



WHITAKER  
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVE

# 2022 Annual Report

## KARAMOJA SUB-REGION





# PEACE IS CONTAGIOUS

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# Executive Summary

## Context

The Karamoja Sub-Region of North-Eastern Uganda has for a long time been riddled by the problem of illicit arms, light weapons and the resultant insecurity, manifested in raids and counter raids by warring clans and tribes, road ambushes and extrajudicial killings of civilians among others. Karamoja consists of nine districts (Kaabong, Karenga, Kotido, Abim, Moroto, Napak, Amudat, Nabilatuk and Nakapiripirit). In Uganda's history, the Karamoja region remains the least socially and economically developed, with 61 percent of the total population of 1.2 million living in poverty (UNHS, 2016/17). The region is semi-arid and experiences chronic food insecurity. For Uganda to achieve sustainable development highlighted in the 'Third National Development Plan' (NDP III) and 'Vision 2040' as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is paramount for all stakeholders, ranging from national and local officials to NGOs such as WPDI, to strengthen efforts at promoting peace and security as well as economic development across the Karamoja Sub-Region.

## Introduction

In 2022, WPDI succeeded in maintaining its capacity to deliver and obtain strong results across the Karamoja Sub-Region, reaching 9,508 people. This overall result is all the more satisfying given that we had launched our operations in this geographical area only a few months before the COVID-19 crisis, which severely affected our ability to deploy our programs in 2020. We maintained our efforts despite challenges. We built a cohort of 35 Youth Peacemakers and established our Community Learning Center in Moroto. Because our programs are designed for the long term, it is critical to stay the course and build the foundations for our programs as soon as possible to ensure that we are ready to work to our full potential as soon as the situation stabilizes. Our results for 2022 demonstrates the relevance of this approach. This was especially the case for our Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) in Schools, for which we had prepared our Youth Peacemakers in 2020 and 2021.

The situation was completely different in 2022 as we could train 1,375 pupils and students as well as 60 teachers - with great effect, since headmasters reported to us that levels of violence and indiscipline had diminished in their schools. We were also satisfied that in-person activities hosted at the CLC benefitted more than 2,400 individuals, notably when considering the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received from former vocational trainees, whose careers have been transformed by their having taken our courses. Our programs have indeed transformed individual lives - and they have also transformed the lives of communities, in particular through the Community Dialogues and trainings for local leaders. These activities are key for planting seeds of peace that will grow with a cascading effect for many more individuals than the participants in our program. The reader will, for instance, find in this report that, when a road reopens after years of being impassable due to local conflicts, a sea change happens with positive outcomes for everyone in the community as traveling becomes possible again and that services - formerly discontinued or new - are available. These are indirect dividends of peace that tend to, in turn, reinforce peace directly. Nurturing this positive feedback loop is central to WPDI's program on entrepreneurship, through which we provide skills and help create new businesses (31 this year). Thereby creating opportunities for our former trainees to improve their career prospects and revenues - and for their communities to have more relevant services to offer. This is to say that, in 2022, through the combination of our programs on peacebuilding and entrepreneurship, we have continued to strengthen the capacity of our target communities to become more peaceful, resilient and enabling for their members.

# Key Achievements

## Youth Peacemakers

35 WPDI youth peacemakers

180 local youths trained by WPDI's Youth Peacemakers



### Community Learning Center

**2,412**

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



### Community Dialogues

- **12** Community Dialogues to resolve conflicts gathered **2,752** people
- **472** Community Leaders were trained in conflict resolution



### Community Engagement

- **2** Radio talk shows, reaching an estimated **3,500** people
- **839** beneficiaries of our **4** advocacy campaigns in schools



### Peace Education in Schools

- **1,375** students and pupils, **60** teachers from **13** schools were trained in Conflict Resolution Education



### Other (Cultural awareness events)

- **3** Cultural awareness events were attended by **45** women



### Cinema for Peace

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



### Healthcare

- **786** people received support





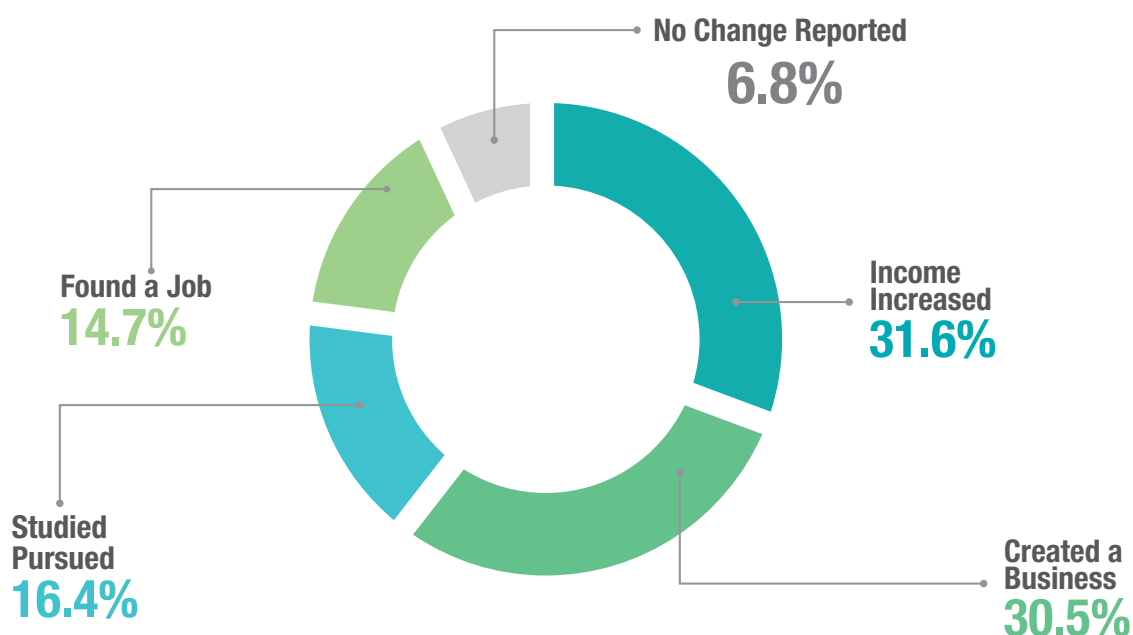
## Business Bootcamp

- **48** Businesses are currently supported
- **31** New businesses were launched this year
- **19** Business Plan Competitions were held throughout the year
- **356** Graduated in Conflict Resolution Education
- **367** Graduated in Information & Communication Technologies
- **523** Graduated in Business and Entrepreneurship
- **235** Graduated in Arts and Crafts

