



KIRYANDONGO REFUGEE SETTLEMENT Uganda

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021 as in 2020, WPDI coped with the COVID-19 crisis and its consequences. Our operations have undoubtedly been impacted by the constraints necessary to curb the spread of the virus. Nevertheless, we were able to reach over 40,000 people - a notable achievement considering that the sanitary crisis did in fact compound with the preexisting difficulties exper-ienced both by the refugee and host communities, with respect to security and socio-economic development. Even as the pandemic made it harder to deploy programs on the ground, it made it even more urgent to stay the course and, often, to best ourselves. Our 40 Youth Peacemakers in and around the settlement have continued to serve their communities through peacebuilding and economic activities while maintaining their efforts to help local populations respond to the pandemic. They have been on all the fronts, confirming that they are a unique resource to help the community face challenges and crises. This capacity that we have nurtured in them harks back to the basic mission of WPDI, which is to strengthen vulnerable communities in their quest for resilience, that is, precisely, the ability to cope with risks in a responsive and autonomous way.

In this sense, WPDI was able to carry its core mission, namely to provide safe spaces where communities can improve their capacity for self-reliance and resilience. This is what we offer through our community dialogues to help address conflicts and raise awareness on key issues, such as gender equality or through the trainings we deliver to local leaders so that they can improve their capacity to mediate and prevent conflicts among their constituents. Creating educational opportunities is also one of the key strategies we have continued to deploy in Kiryandongo to help residents acquire skills that they can put to use in their daily lives. More than 2,500 people took our trainings in Conflict Resolution, Information & Communication Technology, Entrepreneurship or Arts & Crafts and 575 students from 12 schools participated in our Conflict Resolution program, including 235 who received a scholarship. Behind these numbers are individuals whose lives may change for good in the coming months and years. The same can be said of the owners and employees of the 118 businesses that we now support within and around the settlement – 57 are cooperatives managed by vulnerable women some of whom did not know how to read and write when they joined our program. Their individual progress is a mirror of the greater narrative that we try to elaborate in Kiryandongo and around, a process of resilience strengthened.

KEY FACTS & FIGURES

In 2021, WPDI's programs at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement reached **40,480** people directly and **141,000** people indirectly.

Community Learning Center



OVER 24,000

people participated in training and activities held at WPDI's Community Learning Center located within the Refugee Settlement, including:

315 graduates from our Conflict Resolution Education course.

- **581** graduates from our Information & Communication Technology training.
- **174** graduates from our Information & Communication Technology training for children.

632 graduates from our Business & Entrepreneurship course. **826** graduates from our Arts & Crafts course.

Community Dialogues



28

Community Dialogues to resolve conflicts within the settlement gathered **4,167** people.

127

Community Leaders were trained in Conflict Resolution.

24

radio talk shows were organized by WPDI Youth Peacemakers, reaching an estimated **100,000** people.

Youth Peacemakers



40

WPDI Youth Peacemakers are active in the Settlement.

368

local youths have been trained by WPDI's Youth Peacemakers directly in their respective clusters are now also active peacemakers at the community level.

KEY FACTS & FIGURES

Business Bootcamp



118

businesses are currently being supported by WPDI in the area.

2

Business Plan Competitions were held throughout the year, leading to the creation of **9** new businesses within and around the Settlement.

16

businesses were launched by youths trained by our Youth Peacemakers at county level.

405

vulnerable women were trained in Business & Entrepreneurship and launched **19** businesses.

Peace Through Sports



40

soccer teams and **3,200** youths are supported by WPDI at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

213

football matches were sponsored by WPDI, which drew a total of **6,106** participants.

Peace Education in Schools



575

students and **40** teachers from **12** schools (seven primary and five secondary schools) were trained in Conflict Resolution Education.

235

students were supported with scholarships during the 2020-21 academic year.

Cinema for Peace



84

film screenings were held in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, attended by **3,882** people.

Healthcare



3,108

people were treated by our trauma healing counselors.

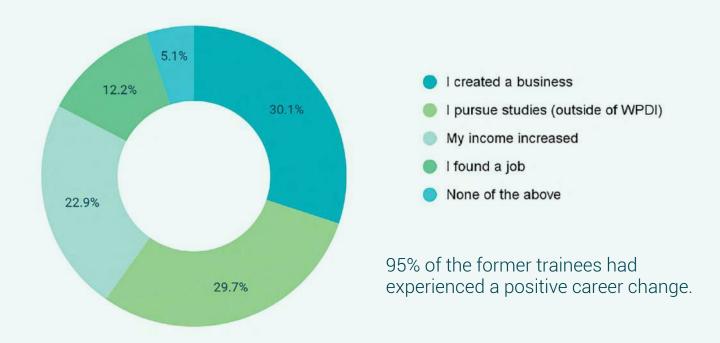
2,653

people were reached by WPDI's Sexual and Reproductive Health educational activities.

SURVEY RESULTS

Feedback from Former Trainees

Throughout the year, beneficiaries fill out a survey on their experience learning from WPDI resources and the impact their new skills have had on their lives six months after taking a course with us. In 2021, 842 former trainees who had completed vocational courses with WPDI at our Community Learning Center revealed that, six months after their time with us...



