



GENDER MAINSTREAMING GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY USE

Gender plays a vital role from the farm to market. Smallholder farmers need secure and sustainable access to productive resources such as land, water and forests in order to achieve food security and a reliable basis for their livelihoods. However, women farmers often have to negotiate or even pay to access these productive resources, which are mainly owned by men or controlled by male dominated authorities. In addition, women smallholder farmers are typically located at the 'base' of the agricultural economy, being mainly involved in manual labor such as collecting fruits and nuts, growing of crops and small-scale processing. Low literacy skills, inadequate access to training and market information and gender-blind policy and regulatory environments are among the constraints that block women from fully tapping available economic opportunities.

Self Help Africa (SHA) and its partners recognize that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential for agricultural programs to be effective and achieve the desired outcomes. As such, gender is also an important aspect in SHA's projects, recognizing that the household is not a homogeneous group of people but rather a complex system whereby tasks, resources and benefits are not equally shared among family members. Integrating gender perspectives across all SHA projects would enable them to increase women's access to knowledge, skills, resources and technologies which could consequently improve their economic and social status while significantly contributing to overall community development. SHA strongly believes that empowering and involving women in development is a rewarding investment in increasing food security and reducing poverty.

This gender job aide therefore intends to facilitate discussions around preexisting gender dimensions while providing operational guidance to SHA staff, partners and community resource persons on applying a gender perspective to their work and, more particularly, on mainstreaming gender throughout community interventions. The comics herein are a clear representation of different types of gender relations and of the way in which positive change can be achieved through enhancing a more central role for women within the family and the community.

