



WHITAKER
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



SOUTH AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORT



2021

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative (WPDI) South Africa can account for many successes throughout the year. COVID-19 and its consequences have continued to impact our daily operations but WPDI continued to maintain its level of engagement, striving to serve the communities of Cape Flats to the best of our capacity through the immense potential of our Youth Peacemakers. This allowed us to exceed our targets and reach nearly **12,000 beneficiaries** directly and over **70,000 indirectly**. As detailed in this report, we were able to carry out most of our activities, which were rendered all the more necessary in light of the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on the country at large and on Cape Town in particular.

Gender-Based Violence has, for instance, continued to make national headlines, especially since it is compounded by socio-economic issues such as unemployment, poverty, and inequality and continues to escalate. To address this trend, WPDI's Founder & CEO Forest Whitaker was invited in February 2021 by President Cyril Ramaphosa to participate in the launch of a groundbreaking initiative that will combat Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Locally, WPDI has worked with various partners to make a positive impact, contributing to efforts to reduce crime and promoting sustainable development through free civic and vocational trainings for the public in Conflict Resolution Education, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Information & Communications Technology.

The participation and contributions of community, civic, business, and religious leaders to our activities and programs continue to testify to our positive impact on our target groups and communities. This year was particularly fruitful in this regard thanks to a partnership with the City of Cape Town and the Government of Western Cape, who invited us to contribute directly to their youth empowerment programs and thereby expand our capacity to serve the communities of Cape Flats.

KEY FACTS & FIGURES

11,927

beneficiaries reached



56%

of our beneficiaries are women



Community Learning Center



98%

of respondents to post-training surveys would recommend the program to others

Community Dialogues



8

community dialogues were conducted, mostly about gender-based and gang violence

440

people participated in the dialogues

300

community leaders were trained in Conflict Resolution

Peace Education in Schools



8,100

students and **283** educators trained in peace education from **33** primary and secondary schools

Cinema for Peace



1,010

children engaged through Cinema for Peace sessions

493

graduates in Business & Entrepreneurship, including **315** standalone trainees at the CLC and **178** youths trained with support from the City of Cape Town

230

graduates in Conflict Resolution Education, including **150** standalone trainees and **80** youths trained with support from the City of Cape Town

Business Bootcamp



3

Business Plan competitions

12

winners, including **6** Youth Peacemakers and **6** standalone graduates, totaling **20** businesses supported with previous competition's winners

Evaluation of our impact by local and national stakeholders



100%

of stakeholders that we polled from governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as the private sector declared that they had a **positive or very positive opinion of our work** in the Cape Flats

206

youths and **90** children trained in Information & Communications Technology

Youth Peacemakers



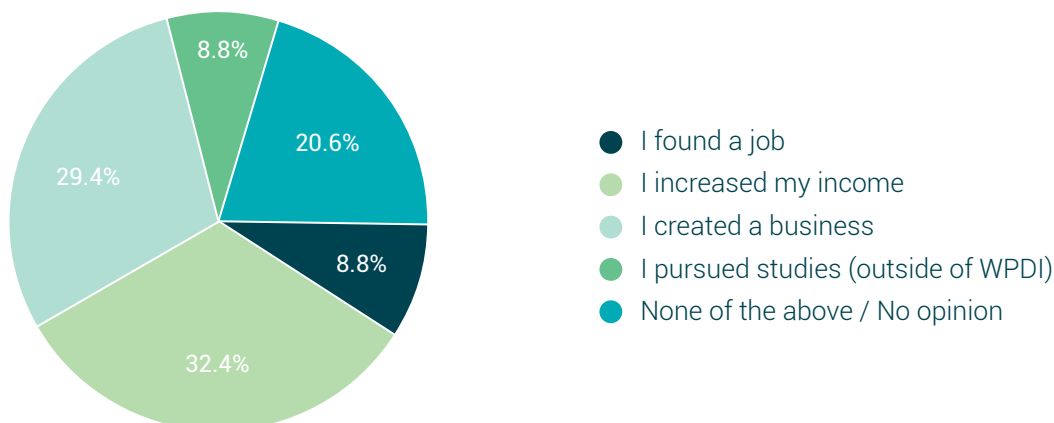
42

active WPDI Youth Peacemakers trained **318** youths as Local Youth Peacemakers in Conflict Resolution Education and Business & Entrepreneurship

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. **This survey revealed that 79% of them found that our program generated a change in their lives and nearly 30% of them started a business.**



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. **100% of respondents (31) had either a “very positive” or a “positive” impression of WPDI. Some shared testimonies following their experience working with us:**

“ You are making a real and substantive difference in the lives of the young people with whom we work. Your initiative encourages young people to realize they can change their own circumstances. We are really grateful to be working in partnership with your organization.