Feedback from Local & National Stakeholders

We also share a survey with key stakeholders and partners we work with to deliver our programs. These include, but are not limited to, national and local government officials, schools, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

This survey revealed that 100% of stakeholders that we polled in governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations active in KRS had a very positive opinion of our work in the settlement.

I believe that all WPDI planned and implemented activities are very relevant to our community members and I strongly encourage your organization to continue this good work.

> – Tibemary Jesse, Town Clerk

WPDI programming promotes long term impact and project sustainability. This is because the groups are trained before support is given.

Obbo Raphael
 Action Against Hunger

ABOUT THE KIRYANDONGO REFUGEE SETTLEMENT



The Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement is located in Bweyale town in Uganda's Kiryandongo District. According to the UNHCR, it is **home to more than 75,000 people**, mostly refugees from South Sudan as well as Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Kenya. The majority of the population consists of women and children - some 83% - and 31% is under the age of 17-years-old.

With such a large and vulnerable youth population living at the settlement, WPDI has been operating there as well as in its surrounding communities since 2017. Throughout this period, we have trained a core group of 40 Youth Peacemakers who have gone on to train another 368 local youths, building thereby a grassroots force working for peace on the ground. They have accomplished many things in the past four years, training thousands in peacebuilding, helping support 118 small businesses WPDI has helped launch at the settlement, and holding hundreds of community dialogues that have addressed topics of local concern.

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MOBILIZING WPDI YOUTH PEACEMAKERS TO EDUCATE THEIR COMMUNITIES ABOUT COVID-19

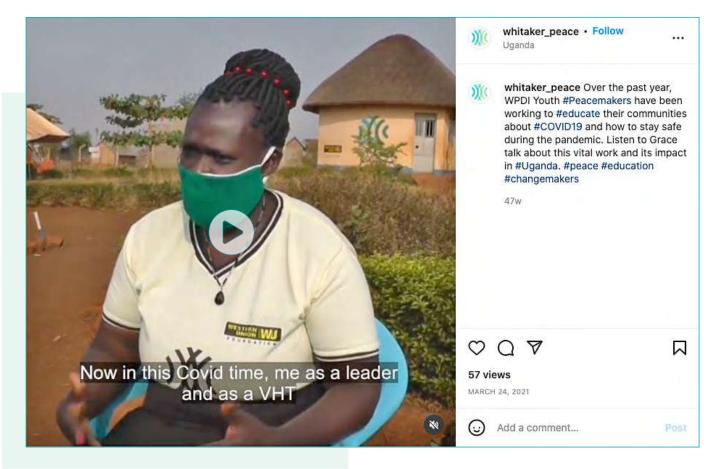
Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Uganda has recorded 126,965 confirmed cases and 3,239 deaths. Fortunately, at the time of writing, there have been no COVID-related deaths within the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

Throughout the year, WPDI's Youth Peacemakers in and around the settlement have continued to help residents stay safe. In partnership with the local Village Health Team and the Kiryandongo District Local Government, they have helped **mobilize the community to receive their vaccination as well as disseminate information** about facemasks, social distancing, and proper hygiene. The peacemakers have additionally participated in radio talk shows and held conversations over social media to share verified information from sources like the World Health Organization.

I have helped disseminate information about COVID-19 such as fact sheets to hundreds of community members. I have also participated in radio talk shows and I am now a trained Community Based Health Worker.

- Todd, a 24-year-old Youth Peacemaker

Listen to Grace, a Youth Peacemaker at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, talking about the awareness campaigns WPDI's youths have been conducting within the settlement:



WPDI & UNHCR Partner to Create 88,000 Facemasks for Residents of the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

In an effort to address the spread of COVID-19 in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, WPDI partnered with UNHCR to provide facemasks for the tens of thousands of residents of the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. By harnessing the talent and skills of **90 current and former trainees from WPDI's Arts & Crafts course** that we offer at our Community Learning Center in the settlement, WPDI produced and distributed 88,000 reusable cloth facemasks, leading efforts to curb the spread of the virus in and around the settlement.

This effort was positively noticed by the UNHCR and Uganda's Office of the Prime Minister, which manages the settlement. Indeed, for this project, UNHCR provided the materials to produce the masks, including sewing machines, which allowed WPDI's trainees to produce the 88,000 masks ahead of schedule.

In 2021, our Youth Peacemakers conducted awareness campaigns and distributed **88,000 facemasks** to the community.

The youths and trainees expressed their strong interest and excitement at taking part in these activities. "I'm glad that I learned a lot from my training and developed the skills needed to produce facemasks during this pandemic," Florence, a 25-year-old former trainee, told us. "It feels good to know I can give back to my community." Milton, a 23-year-old current trainee, echoed a similar sentiment, mentioning how "I feel great knowing that, besides building new skills in arts, crafts, and design, I'm going to be able to help stop the spread of the pandemic here."





YOUTH PEACEMAKERS WORKING TO TRANSFORM THEIR COMMUNITIES

In 2021, WPDI's 40 active Youth Peacemakers have continued to work in their communities to bring about positive, transformational change. Although regular activities remained slightly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, they worked hands-on with their communities to deliver trainings in conflict resolution as well as entrepreneurship and conducted peacebuilding activities such as community dialogues, too.