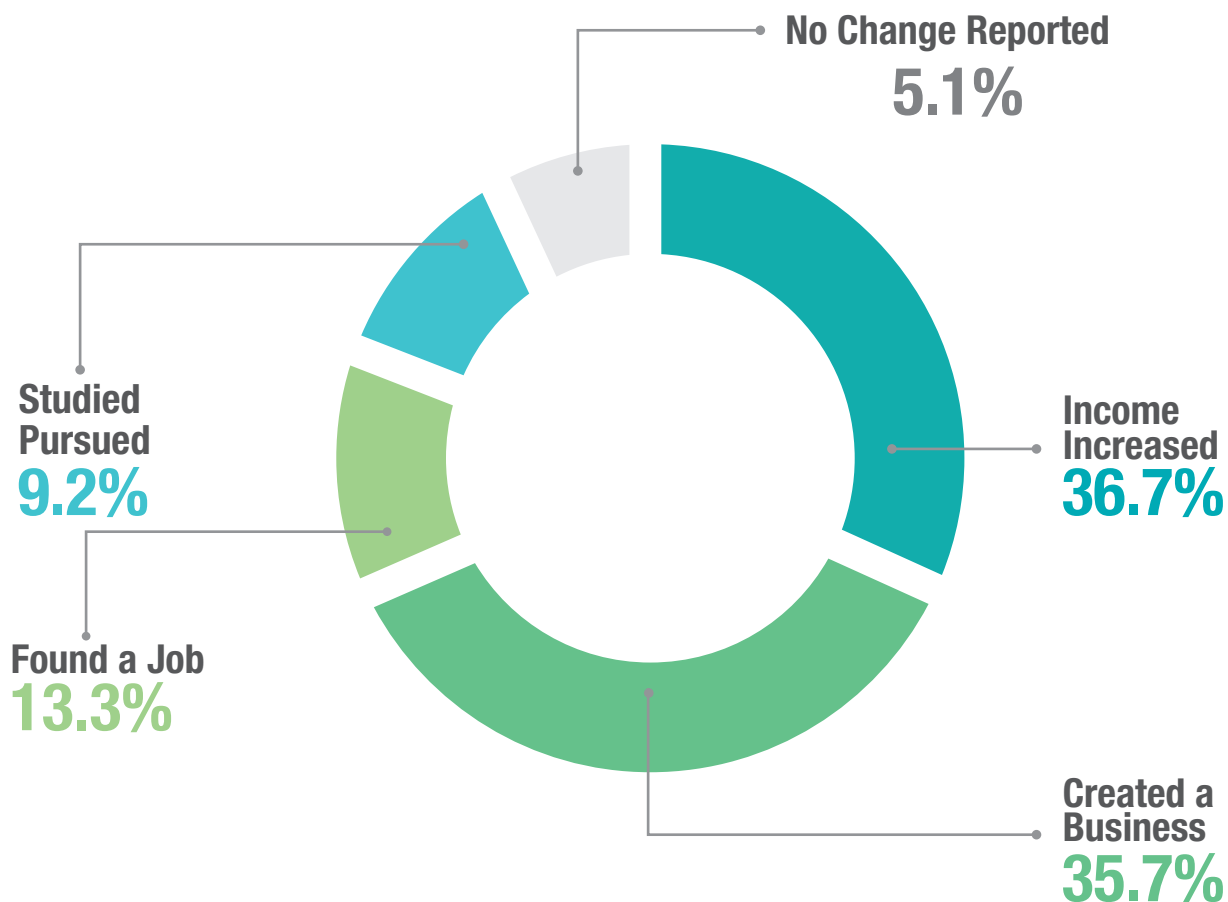
## 31 Businesses Created in 2022 in Karamoja (by type)

Farming	2	6%
Wholesale	7	23%
Retail	14	45%
Service	6	20%
Manufacture	2	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Survey Results