– Respondent from the City of Cape Town Municipality

“ I was impressed with the courage WPDI has to go into communities and empower youths with the knowledge and information necessary for them to face current life situations.

– Adam Dube,
City Council of Cape Town

“ WPDI is doing amazing work in our community and surroundings. I admire the work ethic of your young leaders.

– Saadieqah Goliath,
Bonteheuwel Joint Peace Forum

YOUTH PEACEMAKER NETWORK

Local Youths Fostering Peace in Cape Flats



Local youth training in Lavender Hill by Youth Peacemakers Yaseen, Rancenzo, and Dale.

Local peacemakers are the cornerstone of our flagship program: the Youth Peacemaker Network. As a first step, in 2020, WPD intensively trained 42 Youth Peacemakers in Conflict Resolution Education, Information & Communications Technology, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Life Skills over a one-year period. With their training complete, the cohort replicated their training in 2021 – with WPD’s support – to other, motivated local youths.

Our **42** Youth Peacemakers trained **318** youths in their townships in Conflict Resolution Education and Business & Entrepreneurship so that they become peacemakers themselves in their communities.

Our 42 Youth Peacemakers selected and trained 318 young women and men from townships across Cape Flats, including: Harare-Khayelitsha, Kuyasa-Khayelitsha, Gugulethu/Nyanga, Bonteheuwel, Langa, Athlone, Manenberg; Kensington, Parow/Bellville, Bishop Lavis, Mitchell's Plain, Lavender Hill, Hanover Park, and Valhalla Park Corridor.

This cohort of youths was trained in Conflict Resolution Education and Business & Entrepreneurship, with each lasting 90 hours. After successfully completing the trainings and taking a final exam, they graduated in November 2021, in presence of representatives of our partners BNP Paribas and the RCS Group as well as our Executive Director and one of our Board Members.

These 318 young women and men are now ready to be effective peacemakers themselves. Inspired by their trainers, they all joined WPDl's global Youth Peacemaker Network, with a lot of ideas to bring positive transformation to their communities.



“ I didn't expect the training to have such a big impact on my life. The peacebuilding training has helped me find inner peace and I will continue to spread peace messages to others in my community. It is possible for all of us to work together and make our communities more peaceful places.

— Lieschen Beukes,
a local youth

“ I really enjoy being part of the local youth peacebuilding group. I have noticed a transformation within myself and around others. I hope to help other young people like me by training them in peacebuilding and business skills.


— Bonga Ngwevele,
a local youth




Local Youth Peacemakers (graduation ceremony).







Video testimonial from Joan Woodman, Ward Counselor in Cape Town.


whitaker_peace • Follow
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whitaker_peace Joan Woodman is a Ward Counselor in Cape Town. Last Thursday during the graduation event where she was the MC, she shared her personal story growing up in Cape Flats, which highly resonated with what our youths face in their daily lives. Such an emotional speech! And this is her message to the youths who just graduated. Thank you Joan!

10w

41 views

TEACHING PEACE AND CONFLICT MEDIATION IN SCHOOLS

WPDI's Conflict Resolution Education in Schools program reflects our belief that peacebuilding values, tools, and behaviors can be taught and learned - at any age. In order to empower the next generation, we developed this program with schools to educate children about the concepts of peace and conflict resolution. They learn from a very young age about human rights and the different types and levels of conflict. They also learn how to tackle them, and understand the role emotions play in situations of conflict. These pupils are then able to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence as well as build and maintain harmonious relationships.

Our Youth Peacemakers have trained, mentored, and supported this new generation of peacebuilders in primary and secondary schools. It is in these vulnerable areas of the Cape Flats - in classrooms and school courtyards - where gangs recruit little boys and girls into joining their groups. We are convinced that there is no better way to address this than by showing youths how to engage peacefully in all spheres of life.



In 2021, our Conflict Resolution Education in schools program was delivered in **33 schools** in the Cape Flats area - 15 Primary Schools and 18 Secondary Schools. We trained and graduated **8,100 pupils**, 3,850 in primary schools and 4,250 in secondary schools, exceeding our target of 6,000 pupils for the year.

Graduation Ceremonies

WPDl distributed certificates in-person to students at 25 of the primary and secondary schools at which we delivered trainings. Students at the other eight schools received certificates from their school principal, due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Graduation in Prince George Primary School, in Lavender Hill.