They also delivered refresher trainings to the 368 Local Youths they had trained in 2019 as part of our strategy to maintain youth groups within each of the 23 clusters of the Settlement. These additional workshops and coaching sessions focused on Business and Entrepreneurship, with a view to strengthening their capacity to manage the businesses that they have established throughout and around the Settlement with the support of WPDI.

Through their projects and initiatives, our **40 Youth Peacemakers** have continued to operate as a force for peace, sustainability and resilience within and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



C The additional Business & Entrepreneurship training helped me improve my knowledge. I'm now able to use the content in a more simple language that helps other youths understand the content better. I'm confident that this has changed youths in the community based on the good feedback I received from participants.

– Vicky, a 25-year-old Youth Peacemaker

WPDI Youth Peacemakers Train Community Leaders in Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

In May, WPDI's Youth Peacemakers active in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement successfully trained 80 community leaders in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The training – which was conducted at the request of local officials in and around the settlement – aimed to provide the leaders with tools and skills to help them resolve conflicts that they encounter in their day-to-day activities, thereby helping foster a culture of peace in their communities.

Over a three-day period, the peacemakers provided 27 hours of training to the leaders, which focused on helping them develop foundational skills in conflict resolution and peacebuilding as well as practical ones that they could use to address everyday conflicts. The workshops educated the leaders about key facets of conflict, how to mediate conflict, how to use active listening skills, and how to promote peaceful dialogue within their communities, among other subjects. Participants reported to us that this was very useful.

In total, **127 Community Leaders** were trained in Conflict Resolution Education by our Youth Peacemakers in 2021.



C The topics covered during the workshop, especially on how to approach conflicts, have empowered me, increased my knowledge, and gave me confidence. Now, I believe I can promote lasting peace in the refugee community.

– Regina, a South Sudanese refugee leader **C** I know the skills I gained from this important training will help me facilitate peacebuilding work in my community through effective conflict resolution and conflict management.

> - Fred, a South Sudanese youth leader

PROMOTING PEACE, RECONCILIATION, AND AWARENESS THROUGH YOUTH-LED COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

By conducting community dialogues in the various communities throughout the refugee settlement, WPDI's Youth Peacemakers have been strengthening their presence in their communities while also positively impacting them. Their dialogues act as a safe space for the fostering of peace and co-existence where settlement residents can discuss issues that are negatively impacting their communities. Issues include the sharing of resources, theft, genderbased violence, and gender equality issues.

28 community dialogue meetings were held within the reporting period, **gathering 4,167 community members** who ably participated in defining how social cohesion can be strengthened among the refugee community.

The most common conflicts that were addressed in these dialogues included fights at the water points, theft and burglary of households, an increase in the rise of gender-based violence, and forced marriages due to extreme poverty. The format of the dialogues, fostering participation, inclusion and transparency, enhanced the capacity of community members to arrive at lasting solutions to issues affecting peace in their community.

In 2021, our Youth Peacemakers organized **28 Community Dialogues** mainly to raise awareness of residents on tolerance and also to resolve conflicts on theft, burglary, gender-based violence, and forced marriages.



The overall feedback we received from stakeholders at the settlement was very positive. Our effort has been particularly highly regarded by the national authorities in charge of the settlement, as expressed by an Assistant Settlement Commandant: **"WPDI's efforts have led to a reduction of conflicts in the community through peace dialogues. We wish to have more of them."**

Community dialogues have helped us work through issues that I never thought could be resolved. I personally had a land conflict that lasted for two years, but I was at last able to have it resolved through a dialogue.

> – Mary, a 31-year-old South Sudanese refugee

The dialogues have been so helpful in shaping how young people are behaving and responding to conflict in the community. They have empowered us to discuss steps and address conflicts amicably rather than by fighting.

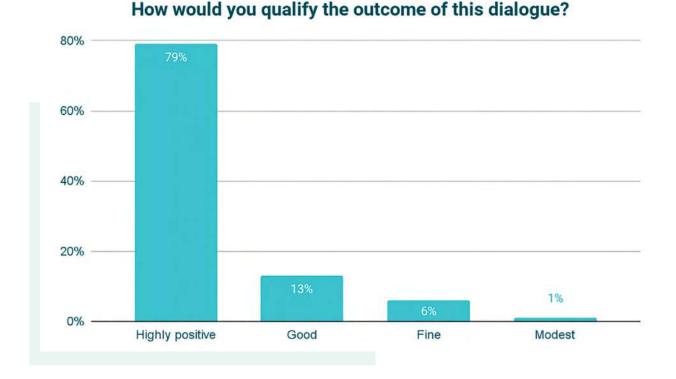
> - Harriet, a youth leader

C The community dialogues have played a big role in my life because they have helped resolve important issues in our community. They have helped us all verify our conduct and make sure it is acceptable by society.

> – Bol, 25 years old

After a friend recommended that I attend a peace dialogue, I was inspired to work collectively with other leaders and be heard, respected, and included in decision making. It gave me the confidence to address issues and work to resolve conflicts.

