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INITIATIVE

2022 Annual Report

Acholi Sub-Region Uganda

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Introduction

After COVID-19, we were satisfied to affirm that, with over 15,000 beneficiaries, 2022 has been a year of rebound and consolidation for our programs. All our programs have recovered their full capacity and, along with 28 Youth Peacemakers, we have been able to serve more beneficiaries than we had planned for. That we could recover our capacity for action is welcomed news, notably when considering the latest Uganda statistics published by the government (UBOS, 2022 on Parish Development Model (PDM)), which positions Acholi Sub-Region at the highest poverty level in the country, a critical situation for a Sub-Region that is still recovering from the scars of the civil wars that ended in the mid-2000s. This is to say that the journey on the path to resilience remains difficult, calling for the type of long-term approaches that we have been championing in Acholi for the past ten years. In this light, it was critical that we could deploy our training programs in full, affording trainees skills that they will be able to use for many years. This is the case for our cohort of youth peacemakers, whose skill set we keep expanding - as we did this year in particular with a training on advocacy designed to help them organize awareness campaigns at or around the schools where they facilitate our conflict resolution education program. This year, the different advocacy campaigns that they organized on themes ranging from girls' educational rights to bullying, gathered over 7,200 participants, notably in the communities surrounding schools. With our other peacebuilding programs back to nominal capacity, notably the community dialogues and training of local leaders, we are confident that we will be able to create more opportunities for disseminating a culture of peace in the Acholi Sub-Region in the years to come. With the future in mind, we should also mention that CLC training activities benefited 1,862 people, including through the vocational training programs in ICT, Arts and Crafts, and Business and Entrepreneurship that generate very tangible results in the lives of the former trainees as was confirmed by the surveys that we conducted among them in 2022. Undoubtedly, life transformations will be dramatic for those of our former trainees who launched small businesses throughout the year. 21 enterprises were launched in 2022, one of highest achievements for a single year.

Those and all the other results covered in this report are generally positive or very positive, for which we have our teams and our youths to commend, bearing in mind also that, beyond our direct beneficiaries, our programs also have an indirect impact, achieved for example through local radio talk shows in which our staff and Youth Peacemakers have one message to deliver on behalf of WPD: long term change is on the way.



Key Achievements

Youth Peacemakers

28 Youth Peacemakers

238 local youths trained by WPDI's Youth Peacemakers



Community Learning Center

5,461

participants in training and activities held at WPDI's Community Learning Center



Community Dialogues

- **34** Community Dialogues to resolve conflicts
7,220 participants
- **480** Community Leaders trained in conflict resolution



Livelihood

- **60** businesses currently supported, including **21** new projects launched in **2022**
- **2** Business Plan Competitions held throughout the year
- **182** graduates in Conflict Resolution Education
- **278** graduates in Information & Communication Technologies
- **149** graduates in Business and Entrepreneurship
- **178** graduates in Arts and Crafts



Peace Education in Schools

- **5,694** students and **499** teachers from **35** schools trained in Conflict Resolution Education



Cinema for Peace

- **24** film screenings held and attended by **1,677** people



Community Engagement

- **26** radio talk shows held, reaching an estimated **7,108,000** people
- **1,133** participants in Peace Engagement days
- **7,284** beneficiaries of our advocacy campaigns