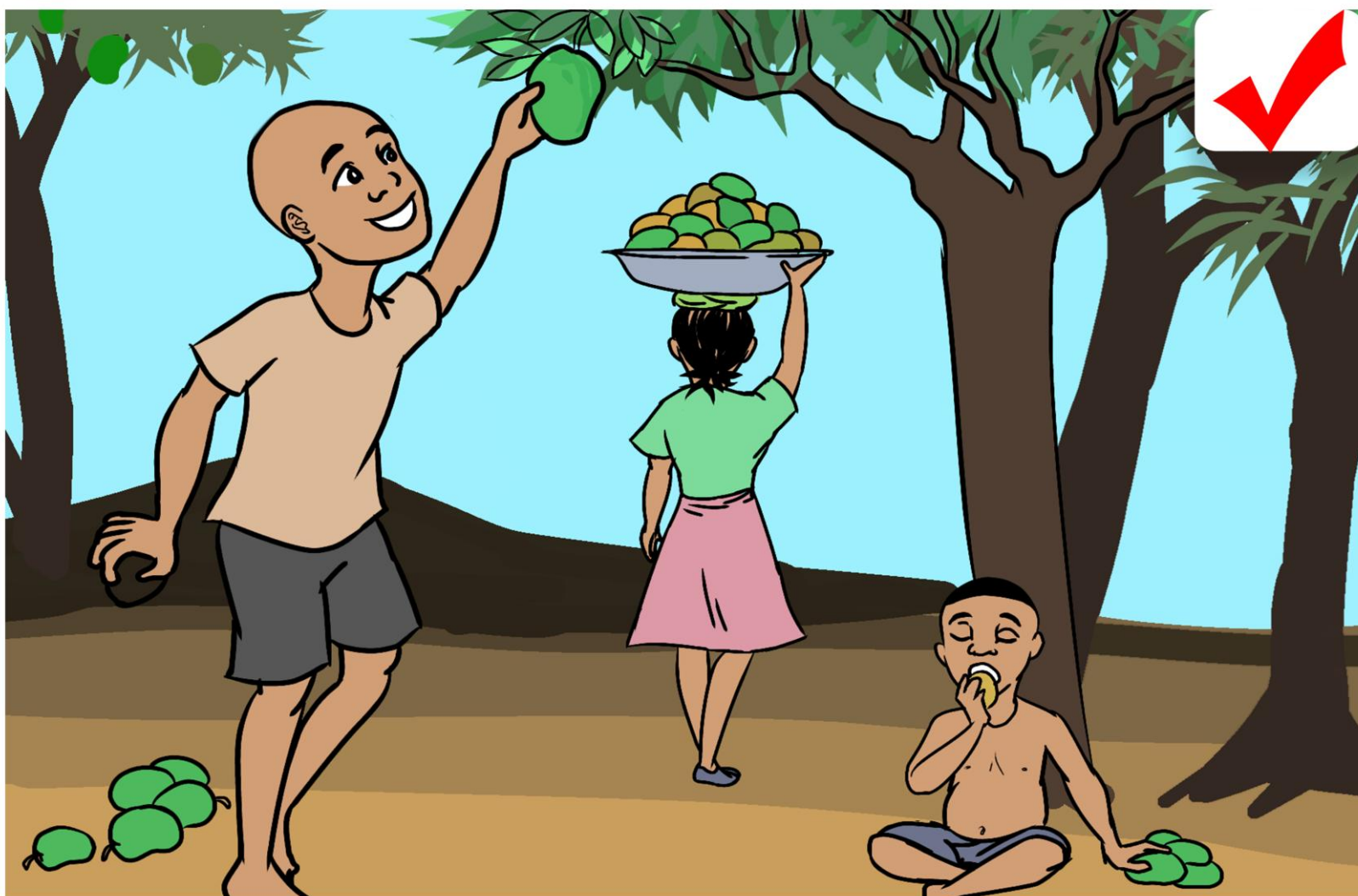
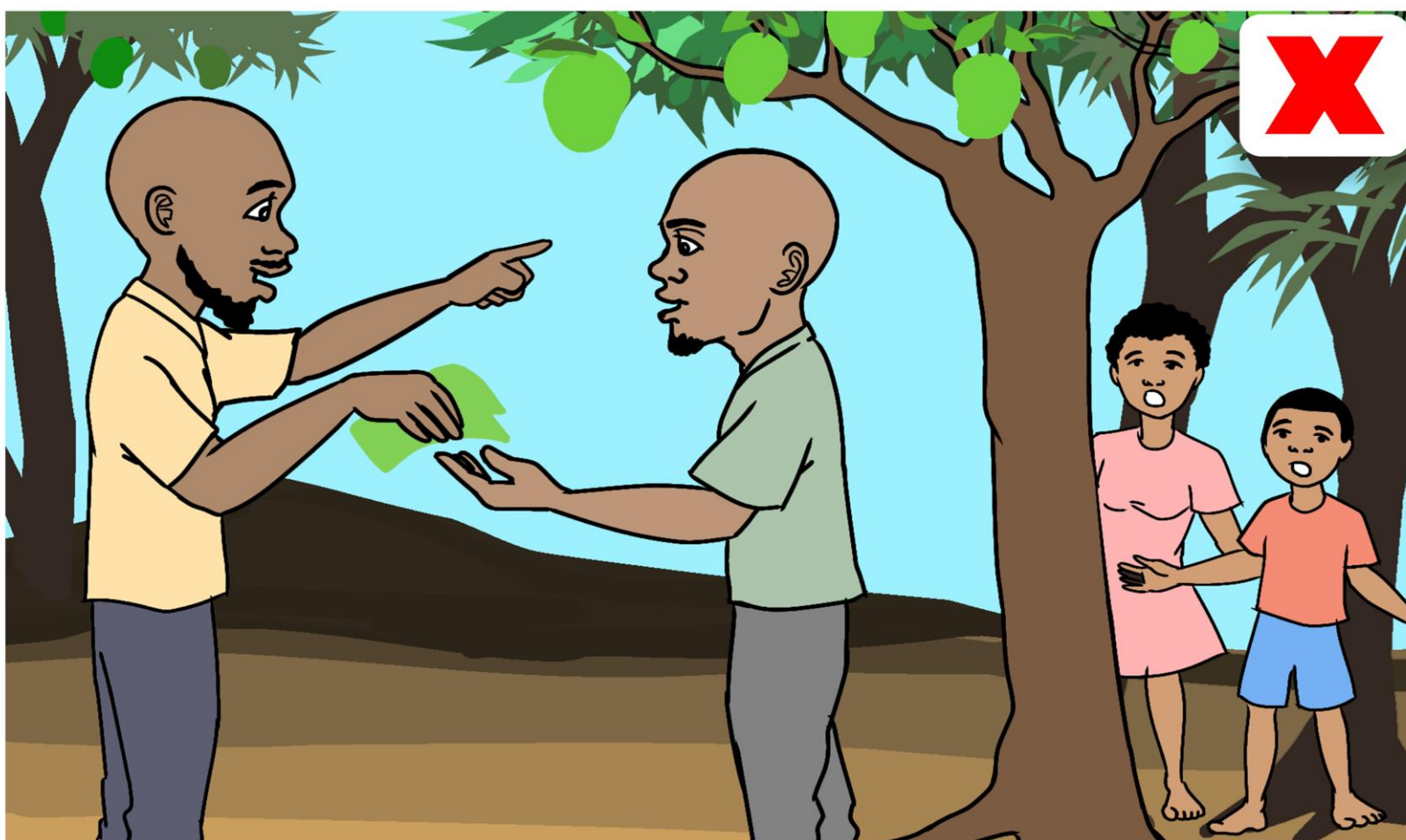
SHA would like to sincerely acknowledge the generous support through its current donors EU, Irish Aid, DANIDA, UKAID and International Potato Centre that has enabled the reproducing of this valuable material for the project staff and beneficiaries use.