> Florence, an advocate for settlement residents with disabilities



Outcomes of the community dialogues

WPDI Youth Peacemakers Promote Health and Gender Equality on the Radio

The peacemakers have also held **24 radio talk shows**, allowing them to reach an estimated listenership of around **100,000 people**. Many of them have had a COVID-19-related focus, with others having to do with educating local population about gender equality issues, sexual and reproductive health, and other peacebuilding-related matters.

WPDI held **24 radio talk shows** to extend our impact, talking to the community members about COVID-19, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, or peacebuilding.



FOSTERING A CULTURE OF PEACE IN SCHOOLS

The capacity to successfully mediate conflict is a skill that anyone can learn, irrespective of their age or background. By teaching Conflict Resolution Education to primary and secondary students in schools throughout and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, WPDI's Youth Peacemakers help to foster positive values in the minds of young people, empowering them with the tools and skills they need to be able to resolve conflicts they encounter at school, at home, and in their communities more largely.

Even as schools across Uganda were closed for most of the year, WPDI's Youth Peacemakers were nevertheless able to train 575 students and teachers in Conflict Resolution Education at a dozen schools in the first months of 2021. With schools set to reopen at the beginning of 2022, we hope that this groundbreaking program will reach a wider scale over the coming years.

In 2021, WPDI's Youth Peacemakers trained 575 students and 40 educators from 12 primary and secondary schools in Conflict Resolution Education



GE Before I joined the peace club and was trained in CRE, I used to fight with other students. But, I have now learned about the importance of having peace at school and in my community. I know that peace is important in my country, South Sudan, and I want to be one of the best peacemakers in South Sudan if I have the opportunity to go back home one day.

- Naume, a 14 year old student at Arnold Primary Schoo **C** As a Youth Peacemaker, I teach Conflict Resolution Education at many schools in the settlement and in the surrounding host communities. One of the best experiences I've had was seeing how the students change their lives through the CRE trainings. I have heard from many school administrators and parents that conflicts at school and in communities at large have been reduced due to peace education. The community appreciates our efforts and we are changing the lives of children.

> – Todd, a 27 year old Youth Peacemaker

Supporting Education Through Scholarships

Many vulnerable students living in the settlement are not able to pursue their studies, for financial and cultural reasons. Since 2018, WPDI and its partners have provided hundreds of scholarships every year to help primary and secondary school students stay in or go back to school. Youths are selected upon criteria such as academic performance, participation in WPDI's activities such as Peace Clubs and Peace Education sessions, and recommendations from teachers, headteachers, or local authorities.

In 2020-2021, 235 primary and secondary school students were granted scholarships.

C The parents or guardian's perceptions were changed from the cultural belief and practice that girls are not supposed to go to school but rather stay at home, stay safe, and be prepared for marriage. When the WPDI scholarship program was launched in 2018, 200 girls were recruited and enrolled into formal education at a secondary school level.

Mr Joseph Lemi,
 Chairperson, Refugee Welfare Committee I,
 Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

C Through the WPDI scholarship program, more refugee girls have had the opportunity to seek a secondary school education, remain at school to study, and finish their education since its inception in 2018. We have observed improved levels of school enrolment and discipline among the students. Girls can now obtain a quality education and walk away with certificates, diplomas, and degrees.

> Sister Florence Adong, the Head Teacher of Stella Matutina Girls Secondary school.



C WPDI has been responsible in changing the story of my life and that of my fellow girls here in the settlement. I really want to thank them from the bottom of my heart for this great opportunity. As a girl, it has always been very hard for us to attain studies since they see it normal to have us girls either married off at an early age or staying home to help with the house chores instead of studying. I believe this will act as an eye opener to many of the other girls and even parents back home.

 Akonkwa Clemence, 15-year-old senior one student, Democratic Republic of Congo refugee, scholarship beneficiary

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Why Education and Peace Are Critical to Transforming and Developing Vulnerable Communities, by Mary Valentino

My name is Ajwok Mary Valentino. I am South Sudanese and currently living in Uganda. I am a Youth Peacemaker at the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

I am passionate about peace and education. As a young person who was displaced from my country over a decade ago, I want to make a difference through peace work in my community. Without peace, there cannot be sustainable development as it is made possible only by availing the right opportunities and investing in the education of the young people.

Education is very critical for transformative peace and development of a vulnerable community like at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. Education helps young people discover their talents and develop their skills for the greater benefit of their communities.

Personally, I have never been the same ever since I was able to get an education. Today, I am able to have an impact in my community with the knowledge and skills I acquired in school and on learning platforms. So far, as a trainer in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, I have trained over 800 cluster youths in two secondary schools in Conflict Resolution Education and have conducted peace dialogues and mediation meetings in my community.

I believe that at this critical time in the world, promoting young people as the force for change is vital for transforming vulnerable communities.