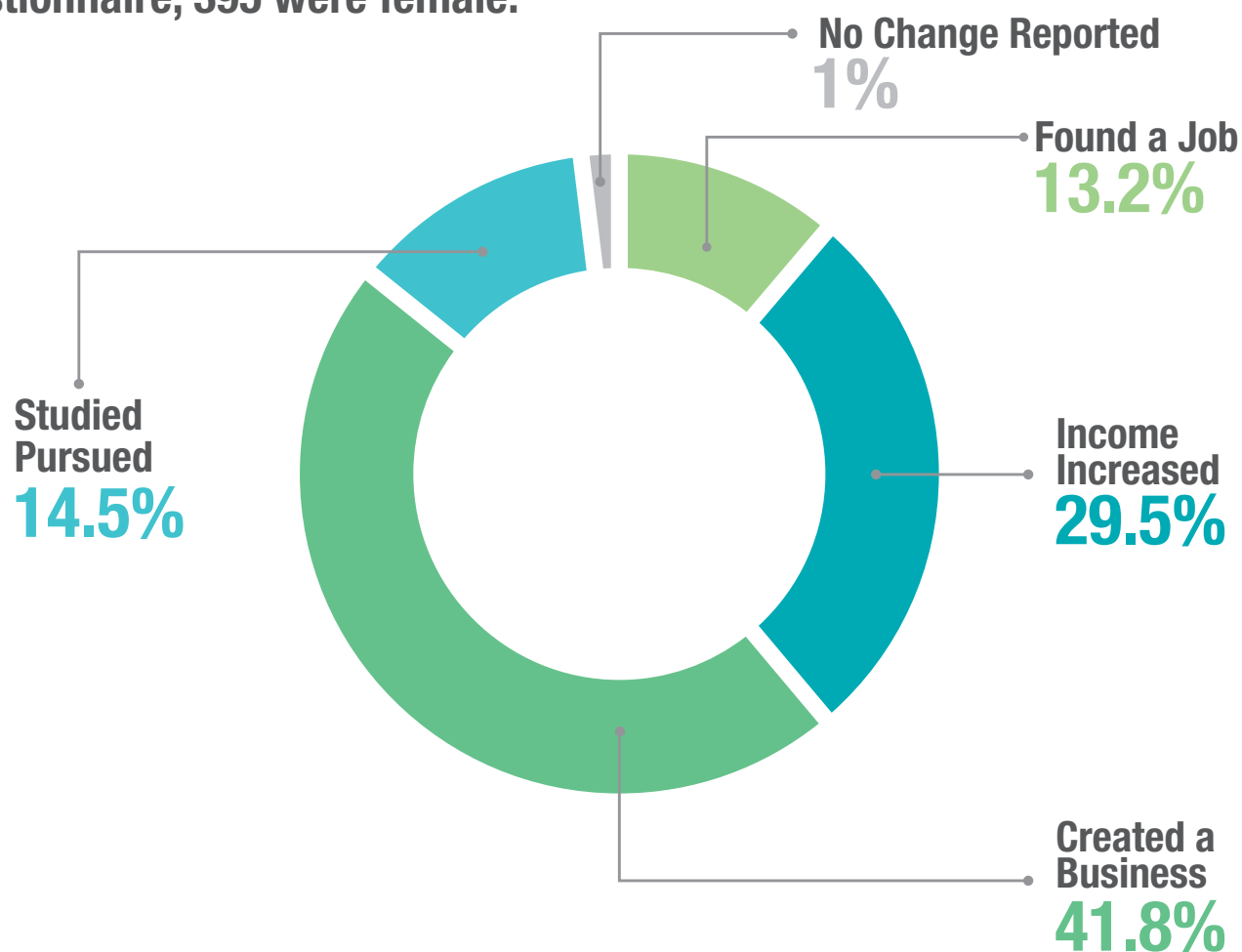


Healthcare

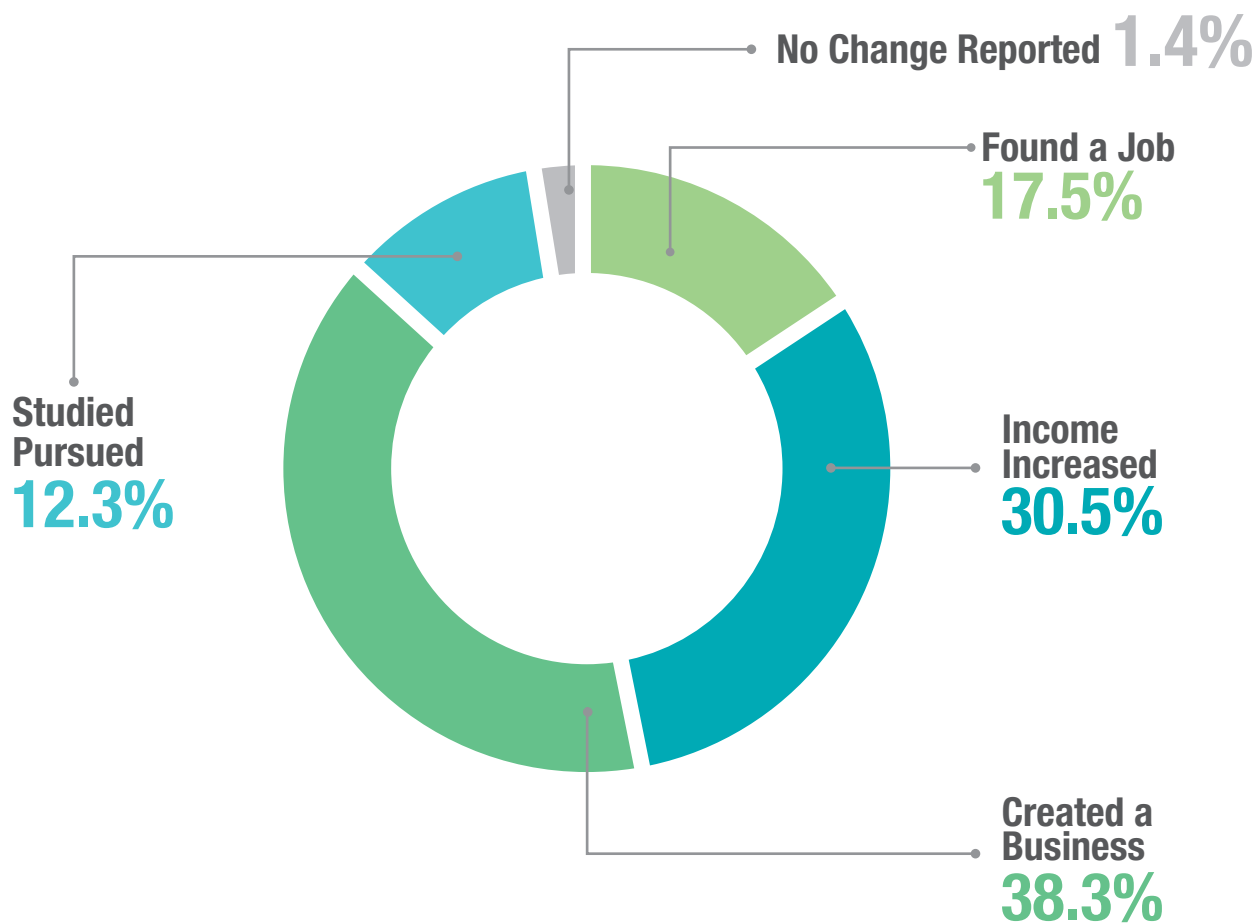
- **789** people treated by our trauma healing counselors

Survey Results

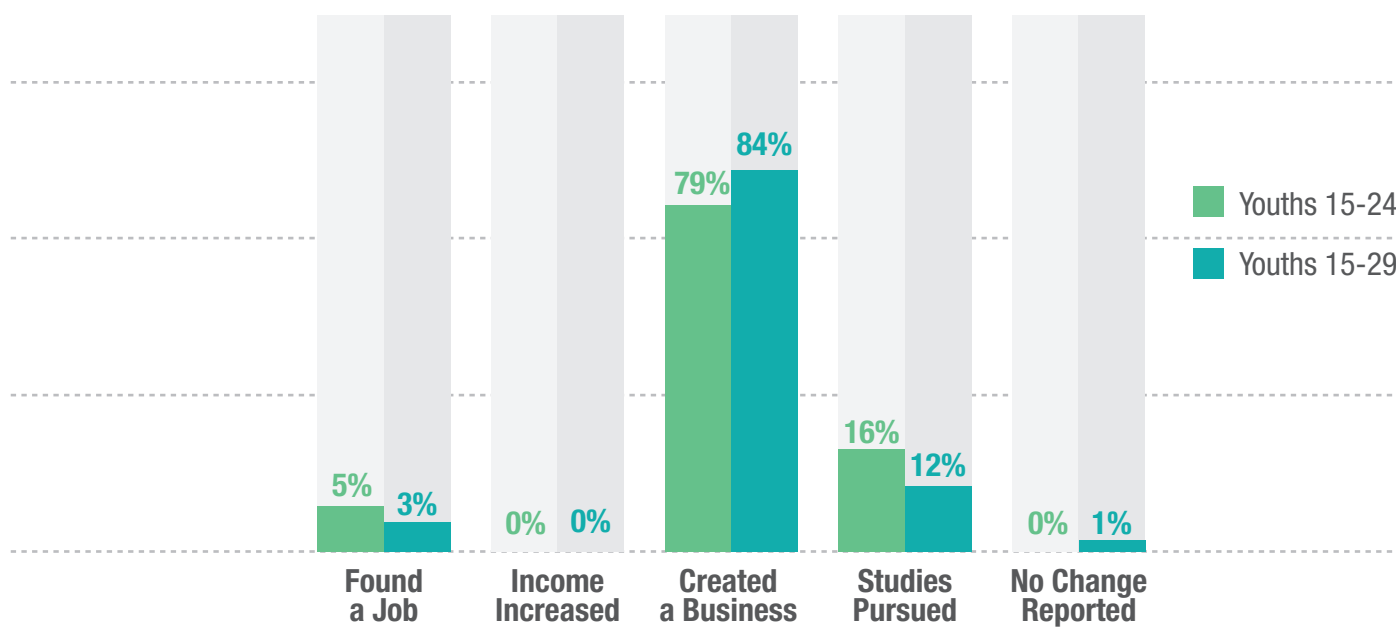
666 graduate trainees responded to the questionnaire, 395 were female.



Outcomes of Vocational Trainings for all Respondents



Outcomes of Vocational Training for Women



Outcomes of Vocational Trainings for Youths

Feedback from Local and National Stakeholders

“

The approach is very locally tuned. Community Dialogues have provided solutions to local problems and resolved over four cases within our communities on land-related issues. WPDI needs to conduct more sensitization to address concerns as they arise.

Ongom Richard

Local Leader from Purongo Sub-County,
Nwoya District

“

We formed committees of peace in our village as a result of the community dialogues conducted. Keep up the good work.

”

Akaka Richard Kwoyelo

Councilor for Kitgum District Local government

Youth Peacemakers

Our 'train the trainer' approach is the backbone of our model, which assumes that, in conflict- and violence affected communities, social transformations can be sustainable and lasting only if they are spearheaded by members of these very communities - hence our strategy to employ local actors as drivers of change, bearing in mind the eminent situation of youths who represent both the present and the future of their communities. With a view to mobilizing the potential of youth in our target areas, our established approach is to select, for each location, a cohort of young men and women whom we take through a comprehensive and intensive one-year training of trainers program in conflict resolution, business and other peacebuilding skills such as advocacy. Once trained, they act as a relay for WPDI in their communities, notably by organizing community dialogues, training local leaders in conflict resolution, leading conflict resolution programs in schools, developing businesses and helping other beneficiaries of WPDI launch businesses of their own.

The comparative advantage of this empowerment-gearred model is to have assets who can deliver endogenous change and foster innovative forms of leadership even in remote areas.

28
Youth Peacemakers



14
Women



14
Men

In the Acholi Sub-Region, the 28 Youth Peacemakers were, once again, key to the delivery of our programs. Indeed, they convened community dialogues in the districts of Acholi, delivered

community leaders training, Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) training to community members, pupils and students, participated in radio talk shows and engagement day celebrations and provided backstopping support to business projects.



Refresher Training for Youth Peacemakers

In order to ensure the highest quality training and delivery of activities across all regions and communities under our mandate, it is important to continually build the skills of our network of Youth Peacemakers and ensure they master the knowledge and skills necessary to bring peace in their communities. With the support of our partner 'Education Above All', we were able to develop their skills in advocacy and human rights, business and entrepreneurship, and provide an update on the handbook supporting conflict resolution training.

