the theater program, and the children and even the caregivers didn't want to leave. Singing and dancing, they walked to their bus, chanting T-J-E-K-O. This experience showed that every child should have a childhood.

Maron 25, Tjeko Connect

When my family visited the Fun Festival, it was my uncle, who is over 50 years old, who enjoyed it the most. He told me that it reminded him of his scouting experience from the past, where they would go somewhere and earn money by being creative and coming up with new things.

He loved the whole idea of the Fun Village, especially because it was the first of its kind in this region and likely the first in Uganda. He added that it was a good strategy to make Tjeko self-sustainable and that it aligned with the Tjeko 10-year vision. Many of the activities in the Fun Village were new to him. He promised to come back well-prepared and enjoy all the games, especially the water slide or "GOGOLO," which he was really interested in. He even made a promise to mobilize schools from the Namayingo district to visit the Fun Village as well.

Isaac 40, Accountant



Isaac Mubale



tjeko connect



Tjeko Connect is our channel to the outside world. This includes Tjeko Radio, a weekly children's program on Saturday afternoons. With this, we reach millions of households! The program lasts an hour and is filled with games, music, stories, and tips for parents and caregivers.

Since 2022, Tjeko Comedy has been introduced. Two of our employees create short, humorous videos and distribute them weekly through various social media channels.

Our networkers are also part of Tjeko Connect. They are constantly in touch with authorities, school boards, networks, and those responsible for the healthy development of children. In addition, we combine social media and face-to-face meetings to reach an even larger audience. We often go door-to-door and, as a result, we increasingly understand the importance of play and the services we offer! We constantly remind our (potential) customers that we should all celebrate our childhood!

When we launched Tjeko Comedy on YouTube in early December, we met Uncle Sam from Jinja Miracle Center. He appreciated our initiative and

creativity in creating a comedy channel where everyone can watch our comedy for free. He was happy that it is a platform specifically made for children and that the content of the videos is suitable for children.

When I personally met him, we talked a lot about Tjeko. I told him about the Tjeko Fun Festival, and he said he didn't want to miss this amazing event. He even wanted to bring all his Sunday school children to the event.

Guess who came to the Fun Village with two busloads of children? That's right, Uncle Sam! When it was lunchtime, we arranged enough seats and water for the VIPs.

Uncle Sam thanked us from the bottom of his heart for organizing such events for the children and for putting the children first. He added that the next time we have such events, he should not be left out and that he will be the first customer at our entrance.

He said he would come again with full buses next time. All the VIPs left with a smile on their faces, singing the TJEKO's chant on their way home!!!! - Furgas 23, Tjeko Connect



ON OWN LAND

Have you ever dreamt of a piece of land in the heart of Uganda, surrounded by beautiful nature and opportunities for adventure and learning? Well, we did! And now we have it! Welcome to Tjeko's piece of land in Nyenga, Uganda. This land is just a 15-minute drive from Jinja town and only 125 meters away from the highway.



Alban Mwase

The land is surrounded by over 4 million children within a radius of 1.5 hours! That means we have countless opportunities to reach these children and spread our work. Not to mention, our land is also a great destination for school trips due to its proximity to the source of the Nile. This piece of land offers us unprecedented opportunities to realize our work and have a positive impact on the communities around us. We can't wait to make these dreams come true together with you.

Bosco Mukiibi, co-founder of Tjeko Uganda, is incredibly grateful for this opportunity to give more shape to our work and sees immense potential with this land. "We believe that we can truly be an example for other organizations, both government and non-governmental.



Let's work together towards a better future for everyone in East Africa!

Alban Mwase, our country leader, is also extremely excited about this development. "We have been able to make a start on a small portion of the land and have already welcomed thousands of VIPs.

The land offers countless opportunities to further shape our work together with our team. Think of the Tjeko playground, the campground, the climbing forest, and festival facilities. But also, the development of a 7.5-hectare food forest will add tremendous value to both our team and society. On the following pages, you can read more about this fantastic opportunity that we have embraced.