“ The lesson that I remember most was about how to control our ever-changing emotions. Especially about anxiety, how to get help with that, how to control breathing, and a bunch of different techniques that we learned through the WPDl program. I now better understand that peace is possible and it all starts from within. Violence is not a solution to a problem.

— Leonel Phil,
a primary school student

“ Our students come from violent backgrounds and communities. We saw the importance of this program as a school despite falling behind our academic curriculum. Pupils must put their knowledge into action and continue to be role models of peace. Hopefully they will promote peacebuilding and social cohesion starting from school to their communities.

— Ms. Mazilele,
a Life Skills Coordinator at a partner school



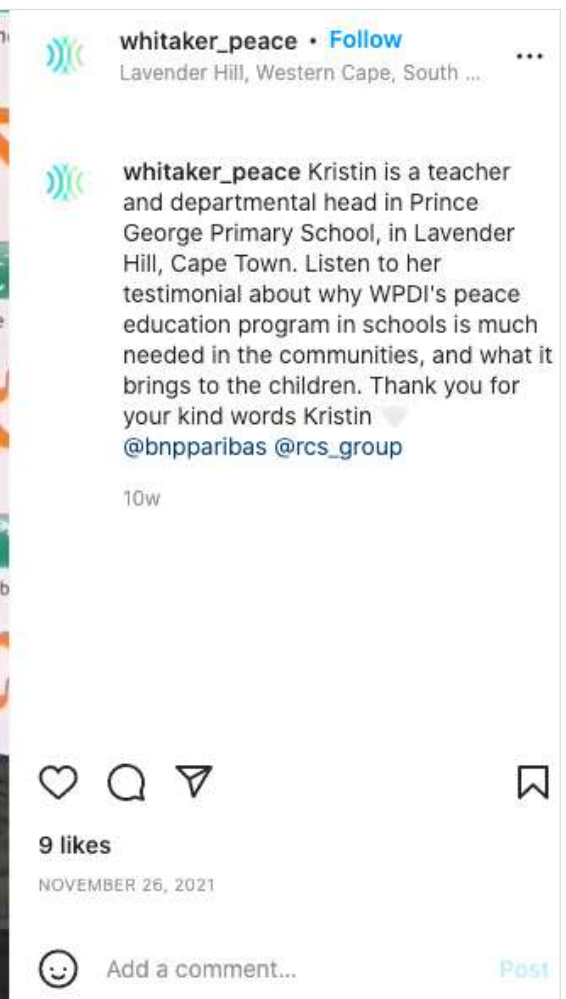
A group of students and their trainer, a WPDl Youth Peacemaker in Lavender Hill.

“ It used to be very difficult for me to express myself or speak what I thought was right due to my fear of being judged. Through WPDl's weekly training sessions, I have learned to stand up for myself and others. I have developed a strong social, mental, and creative personality this year. I believe I can be an ambassador for peace..

— Keithan Classen, a graduate at Glendale High School



Video testimonial from Kristin, teacher and department head at Prince George Primary School, in Lavender Hill.



Teachers Training in Schools

In addition to pupils, we train and mentor school teachers to become active agents of peace and social cohesion in their classrooms, schools, and communities. The main objective of the training is to equip them with healthy coping mechanisms through practical ways of finding inner peace. This training also promotes skills to turn destructive conflict into positive constructive forces of communication that can bring positive change. Participating teachers were given lessons to integrate peace education principles into their curriculum. By engaging with teachers, WPDI contributes to fostering a culture of peace and conflict resolution in schools.

In 2021, we trained **283 teachers**, above our initial target of **200 teachers**.



WPDI's CRE trainer engages with teachers during a training session.

“ I want to thank WPDI for coming out to train us in this difficult time. We feel honored and I feel equipped with the tools necessary to do my job well.

*— Nomthetho Zangu
from Xolani Primary school*

“ This peacebuilding training for teachers should expand to other schools to equip more teachers with better tools to address conflict as we deal with children from violent communities.

*— Vusumuzi Mange a teacher
from Bonga Primary School*

FOSTERING PEACE THROUGH COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

Communities across Cape Flats experience high rates of violent crime, especially crimes perpetrated against women and children as well as gang violence. Our community dialogues are a platform for communities to have open discussions about the different issues they face and find solutions together. Our aim is for each community stakeholder to agree to work in concert to alleviate conflict.



In 2021, WPDI facilitated **eight** community dialogues about issues such as gender-based violence and gang violence, reaching **440** participants.