Advocacy and Human Rights

During this reporting period, a 5-day EAA/WPDI training on advocacy and human rights was conducted. Five (3 young women and 2 young men) of our Youth Peacemakers participated in the workshop, along with 25 other Youth Peacemakers from different regions of Uganda and South Sudan. This capacity-building training equipped the selected youth with advocacy skills to be used in advocating for the rights of girl children and the right to education. They now advocate on behalf of voiceless students and pupils, especially girls.

Peace Education Handbook

All 28 Youth Peacemakers participated in a 5-day training on an updated Peace Education Handbook. This capacity-building training further empowered and strengthened their knowledge and understanding to effectively and efficiently deliver peace education training in schools and promote a culture of peace.

Business and Entrepreneurship

We conducted a refresher training for Youth Peacemakers in Business and Entrepreneurship to strengthen their skills in delivering training to their communities. Topics covered included:

- Risk Management;
- Marketing and Market Analysis;
- Budgeting;
- Business Ethics and Social Responsibilities;
- Report Writing;
- Data Collection.

The training was successful and the Youth Peacemakers were committed to scaling up their work in supporting SMEs, especially those founded by youths and women groups.

Trauma Healing

Refresher training for Youth Peacemakers on trauma healing was conducted within this reporting period to strengthen their capacity to provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services in the community. The training was highly participatory with much time dedicated to discussions, Q&A sessions, and experience sharing. Topics covered were:

Part 1: Concepts

- Introduction to the clinical concept of Psycho-Traumatology and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders;
- Psycho-physiology of stress and trauma;
- Memory changes in traumatized persons (memory theory);
- Assessment and diagnosis of PTSD;
- Assessment and diagnosis of depression;
- Introduction to related psychological problems (E.g. substance abuse, suicidal tendencies);
- Basic concept of emotion theory and emotional processing;
- The concept of Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET) for children and adults.

Part 2: Practice

- Clinical diagnosis of PTSD (Structured Interview);
- Application of Narrative Exposure Therapy, especially processing of traumatic life events;
- Observation of full NET treatment (8 sessions) with survivors of Trauma carried out by an expert;
- Preparation of NET testimonials;
- Psycho-education and informed consent.

Testimonials

“

I would like to thank WPDI for giving us the opportunity to undergo this workshop on the Peace Handbook. It has widened our knowledge on the content of the training we shall start delivering, thank you.

”

Komakech Richard

Youth Peacemaker

“

With the impact of the training we acquired, I was able to conduct CRE in schools without any problem.

”

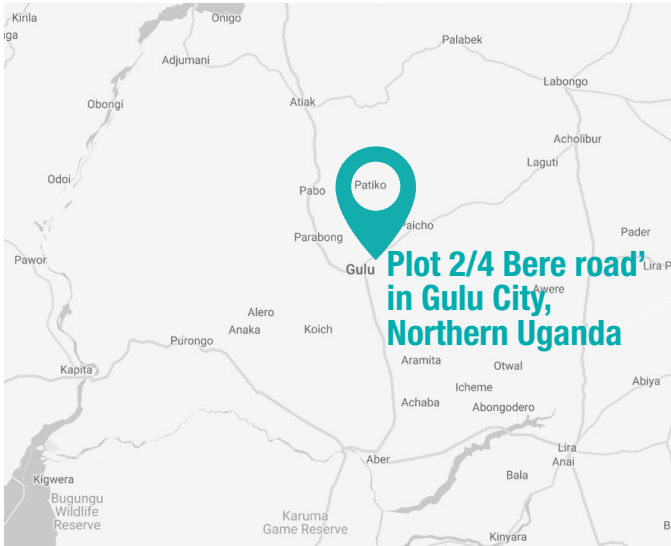
Akello Beatrice

Youth Peacemaker



Community Learning Center

5,461 people participated in training and activities held at WPDI's Community Learning Center



The Community Learning Center (CLC) in Gulu also serves as the country office, and is a safe space for all planned WPDI program activities and events. In addition to regular training sessions, the center provides former trainees and students a space and resources to do research and meet each other. The CLC has become a learning hub for international university students who come to understand how such programs change the lives of youths and communities. The Gulu CLC activities are implemented and managed by 12 staff members and 29 volunteers.

Activities Delivered at the Community Learning Center

Conflict Resolution Education (CRE)

182 graduates in Conflict Resolution Education

Arts and Crafts

178 graduates in Arts and Crafts

Business and Entrepreneurship

149 graduates in Business and Entrepreneurship

Information & Communication Technologies (ICT)

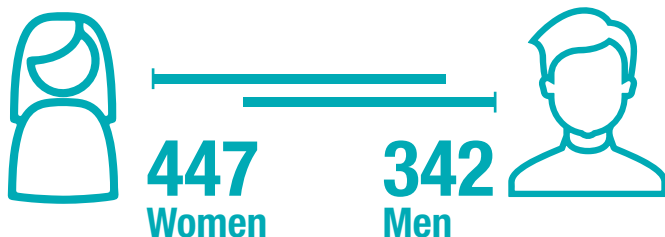
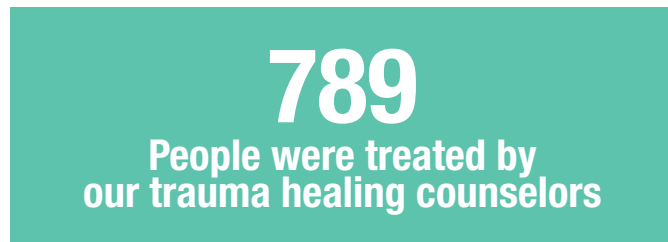
278 graduates in ICT

Peacebuilding Programs

Healthcare

Trauma Healing Support

Despite the high number of persons with trauma in the region, there are still very few partners providing Mental Health and Psychosocial support services. Also, there is still under-reporting of Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases in the community due to stigma, shame, and perception of GBV or lack of trust in reporting channels. Yet this issue is a source of a high level of trauma in the community.



WPDI's trauma healing officer trains and supports Youth Peacemakers in delivering trauma healing sessions within the region. The guerilla-style war in Northern Uganda left its inhabitants with a great need for these programs. Although the 'Lord's Resistance Army' left Uganda in 2006, they continued to abduct children; girls were forcibly married to army commanders and boys were forced to become child soldiers. Those who returned from captivity continue to suffer from trauma that manifests in different ways.

At WPDI, the standard assessment of war trauma has been the 17 Post-Traumatic Stress Diagnostic Scale (EDNA B.FOA) which assesses how a particular event was experienced personally. In our effort to support the survivors, we use Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET), a short-term, culturally sensitive treatment approach. It focuses on both therapy and clients' rights. Effective tools of different therapeutic approaches are included in NET, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy, testimony therapy and client-centered psychotherapy.

The following are some of the activities or services that are provided under the WPDI Trauma Healing program:

- Trauma healing awareness sessions in schools and in the community to give them full ownership of the program, towards sustainability beyond WPDI. This is an introduction to the different mental issues that might affect people within the community.
- Screenings for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) and other mental health disorders to help identify those with different mental health issues and assess them to give an entry point or guidance into their counseling therapy (achieved with the WPDI structured Post Traumatic Stress Diagnostic Scale or PDS scale).
- Provision of Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET). A survivor undergoes a maximum of eight counseling sessions.
- Follow-ups and home visits are a continuous activity for every survivor during their therapy sessions and after recovery to constantly track their wellbeing and provide guidance on the next actions to be taken, as well as avoiding a relapse of the trauma.

Anyono Roseline, a WPDI Youth Peacemaker who has been Supporting the Work Under the Trauma Healing Program Shares Her Experience with Clients in the Community

I am from the Acholi Sub-Region. I was recruited as a WPDI Youth Peacemaker in 2017, and had no idea what Trauma Healing was. Nevertheless, after attending the WPDI Trauma Healing training, my capacity was enhanced and I am now able to identify individuals with Trauma and/or Post Traumatic Stress Disorders and signpost them to different support available that fit their needs.