In December 2021, Mary was selected to speak at the Dubai Expo as a Global Youth Ambassador, during an event called "Bringing Knowledge and Learning to the World". This event highlighted the importance of leaving no one behind, building bridges to higher education and beyond and lifelong learning, among other issues related to access to education. As a panelist, Mary detailed her educational experience that she described as a "journey of strength". She also stressed the importance of play and psychosocial support as part of a holistic approach to education. As a trainer, Mary also discussed lifelong learning challenges she has identified. In her experience, parents are not always aware of the need for education before primary school. Mary explained that it is therefore essential to raise awareness on this issue, especially during school shutdowns as a consequence of COVID, since children before the age of six are unable to use digital devices to engage with school activities.





CREATING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO FOSTER PEACE AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF KIRYANDONGO

Knowledge and communication are core to our mandate. That is why WPDI views it as essential that young people – and other communities – can safely gain access to information technology and knowledge-based opportunities. That is the purpose of our Community Learning Center (CLC) in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, an **easily accessible place where people can use Internet-connected computers, a free library, or take free vocational courses** in topics including Conflict Resolution Education, Information & Communications Technology, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Arts & Crafts.

Despite continued complications posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our Community Learning Center remained a vibrant community hub in 2021. It received an average of **200 visits per day** and WPDI even built a new Information Technology lab to meet the needs of the community.

In 2021, WPDI's Community Learning Center in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement was utilized by over **24,000 people**.

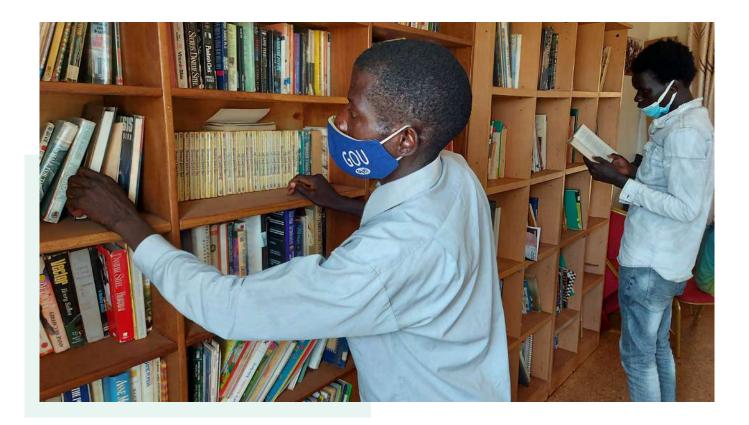


Survey Results

A survey of 542 former vocational trainees who had completed vocational courses with WPDI at our Community Learning Center in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement revealed that, six months after their time with us:

- 95% had experienced a positive career change
- 12% found a job
- 23% increased their income
- 30% started a business
- 30% chose to pursue further studies

With such success, **the CLC has become one of the most respected institutions in the Settlement** among the various stakeholders operating there, including at the level of the national authorities in charge of the Settlement. We were particularly moved by the description of our CLC by a teacher who coined it "A home away from home", vividly and generously characterizing the relevance and quality of the services that we strive to provide to the local populations every day.



Conflict Resolution Education Course

The objective of WPDI's vocational course in Conflict Resolution Education is to promote values and attitudes conducive to peacebuilding. It also aims to empower trainees with the tools they need to be resilient in the face of conflict and become active peacebuilders in their communities. These trainings have contributed to SDG 16 in building the capacity of youths to become grassroots peace organizers in the refugee and host communities.

In 2021, **315 people successfully graduated** from our Conflict Resolution Education course.

In a survey conducted among 342 former course trainees from the 2020 and 2021 cohorts, 90% found that our program had generated a change in their lives and 95% recommended WPDI to other people.



C This training gave me a chance to understand human rights and its responsibilities. I'm going to use this knowledge to educate my community to respect rights and the dignity of others.

- Nyaliep, a 24-year-old trainee

L'm grateful that I attended this training because I've developed a new understanding of human rights. I am a changed person and totally embrace protecting the rights of any person in my community. Nobody should face discrimination.

> – Koang, a 22-year-old trainee

Information & Communications Technology Course

In the 21st century, mastering Information & Communications Technology has become indispensible to take part in the economic, cultural and political life of the community. However, in fragile environments, especially for refugees, the opportunity to gain understanding is unavailable. This means that many young people will be deprived of skills that are becoming increasingly required both at home and in the workplace. Our vocational course in Information & Communications Technology is designed with this in mind, and, this year, in response to overwhelming demand, WPDI also designed and offered a special training course for children.

In 2021, **581 community members** successfully completed WPDI's vocational course in Information & Communications Technology.

In 2021, 174 children graduated from WPDI's special training for children.

A survey of 172 former trainees conducted in September revealed that, six month after their time with us, **85% of former trainees experienced a positive career change, with 10% finding a job, 6%** increasing their income, **8% creating their own business, and 61% pursuing additional studies.**



C This training changed my life. I gained so much knowledge and can now use the Internet, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and so much more. I never thought I would receive an opportunity like this.

- Robert, a 39-year-old trainee

LE Before attending this course, I knew nothing about computers. But now, I can browse the web, type, and send emails to friends. I am proud of my accomplishments.

- Unique, a 20-year-old trainee

WPDI Builds a New Information Technology Lab

Since WPDI began operations in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in 2017, residents have long expressed interest in the vocational training courses we offer at our Community Learning Center. Among these, our Information & Communications Technology course has been very popular, as ICT skills become evermore needed in the 21st century economy.