WOMEN SHOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN BOTH PRODUCTION AND SELLING OF FARM PRODUCE



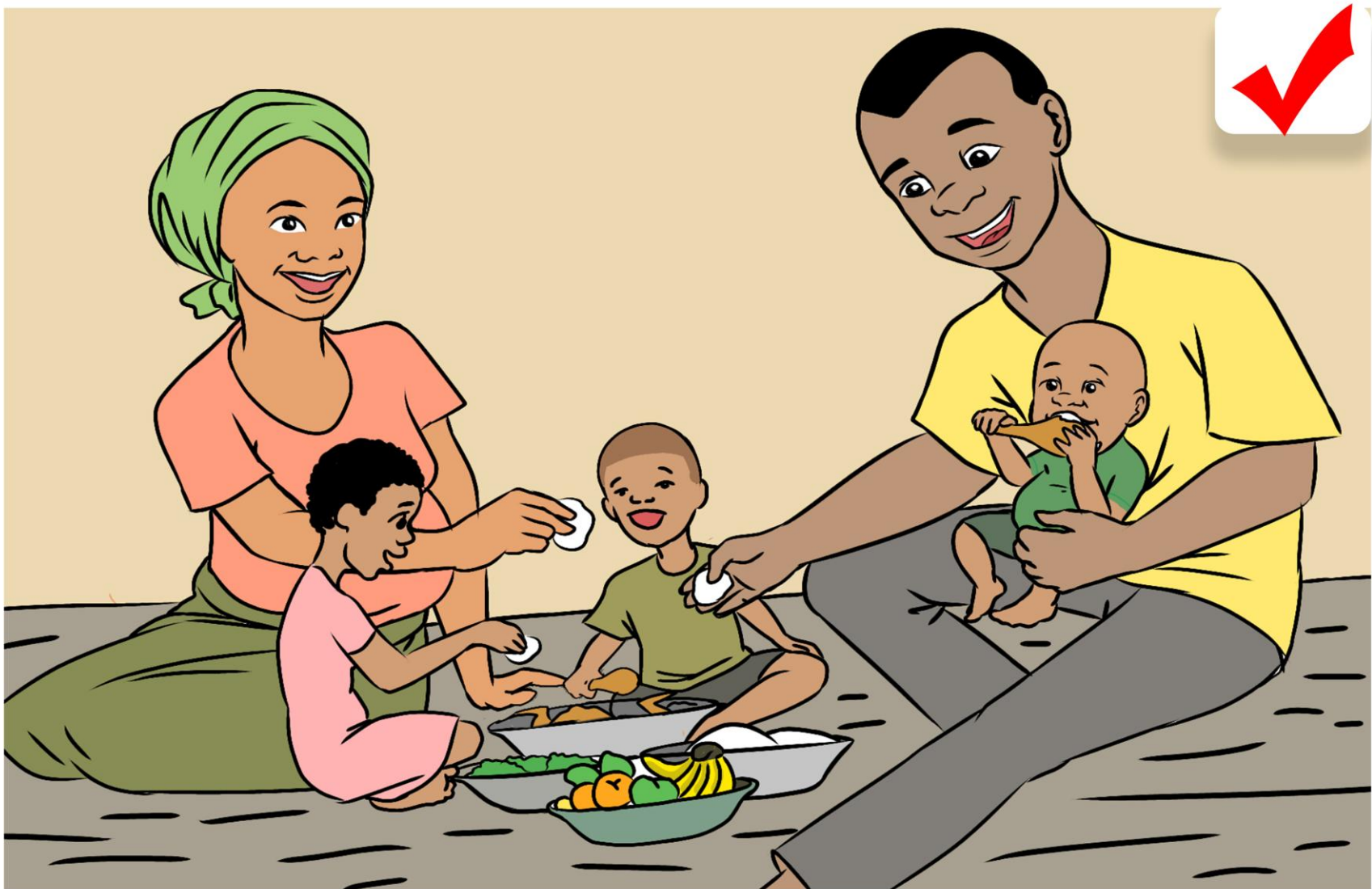
FINANCIAL DECISIONS ARE TO BE MADE BY