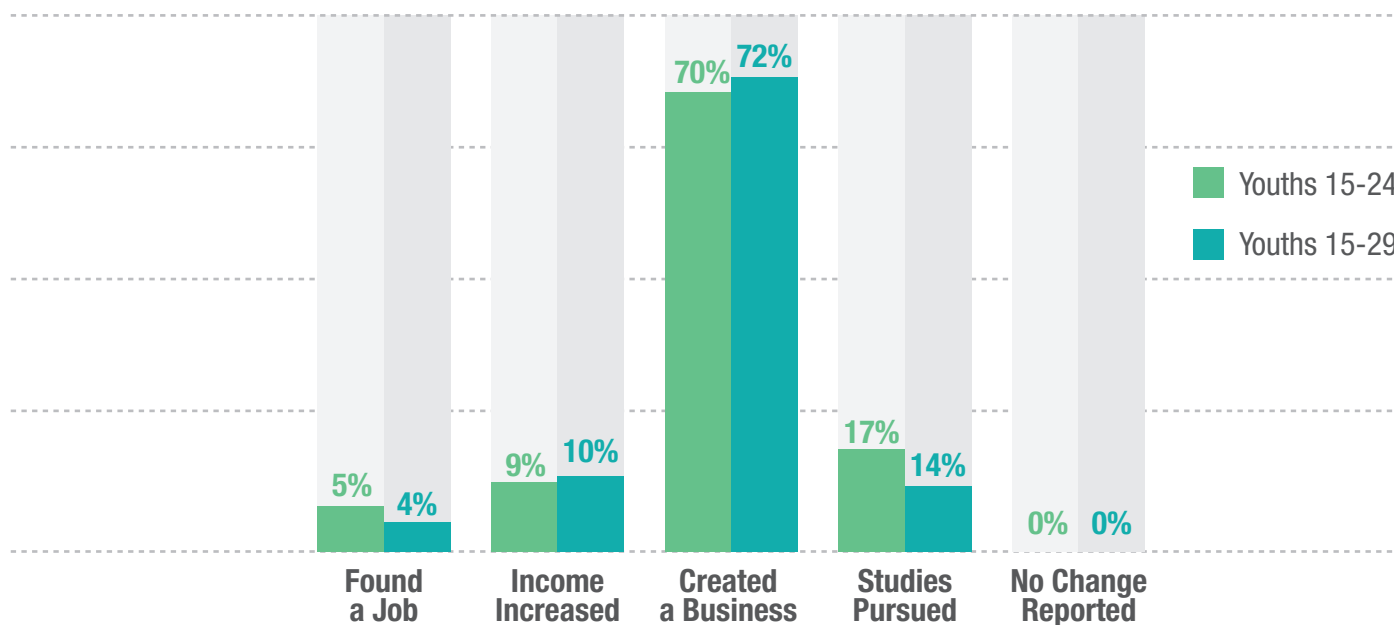


Outcomes of Vocational Trainings for All Respondents  
(feedback received from 177 former trainees)



## Outcomes of Vocational Training for Women

(Feedback received from 98 former female trainees)



## Outcomes of Vocational Trainings for Youths

# Feedback from Local and National Stakeholders

“

WPDI is a great organization that is working directly on the needs of young vulnerable groups of people in Karamoja. The program selected is very instrumental in developing the youth and also important in building our economy.

**Fardosa Ahamed**

Deputy RDC Abim, President's Office

”

“

WPDI is very reliable in supporting the peace activities in the region.

”

**Koryang David**

LC5 Moroto District,  
Moroto District Local Government





# Vectors for Change

35

Youth Peacemakers



180

Local Youths



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 engage with local actors as drivers of change. 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 that can deliver endogenous change and foster innovative forms of leadership even in remote areas.

In the Karamoja Sub-Region, we have an active cohort of 35 Youth Peacemakers. They deliver our programs across all nine districts of the Sub-Region, in remote villages, providing needed services to underserved communities. Having, since 2020, initiated numerous initiatives in their respective home communities, the Youth Peacemakers have gained experience and confidence and have won the trust of District Leaders, Sub-County Leaders, and community members offering specialized training.

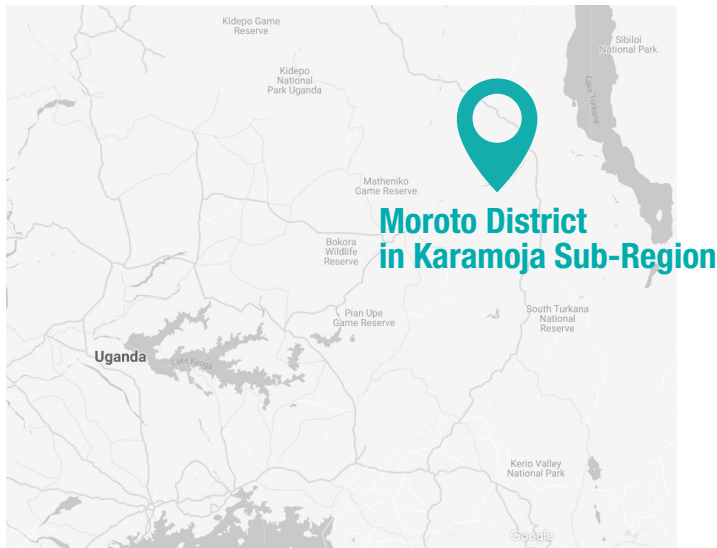
A good example of the work they carry out on behalf of WPDI is the support they brought to our program on vulnerable women. Indeed, their trainings in Business and Entrepreneurship helped build promising businesses. For example, they delivered the WPDI training in the local language.

These Youth Peacemakers were also instrumental in the delivery of high-quality training at the Community Learning Center and across the different sub-counties. They also held a number of Community Dialogues and trained Community Leaders and reformed warriors in Conflict Resolution Education. This year all of our Youth Peacemakers were trained on the Peace Education Handbook, attended refresher workshops on business management and developed skills to become youth advocates by attending the advocacy campaigns training.



# Community Learning Center

## Training Courses



The success of the trainings can be measured with the feedback that former trainees provided through questionnaires, noting that all 242 respondents in our 2022 survey campaign declared that the training course had made a difference in their lives. This was notably the case for vocational trainees (177 individual respondents), 75% of whom reported having experienced a positive career outcome in terms of finding a job, increasing their revenue or creating their own business. 95% of all the surveyed trainees declared having recommended our trainings to other people in their community. With the popularity of our training programs on the rise, we have created additional classes to accommodate overwhelming numbers of interested participants. Additionally, a key mark of our impact has been that district leaders have referred and entrusted us to train Parish Chiefs, teachers and community youth groups in the courses offered.

**2,412** People took part in trainings offered at the Community Learning Center  
**49%** of them were women

This year, 2,412 people took part in the different activities available for free at our Community Learning Center, an infrastructure that we have established in Moroto to provide local residents access to an array of services including connectivity, certified courses in Conflict Resolution, ICT, Business and Entrepreneurship, Trauma Healing sessions, as well as various peacebuilding events. The training courses we offer have gained popularity over the years and the Community Learning Center welcomes people from many districts of Karamoja. Some visitors even come from outside the region to attend our services and participate in our activities.



# Trainings at the Community Learning Center

**367** graduated in Information & Communication Technologies

**523** graduated in Business and Entrepreneurship

**235** graduated in Arts and Crafts

**356** graduated in Conflict Resolution Education

## Healthcare

### Trauma Healing Support

**786**  
People Received Support

In places affected by years, sometimes decades of conflict, violence and insecurity, WPDI has observed that a critical obstacle to fostering peace is the prevalence of trauma among the populations. It seems indeed difficult to be at peace with others if one cannot be at peace with oneself. In effect, the population of Karamoja is challenged twice in terms of prevalence of trauma and in terms of lack of access to relevant services. Many individuals are indeed durably traumatized by acts of violence they have suffered, witnessed or perpetrated, bearing in mind the many issues of violence against women. Secondly, the

population lacks access to psychosocial and trauma healing services, as can be surmised from a recent paper in the Lancet Psychiatry revealing that Uganda is host to 54 psychiatrists and most of them are in university positions in urban settings rather than clinicians in rural areas. Aiming to fill this gap, WPDI has extended to Karamoja the trauma healing program that it has piloted in other places.