All these community dialogues had positive outcomes and created opportunities for community stakeholders to share their concerns and to collectively come up with plans for sustainable peace. On the issue of gender-based violence, participants collectively agreed that men needed to be more accountable and 'unlearn' toxic patterns. Male attendees decided to meet as part of forums to discuss and eradicate unacceptable behaviors. They also attended conflict resolution training sessions to gain the necessary tools to resolve conflict. With regards to gang violence, participating organizations agreed to provide activities for youths in order to steer them away from gangs. During every dialogue, participants discussed how WPDI could support their work towards addressing different concerns.

These dialogues have shown great results by enabling communities to come together and share ideas on how to address the issues that affect them. Local stakeholders are very grateful for this initiative that creates platforms for them to positively discuss and share their views. This is a first step towards achieving their goal of sustainability and peace.



Community members participate in a Community Dialogue.

“ We want to thank WPDl for creating this space where people could meet and discuss how to take action to address the issue of gang violence. Such discussions give us hope for change and an intellectual space where we could learn with and from each other to better understand the conditions that give rise to gangs and find solutions to prevent youth involvement in gangs.

— Amanda Daniels,
49 years old, Mitchells Plain

“ We feel unsafe each and every day in our communities where we should be protecting people. WPDl has paved a way to come together to discuss and develop plans to address issues of gang violence and to increase our capacity to deal with the issues of gang violence.

— Masakane Zula,
38 years old, Pelican Park

Strengthening the Capacity of Local Leaders as Agents of Peace

Community leader training sessions are a much-needed resource in the Cape Flats given the instrumental role these leaders have in handling tension and conflicts that arise in their communities. The relationships built during this process are crucial for WPDI to ensure the work reaches those who rely on our trainings to gain the necessary skills to create peace and sustainable development in their communities. This has been key during this pandemic as high unemployment rates have led to higher rates of violence. The risk of gender-based violence is also acute at this time.



WPDI's CRE trainer engages community leaders in a special training session.

The Standalone Community Leaders Training took place in the communities of Mfuleni, Langa, Bellville, Kensington, Manenberg, Kuilsriver and Mitchells Plain. The training covered topics including understanding the concept of peace, the different types of conflict and how different interests and needs interplay, the role of emotions and identity, and conflict mediation among others.

In 2021, WPDI trained 300 Community Leaders from seven townships on the concepts of peace, conflict, human rights, and mediation.

Our main objective with these trainings is to ensure that local leaders are better equipped to address their daily responsibilities. Besides refining their understanding of peace, conflict, and human rights, we work to provide them tools that will increase their capacity for mediation and negotiation, including active listening and problem solving.

Despite the challenges caused by COVID-19, community leaders remained committed to being agents of change and peacebuilders in Cape Flats. With the training they receive from WPDI, they are better equipped to address the violence in their communities. The training took around three weeks per area and health and safety measures were strictly observed, including COVID-19 protocols, throughout the training.



Community leaders taking WPDI's Conflict Resolution Education training.

“ I have learned so many skills. What stood out most for me is conflict resolution and problem solving. These skills are fundamental to deal with high levels of violence in our community. I am grateful to now know how to analyze and mediate conflict. I am often asked to intervene when there is conflict and I am now equipped to resolve this to ensure it does not reoccur. I am grateful for this knowledge and excited to start applying these new skills.

— Pastor Richards,
a Community Leader from Kensington

“ I believe that these trainings not only broadened our horizons as leaders, but also equipped us with new skills, strengths, and energy to make our communities safer and happier places to live.

— Nassif Philander,
a Community Leader from Mitchells Plain

“ I have learned how to mediate conflicts, which I know will be useful when helping my community disentangle itself from disagreements. I fully comprehend the role I should play in the peacebuilding process.

— Nonzukiso,
a Community Leader from Langa

Radio Talk Shows

Another medium we use to reach community members with peacebuilding concepts or WPDl news is radio. In 2021, we held various radio talk shows on topics including the recruitment and training of local youth in the Cape Flats, crime during COVID-19, Human Rights, Heritage Day, Gender-Based Violence, and more broadly on WPDl's work in South Africa.

We held discussions through 12 radio talk shows with an estimated audience of 300,000 listeners. The stations were: Cape Talk Radio (56.7AM); Smile Radio Station (94.7Fm); Voice of the Cape (91.3AM); Bush Radio (89.5FM) and Africa Unite (Internet).

In addition to radio, we were also present on national television, on the SABC channel with more than one million views.



PROVIDING KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS AT OUR COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

WPDI's Community Learning Center is located in Athlone, a central location in Cape Flats that facilitates easy access to the civic and vocational trainings and other activities we offer to the public. Since its opening nearly two years ago, thousands of trainees have completed our free certified courses, used the center's computer lab or Internet, or gathered there for a Community Dialogue or other event. As such, it has become more than just a place for members of the community to gain knowledge or new skills; it is a vibrant hub that is driving transformational change throughout Cape Flats.