BOTH MEN AND WOMEN OF THE HOUSEHOLD



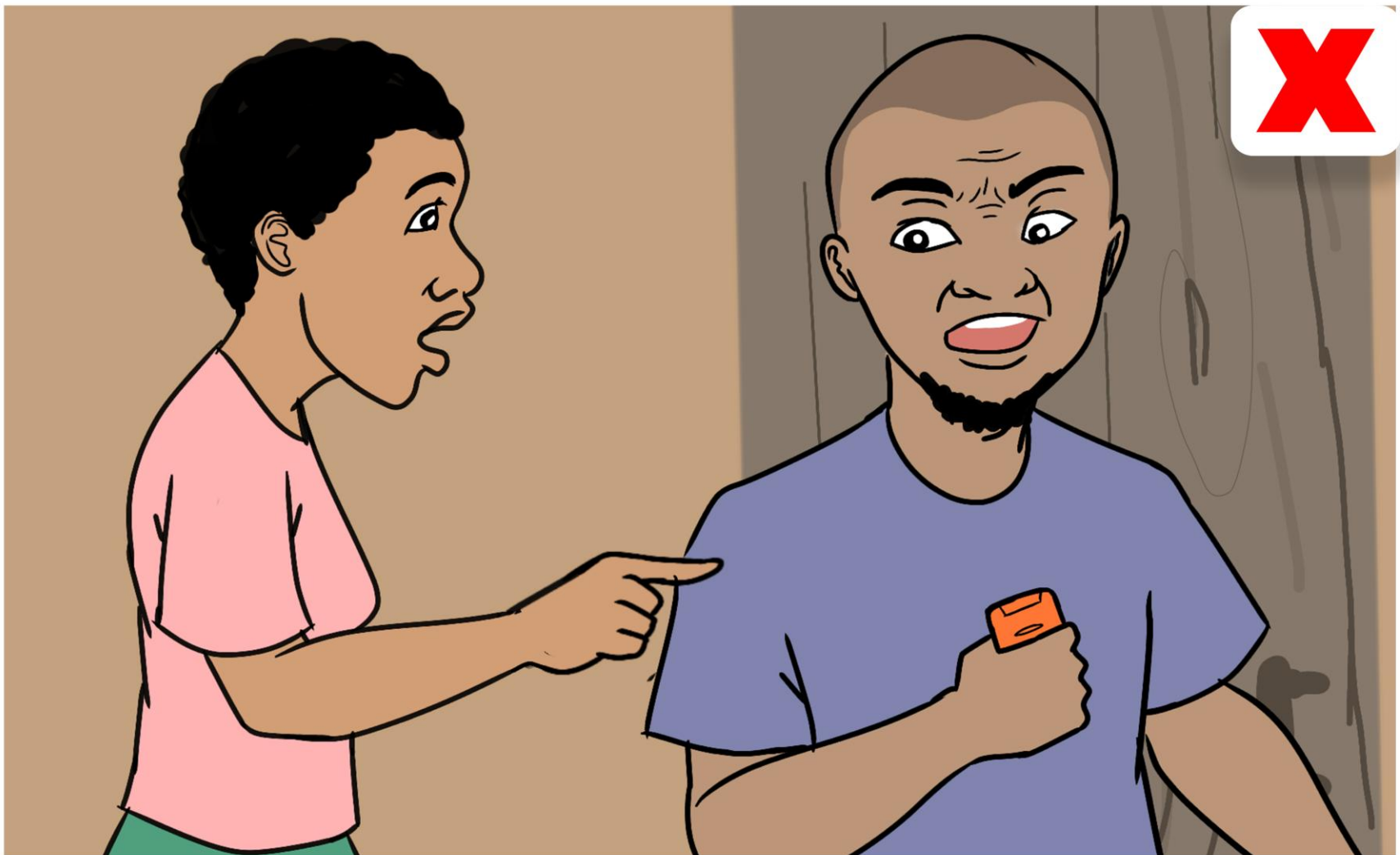
**FOOD GROWN IN THE HOMESTEAD SHOULD NOT ALL BE SOLD
BUT SHOULD ALSO BE CONSUMED BY MEMBERS OF THE
FAMILY**