Thanks to support from the Western Union Foundation and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, WPDI undertook to build a new Information Technology Lab at our Community Learning Center in early 2021. This new infrastructure will host 25 training stations and a projector screen for lessons, and thanks to these new resources - including a digital platform that will host trainings in Conflict Resolution Education, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Information & Communications Technology - 50 trainees will be able to enroll in courses at the Community Learning Center per day. This will help empower hundreds of settlement residents per year with new knowledge and skills that will lead to improved employability and career opportunities.

Business & Entrepreneurship Course

Providing the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully operate a small business is one of the most empowering skills a person can acquire. WPDI's Business & Entrepreneurship course is one of the most popular at our Community Learning Center, as successfully completing the course is also a prerequisite for entering into our Business Plan Competitions. In the course - which is offered at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels - trainees gain the knowledge and skills needed to become successful entrepreneurs.

In 2021, 632 people successfully completed WPDI's Business & Entrepreneurship course.

In a survey of 244 former trainees conducted in October, six months after their time with us **97% experienced a positive career change, with 16% finding a job, 27% increasing their income, 38% creating their own business, and 19% pursuing studies.**



66 As an HIV-positive person, I used to feel that I couldn't be of help to my community. Now, I know I can have an impact with my knowledge and skills. I think I am better than before and I'm looking forward to starting a business.

- Akello, a 49-year-old trainee

Arts & Crafts Course

WPDI's Arts & Crafts vocation-focused course helps trainees gain skills by teaching them new skills that they can use to supplement their income or start a business. The course also aims to provide trainees with a platform to reconnect with their cultures and learn to design and produce crafts that echo the history and traditions of their communities. After completing the course, most of the trainees have started their own small projects and businesses through which their livelihood and economic growth was developed and sustained.

In 2021, **826 community members** completed and graduated from WPDI's Arts & Crafts course.

A survey of 126 people conducted in October revealed that, six month after their time with us, **100% of former trainees experienced a positive career change, with 39% experiencing an increase in income, 45% creating their own business, and 8% pursuing studies.**



L Through the course, I acquired new knowledge and skills in tie and dye and jewelry making. This has improved my livelihood and I would not be where I am now without this training.

- Joyce, a 20-year-old trainee

L I now know how to make crafts and other items like liquid soap, table mats, and t-shirts. These are all new skills that I'm so happy I have. I plan to train some of my friends with the skills I acquired.

– Lucky, a 20-year-old trainee

HELPING TRAUMA SURVIVORS REGAIN RESILIENCE CAPACITY

Many of the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement's 65,000 inhabitants are refugees, predominantly from South Sudan. Having faced dire situations, a disproportionate number of them suffer from varying degrees of trauma. As peacebuilding within a community is only possible if people are at peace with themselves, WPDI's Trauma Healing program seeks to help inhabitants of the settlement achieve inner peace.

At the core of our activities is a group of young people WPDI trained in 2020 to undertake trauma healing and psychosocial work in and around the settlement. These youths regularly conduct home visits as well as trauma sessions in schools, at the WPDI Community Learning Center, and at the Panyadoli Health Center III to build opportunities for social reconciliation and peacebuilding between the settlement's various communities. By working closely with these different groups, they have been able to reduce levels of resentment and hatred, increase the social standing of trauma victims, and address stigma against survivors so that they are fully accepted members of society.

The results of these activities have been highly positive. Our Youth Peacemakers and trauma counselors have been able to work together on peacebuilding activities in the settlement, allowing them to reduce conflicts and prevent future trauma-inducing incidents. They have also reported that the settlement community is developing a more thorough understanding of trauma and its symptoms, enabling them to work more closely - and openly - with survivors.

In 2021, WPDI-trained trauma healing counselors treated **3,108 people** and delivered 4 trainings. I have lived through a lot of trauma and WPDI's trauma healing sessions helped me gain courage and hope. I am happy and strongly believe that my future will forever be bright.

> - Joyce, a 29-year-old South Sudanese refugee



IMPROVING SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN AND AROUND THE SETTLEMENT

WPDI's Sexual & Reproductive Health program seeks to empower young people in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement with accurate health information to improve their lives. Activities conducted for the program are Youth Peacemaker-led and include community engagement activities, peer outreach sessions, and home visits.

Throughout the year, outreach sessions conducted by WPDI's Youth Peacemakers - which focused on educating other youths about issues including HIV/AIDS, condom education, and basic life skills, among others - led to the increased utilization of health services used by said young people. According to Mr. Emmanuel Okonye, a clinician at the Panyadoli Health Center III, **"We received 60-80 young people on a daily basis to access family planning and sexual health services in 2021, an increase from past years in which we would receive somewhere between 20-30 young people. This increase led us to set aside Thursdays as special days to attend to young people."**

Our Youth Peacemakers also worked to strengthen existing school health clubs in and around the settlement last year. These health clubs are instrumental in promoting comprehensive and age-appropriate education for young people, especially for adolescent girls, which also helps ensure that they are able to remain in school. Since the beginning of 2021, thanks to the health club, Panyadoli Self-Help Secondary School registered zero cases of school dropouts related to sexual or reproductive health challenges. As Mr. Herbert, the patron of the health club, told us, *"The club has helped students learn how to make better health decisions, allowing them to complete school."*

In 2021, WPDI's Youth Peacemakers reached **2,653 people** through Sexual & Reproductive Health activities.