Trainees take a final exam in one of the Community Learning Center training facilities.



Trainees participate in WPDI's ICT course in the Community Learning Center computer lab.

Conflict Resolution Education

WPDI's comprehensive Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) course has been designed to remain accessible to a variety of people who live in areas affected by conflict and violence. The course equips learners with practical skills to mediate conflicts in their communities and additionally convey values of non-violence and tolerance to others.

After a first partnership concluded after Forest Whitaker met with the Mayor of Cape Town, Dan Plato, and the Premier of Western Cape, Alan Winde, in 2019, WPDI renewed its collaboration with the Government of the City of Cape Town in 2021. The partnership was designed to empower youths with conflict resolution and entrepreneurial skills, and contribute bringing positive change to Cape Flats.

Conflict Resolution Education trainings are also delivered directly in the townships by our trainers. As we know transportation and distance can be an issue, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, our trainers organized trainings within the communities themselves.

In 2021, WPDI **trained 230 youths** in Conflict Resolution Education, including **80 youths** with support from the City of Cape Town and **150 youths** in the townships.

“ I am leaving this training feeling empowered. I will take this knowledge with me everywhere I go. I will share it with my friends, family and community members. I think the most important thing I learned was that conflict can be constructive when managed well.

— Tokelo Kalele,
20-year-old Masiphumelele

“ WPDI has changed my perception of peace, I always thought peace was something unrealistic but now I truly believe peace can be accomplished and all of us have a role to play in order to reach that goal. If all of us were to make an effort, and stay committed to the process of making peace we can make a difference.

— Jean America,
39 years old from Ocean View

“ I have gained so much knowledge and look forward to being part of peace initiatives I will use these skills in my life, my family, and my community. Now knowing the importance of peace in order to see development, I will strive towards finding inner peace so that I can develop as an individual to bring change in my community.

— Bodishia Fortuin,
39-year-old from Lavender Hill

Business & Entrepreneurship

As peace and economic development are strongly linked together and a prerequisite to sustainable development, training young women and men in Business & Entrepreneurship became a major component of our work. Providing the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully operate a small business is one of the most empowering skills a person can acquire. WPDl's Business & Entrepreneurship course is very popular at our Community Learning Center, as successfully completing the course also allows trainees to enter into our Business Plan Competitions and apply for a grant.

In total, we trained 493 Business trainees in Basic and Intermediate Levels, exceeding our 2021 target of 270.

In 2021, our program delivery was challenged by COVID-19, which still impacts our work, and by security concerns. Indeed, taxi violence and mandatory "protection money" requests surged throughout the year and made it impossible to transport in or out of most Mayoral Urban Regeneration Program (MURP) areas. Yet, we found ways to mobilize our teams and support all program stakeholders.

In the last three years, WPDl South Africa has become a well-known organization in Cape Flats as is proven by the high demand for training in the targeted MURP areas.

This year, we also strengthened our relationship with the City of Cape Town Local Government as well as the Early Childhood Development & Youth Development Sector of Western Cape's Department of Social Development. This partnership supported the training of 178 youths in Business & Entrepreneurship, in addition to the 316 standalone trainees at the CLC. We believe this is a clear indication of our impact in Cape Town, South Africa.

PERIOD	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	COURSE
February – Mid March	38	Basic Level
Mid-March – May	277	Basic & Intermediate Level
June – November	179	Basic & Intermediate Levels

98% of the trainees who responded to the survey would recommend this program.



Trainees learning how to design business plans.

“ I made it my intention to start a business and become self-sufficient. At that time, I was introduced to the WPDJ program and immediately applied - a decision which I am very grateful for. The program gave me knowledge, confidence, and guidance through these uncharted waters. I learned that we must not give up at the first hiccup - we must 'keep pushing on'. The interactive classes and practical exercises made the learning process fun and easy. I would gladly recommend this program to any aspiring entrepreneurs. The Business Plan course was also a great learning curve and I truly appreciated the encouragement to start a business.

— Nashad Soeker, a Business & Entrepreneurship course trainee

“ My personal experience has been amazing and has opened opportunities for personal and business growth. We have increased our skills and improved in ways we never imagined. The knowledge made available by WPDJ has been invaluable. You have enabled and empowered us to start and operate our business. We learned to negotiate and recognize further growth opportunities. We also learned how to network. Sincere thanks for guiding, enabling, and equipping us to inspire, influence, and showcase what is possible with the right investment, people, and organizations

— Beverley Cortje-Alcock, a Business & Entrepreneurship course trainee

Information & Communications Technology

There is a gap in Information & Communications Technology (ICT) knowledge in South Africa. Some feel left behind, which jeopardizes their chances to find employment. In the Western Cape, schools in lower income neighborhoods are unable to set up computer rooms and provide ICT classes.