**HAPPY AND PROGRESSIVE HOUSEHOLDS WORK TOGETHER TO
CONTRIBUTE TO FAMILY LABOR DEMANDS**



**EVERYONE MUST EAT DIVERSIFIED SOURCES OF ANIMAL FOODS
ON A DAILY BASIS**



**ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE
ACCESS TO INFORMATION WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD**



**PROGRESSIVE FAMILIES DISTRIBUTE HOUSEHOLD CHORES
EQUALLY TO MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY REGARDLESS OF
GENDER**



**GIVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY
REGARDLESS OF THEIR STATUS OR DISABILITY**



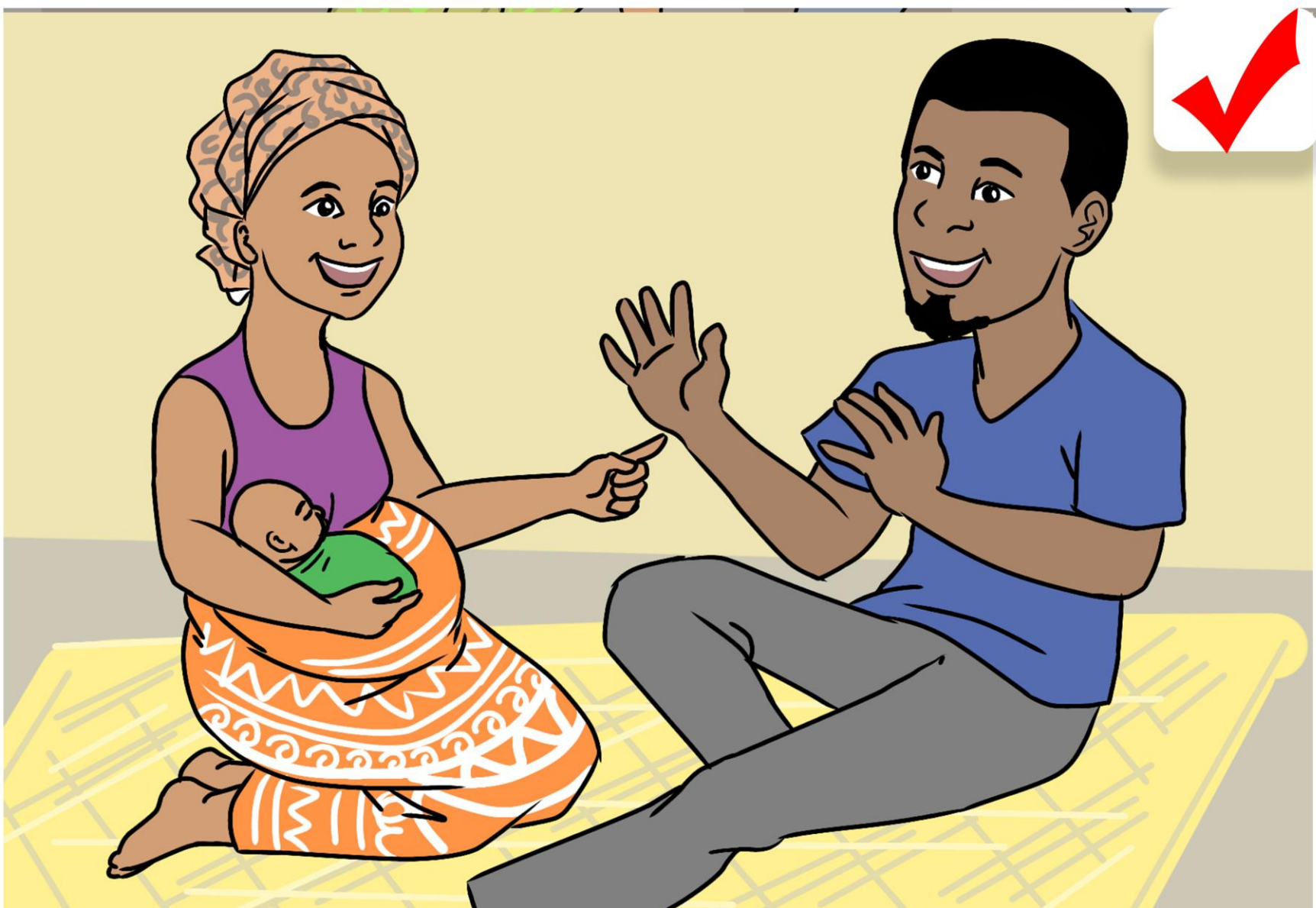
SIX FOOD GROUPS ARE A REQUIREMENT FOR EVERY FAMILY MEMBER AT LEAST THREE TIMES A DAY