I can also provide psychosocial support services. Through my determination in providing trauma healing services in the community, many lives were touched and changed positively.

I have also been able to create trauma healing awareness among the local community while putting much emphasis on youth and women since they are the most underserved. This, in turn, led to the overcoming of stigma and discrimination in the community thereby promoting peaceful coexistence.

The challenges faced by vulnerable people in the community are:

- Stigma and discrimination from the community;
- Lack of facilities to support persons suffering from mental illness.

The case of Margaret, a client whom Anyono Roseline supported

Margaret is from Kitgum (Chua West Constituency). She lost everything to the two-decade-long war in Northern Uganda. Her children and husband were killed. Margaret explains that this was the turning point and everything turned to the worst, with her completely losing hope in life. The doctors diagnosed Margaret with emotional trauma, advising her that she needed psychosocial support and then referring her to WPDI for therapy. That is how she met our talented Youth Peacemaker, Anyono Roseline, who helped guide her through the different support available that she could benefit from.

In Margaret's own words:

"The medical worker from Kitgum General Hospital referred me to Anyono Roselyn, from WPDI, who told me about the various programs available. She also told me about the monthly dialogue meetings where we would be able to discuss challenges that affect us in the community.

WPDI supported me to gain confidence and renew hope in life. Through their intervention, many people with similar problems to mine were mobilized and put into groups and supported to help each other through peer-to-peer support. WPDI also encourages people with mental issues to seek support and overcome stigma and discrimination."



Testimonials

"I developed symptoms of mental illness in April 2020 at the peak of COVID-19 when I was 26 years old, after being diagnosed with COVID-19. I was isolated, started having emotional problems for the first time and was hospitalized for one month. My darkest moment was when I was discharged from the hospital, and I started having a lot of fear and feeling angry about life. Not getting along with family and friends was causing problems, but after the WPD team visited me during their routine follow-up and home visits, I was able to reconnect with my family members without stigma. Thank you WPD for giving me hope."

Sharon

from Lukole in Agago District

"Due to economic hardship, I was given by my parents to a rich man to go and work as a house help in the city of Kampala. While in the city I was forced to do many bad things. My turning point was in 2020 when COVID-19 arrived and the rich man had to send me back to my village because the cost of living was very high. I left Kampala without anything. The life I experienced in Kampala caused me a lot of trauma. I also suffered from the stigma of people in my village. Things changed when I attended an awareness session on mental health and psychosocial support organized by WPD. After the session, the team counseled me and conducted follow-up and home visits. They often come to check on me. Thank you WPD for the Mental Health program which is helping heal wounded souls."

Irene

21 years old, from Purongo
in Nwoya District



Mediation Among Community Members

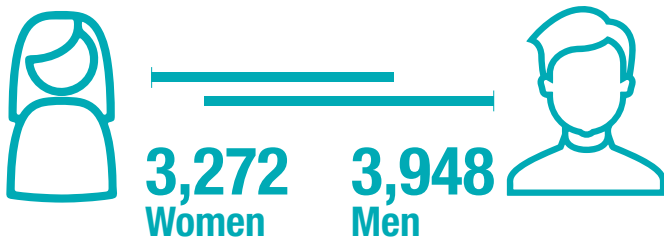
Community Dialogues

Often coordinated by Youth Peacemakers within their community and with active support and attendance from WPDI staff, community dialogues provide a peaceful medium to discuss issues that community members face and find peaceful resolutions agreed on by all parties.

Follow-up community dialogues are often organized to ensure the resolutions have been implemented. With time, as the seriousness and efficiency of these dialogues became recognized by local decision-makers and community members, the topics and organization of community dialogues have been done by WPDI at the request of community members. They come to us with issues to address and we provide a platform for them to do so.

34 Community Dialogues

7,220 Participants



This year, community dialogues covered: land conflicts, inter-district border conflicts, Gender Based Violence (GBV), teen pregnancy and school dropout rates, insecurity within the urban centers, and positive parenting.

Example of a community dialogue held in the Acholi Sub-Region, Uganda



December 10, 2022



Palaro Sub-County

Topic of the community dialogue

Land conflict among the six clans in Palaro Sub-County

Number of participants

207 community leaders and members

Youth Peacemakers leading the sessions

Otto George
Lutwala Irene

Resolutions

The leaders of the six clans resolved the following issues:

- Formulation of by-laws for penalties on cases of crops destruction by animals since there are a lot of such cases by Balalo's cattle.
- Need for solidarity at the family level through family and clan meetings channeled to address challenges affecting communities.
- Restoration of traditional respect and good Acholi cultures where family individuals are treated with enough love and dignity.
- Need for sensitization and empowerment of widows.

Feedback from a Stakeholder

“Ocira B. Simon, local leader in LCII Palaro, asked other local leaders to always mobilize the community in large numbers for this kind of event, which is so beneficial to the general community. He also appreciated WPDI’s initial engagement in Palaro and requested for more community sensitization to enlighten the community to coexist in harmony.”

Feedback from a Youth Peacemaker

“Leaders appreciated WPDI for organizing this community dialogue and called for more community dialogues in other parishes in Palaro Sub-County.”

Lutwala Irene,
WPDI Youth Peacemaker



Testimonials



“The challenge of disunity among the local chiefs who should be the advisors and harmonizers in the community is worrying. The disunity among them brings conflict among the community members due to greed and personal interest. There is a need to mobilize the community and discuss issues that are affecting them through this dialogue. We have learned a lot and as leaders we pledge to unite and foster peace in the community. Thank you for the great work I must commend WPDI.”

Ochen Stephen
ACDO Apano Community



“Organized crime is so rampant in the community. In this respect, the entire police fraternity and the community of Koch Goma would like to thank WPDI for this wonderful dialogue session that was conducted. We reached a resolution. Thank you WPDI for the wonderful effort toward the promotion of peace within the area.”

KOMAKECH BOSCO
OC Station Koch Goma Police Post



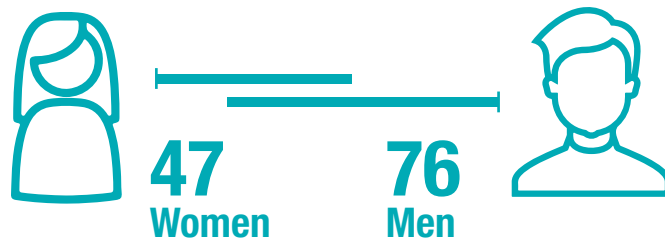
“I would like to thank our partner WPD I for coming up with the initiative to conduct community dialogues here in Kirombe, on security and positive parenting. As someone from the office of security, we pledge to support any activity from any NGO to ensure that we promote peace and security within the city. You need to note that there is a very high level of poverty in the community because of the lack of employment opportunities and I would like to encourage all the youth within this area to go to the WPD I CLC for skills training.”

Deputy RCC Banya

Community Leaders Training

123

community leaders trained
in Conflict Resolution and
Peacebuilding



During the year, six community leaders training were conducted in Pader, Kitgum, Omoro, Nwoya, Gulu and Amuru, covering: conflict, violence, peace, diversity, emotions, and servant leadership. The community leaders were trained on the different types of conflict and how to identify it and be able to disrupt its violent patterns in order to collaboratively resolve conflicts.

The training builds confidence and trust in leaders to productively handle conflict at the community level - they become agents of change in the community. The trained leaders have been able to trickle down the knowledge and skills acquired and hereby better the response to issues as they arise.



Testimonials



"I was first trained on peacebuilding during the Internally Displaced Persons camp era. I must say that this training is detailed and contains a lot of information that reflects exactly how we can promote peace within our community. Thank you WPDl for this."

Rackara Boniface

from Lunyiri Sub-County



"I am a female counselor and I have over 25 years of experience handling GBV related matters within my community, and I thank WPDl for this training. I am sure the skills I have gained from this training will help my community."