L I used to stay indoors and keep away from other people during my first pregnancy as a result of stigma. I didn't even attend antenatal services, which put me at risk, until Esther [a WPDI Youth Peacemaker] came to talk to me. She invited me to join a women's group for support and guidance. I gained so much confidence and changed my life. **C** After learning about family planning, I've had discussions with my friends and invited them to the settlement health center. We are happy that we can space the birth of our children and plan for our families.

- Alice, a 24-year-old mother of two children

 Mary, a young mother living in the settlement's Cluster P



FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH THE BUSINESS BOOTCAMP

WPDI's Business Bootcamp initiative is a business incubation platform that serves and promotes local entrepreneurship. To ensure that participants have the necessary skills to operate a business, we select projects designed by trainees who have successfully completed at least the intermediate level of the Business & Entrepreneurship courses that we offer at our Community Learning Center. Then, selected projects are developed into businesses, a process that is overseen by a committee composed of representatives from WPDI, WPDI's partners, other non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and local and national stakeholders. The committee's role is to provide our entrepreneurs with both tangible resources, including grants and/or loans, and intangible resources, such as support, advice, and specialized training tailored to the needs of entrepreneurs and their businesses.

Many of these businesses have had a remarkable impact on the community. The Panyadoli Youth Development Link, for example, consists of 15 youths who saw a need for a general merchandise shop in their area. In addition to selling widely needed electronic goods, the group - with support from Power Trust Uganda, Ltd. - installed solar panels at their shop, allowing them to provide local homes and businesses with power at night. Another business, the Blessing Tailoring & Design group, was started by 15 women after they performed a market research study. They found a need for tailoring services in their community and have not only produced income for themselves; they now even train others in the community in tailoring and design.



In and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, **WPDI currently supports 118 businesses**, most of them in the retail sector (56%). 25 businesses were created in 2021, including 9 through two business plan competitions and 16 that were established with the help of Youth Peacemakers who trained young people directly in the clusters of the Settlement.

Business Type	Total	%
Farming	20	17%
Wholesale	17	14%
Retail	66	56%
Service	15	13%
Total	118	



C Since we completed our business training, me and other members of my group have never looked back. Our phone charging business has been very successful and we are problem solvers in our community.

- Joyce, a 29-year-old South Sudanese refugee

Business Plan Competitions

Despite challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, WPDI was able to conduct - in coordination with our partners - two Business Plan Competitions at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in 2021. In addition to helping identify some of the most promising business proposals created by settlement residents, the competitions were also educational in nature since they provided opportunities for participants to improve their marketing and public relations skills. Each began with a workshop designed to help the competing entrepreneurs sharpen their skills and provided a venue for participants to test their ideas, hone their presentations, and interact with expert members of our competition review panels.

The first of the competitions took place in June and was attended by 77 participants, all former trainees in our Business & Entrepreneurship course. Each youth participant was provided with feedback on their project and given an opportunity to make changes to their proposal before the review panel made their final considerations. Although the competition was fierce, the panel selected six winning businesses: Farm Uganda Enterprise (agriculture), Hope Mission Enterprises (leather goods), Life is Ability Enterprises (stoves), California Enterprise (agriculture), Bright Future Enterprise (agriculture), and Ebenezer Enterprise (bee keeping).

Later in the year, in October, WPDI held its second Business Plan Competition at the settlement. The second competition was open to WPDI's Youth Peacemakers and the local youths they have trained and was attended by 37 of them. It resulted in three winning businesses: Bulu Yele Youth Group (agriculture), Ripe Aye Teko Youth Group (metalwaring), and Good Neighbor Youth Group (hardware). Since the competitions ended, the nine winning businesses have been launched and are currently being supported by WPDI during their incubation period.



In 2021, WPDI conducted **two Business Plan Competitions** and started supporting the **nine winning businesses**.

Empowering Vulnerable Women with Business Skills

Beginning in 2017, WPDI launched an initiative designed to train vulnerable women - mostly widows, single mothers, disabled women, and refugees - in business and entrepreneurship, empowering them with skills to improve their livelihoods. The program began with the training of a group of 285 women in topics including business and literacy and, when they completed the training, we supported them as they developed 19 businesses (in groups of 15) in a variety of areas, including retail, wholesale, and agriculture, among others.

This approach was widely successful and showcased how the women used their new skills to create sustainable entrepreneurial ventures that supported not only themselves and their families, but their communities as well.

After the second cohort was trained in 2019, WPDI's Youth Peacemakers trained a third group of 285 vulnerable women in 2020-2021 and another group of 120 women in 2021. As the previous cohorts, the women were trained in Business & Entrepreneurship for nine months, then were distributed into 19 groups of 15 women and worked to establish cooperative businesses throughout the area.