Our ICT program teaches participants how to use a keyboard to draft a document, how to edit it to the appropriate format and how to use search engines on the internet. These ICT courses are free and delivered at our Community Learning Center in Athlone.

In 2021, we delivered ICT training to **206 participants**.



Trainees engage in WPDJ's ICT training course.

100% of the former trainees who responded to the survey believe the knowledge gained was either "very meaningful" or "significant".

“ I had never used a computer before starting the training. On the first day, our teacher explained everything about the computer. I was asked to log in to my computer. My hands were shaking, I could not even hold a mouse in the correct way. But I told myself that “if my teacher can do it, I can also do it”. This training helped me a lot. I am now able to send email, search the internet, type, and attach documents using the computer.

— Anelisa, an Information & Communications Technology course trainee

“ I'm so excited about this computer course I've been doing so far. It's been different getting out of my comfort zone and meeting new people. This course has had a good effect on me and my mental health. The teacher is amazing. She has been so kind and patient with me and the whole class. I know you'd be proud of how far I've made it. I've learned many new features and applications on the computer that I didn't know were possible. Being on this course has changed my mindset and my perspective on computers.

— Vaneshree, an Information & Communications Technology course trainee

Information & Communications Technology Trainings for Children

In the beginning of 2021, Tarhira, one of our newly graduated Youth Peacemakers in Cape Flats, approached WPDJ to organize Information & Communications Technology (ICT) trainings for high school students in her community. She explained that she wanted “to keep them off the streets during the extended lockdown” and “teach them critical digital skills that they will need to find work and be successful.” Over a two-week period, Tarhira taught 12 students – between 15-19 years of age – how to use computers, conduct Internet searches, and how to use important tools like email and word processing.

WPDJ also established a new ICT class for children this year, which we offer to students at Peak View High School and Cypress Elementary School.



WPDJ's ICT Trainer teaching primary school students how to use Microsoft Word.

CYPRESS PRIMARY SCHOOL

The training took place in the school's computer room. Two classes from third grade attended a one-hour class, once per week, for one school term (approximately 8 to 10 lessons depending on the length of the school term and the times made available by teachers). Learners were taught how to switch on and login computers, how to use a mouse and a keyboard, how to draw using Microsoft Paint, and how to type a basic Word Document.

PEAK VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

Students took this training at our Community Learning Center, with the 18 trainees coming once per week for an hour-long session. They were taken through the same Basic ICT course that we use for standalone training.

90 children were trained in Information & Communications Technology in 2021.

Graduation Ceremony to Celebrate Recent Graduates

On November 23, WPDl and the City of Cape Town held a major graduation ceremony to celebrate the success of the trainings. The former Mayor Dan Plato, who is one of our greatest supporters and a longstanding partner, attended the ceremony to celebrate the 178 graduates in Business & Entrepreneurship and the 80 graduates in Conflict Resolution Education that were trained under a partnership with the City of Cape Town.

Top-level partners were there as well, such as BNP Paribas Middle East & Africa Chairman Mr. Jacques Michel, BNP's Head of Middle East & Africa Mr. Amine Bel Hadj Soulam, BNP's Head of South Africa Kieran Fahy, and RCS's CEO Regan Adams.



WPDl Executive Director with BNP Paribas and RCS high-level representatives at the graduation ceremony.

“ I did not think that one day I could put my gun down and choose peace, but this happened after I received training from WPDl. It really transformed my life to the extent that I no longer want to be part of the killing spree in my community. I am now a part of the network of peace ambassadors. I want to be part of the peace builders and not peace destroyers.

— a CRE course graduate

“ The business skills that we have learned will not only help us to manage our own small businesses but also help our family members who are struggling.

*— Zanele Krawe,
a Business & Entrepreneurship course graduate*



“ It was such an inspiring week graduating all these young peace ambassadors. What struck me most is the challenges these graduates have overcome in achieving this milestone. I am proud of BNP Paribas's support for this program and humbled to hear first-hand from these graduates as to what the program means for them individually and for their communities in terms of the empowering effect of positive change. A big congratulations to all of today's graduates and to all involved.

— Kieran Fahy,
BNP Paribas South Africa Head of Territory



Don Plato, the (now former) Mayor of Cape Town.