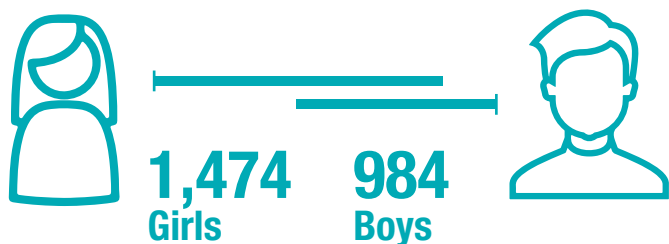
Atek Grace

GBV expert from the Acholi Sub-Region

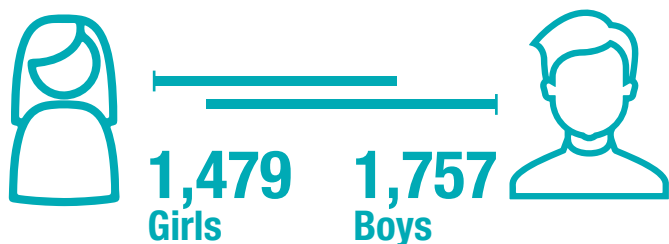


Peace Education in Schools

2,458
Pupils Trained in
16 Primary Schools



3,236
Students from 15
Secondary Schools



Peace Education in Primary Schools

Peace education and conflict resolution training have been conducted in 16 primary schools. According to the feedback we received, the training in schools has created peaceful co-existence and improved discipline, resulting in a positive transformation among the learners.

“The CRE training in my school has been so beneficial to me as a person, through communication and active listening skills which I have acquired. I have become a good listener both in school and at home - my relationship with fellow learners has improved.”

Lamunu Sophie
Vanguard Primary school

“I am grateful for this training because it has caused a great change in my life. I was very stubborn and an undisciplined child, I always disturbed my fellow pupils and teachers and this affected my performance in class. But since I joined the CRE training, my life has changed. I used to steal other people’s property in class, and I also liked to fight my siblings at home, but this all changed after the CRE training. I now relate well with my peers.”

Ongora Ronald
Laroo Primary school



Example from our Conflict Resolution in Schools Program

Kokil Primary School



Agago District

Issue to address in the school

- Low school enrolment,
- Indiscipline of pupils,
- Violence at home,
- Child labor which contributes to an increase in school dropout rates.

To face these issues, an advocacy campaign was conducted involving learners, parents and teachers. This campaign created great transformation which was evident from the comments of the pupils and the general community.

“As a child I grew up in a conflict environment, this made me look at violence as the only way to resolve conflict. I resorted to drug abuse, and I was at the verge of dropping out of school but through the CRE training, I got motivated and I now see life in a different way.”

Onencan Denish Okwera

Kokil Primary School pupil

“Kokil primary school had increasing cases of indiscipline, violent learners and this affected performance. However, having conducted an advocacy campaign, there has been great improvement and the level of school dropout is now low.”

Canoroma Christine

Coordinator at Kokil Primary School

Peace Education in Secondary Schools

Conflict Resolution Education during this period was conducted in 15 secondary schools. Like the primary sessions, it has also created peaceful co-existence within the schools and the students relate more positively with the teachers and among themselves.

“I have been able to mediate a conflict among my fellow students in school, and this couldn't have been possible without the knowledge I learned from the CRE class.”

Apio Patricia

Gulu College School

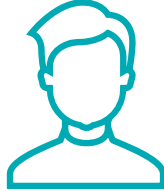
Peace Education for Teachers

499

Teachers Trained in 35 schools



298
Women



201
Men

In addition to training the pupils and students in Conflict Resolution, WPDJ also delivers CRE training to school teachers. The training builds and strengthens their capacity to better manage daily conflicts and promote peace in school and in their communities.

“Time and again, as an administrator, I am faced with a number of conflicts with students, teachers and parents. However, with the knowledge gained from this peacebuilding training, I am now able to employ different possible approaches than before.”

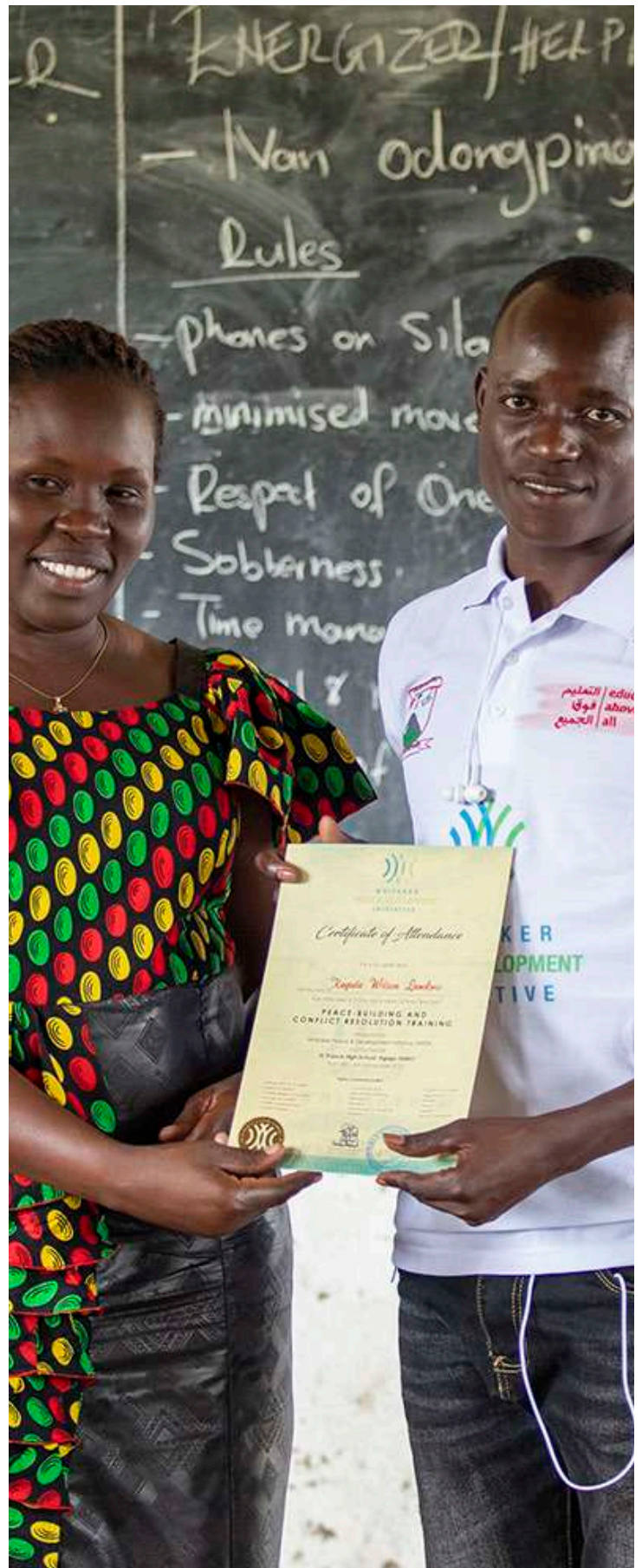
Nyeko David

Deputy Headteacher at Amuru
Seed Secondary School

“Conflict is a part of life and how we respond to it matters in our social relationship. This training was timely, and I have gained more skills in managing emotions with students and fellow teachers as well. Appreciation to WPDJ.”

Amyera Agnes

Teacher at St Francis High School



ICT Teacher Training in Schools



“I would like to thank WPDl for the ICT training in our school. I have learned how to use spreadsheets to tally my learners' results. The method is very efficient and eliminates errors. We are happy to learn a skill that will help us perform our duties efficiently.”

Oroma Patrick

Kasule, teacher at Laroo Primary School

“I have been the teacher coordinating the WPDl programs in our school. The ICT training has helped us to increase skills and make use of our school computer laboratory. The teachers have been frequenting the Computer Lab to practice lessons learned using classroom data. I am positive that we are going to see a change in the time teachers take to tally and grade student performance. Thank you WPDl.”