Since the inception of the program, WPDI has trained up to 975 women who launched 57 entrepreneurial projects. In addition to the Business training, 245 of the women also received a functional adult literacy class since they were unable to read and write. This has enabled them to do simple numeric counting, write their names and places of residence, communicate easily and keep records of their activities.

In five years, WPDI has trained **975 vulnerable women** in the settlement and have supported **57 income-generating businesses**.



C I have witnessed many of the trainings WPDI provided to the women in the settlement and I am proud to see them now with their own businesses, generating income, and being good examples in the community.

- Clementina, a community leader

C I appreciate the training our group received from WPDI. We have applied the skills we obtained and have become the leading supplier of silver fish in Kiryandongo. The training in entrepreneurship and business skills especially gave me the confidence to run a business.

-Adochi, a member of the Agobe East HIV/AIDS Positive Living Women's Group

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE THROUGH SPORTS

WPDI's Peace Through Sports program at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement aims to tie together sports with peacebuilding activities. With daily trainings conducted on our Community Learning Center grounds combined with classroom learning sessions that promote unity and peaceful coexistence, the program has certainly been successful in bringing the community together. In addition to regularly scheduled games, WPDI also holds tournaments - such as the annual Whitaker Peace Cup - that have proven to be highly exciting events, capturing the attention of settlement residents. At all Peace Through Sports events, messages that promote peaceful coexistence, unity, fair play, and educational information are distributed widely.

In 2021, WPDI supported **40 teams** totaling **3,200 players** and sponsored **213 football matches**, which drew **6,106 participants**.





LE Before I joined WPDI's Peace Through Sports program, I used to fight and was lonely. I didn't have any friends! But, playing with WPDI has instilled in me love, peace, and tolerance. I have become a peace ambassador in my community and have greatly improved my football skills.

- Dual, a 13-year-old South Sudanese refugee

C Peace Through Sports has made me a changed person and I am proud of the person I am now. The coaches and WPDI staff have made a great impact on my life as a youth in the settlement. Through the program we have been able to transform the community by becoming peace ambassadors. I am proud to speak about peace to my family, friends, neighbors, and members of the community at large.

Hammad,
25 years old

Meet Esther Kide, a WPDI-trained Soccer Player Who Recently Joined South Sudan's National Soccer Team

My name is Esther Kide and I am South Sudanese. Until recently, I lived at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in Uganda.

It is at the settlement where I learned how to play soccer and fight negative stereotypes towards women and girls. I was trained by WPDI in soccer and was the captain of WPDI's female football team. Thanks to WPDI, I gained knowledge and skills, like how to dribble, how to score, and how to behave with others on my team. I practiced hard and, thanks to my skills, was noticed; last year, I was asked to join South Sudan's Female Soccer Team as a striker.

Since I joined the national team, I have scored nearly 80 goals and have been able to travel internationally for matches. I have also been able to have an impact by confronting the belief that women and girls cannot play football and support their families. This is simply not true: There are many women who are able to play soccer and also support their families, in many countries.

I want to thank WPDI for training me while I lived as a refugee at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. They helped empower me not only to play soccer but to also support women and girls. This has transformed my life, and, now, I want to help other young people find sports and create a better world for the generations to come.



MOBILIZING CINEMA FOR PEACE

As one of the most popular forms of media, cinema can portray values that bring people together, no matter their background. At the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, WPDI's Cinema for Peace program is designed to help provide cultural and emotional enrichment - as well as psychological support - to the community.

To accomplish this, we regularly screen films at our Community Learning Center, all of which hold a specific lesson at their core, like teamwork, peace, or other important topics. After the screening, WPDI staff and Youth Peacemakers engage attendees in wide-ranging discussions that reflect upon peace and how to achieve it, thereby reinforcing concepts explored in the film.

In 2021, **84 film screenings** were held in and around the settlement, which were attended by **3,882 people**.



Cinema for Peace has encouraged us youths to become members in our society and to pursue our dreams. I want to continue with my studies so that I can start an Internet cafe in my home country, South Sudan.

> – Gai, a South Sudanese refugee

Cinema for Peace has helped me become a more friendly person because it has taught me about teamwork. I can now play without fighting and I understand the importance of sharing.

Lilian,
 12 years old

CONCLUSION

This report highlights numbers that reflect the efforts that we managed to deploy in order to remain on track with our original targets. The constraints by COVID-19 did not indeed eliminate the challenges and difficulties that our beneficiaries face. This required us to step up our effort, which yielded positive results, in large part thanks to our model whereby our beneficiaries are always also de facto our partners on the ground. This is a key dimension of our work which surfaces in the testimonials that have been inserted in all the chapters of the report: it is hard to miss that in many of them we are told a story that starts with "before".

What our beneficiaries tell us is that transformative change has happened in their lives and that they are aware of it. They have been empowered. In the months and years to come, we have good hopes that more stories of transformation will be told, notably as we add more schools in our peace education program, support more and more aspiring entrepreneurs in their quest for better livelihoods and as we launch our new IT Lab which will allow access to knowledge and skills to many more people from the refugee and host communities.



OUR PARTNERS

WesternUnion WU

Foundation





International Women's Day Celebrations at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, March 8, 2021.





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