Kids, land & community

Tjeko has the incredible opportunity to transform 15 hectares of fertile land into a true Fun Village within a Food Forest. We will strategically develop this in a way that is scalable, both if it turns out to be highly successful and if the profitability of the Fun Village doesn't meet our initial expectations



the loan used to acquire the land. If we don't sell it, we will use the land's income to further repay the loan. A win-win situation

CHILDREN

Of course, we are building Tjeko Fun Village for the enjoyment and healthy development of all children in Uganda. They are the ones who are our VIPs, whether it's on our land or through one of the many programs we can implement in schools, orphanages, and communities.



LAND

Starting from the second quarter of 2023, our Fun Village team, led by Nicolas (with support from Sieger), will begin further establishing the food forest. Seven and a half hectares will function purely as a Fruit Forest, while the rest will be planted to support our Fun Village. The rationale behind this is twofold:

1. A food forest starts bearing fruit after two years. This provides immediate relief for our staff and volunteers. After 5 years, it can even generate income for Tjeko Uganda's revenue model.
2. If, after 10 years, it becomes evident that we will have enough space on the seven and a half hectares for the Fun Village, we can decide to sell the now thriving forest. With the proceeds, we can pay off

Children in developing countries often lead adult lives. We want our Fun Village to serve as an example to every visitor of the impact of play and creative development. Children who come to us should be able to "lose themselves" in a breathtaking environment, fully designed to give them the childhood of their dreams. It doesn't matter what their background is: religion, gender, physical circumstances, or economic situation.

COMMUNITY

Through Tjeko's work, we invest in many communities. With the presence of our play professionals in schools, small villages, urban neighborhoods, orphanages, and even in families' homes, we are making a growing impact on society.

Additionally, through Tjeko Radio, our message is reaching an expanding group of children and caregivers! Tjeko Fun Village is located in the heart of Nyenga, a "new" developed town, just 15 minutes away from Jinja.



The town has 50,000 residents, and we have already trained and deployed several individuals through the Tjeko Academy. As a significant project in the area, we also want to contribute to this community. Not only by allowing children to come and play but also by serving the local society with our forest.



tjeko



fun village



tjeko



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Entrepreneurs who want to support us in our mission!



Building together a world in which all children can laugh, run, jump, and explore without worries, regardless of their background or circumstances!

In recent years, thanks to the efforts of many partners and our team in Uganda, we have achieved a lot. We are proud of the entrepreneurship of Tjeko and our partners, who generate income by renting out and marketing the acquired materials.

Now is the time to further invest and expand the Tjeko Fun Village. **We are looking for companies and entrepreneurs who want to seize this opportunity with us.** Imagine what we can achieve on the ground and how we can help even more children, both on-site and in the communities!

For years, we have been working on a self-sustaining structure that provides children with access to a playful life. We do this through education, organization, facilitation, and financing. With the purchase of the land, a unique opportunity has arisen to further grow our team's independence. We offer our services to both the poorest of the poor and those who can afford it, and the food forest on the land also contributes to this mission.

We are incredibly grateful for all the partners, entrepreneurs, and organizations who support us and believe in our mission. Our staff members have achieved a lot: they welcome children to the land, reach out to children in the neighborhoods, and have a weekly presence on the radio. The impact is growing steadily.

There are several practical ways in which entrepreneurs can support us:

- 1. Financial contributions:** One-time donations, recurring contributions, or investments in specific projects.
- 2. In-kind sponsorship:** Offering materials, knowledge, or services that are beneficial to our activities and projects.
- 3. Site visits:** A fantastic opportunity to roll up your sleeves together and experience the beauty of Africa firsthand.
- 4. Ambassadors:** As an ambassador of Tjeko, you can help us share our story and mission with your network and potential partners.
- 5. Organizing fundraising events:** For example, a charity dinner, auction, or sports event to raise funds for Tjeko.
- 6. Volunteer work:** You can contribute your time and talents to help us realize our projects, both on-site and remotely.