Opira Francis

Teacher at Gulu Vanguard Primary School

30 Teachers from Secondary Schools

26 Teachers from Primary Schools

During the CRE training designed for teachers and children in schools, teachers expressed great need and interest in ICT training. This year was the first effort, with teachers from two schools being trained. The training was well received and will expand to many schools. Topics covered included:

- Computer Literacy (using application software, using Microsoft Word and Excel),
- Digital Literacy (search engines, email communication)

We see this training as an opportunity to improve the work of teachers. For example, training on spreadsheets will help teachers manage classroom data on attendance and examination results. The email communication training will help enhance communication among teachers, government leaders, and support organizations like WPDl.



Business Bootcamp









At WPDI, we consider lasting peace and sustainable development as interdependent and equally important. Fragile communities suffer from a web of interrelated problems; insecurity hampers economic development and poverty nurtures conflict. The Business Bootcamp fosters entrepreneurship in our targeted areas. As an integrated platform, the Business Bootcamp combines a series of vocational training in Entrepreneurship, ICT and Arts and Crafts, with an incubation facility providing aspiring entrepreneurs with opportunities to fulfill their dream of creating a business.

Supporting Income-Generating Projects

Business Bootcamp

Businesses active in Acholi in 2022: 82

8,183
Business Beneficiaries in
Acholi since 2017 (by gender)

Managers		255	51%
Managers		241	49%
Employees		660	66%
Employees		335	34%
Indirect beneficiaries		3,924	59%
Indirect beneficiaries		2,768	41%
Total of Women beneficiary		4,839	59%
Total of Men beneficiary		3,344	41%

In the last three years, Business Plan Completions (BPC) have become one integral part of the Bootcamp activities. It is implemented to encourage former trainees to perfect their entrepreneurial abilities and start a business to generate income, improve their livelihood and empower themselves by building their skills.

Upon completing training at the intermediate level in Business and Entrepreneurship, the successful trainees are informed of the upcoming Business Plan Competition that will award winners with grants to support the best business ideas. They then form groups and come up with business ideas. They are also asked to elaborate on an elevator pitch and a Business proposal. These proposals are presented before the Oversight and the Review committee. The Oversight Committee will provide guidance to candidates on how to improve their projects. Members of the Review committee are experts from both WPDI and District Technical teams.

The Oversight and the Review committee listen to each pitch and then review business plans to determine a score. For certain business projects, the committees conduct onsite visits to the locations stipulated in the Business Plan Proposals as part of the assessment phase. These scores determine the winners of each BPC.

In 2022, there have been two separate BPC which were done in February and May. In total, 21 groups participated and presented their business project to the committees.

The winners are then supported with grants to invest in their respective businesses. The other groups are encouraged to implement their business ideas and WPDI works hard to link them to other support available in our local network.



"I appreciate the opportunity given by WPDI to attend business class and learn business plan development. This gave us the opportunity to take part in the Business Plan Competition. The event opened up our minds to think in different ways. We recommend that this program should continue so that other youths can also benefit and this will reduce the high level of redundancy among the youth in Gulu City. Thanks so much."

Luo Comedy

Business and Entrepreneurship Trainee



Information on the winners of the two 2022 Business Plan Competitions

Soul Touch Rabbit Farm

Number of employees	0
Number of Founders/Managers	7
Type of Business	Farming
Support Start Year	2022

Potential expansion

They could hire a Vet assistant and someone to assist with sales at the local market.

Idure Vegetable Growers

Number of employees	0
Number of Founders/Managers	5
Type of Business	Farming
Support Start Year	2022

Potential expansion

Needs a tri-cycle bike for transporting green vegetables to the city markets.

Front Step Fish Farm

Number of employees	1
Number of Founders/Managers	5
Type of Business	Farming
Support Start Year	2022

Potential expansion

This project is still in the initial stage and the fish are being bred for a maximum of 10 months before harvest.

Layibi Poultry Farm

Number of employees	2
Number of Founders/Managers	6
Type of Business	Farming
Support Start Year	2022

Potential expansion

They need to get someone to train members to locally mix the food brands for the birds.

Tim Kikumi

Number of employees	2
Number of Founders/Managers	7
Type of Business	Concrete work
Support Start Year	2022

Potential expansion

They will need more equipment to expand their offering of concrete laying.

Soul to Sole Sandals

Number of employees	1
Number of Founders/Managers	5
Type of Business	Manufacturing
Support Start Year	2022

Potential expansion

They could provide training in craft shoes making and how to use their machines.



Impact Story

Meet Mary, the founder of Soul to Sole Sandals

Name

Agoye Mary Okwi

Business

Soul to Sole Sandals (craft shoemaking)

“

I represent a team of four young women and one young man who were trained in Business and Entrepreneurship at WPDI's CLC, for a period of four months. We are all residents of Gulu but I come from Soroti in Eastern Uganda. I first came to know about WPDI through a friend who was trained with WPDI previously. When I heard about the training, I decided to give it a try. I am a 38-year-old woman with three children. Unfortunately, I was laid off from my previous employment and it was really challenging. COVID-19 made the situation worse as I had no source of income.

My training with WPDI gave me a real chance to make things better because after the training, we formed a group and were awarded 10,500,000 Ugandan Shillings with which we opened a business of Craft Shoes.

I can confidently share that within a few months, things have changed and our business is growing. We had a chance to participate in two trade exhibitions. The biggest highlight was having the President of Uganda H.E Yoweri Museveni Kaguta coming to our stall and buying shoes from us. I feel so encouraged to succeed and owe so much of this to WPDI.

”

Supporting Vulnerable Women

In 2022, the businesses of 15 vulnerable women groups were selected to be awarded grants and will continue to receive backstopping support. These women were first selected based on their vulnerability and availability to follow our program. Once selected these women received training in Business and Entrepreneurship, for three months.

The Selection Process

The first step was the dissemination of information to the various districts, through meetings with district stakeholders such as:

- The District Chief Administrative Office;
- The District Community Development Officer;
- The District Police Commander;
- The District Chairperson;
- The Women Councilors IV;
- District Commercial Officer;
- The Local Councilors Three;
- The Sub-County Community Development Office;
- The Sub-County Senior Administrative Secretary;
- The District Resident Commissioner;
- The Family and Child Protection Unit;
- The District Health Officer;
- The District Health Secretary.

This activity was carried out by WPDI Staff and Youth Peacemakers who supplemented the efforts of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to mobilize different stakeholders.

The selected beneficiaries were approved by the local area Councilor One, the Community Development Officer, and the local area Councilor Three. This process increased the level of partnership between WPDI and local government authorities which led to provision of training venues for program beneficiaries.

■ Training in Business and Entrepreneurship

The weekly training in Business and Entrepreneurship for 216 women in 15 countries was conducted twice a week, each time for two hours. The selected vulnerable women were trained in Basic and Intermediate levels.

■ Assessment post-training

On completion of the weekly training, the women were assessed through oral assessment as some women are unable to read and write. Each woman was assigned a topic to present as part of the participatory learning approach. Scores were based on content quality, conceptualization, and application. Additional feedback was provided after each presentation.

■ Elaborating business plans

The Youth Peacemakers, with support from WPDI staff, conducted a two-day Business Plan Design Workshop. This allowed each group to develop their business idea, test its viability and develop a project.

In addition, WPDI organized a two-day Group Dynamic and Leadership Training in each county. This enabled groups to plan operations and management aspects of their businesses, using the best practices and procedures provided by WPDI to ensure easy monitoring, follow-up, and reporting. Onsite visits to the proposed sites of the business were carried out by the oversight committee to confirm the women's business status and assess the level of commitment of the members on the ground. Each business plan was reviewed by the WPDI business team and the Business Review Committee for final approval. This is a mandatory step before grant allocation.

■ Supporting 15 Businesses led by Vulnerable Women

The 15 Women County projects were awarded grants to support their projects. With support from the Youth Peacemakers, the women developed a budget and a work plan in order to receive their first installments.

The women-led businesses projects are mostly in farming because of the available resources around them. Indeed, before women developed a business idea, a practical activity was conducted through market research, to study their environment and identify the opportunities around them.