The counseling sessions are done by the WPDI Counsellor, supported by Youth Peacemakers. Survivors that request our services have often suffered from Gender-Based Violence (GBV), separation and divorce, female genital mutilation, trauma from conflict, grief, and poverty, among others. Most clients require full rehabilitation (medical treatment and livelihood support). Therefore, we have trained some of the clients in Arts and Crafts and identified a few groups to benefit from WPDI's bootcamp program.



# Testimonials



"I had many challenges before I met the staff of WPD I because I lost my wife and was left with a baby of 6 months. This left me devastated and in a dilemma to the point of almost wanting to commit suicide. I could not imagine coping without my wife and also as a man I didn't know how to look after my baby. The staff of WPD I reached out to me at the time when I was in this dilemma and spoke to me, shared a lot of encouraging words and gave me the hope and the strength to accept reality and move on with life. Through this counseling, I gained courage and decided to rise up and be strong for my children. I started looking for casual work to feed my children through cultivation. My baby is now one year old and I am very happy. If it was not for the good counsel I received from WPD I I would have died by now."

**Somal Mark Okim**

Namalu Sub-County, Nakapiripirit district



"I have had a lot of challenges in my family with a husband who had chosen to live with other women and abandoned me with the burden of taking care of the children. I was very bitter and sad and didn't know what to do. The staff of WPD I visited me at such a time when I was so devastated and shared with me a lot of encouraging stories and how I should be able to live without being stressed but put my energy into looking after my children. I took this counseling seriously. I resumed doing the small things I used to do for survival. I became happy again, my husband saw the change in me and came back home and apologized. Now we are a happy family. I thank WPD I for such a good program of counseling that they have brought to the community."

**Munyes Lina**

Namalu Sub-County, Nakapiripirit district



# Peacebuilding Programs

## 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. Together, they find peaceful resolutions agreed on by all parties. In a region like Karamoja, where many communities have been divided by years of endless cycles of violence and revenge, dialogues are a necessity that local leaders perceive but they have never received formal training. This is how many very localized acts of violence by a small number of individuals - such as cattle raids - can end up generating community-wide conflicts that will last for years, robbing lives and wrecking local economies. To help communities address such issues, WPDI has developed a specific format, the Community Dialogue, for which we have trained our peacemakers and staff, ensuring that they can bring parties in conflict to the negotiation table. Thanks to their skills and knowledge of local realities, our Youth Peacemakers are very well positioned to provide communities with a platform for respectful exchanges among groups and individuals that may have stopped talking to each other for years. Making peace happen in such contexts remains a difficult task that may take time before final results are achieved. Nevertheless, we can infer that our Peacemakers must meet a measure of success since most of the Community Dialogues they facilitate are organized at the very request of the local leaders. In addition to addressing conflict, the Community Dialogues can also be an opportunity to raise awareness of local populations on a range of issues of concern to them, such as, for example, youth that are neither in employment or education, or Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

**12** Community Dialogues  
**2,752** Participants

The dialogues organized this year were conducted in Abim, Nabilatuk, Napak, Moroto, Karenga & Nakapiripirit districts. The dialogues focused on addressing:

- The lack of transparency from local leadership
- Cattle raiding among different ethnic groups
- Land disputes between Abim and Otuke district

A number of meetings were held in view of reducing cattle raiding incidents. As a result, conflicting groups agreed to organize joint grazing areas ("Kraals"). Additionally, meetings among leaders of different ethnic groups were held to dissuade local leaders from concealing cattle raiders in their communities.

The impact is tangible and through continuous follow-up, it is sustainable. Indeed efforts from organizations such as WPDI have resulted in the drastic reduction of cattle raids this year, in the Karamoja Sub-Region. This is due to numerous peace meetings held with leaders from different ethnic groups and this improved the joint cattle recovery process. Additionally, dialogues cemented relationships among communities. The government efforts in disarming communities has equally contributed a lot to the low scale of raids.



# Inter-Ethnic Peace Dialogue Between Two Tribes

## (Bokora of Napak district and Pian of Nabilatuk district)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Context

Cattle raids have been escalating among the two tribes since 2019 resulting in heightened tensions and acts of violence. These raids are carried out by young men armed with guns, bows, arrows and spears resulting in numerous losses of lives. Cattle losses on each side have, in turn, incurred hunger situations. These conflicts have intensified animosity among local leaders from two tribes. In an effort to resolve this conflict, WPDl organized a Community Dialogue among leaders on October 8, 2022 to address the growing hostility and on 5th Dec 2022 held a joint Community Dialogue at Nakayot village in Napak district to resolve the recurring raids.

### Resolutions

- The two ethnic tribes agreed to set a joint kraal at a place called Kothuwat grazing area such that the communities of Nabilatuk and Napak come together and embrace peace.
- All community members in the meetings agreed to expose and report cattle raiders in their communities.
- The kraal leaders and peace committees of the two districts to meet on Monday 12th Dec 2022 at Nachukuleit to set kraals for joint grazing.

### Summary of Discussions:

- The meeting was chaired by Security Operatives (Army Brigade Commanders, Resident District Commissioners, District Internal Security Officers) and District Leaders (District Chairpersons, Area Councillors etc). The leaders pleaded with the youth to voluntarily hand over their guns to the government and emphasized to them the need to embrace peace among themselves.
- The District Leaders expressed their satisfaction that youths would hand over their weapons to authorities and promised to support them by linking them to programs for income-generating projects by NGOs such as WPDl.
- Joint animal grazing was emphasized among the two ethnic groups along the slopes of Mt. Napak and leaders from two groups which were charged with responsibility of monitoring the trend of raids.

### Outcomes

- A joint kraal was set up at Kothuwat two weeks after the dialogue process.
- Leaders from two ethnic groups jointly tracked stolen animals from their communities and this speeded up the recovery.
- The occurrence and intensity of raids were reduced from weekly occurrences to once a fortnight.
- A radio talk-show between leaders from these ethnic groups was held on 17th Dec 2022 to share resolutions with a larger audience and to send peaceful messages to communities.