For more information about the possibilities and how you can support us, please contact ask@tjeko.info.

www.tjeko.info Let's collaborate to turn Tjeko's vision into reality and create a world where every child has the opportunity to laugh, run, jump, and explore without worries!



Become a Tjeko Development Partner and make a difference!

Are you an entrepreneur with a heart for social impact and a passion for changing the lives of children? Don't wait any longer and join Tjeko as a Development Partner today! Together, we can transform the future of children in Uganda and beyond by giving them the opportunity for a playful and carefree life, regardless of their background or circumstances.

As a Tjeko Development Partner, you will benefit from:

- 1.** A unique opportunity to align your business with an inspiring and impactful mission.
- 2.** Networking opportunities with like-minded entrepreneurs and organizations who also strive for a better world for children.
- 3.** Updates and exclusive insights into the progress of our projects, so you can see firsthand the impact of your contribution

Imagine what we can achieve together when we combine our strengths. Your expertise, network, and resources combined with our passion and experience will have a lasting positive impact on the lives of children and communities.

Take action now and become a Tjeko Development Partner! Contact Mattheijs to explore the possibilities of working together towards a better future for children in Uganda.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER BERG TOYS

Berg Toys, known for go-karts and trampolines, has been a Development Partner of the Tjeko Foundation for many years. In the summer of 2022, owner Henk van den Berg, along with his wife and children, decided to experience the work of Tjeko Uganda firsthand. Here is an excerpt from Marjan van den Berg's report.

Last summer, the time had finally come for the eight of us (a befriended couple, Henk and Evelien, joined as well) to board the plane to the Pearl of Africa. Our kids, Tom (20), Dan (19), Dieter (14), and Rhodé (11), couldn't quite imagine what this trip would bring us. The program that Ferdi had put together in collaboration with the Tjeko team started on the first day. From the very beginning, we felt welcome and embraced by the team. Wearing our orange polo shirts, we truly felt like part of the team.

Helping to build, guide, and teach children how to ride a go-kart (that go-kart that is so familiar to us!) was special and enjoyable. The temperature was high, but our African colleagues made sure we had water from all sides.

The local lunch we received (a whole fried fish) was initially examined, but after taking a small bite, there wasn't much left! Delicious. We saw how easily our boys made connections and fully participated.

It was great to hear and share in the plans for the new site, and we thoroughly enjoyed the tour we received. What a beautiful country with warm and wonderful people! We wouldn't have wanted to miss this!

Henk and Evelien van Roekel, Henk and Marjan, Tom, Dan, Dieter, Rhodé van den Berg



TJEKO TRIPS

The best way to experience Tjeko is by being there!

Annually, we organize Tjeko Trips where you, as a traveler, can truly experience what it's like at Tjeko. We offer various types of trips. If you're interested in joining us, please contact us.



More Information

Ask for the Tjeko Trips booklet by emailing mirai@tjeko.info

TJEKO METHOD

During this trip, you'll gain insight into our methods. You'll witness the Uganda team, locally trained professionals, working in schools, organizations, and during the radio program. We visit these locations to give you a glimpse into the work of Tjeko Uganda Limited!

Are you a student looking for an interesting internship placement? Or do you know someone who might be interested? Don't hesitate to contact us. At Tjeko, we offer diverse internship positions in various fields. If you're an enthusiastic and curious student who wants to apply your knowledge and skills in practice and further develop in your field of study, feel free to reach out to us to explore the possibilities and how we can help each other.

For more information or inquiries, you can request our

Tjeko Trips booklet online at mirai@tjeko.info.