THE BUSINESS BOOTCAMP

Business Plan Competition

All eight businesses that won the December 2020 Business Plan Competition are still in operation. WPDl Business experts continue to conduct site visits and provide mentoring and coaching so that these businesses remain robust enough to overcome obstacles linked to the pandemic.

In 2021, we held three Business Plan Competitions: two for standalone trainees and one for our Youth Peacemakers. In total, 12 youth-led businesses were selected as winners and received grants and other support to launch their businesses.

In 2021, WPDl started supporting 12 new youth entrepreneurs, in addition to the eight we were already supporting.

Efforts at peace in fragile places cannot be sustainable without working also at improving livelihoods and economic prospects for communities, notably among their most vulnerable segments. To this effect, WPDl has created a comprehensive program, the Business Bootcamp which promotes entrepreneurship by providing learning opportunities and business incubation services. This integrated approach allows us to create an enabling environment whereby aspiring entrepreneurs can access skills and resources that will help them enhance their livelihoods and bring relevant services into their community.

Youth Peacemakers Business Plan Winners 2021

LOCATION	TYPE	PROJECT NAME
Gugulethu	Service	Gcobani Laundry
Khayelitsha	Service	Tuxolo Hair & Beauty Salon
The Westridge	Manufacturing	Bold & Creative I
Athlone	Retail	Prim & Polished
Belleville	Service	Catalyst Courier
Khayelitsha	Service	Sesikhona Installation

Standalone Business Plan Winners 2021

LOCATION	TYPE	PROJECT NAME
Bonteheuwel	Retail	10 out of 10
Lavender Hill	Service	Thrive Nation
Athlone	Service	Gantouw Gazette
Bishop Lavis	Manufacture	ShadeBlack
Lavender Hill	Service	Tristan Car Wash
Mitchell's Plain	Service	Pampered D

In total, our Business Bootcamp program now supports 20 youth-led businesses in Cape Flats. In 2022, our ambitions are high as we are entering a new partnership with L'Oréal Foundation to train 700 vulnerable women and launch 42 women-led businesses.



“ I am glad that WPD guided me through each and every step. We have a mentor that tells us how to run a business, how to do the procedures, and I'm grateful for that. It did come at the right time during COVID, while everything was down. Thank you WPD, this training helped me realize a lifelong dream of running my own restaurant.

— Vongai Chenjerai,
founder of restaurant Alabanza Catering



“ As an existing business owner, I'm grateful for this opportunity WPD is giving me. The possibility of expanding my business and bringing in fresh ideas and concepts to my business. I have learned so much from this Business & Entrepreneurship training already and this Business Bootcamp training was the cherry on the top. This wouldn't be an easy challenge, but I am willing to take it on.

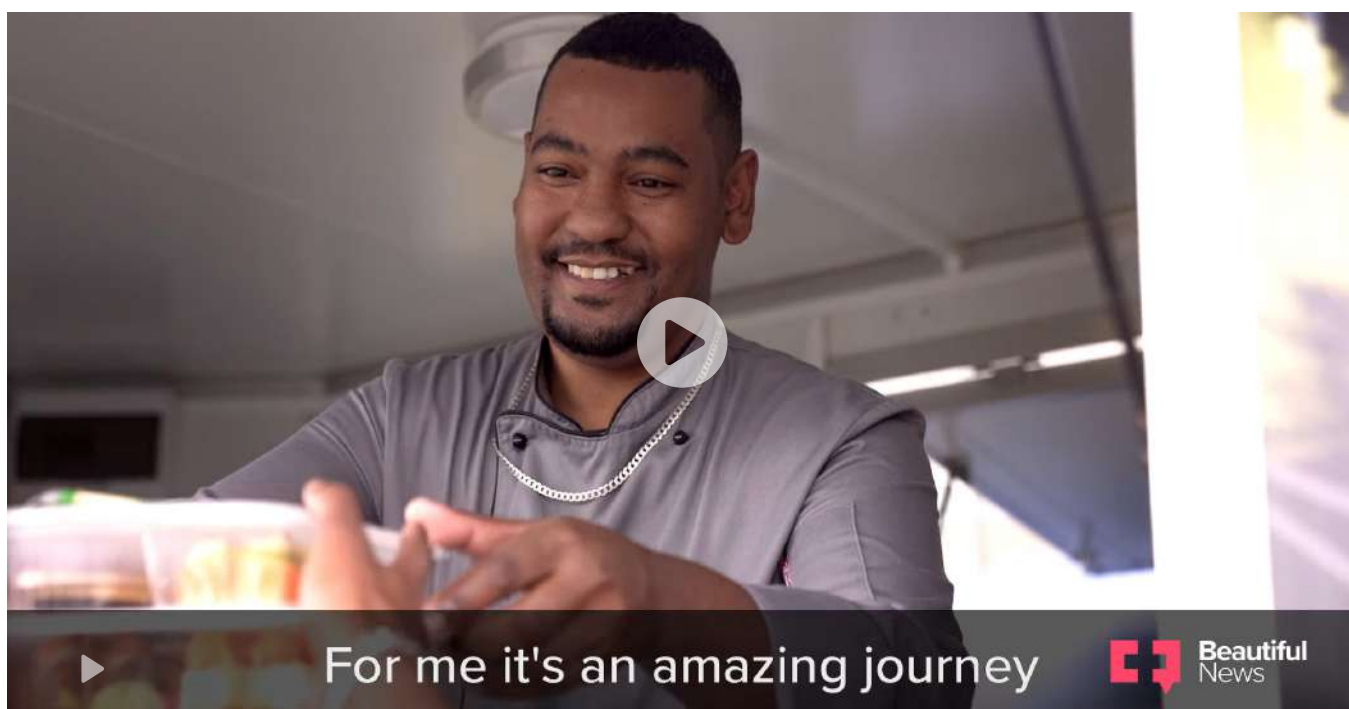
— Kayla Isaacs,
a Business Plan Competition Winner, founder of Bold & Creative