### Observations

- There is relative peace among the two ethnic groups since in addition to government disarmament processes, dialogues were held with active participation from leaders.
- The close collaboration among leaders of these communities to jointly recover animals was a key contribution to the success of the process.

### Number of Participants

405



144  
Females



261  
Males



# Testimonials

## from Community Members and Leaders

"Today's dialogue meeting will truly bring peace. In October, I returned the gun to the security providers through my area's local council. Before returning the firearm I was involved in a number of raids and my friends were killed. With the dialogue I have attended today, I have been touched by the community's appeal for peace and I have accepted it."

### Lomilo Mark

Nakwakwa village Lorengchora Sub-County, Napak district

"For many months, I was living in the wilderness because I had a gun and did not want the security operatives to take it away. After several days, I agreed to return the gun. I will convince my friends to return their guns and see the way I am now free."

### Aleper Zachariah

Nakayot village, Lorengchora Sub-County Napak district

"The peace meeting held today among the Districts of Napak, Nabilatuk and Moroto will bring sustainable peace and development as well stability among Karimojong communities, because everybody was really touched by the dangerous escalating insecurity in the region. My appreciation goes to Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative for supporting such important dialogue meetings and bringing the three district together to make peace."

### Pulkol Paul

Local council one, Naoi village, Lorengdwat Sub-County Nabilatuk district



# Community Leaders Training

472

Leaders Trained in CRE



114  
Women



358  
Men

In the Karamoja Sub-Region, where enhancing the capacity of local leaders in peacebuilding is a key contribution to building sustainable peace, WPDI Youth Peacemakers and Conflict Resolution Education Trainer delivered three days of training to 472 leaders and reformed warriors. The workshop covered topics such as peace, violence, conflict types and sources, conflict approaches, mediation and negotiation, and leadership among others. The training was conducted in all nine districts of the Karamoja Sub-Region from November 21 to December 10, 2022. Some of the participants include; Parish Councillors, Local Council five (LCV) Councilors, Kraal leaders, Parish Chiefs among others and the skills acquired will enable leaders to resolve emerging issues and conflicts in their sub-counties.



# Testimonials

The leaders trained appreciated WPDI for training them and requested some of these trainings to be extended to Local Council Ones (LCIs) and Local Council Twos (LCIIs) and some of the testimonies include:

"I am very optimistic that what I have learned on Conflict Resolution Education will ease my work as a parish councilor in my Sub-County. One of my roles is to settle minor disputes within the community. Thank you WPDI for training leaders of Abim district."

**Omwony Vincent**

Youth Counselor, Abim Sub-County  
Abim district

"I am very happy with the knowledge acquired from the training about conflict resolution. I am going to the community as a change maker to teach my people about peace and how to stop conflicts and violence."

**Lokol Moses**

Parish Councilor Rupa Sub-County  
Moroto district

# Training of Reformed Warriors in Conflict Resolution Education

WPDI Youth Peacemakers Trained

121

reformed warriors in Conflict Resolution Education

In the Karamoja Sub-Region, Uganda, WPDI Youth Peacemakers trained 121 reformed warriors in Conflict Resolution Education for a four-day residential training. These youths from Moroto, Napak, and Nabilatuk, handed over their firearms voluntarily during the ongoing disarmament. They were therefore recommended by District Councilors to WPDI. We provided training on peace, violence, conflict stages and management, negotiation, and mediation. Additionally, WPDI conducted a trauma counseling session for these youths to take them through a healing process. It is worth noting that these youths had great enthusiasm to learn and revealed how the knowledge acquired is relevant towards peaceful coexistence in communities.



"I have been going for cattle raids in many different districts. The last time I went to Amudat district we had a gun-shot exchange and five of my friends lost their lives. I was shot near the eye and became unconscious. I stayed in the wilderness for one week as my friends who survived fled off and left me. When I finally returned home I learned that people thought that I had died during the raid. My wife took me to the hospital and I was treated and became well though I have lost sight in one eye. While at the hospital, I had thoughts that I should quit raiding because I could have lost my life and left my children and wife as orphans and a widow. Having attended this training, I have learned that raiding is a crime and deprives others of their property. Additionally, the counseling touched me because I survived death yet many of my friends perished. The knowledge gained today has changed my way of thinking and I will use it to go and talk to other youths who are still involved in raids. I will use my story and that of my friends who died to disseminate peace messages to other community members, thank you for opening my mind."

**Lolem Mariko**

Nakobekobe village,  
Nabilatuk district

"Last month, my friends and I went to raid Amudat district but it was unsuccessful, later we went to Napak district and we succeeded in raiding animals in the night. However, the army intercepted us along the way driving the animals towards our home district-Nabilatuk, and during the gunfire exchange, my cousin was killed and many of my mates died. I escaped and returned home and whenever I see the wives and children left behind by my cousin and friends, it reminds me of that incident. With these trainings that we have completed today, I have seen clearly that you are helping us to protect our lives. I now want to go and talk to other agemates of mine to leave raids and protect their lives and save the animals they have because they can be raided any time."

**Longok Peter**

Nataparengan village, Nabilatuk district



# Peace Education in Schools

WPDI trained

**628**

pupils and **747**

students from

**13** different schools,  
including five new ones

In 2022, WPDI expanded its peace education program to five new schools, bringing to 13 the total number of schools we work with to instill a culture of peace in the minds of the next generations. The Youth Peacemakers trained and graduated 1,375 people of which 628 are pupils and 747 are students, teaching them concepts related to peace and conflict and focusing their attention on how to manage emotions such as anger. This program is all the more effective in that it generates positive behavioral changes in the present, as demonstrated by the fact that School Headteachers reported improved discipline among students, lower levels of violence and, overall, an increase of enthusiasm towards learning. A key benefit of this program, therefore, lies in the cascading effect it has on the whole community of target schools, which is beyond the children and adolescents directly participating in it.