TJEKO CONSTRUCTION TRIP

During the Tjeko Construction Trip, you'll contribute to building Tjeko! We're always looking for builders, carpenters, electricians, gardeners, and more. If you're such a skilled worker yourself or know someone who is willing to roll up their sleeves, you've come to the right place! Last year,



TIP: Visit us with a group from your company and we will tailor the trip to your specific preferences!



*"When we deny
children play,
we are denying
them the right to
understand the
world."*

Erika Christakis

tjeko



MIRAI'S JOURNEY to Uganda

In 2019, I made my first trip to Uganda for my studies, and fortunately, it wasn't the last time! We skipped a year due to COVID-19. In 2021, together with Trudie and Ferdi, we visited the team for ten days. In the meantime, the team in Uganda remained active. Team Tjeko UG was growing, and so was their workspace. Our team had just received the keys to a new office building. This new environment provided the space to organize the Play Park at our own location. Additionally, we were exploring a new piece of land, although at that time it wasn't clear if it would officially be ours.

When asked in 2022 if I wanted to return to Uganda to support the team, I couldn't say no, of course! But this time, it was different. I wasn't going for 10 days, not for 2 or 3 weeks, but I was going to immerse myself in Ugandan culture for 2 months, alongside my local colleagues. I was really looking forward to experiencing the culture even more deeply.

I must admit, I was a little nervous... How would it be to be away from my beloved husband, family, home, and friends with whom I am closely

involved, for 2 months? I knew I would miss them a lot, but I also knew that I would come back with a richer experience and discover more about Tjeko's work in Uganda. I stayed in the team's office building. It was a beautiful house with bedrooms, a living room, and a kitchen, which became my new workspace. In Uganda, it is common for those who can afford it to have a security guard around their living area, dogs for protection, and a fence for enclosure. I quickly felt safe.

I traveled to Uganda with Tatiana. We were warmly welcomed, the room was prepared, and we quickly felt at home. Tatiana and I were able to support the team in the Tjeko Academy training. Over the first two weeks, the team trained thirty-plus young people in child work, leadership, communication, starting their own businesses, and guiding the Fun Festival.

When the team heard that the entire group would contribute to the training, not everyone felt

Sometimes you end up in places you never thought would have such an impact on your life. In November 2022, I had the opportunity to travel to Uganda for Tjeko Netherlands. It was a journey that would greatly impact my way of working and my perspective on the field.



comfortable presenting in front of the group. However, once they started, we were amazed at how inspiring they were in sharing the knowledge and experiences they had gained with the students. The past years have truly contributed to their professional development. It has shaped them into the leaders they are today. Everyone, especially the students, could see that they embody Tjeko because they are Tjeko!

The first two weeks went by faster than expected, and Tatiana was already on her way back to the Netherlands. Initially, I found it quite sad, but

it was also good to stand on my own feet and embark on the adventure with the team. It was truly special to live in their rhythm, experience their way of life, and see things through their eyes for seven weeks. The week consisted of early mornings! We had long days and felt fulfilled when it got dark. At noon, we would have a warm, fresh meal prepared by local cooks. This meal typically consisted of rice or matoke (fried bananas made from green bananas), an important part of the diet for many people in the region. Additionally, they served "greens," similar to our Dutch kale, not to mention beans and the homemade peanut sauce! For breakfast, we sometimes ate 'Irish potatoes,' filling potatoes.

Monday was laundry day; on our days off, we would do the laundry and clean the house. There was a woman who helped by hand-washing the clothes. In Jinja, you pay with UGX (Ugandan Shillings), 1 euro is equivalent to 4000 UGX. You paid 10,000 UGX for a load of laundry, which is about €2.50. For dinner, I loved going to the local market to do some shopping. They sold all kinds of fresh produce! Vegetables and fruits, avocados the size of two fists! Quite different from our imported ones.

People in Uganda are incredibly warm-hearted. They invite you with all they have and share generously!



One of the students invited me to her home to celebrate my birthday! She offered to cook a meal for me, and after dinner, we took a beautiful walk on Igenge Hill.