PROFILE: SUSHI FUNDI, A WPDİ-SUPPORTED SMALL BUSINESS IN CAPE FLATS



A great example of how these projects affect people in the best way possible is the story of Maruwaan Christians, who grew up in Mitchells Plain in Cape Town. He dreamed of owning his own sushi restaurant. Maruwaan enrolled in the Business & Entrepreneurship course that WPDİ offers at its Community Learning Center in Cape Flats. His hard work juggling between his job, his studies, and personal obligations paid off. Indeed, he was one of the eight winners of our December 2020 business plan competition which allowed him to build useful skills and eventually buy Cape Town's first mobile sushi truck. In 2021, Maruwaan was even invited by high-level restaurants in Johannesburg to train young chefs in sushi making.

Maruwaan also received national media recognition. Learn more about Christians' success story through [this article](#) or by watching [this video](#):



CINEMA FOR PEACE

Our Cinema for Peace program plays a significant role in highlighting inequality, injustice, intolerance as well as offering solutions, hope, and a vision for a better future. Not only do we screen a film but we follow each screening with a discussion for learners to process what they have watched and understand the more profound lessons included in the film in question.

A good example of this is the cartoon movie “Zootopia” which was screened to inspire learners to broaden their horizons and to live peacefully together regardless of race or gender. The movie encourages pupils to dream big despite obstacles they may face in their communities.

In 2021, we held screenings in seven schools in the Cape Flats and reached **1,010 children** through the program.



Primary school students participate in a Cinema for Peace screening at Prince George School.

“ We should watch these types of movies more often because they help us to grow up as active citizens.

— Thandiwe Mguzula,
a pupil at Intshinga Primary School

“ The movie has inspired me to believe in myself and that my background should not define my destiny.

— Sofia Ngane,
a student at Isiphiwo Primary School

CONCLUSION

As COVID-19 and violence are still impacting communities in Cape Flats, our programs offer a positive alternative to current circumstances. Indeed, by remaining flexible and versatile in our approach, we were able to maintain much of our training offerings, thus helping beneficiaries gain valuable knowledge, skills, and tools to mitigate the risks of conflict in schools and in their communities.

The work of our Youth Peacemakers in schools has been particularly successful despite 2021's many challenges. Having trained more teachers and pupils than originally targeted, we are satisfied to have exceeded our targets and, thereby, to have served communities in Cape Flats better than expected. Success in this area is indeed critical, strategic even, since the skills acquired by these individuals have the potential to yield positive change over years if not decades.

Therefore, and despite the ongoing sanitary crisis, results achieved in 2021 confirmed the overall relevance of our activities, notably with respect to the ongoing support of our partners on the ground in Cape Town, including BNP Paribas, RCS Group, and the Government of Western Cape. Having demonstrated our effectiveness and resilience, based on the engagement of our staff and the adaptability of our model, we look forward to the next months and years as WPDI enters its tenth year of operation with new prospects ahead.

In this respect, the new strategy we have prepared for the coming decade features an expanded scope of action bearing on our priority groups, with a stronger focus on women's empowerment, our programmatic themes, an added emphasis on trauma healing, and our outreach capacity, with the development of new online educational resources. Finally, we are excited to start working with new partners such as the L'Oréal Foundation, whose trust and support will help us continue to foster positive change in the Cape Flats communities.



OUR PARTNERS





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