The businesses created are key to women empowerment as it allow them to increase their economic independence. Additionally, empowering women through the business created enhances the economic prosperity of their families and benefits the community at large. It is also a potential for sustainable change that uplifts women through economic decision-making, increases their mobility, and increases their access and control over their resources.

Acet Women Group

 **Acet Town Center,
Omoro District**

 **Piggery business**

God's Gift Produce Enterprise

 **Awach Trading Center,
Gulu District**

 **Produce buying and selling**

Kica Ber Groundnuts Production

 **Tochi County,
Omoro District**

 **Groundnuts production**

Pandwong United Women Group

 **Kitgum Municipality**

 **Soya beans and Sunflower
Production**

Koch Goma Ngec Lonyo Women Group

 Koch Goma, Nwoya District

 Groundnuts production

Kwo mito Tute Women Group

 Pader District

 Groundnuts growing

Lamola Goats Rearing Project

 Lamola Village, Kitgum District

 Goats rearing

Layibi Poultry Project

 Gulu City

 Poultry keeping

Nen Anyim Women Farmers Group

 Adilang Town Council, Agago District

 Soya beans and sunflower production

Rubanga Lakica Women Group

 Kilak South Amuru District

 Piggery project

Pandwong United Women Group

 Kitgum Municipality

 Soya beans and Sunflower Production

Rubanga Lakica Women Group

 Amuru

 Soya beans and Sunflower Production

Rubanga ma omiyo Goat rearing Project

 Lamwo District

 Goats rearing

Rubanga twero Yepa central piggery project

 Yepa Central, Chua East, Kitgum

 Piggery project

Rwot Omoiyo Women Group

 Acholibur, Pader District

 Groundnuts growing



Impact Story

Name of group: KICA BER Women's

Sector: Farming

Focus: Groundnuts production

Location: Dog Tochi along Anaka Highway,
Nwoya district

This project was founded by a group of 15 women and is legally registered with ONGAKO Sub-County headquarters. It was formed with support and empowerment from WPDI. After receiving training in Business and Entrepreneurship for three months, the impact of the training motivated the women to come together to start an income generation project to break the vicious cycle of poverty.

The women heard about the program during the WPDI stakeholders meeting in the Ongako Sub-County. For the information to reach the community and to avoid conflict of interest, WPDI involves the service of the local leaders to identify the beneficiaries of the program.

The women joined the program to acquire skills through the different levels of training and empowerment through income-generating activities.

Challenges which they faced in their community:

- Low level of empowerment through vocational skills
- These women have limited access and exposure to funding opportunities

According to Esther, a member of the group, "Through groundnut farming, I managed to expand into orange sweet potatoes farming which supplies local restaurants in Gulu's main market during rainy seasons and in the sunny seasons. I dry the sweet potatoes and sell them to bakeries like Life Loaf Bakery In Gulu City, which are used as baking flour. I also ventured into liquid soap production where I supply schools in Gulu city. I supply three 20-liter jerry cans every week at a cost of UGX 54,000. I also have other packs in 500 ml bottles which I sell at UGX 1000. I sell at least five bottles every day."

Impact of the program:

Kica Ber Women Group is earning interest income from the group VSLA. The group receives savings from members monthly, pools them together, and lends to members and non-members with an interest. Part of the interest income remains with the group while a portion is distributed to members as interest earned on their savings. The total accumulative saving is UGX 3,511,000.

The members of the Kica Ber women group hired an extension worker who trained them in best agronomic practices and post-harvest. The group hired an ox plow to till the land for the members, which meant that members could afford to prepare and own bigger gardens. These interventions are expected to lead to improved quality and volumes of groundnuts, hence better incomes per member. With the gardens being their primary income-generating projects, the group will most likely survive long after the WPDI-funded project ends.

The members contribute membership fees of UGX 50,000 per member per annum, totaling UGX 750,000. This money is used to pay for group administration expenses.

Capacity-Building Courses

ICT

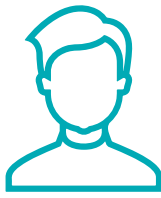


278

Trainees Graduated in ICT



126
Women



152
Men

263

Children Graduated in ICT



98
Girls



165
Boys

The community members visit the CLC to access the internet, use computers and access training opportunities. Our beneficiaries are vulnerable youths, university students, community leaders, school-teachers and students who have no access to these facilities.

During the reporting period, we registered 592 ICT adult trainees, of which 278 graduated. We also organized holiday programs to further engage students and pupils. This year, we trained 263 children. The training program typically lasts 40 hours, over 10 days.

Testimonials

from ICT trainees

"I am here to attend the computer training for two weeks. I will be able to use the computer well after this training. I will also be able to use the newly acquired knowledge to benefit my friends at school. I want to become the computer lab prefect next year."

Okello Simon Peter

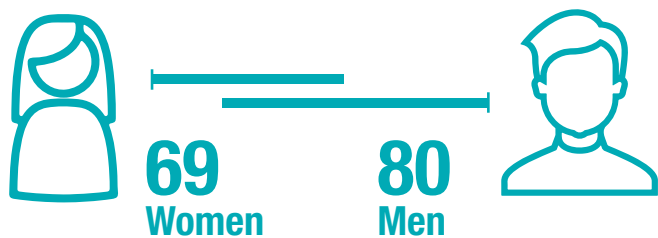
"I am here at WPDI to improve my skills using Microsoft Word. I know that if I do this, I will be able to pass my exams in the next school term."

Anena Flavia

Business and Entrepreneurship

This training is an integral part of our efforts to better the livelihoods of the communities we serve. The training sessions provide skills to increase employability, start a business or improve the model of pre-existing businesses. Our post-training surveys show that many graduates see their income increase after graduation.

149
Trainees Graduated in
Business and Entrepreneurship



Given the popularity of this training, we did not conduct any particular outreach beyond showing availability and information on access and registration when appropriate. The training at the CLC is intensive because the level of knowledge that learners are able and willing to attain is high. It gives the opportunity to young men and women to realize some of their dreams of generating income and improving their livelihoods and those of their community members.



Testimonials

from Business and Entrepreneurship trainees

"I would like to thank WPDl for the opportunity to participate in the business training and to graduate at the intermediate level. I also thank you for all the knowledge and the benefits we have gained and the people we have met, which has increased our exposure as a group and as individuals as well. We are grateful. I pray that the initiative continues in the northern part of Uganda."

**Agenorwot Rebecca
Charity**

"I am grateful that WPDl has brought together many youths, with different backgrounds. This has been an opportunity to learn about many new businesses existing within our local areas, for example the Luo comedy project which I didn't know about. I learned about it during the idea generation and selection workshop at the basic level. I also got the opportunity to meet many new people. Conducting market surveys gave us a lot of technical know-how and opened our eyes to think outside the box. This is truly a unique training program that has benefits for the community. Thanks, so much WPDl."

Nakimuli Racheal

Arts and Crafts

178

Trainees Graduated in
Arts and Crafts



166
Women



12
Men

This training enables participants to understand and appreciate the work of others. The benefits of an education in Arts and Crafts and Design for the trainees at this stage extends far beyond competence in the subject itself (and the ability to apply it through life). Indeed, it develops perseverance, sensibility and self-reliance.

During this reporting period, we registered 221 participants (of which 178 graduated) and topics covered included:

- Craft bags;
- Liquid detergent;
- Tie and dye;
- Introduction to color;
- Flare dress, Gadas;
- Round dress, straight dress;
- Shorts;
- Introduction to machine and its parts;
- Peddling and straight line.

Sessions were conducted all through the week from Monday to Friday from 10am to 2pm, totaling 4 hours a day. A total of 120 sessions were conducted with two cohorts of trainees.

"I dropped out of school and I heard about WPDI from the radio program about the training at the CLC. I was interested in studying arts and crafts. I am 21 years old, and due to the challenges I faced, I could not afford school fees. WPDI has impacted us with a lot of skills and taught us about marketing strategies on the products that we will make. I appreciate the organization for such support to me and for extending this support to my other colleagues. I pray the support continues."