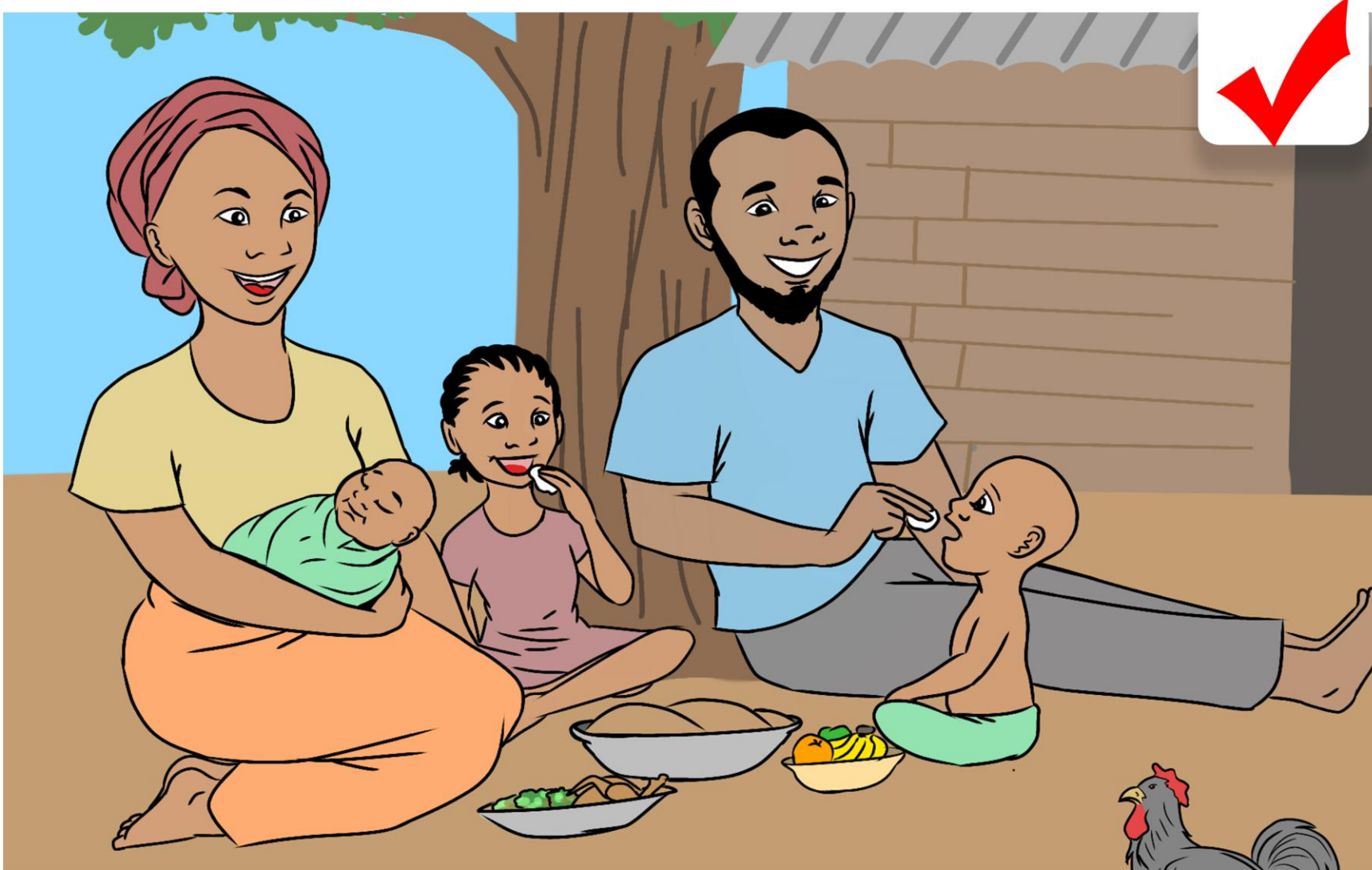
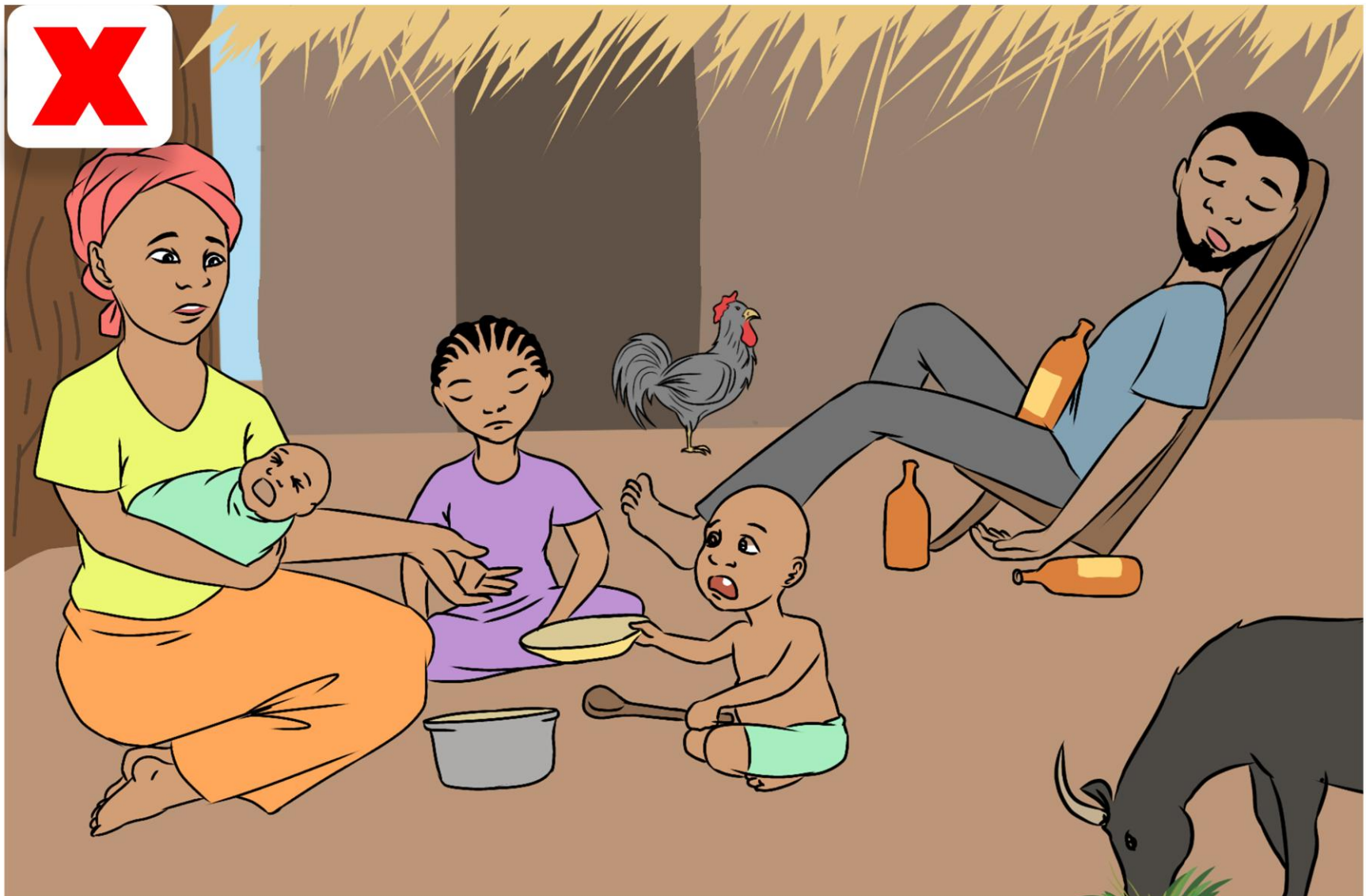
**MEN AND WOMEN SHOULD HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO
LEAD AND PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS**



**RELIGIOUS LEADERS ARE CHAMPIONS FOR GENDER EQUALITY
AND EQUITY**



**GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CAN BE REDUCED BY HAVING
AMICABLE DISCUSSIONS IN THE HOME**



**HOUSEHOLDS MUST HAVE VISIONS OF THEIR FAMILIES AND
REDUCE ON UNNECESSARY EXPENDITURES**



**SERVICE PROVIDERS MUST NOT ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITIES
WITH THE BENEFICIARIES**



IT IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SAFEGAURD AND PROMOTE CHILDRENS' RIGHTS



DUTY BEARERS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT AND SAFEGUARD PROPERTY OF THE ORPHANED AND THE VULNERABLE



ACTIVE CITIZENS PARTICIPATE IN MAKING DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEIR DEVELOPMENT



PARENTS AND GUARDIANS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO FEND FOR THEIR FAMILY

QUESTIONS

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THIS PICTURE?

HOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS PICTURE?

WHICH OF THE PRACTICES CAN YOU RELATE TO?

WHAT ARE THE BEST PRACTICES WE CAN PROMOTE IN OUR COMMUNITY?

HOW CAN EVERYONE PROMOTE THE BEST PRACTICES?