On the work front, I sometimes struggled. I didn't always understand my colleagues' work methods, and that could be challenging. Despite that, these moments also taught me a valuable lesson to let go of my way of working and give them space to do it their way, regardless of the differences in time and expectations management! It was an amazing journey and experience. I am grateful to have lived and worked so closely with these beautiful people. A few highlights for me were:

- The students took charge of the Tjeko Worlds and transformed from students into practitioners of what they have learned. They underwent a transformation from the beginning of the training and persisted until the end. They are proud graduates of the Tjeko Academy. The most beautiful thing! They found a place where they could belong, made new friends, and formed

lifelong bonds with their newfound family!

- Another highlight is seeing the team shine! They took ownership of the opportunities given to them! They work together as a team and support one another. They live out what they want to see in the students and have the Fun Festival under control. They are an amazing team!

- And of course, the beautiful weather... I truly enjoyed the sun!



OPPORTUNITY

Throughout the years, we gave an opportunity to work with children to many young ugandans. Today we have 13 Tjeko staff who work full time for Tjeko. They are the ones who have the opportunity to be part of Tjeko. They are the ones who write the Tjeko story. Last November, Mirai and I had the privilege to hear from every single one of them on how they consider for themselves that Tjeko was an opportunity given to them. My eyes were filled with tears and my heart was touched by their stories.



Ronald, who had a degree in music was now grateful to be working in the Tjeko new piece of land and had learned so much about what to grow or not grow, what to cut or not.

Isaac, who was hired as an accountant, always left a safe distance between him and the work we did at Tjeko. He was way too noble to come across undignified and play with kids. This was his attitude until Tjeko went to his own home town. He felt his own people enjoyed their childhood, something he was unable to. His heart was triggered and he promised himself to give a great childhood to his own children. In the process he became a Tjeko culture expert and my favorite speaker.

Phiona had found a place through Tjeko where she belonged. After receiving a laptop from Tjeko, she who had a BA in computer science had never had the chance to own a computer.

Maron and Fergus could grow professionally in their comedy act, prepare their jokes and make people laugh what they had always wanted.

Jacob the carpenter has been expanding his gift and talent working with our dutch friend Lennart Konijn on the land and progress in his portfolio.

For hours we have listened, with all the students of the Academy, to the opportunities stories of our staff. To this day am amazed by how an opportunity can show up at our door and change us forever. They shared openly. It was so simple and at the same time so powerful.

Alban was simply asked by his friend to help him fill up an application in proper English. He did and the next day he also went with his friend to drop it off and somehow ended up filling up his own. Today he has been our team leader for the last 6 years.



I'm so grateful that all of them seized the opportunity that was presented to them. An opportunity never comes saying loud and clear that "I am an opportunity of a lifetime"... No, we all need to take a leap of faith and believe in it. Much later, time will allow us to tell that we were in fact handed out a great opportunity. During this (busy) Tjeko Trip, these moments were special and I could take the time to appreciate them. How our staff have made the best of the opportunity given to them. They have been wearing so many hats. Now they were trainers and mentors toward the new Tjeko Academy students. They were doing awesomely. This gave me a desire to give out new opportunities.

Tjeko has been for Ferdi and I such a great opportunity to invest in the lives of hundreds of young people. Young people who have grown into men and women. Men and women who have impacted their generation with the importance of play and more. Men and women who have made the best with what was entrusted to them, who have grown in leadership and carry the vision of Tjeko everywhere. We know there is still a lot of room for improvement but we are proud of their growth and somehow that we were able to seize the opportunity given to us.

Would you seize the opportunity we present to you today? Will you adopt a piece of land? We hope you will so that together we can smile at what the opportunity would have brought to you

Tatiana



ADOPT A PIECE OF OUR FUN FOREST NOW

and support our mission!