## List of schools where our Peacebuilding program is implemented in the Karamoja Sub-Region:

Name of School	District
Nabilatuk Township Primary School	Nabilatuk
Katikit Primary School	Amudat
Nakapelimen Primary School	Moroto
Lia Primary School	Moroto
Nadunget Primary School	Moroto
Pilas Primary School	Napak
Moroto High School	Moroto
Moroto Parents Senior Secondary School	Moroto
Nadunget Senior Secondary School	Moroto
Namalu Seed Senior Secondary School	Nakapiripirit
St.Kizito Senior Secondary School	Nabilatuk
Rupa Primary School	Moroto
Tapac Primary School	Moroto

“The CRE course has opened my mind on how to avoid conflict and bad influences within the school environment. Therefore during the Christmas break, I will make sure to avoid bad company and respect my parents. Thank you Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative for the knowledge learned at my school.”

**Lochap Moses**

16-year-old Senior 1 student,  
CRE trainee, Moroto High School

# Moroto High School

\*\*\*\*\*

The Moroto High School had experienced cases of strikes due to the levels of students' indiscipline and refusal to comply with school rules and regulations. School authorities had complained about students fighting with each other and being disrespectful toward teachers.

## How WPDH Helps

WPDH trained teachers from this school in Conflict Resolution Education. One of the key topics addressed during such training was curbing violence among students. Additionally, WPDH rolled out peace education sessions to students at the school. These sessions were delivered by WPDH's Conflict Resolution Education trainer. The sessions aim at nurturing peaceful relations among students. The training teaches them how to resolve conflicts among themselves and in their respective communities.

In addition to training sessions, WPDH organized advocacy campaigns in these schools. Students were actively involved in the promotion of peace messages, encouraging fellow students to stay in school and be respectful of their teachers.

## Impact

There has been a drastic reduction in the number of strikes at the school. The students' discipline has greatly improved as reported by school authorities.



## Feedback from Stakeholders

"I want to mention that ever since this organization started teaching students peacebuilding courses, students' discipline has improved."

**Mr. Worale Fred**

Patron from Moroto High School

"I am determined to be a peace ambassador in my community because I have seen young boys dying due to cattle raids, it is a bad practice. I will use the holiday break to speak to my peers about the dangers of cattle raiding."

**Achia Paska**

17-year-old Senior 1 student,  
CRE Trainee, Moroto High School

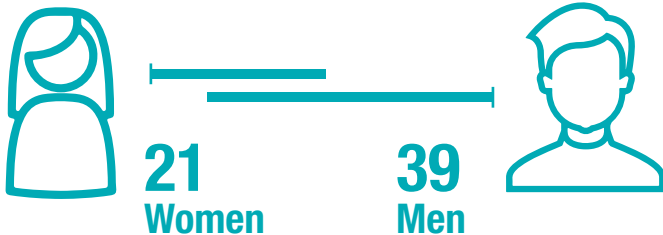
## Observations from the WPDH CRE trainer - Moses Loumo:

The peace education sessions have been impactful to students. A majority of them shared stories on how they have managed to control anger, which always caused fights among them. The training has given them a broader picture on how conflicts can be mitigated.

# CRE Training for Teachers

60

Teachers have been trained  
in Conflict Resolution Education



During the year, WPDI trained 60 teachers from five schools in Conflict Resolution Education to build their capacity in managing conflicts, regulating behaviors in their respective schools and to appreciate the concept of inculcating values of peace and reconciliation to young minds at a tender age. The training lasted for 15 days, 3 days per school. Some of the training content included:

- Understanding conflict, peace, violence
- Development and sustainable development
- Communication and active listening
- Conflict analysis, equality and diversity, servant leadership
- Conflict approaches, stages of conflict, emotional intelligence negotiation & mediation etc.

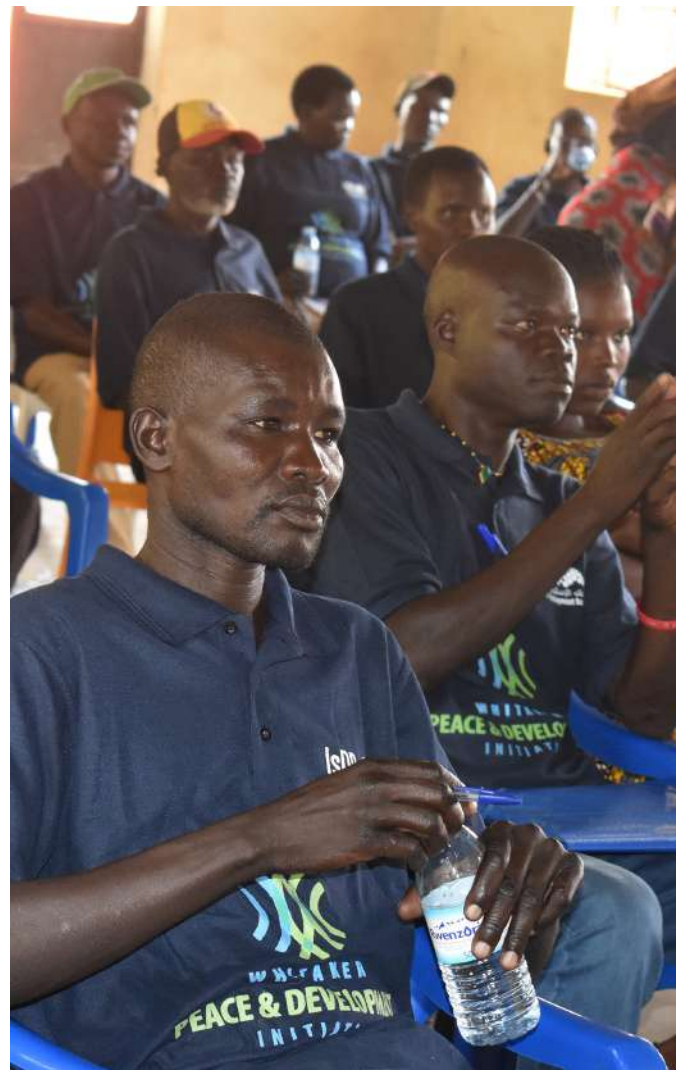


## Testimonials

"I am gratefully honored to be part of the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative, the Conflict resolution education training has given me room to make insecure conflicting communities and people to have hope again through the application of knowledge and skills gained on mediaion and negotiation."