Amito Charlotte Asseru

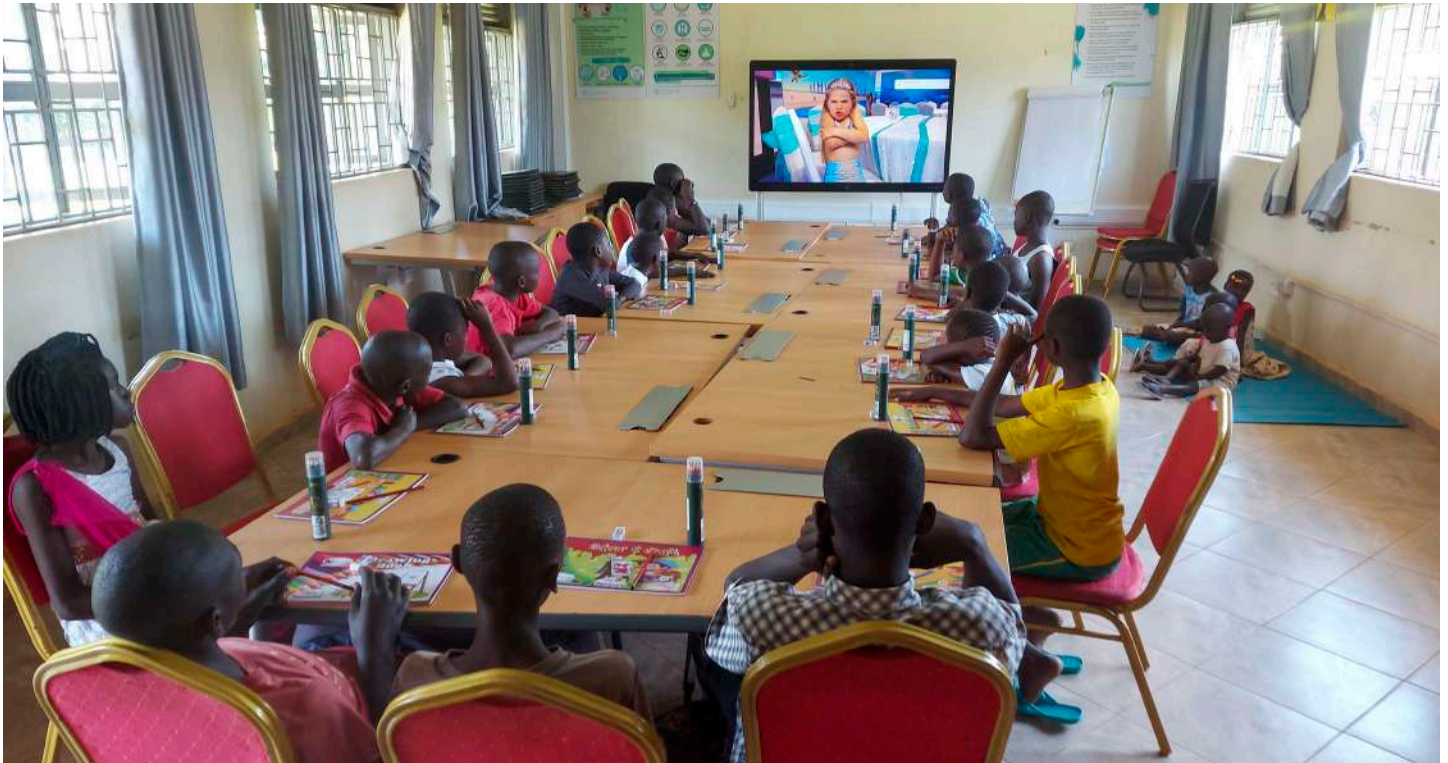
Arts and Crafts Trainee

"I am an orphan that once lost hope in pursuing my studies. But I am glad that WPDI is doing such a great initiative and I got to hear about this opportunity at CLC from the dialogue which was conducted in Layibi. Then I came and registered for the course."

Cathy

Arts and Crafts Trainee

Community Outreach



Cinema for Peace

24

Cinema for Peace
Screenings



1,677 Participants

In communities struggling with decades of conflicts and armed violence, the minds of many people may be closed to ideas of reconciliation, tolerance, and forgiveness. Often, what is needed is a venue to engage and share the complexity of their experiences of conflict and violence. These platforms help participants understand that peace is possible even in the most difficult situations. Cinema has a remarkable ability to engage and present us with characters and stories in a way that can shape one's conception of life, past collective experiences, as well as present and future perspectives. Cinema for Peace harnesses this ability to open minds and start conversations about peace and reconciliation.

The screenings are conducted twice a month and targets children and the wider community. We have received positive feedback from the discussions conducted after the screening.

“WPDI has helped us children during the holidays. We have been attending screening sessions for movies that teach us a lot of positive messages. For example, I watched a movie which taught me how, as a young girl, I can be courageous to fight for my community in a positive way. I would like to thank WPDI for bringing these activities to their Community Learning Center to benefit the children like myself.”

Elizabeth Aber

Cinema for Peace participant

Radio Talk Shows

Estimated
7,107,965
Listeners



This year, 26 radio talk shows were conducted in the following radio stations:

- Tembo FM
- Radio Rupiny
- Favour FM
- Might Fire FM

The shows we participated in were either live radio talk shows, spot messages, or recorded messages to encourage listeners in certain communities to participate in a community dialogue, or DJ Mentions. These talk shows have a regional audience. The topics discussed vary from sensitization on land conflicts, mediation, Gender-Based Violence, National Engagement Days, Human rights, Health Awareness and preventive measures with regards to COVID-19 or Ebola, School dropout, teenage pregnancy, among others. On a number of occasions, leaders who participated in the dialogue sessions were invited to the talk shows in which the programs of WPDI were discussed.

“I would like to thank CRE Coordinator, Christopher, for bringing us to the station so that we could sensitize the community out there, especially girls, about early pregnancy and school drop out. We were able to sensitize more students.”

Akello Agness

Senior 2 student in
Town College school

Peace Engagement Days

1,133
Participants in WPDI
Activities as Part of
National Events

Youth Peacemakers and staff represented WPDI at several events, including:

- International Women's Day celebrations,
- Day of the African child celebrations,
- International Day of Peace celebrations,
- International Youth Day celebrations, where the President of Uganda attended as the Chief Guest. He was able to visit a number of WPDI-supported groups and commended us and all other NGOs for supporting and working closely with the government.
- The launch of 16 days of Gender Activism at Gulu city and other districts of Acholi Sub-Region. During the events, WPDI staff conducted an awareness session on HIV/Aids (infections, prevention and behavioral change) as a way of closing the 16 days of Gender Activism reaching out to 85 people (53 women and 32 men).



Conclusion

With the regaining of our capacity for delivery after COVID-19 and bearing in mind the needs of the populations of Acholi, the Youth Peacemaker Network has demonstrated its value against our long-term objectives, to help vulnerable and fragile communities foster their resilience capacity. In the end indeed, the potential of WPDI lies in the people of the communities and notably their youths and their women, who are the priority groups of our strategy. Mobilizing this potential, the resilience of local communities has been strengthened by more than 50 peacebuilding interventions, including peace dialogues, sensitization events and engagement celebrations are making the organization's popularity, which have in turn fostered the collaboration and cooperation with local leaders. The potential of youths and women has also been significantly promoted by our activities on entrepreneurship, stressing in particular the fact that we have, in 2022, added 21 businesses to the list of businesses that we are incubating in Acholi. Taking a wider perspective on our work, our achievements of 2022, both in peacebuilding and sustainable development, are not only a signal that WPDI is overall back on track but also a foundation for the pursuit of our programs over the next months and years, in the context of our ten-year strategy. In this latter respect, our confidence has been bolstered by the renewal of key partnerships that will allow us to increase our outreach in the Acholi across the board for the coming period, making us a stronger organization in the sub-region and in Uganda at large.

Partners

التعليم | education
فوق | above
الجميع | all



A Foundation Wishing to Remain Anonymous