Last year, Tjeko acquired fifteen hectares of fertile land in Uganda. This provides us with unprecedented opportunities to make a positive impact. We are transforming this land into a Fun Village where children can play, camp, and thrive. Additionally, there will be a Food Forest, through which we can share various fruits and other foods with the local community at a fair price.



It's a wonderful way to contribute to the well-being of children and locals through the Tjeko Method. In the fruit forest, we can cultivate fruits, vegetables, nuts, and bamboo. There is also a great biodiversity of trees and flower gardens. In the midst of this beautiful environment, we are building a unique playground. Here, the children of Uganda will have the opportunity to unleash their imagination and participate in challenging and stimulating activities. de kans om hun verbeelding de vrije loop te laten en mee te doen met uitdagende en prikkelende activiteiten.

JOIN US IN BUILDING!

Would you like to help support Tjeko's mission and contribute to the Food Forest? By adopting a piece of land, you can contribute to the long-term growth and prosperity of Tjeko Fun Village. With just €10 per square meter per year, you can make a tangible impact that will bear fruit for years to come.

As a donor, you will invest with us in:

- The land Tjeko Fun Village and the restoration and maintenance of the fruit forest, enabling us to make a positive contribution to the local community.
- The children. On the land, we offer a variety of stimulating and fun activities. Think of having their own radio program and camping spots where kids of all ages can play.
- The community. By adopting a piece of land, you support the Tjeko Method, allowing us to support the environment, children, and caregivers. Micha, Trudie, Arjan and Mienke, Arwin and Eline, Ferdi and Tatiana, Judith, Liesbeth and Lorentz, and Petra are already owners of a piece of land in the Fun Village.


every child should have a childhood



*More Information
or Adopt directly*

By participating, you not only contribute to creating a sustainable future but also experience the joy of contributing to the development of a thriving community.





*Play is training
for the unexpected.*

tjeko

Kids Corner

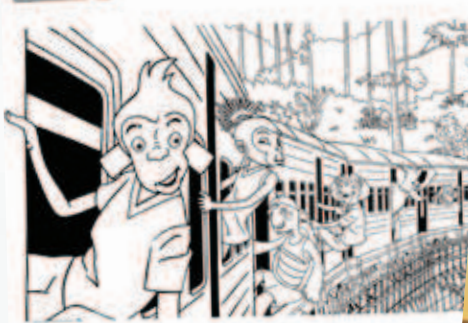
Visit our website for more fun! Tjeko.info/nl/kids-corner or scan the QR code with your phone..

- *In Uganda, people eat many dishes with bananas. One famous dish is called matooke and is made from steamed green bananas.*

COLORING PAGE 'SEIZE YOUR CHANCE!'

Opportunities are meant to be seized! When we heard about a platform called Nieuwe Gevers (New Givers), we were immediately excited! An online platform dedicated to transferring skills and talents! This coloring page was made by one of our volunteers. Scan the QR Code and check this coloring page.

tjeko
fun village



Did you know that the largest city in Uganda is called Kampala and it is also the capital of the country?

- Did you know that Tjeko lives in Fun Village and occasionally welcomes the children who visit him?

- *There are many young people living in Uganda. More than half of the population is under 15 years old, making it one of the youngest countries in the world.*

Uganda is also known as the "Pearl of Africa" because it is a beautiful country. It has many different landscapes and the weather is pleasant.



Scan and have fun!



Did you know that Uganda is about 6 times larger than the Netherlands?

Uganda is home to many unique animals, such as the mountain gorilla. This rare ape lives in a special park, the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.



Every child
should have
a childhood



Are you following us?

Do you believe in the impact of play in children's lives and don't want to miss anything? Follow Tjeko on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, or check tjeko.info for all updates!



Stichting Tjeko, Pascalstraat 13, 2811 EL Reeuwijk
w. tjeko.info, e. ask@tjeko.info, t. 010 340 1911,
IBAN NL75RAB00153723432, BIC: RABONL2U