**Ebulu Lazarus**

Teacher from Nabilatuk Township  
Primary School, Nabilatuk district





# Business Bootcamp

## Vocational Courses ICT

367

Trainees graduated in ICT



148  
Women



219  
Men

While having ICT skills is growingly recognized as indispensable in the world of work of our times, residents of areas like Karamoja still lack access to ICT equipment and training opportunities. Seeking to address this most pressing challenge, WPDI has made it central in its strategy to offer such access to ICT to local populations of Karamoja, which we implement through our Community Learning Center of Moroto. Our training program imparts learners with skills that they will be able to use throughout their lives - and sometimes in a very immediate fashion, since some of our graduates used their certificate to find jobs, notably at computer centers within the Moroto area, or even to obtain promotions at their existing workplace.

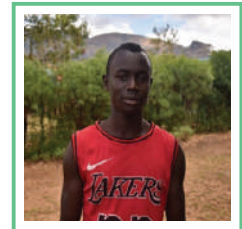
A notable highlight of this year's training was that, at the request of the Chief Administrative Officers, WPDI trained Napak and Moroto District local government Parish Chiefs and Town Agents. The training was all the more appreciated by Trainees and District leaders that local governments are mostly unable to allocate funds for such capacity-building courses even if their necessity is fully recognized.

## Testimonials



"I am married and have two children. I have a diploma in microfinance but am currently unemployed. I heard about WPDI programs from a friend of mine. I am 34 years old. I lacked technical skills which made it very difficult for me to get employed. This inspired me to join the ICT program. WPDI provided me with free training in ICT. I now call myself computer literate. Before joining the program, I didn't know the different parts of computer hardware components and their functions like a keyboard and mouse and also how to use different operating systems like Windows and Linux, and now have the confidence to use the computer."

**Ejoku Jacob Francis**  
Moroto



"I lost my father in 2004 and my mother left for another man. I have lived with my grandmother since 2006. I completed my O-level studies in 2018 and I wasn't able to go further as I could not afford school fees. I heard of the WPDI program from one of our neighbors who also underwent training in ICT. I am 22 years old. WPDI supported me with free vocational trainings, during which I benefited from practical skills that I did not know before. Before being enrolled for the training, I had no idea how to design and format a document using Microsoft Word, or how to use the internet but currently am able to access the internet and do personal research using Google. I am also able to write letters using word processors and make presentations using PowerPoint."

**Wangira Benson**  
Nwoya district



## Business and Entrepreneurship

# 523

**Trainees graduated in  
Business and Entrepreneurship**



**257**  
**Women**



**266**  
**Men**

In a sub-region like Karamoja, where poverty and unemployment are among the highest of Uganda, sustainable development cannot happen without strong efforts to promote entrepreneurship. While there is no shortage of ambition among the populations of Karamoja, there is a lack of skills and awareness that WPDI aims to address through vocational courses. WPDI trained and graduated 523 trainees.

## Testimonials

"I thank WPDI because I am now a businessman thanks to the knowledge acquired from the training I completed at Nadunget Sub-County. I got inspired to start some petty business of household items with 200,000 UGX capital as the skills acquired were relevant. I am optimistic that I will get profits as the demand is high and I will expand the business by adding more stock. I used the knowledge of business idea generation and screening to come up with this business which I didn't know before."

**Longok Aile**

from Arechek village,  
Nadunget sub county

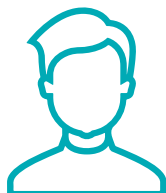
# Arts and Crafts

## 235

Trainees graduated in  
Arts and Crafts



**179**  
Women



**56**  
Men

This course empowers youth and community members with hands-on skills to earn a living. Through this course, we teach trainees how to craft small items that can be readily sold on local markets, such as bracelets or necklaces, garments or soap and other body-care products. We provide youth with a platform and help them develop skills that are rooted in the Karamoja culture. This training thereby helps to promote the local culture. WPDJ trained and graduated 235 youth in Arts and Crafts. The training is organized in four cohorts in a year and the training for each cohort lasts three months. Additionally, examinations are done after completion of each level for example basic and intermediate levels.



## Arts and Crafts training content

### Basic level

- Concepts of Arts and Crafts
- Elements and principles of art
- Tie & Dye /Batik (fabric decoration techniques),
- Liquid soap (Learning how to make liquid soap and detergent was a request from community members)

### Intermediate level

- Crafts shoe-making
- Karamojong jewelry making (bangles, necklace, earrings, etc.)
- Weaving/knitting
- Karamojong local skirt ("loyidia")
- Screen printing

### Tailoring & garment cutting

- Introduction
- Using the machine
- Threading on the machine
- Sewing (curved lines, straight lines, zigzag lines)
- Making buttonholes
- Making a gathered skirt
- Making short-sleeved shirts
- Making a Javen shirt
- Making long sleeve shirts
- Making a straight dress
- Making a pair of shorts
- Making an elastic pair of shorts



# Testimonials

“Before I joined the course of tailoring and garment cutting, I did not know how to cut or draft cloth patterns and after three months, I can now draft and make clothes like dresses, shirts, shorts, African shirts and uniforms. This is good for me because I have started saving money to buy my own sewing machine and start a workshop on designing Garments at Moroto Central Market.”

**Nanyama Eunice**  
Arts and Crafts Trainee

“I joined this course because my target was to learn how to design as I didn’t know how to make them. From this course, I have learned and mastered screen printing plus other skills like liquid soap making, tie and dye, fabric decoration, craft shoe making, and jewelry making. Recently, I got a contract to design signposts through friends working in schools. I can attest that if I hadn’t joined this course, I wouldn’t have learned these skills and got this work with friends.”

**Kolibi Ali**  
Arts and Crafts Trainee

## Supporting Income-Generating Projects

# 48

income-generating projects are currently supported, including 31 created in 2022

In line with our approach to mobilize the power of entrepreneurship in the service of peace and resilience, a key aspect of our strategy is to directly support the creation of small businesses in our target locations. Indeed, aspiring entrepreneurs of fragile and underprivileged areas often lack access to start-up capital to translate their dreams into concrete ventures. Our Business Bootcamp seeks to fill this gap, bearing in mind the importance of ensuring the enterprises we support are sustainable, viable and profitable. To this effect, we offer grants to individuals and groups that have successfully completed our certified trainings and gone through our competitions. Secondly, to maximize the chances that the selected projects will be implemented in the best manner possible, we deliver the start-up grants incrementally and on condition that the managers comply with sound business practices - this ex-post control is carried through verifying the books of the enterprises and conducting field visits, to full assess their progress and prospects.

Our business support program of Karamoja is on a very positive momentum, with 31 businesses created in 2022, which makes a total of 49 businesses created since 2021 (48 are active and one is extinct).

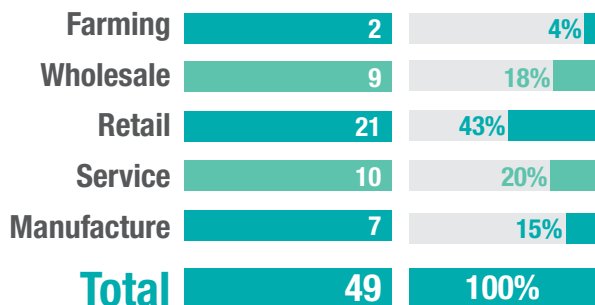


# Businesses Active in Karamoja in 2022: 48

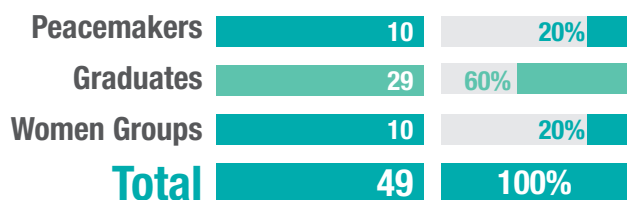
## Businesses created in Karamoja since 2021

49

49 businesses created since 2021 in Karamoja (by type)



49 businesses created since 2021 in Karamoja (by origin)



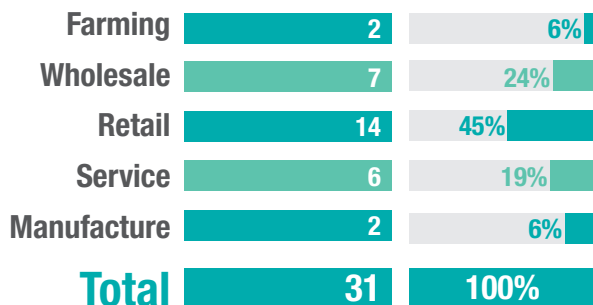
755 business beneficiaries currently in Karamoja



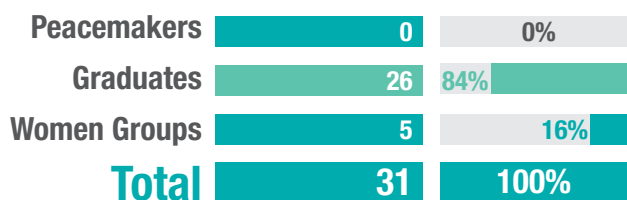
## Businesses created in Karamoja in 2022

31

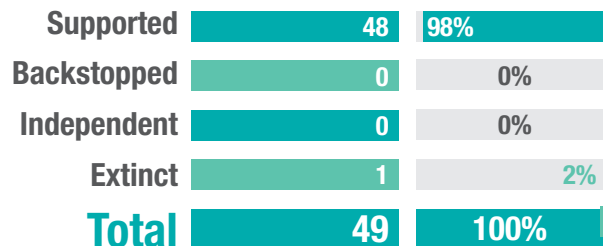
31 businesses created in 2022 in Karamoja (by type)



31 businesses created in 2022 in Karamoja (by origin)



Operational status of businesses created in Karamoja since 2021



WPDl invited beneficiaries to compete for 26 business start-up grants through a Business Plan Competition held in all nine districts, 18 sub counties and at the Community Learning Center. 69 groups with 348 (195 females, 153 males) members took part in the competition with 26 groups emerging as winners. Importantly, a review committee in each district comprising of the District Community Development Officer (DCDO), District Commercial Officer (DCO), District Youth Chairperson at the district level and Community Development Officer (CDO), Senior Assistant Secretaries SAS), Sub-County Chairperson/LClls at the Sub-County level were part of the process in assessing and analyzing the different business ideas through clearly delineated criteria. The business ideas were scrutinized and various questions were asked based on the score sheet with marks awarded. The exercise was very transparent, which was highly appreciated by the participants. The district and the Sub-County officials commended WPDl for involving them and in bridging the gap in empowering communities. The winning groups were very excited about getting the startup grants for their business and promised to work very hard to see that they succeeded in their business and make it grow to help them out of poverty. In the next quarters, these groups will proceed with the procurement of the goods and services needed for their venture.

## List of the 26 Businesses Created in 2022 by Graduates of our Entrepreneurship Training Courses

Name of Business	Number of Founders	Type of Business
Aringobom Kony Kech Produce Dealers	5	Produce buying and selling (wholesale)
Bit By Bit Youth Group	5	Grinding mill under service business
Logumasiroi Womens Group	5	Wholesale shop
Kaloboki Achamunoi Youth Group	4	Wholesale (general merchandise)
Kapelok li Emuja Ejok Millers Millers Group	5	Grinding mill under service business
Tepeth Two Lokaale Retail Women Group	5	Retail shop
Lodiirinyang Cereal Banking Enterprise	4	Produce buying and selling
Geremech Millers	5	Grinding mill under service business
Let us Develop	4	Produce buying and selling
Let's Be Together	4	Produce buying and selling
Naturum Youth Boutique	3	Clothes boutique
Emorikinos Obara Rice Growers	5	Farming rice
Chura Youth Enterprise	4	Wholesale (general merchandise)
Asoyon Youth Enterprise	4	Wholesale (general merchandise)



Narisae Youth Soft Drinks Wholesale	2	Wholesale (soft drinks)
Loteede Horticulture Growers	4	Farming (horticulture)
Arengesiep Butchery Group	3	Retail (selling meat)
Napayan Produce Buyers & Sellers	5	Produce buying and selling
Eteteunos Make Youth Group	3	Produce buying and selling
Lotop Womens Grinding Machine	5	Grinding mill
Seed of Life Enterprises	3	Groundnut processing
Basupa Tailoring And Knitting Design Youth Group	3	Tailoring
Moroto City Stationary	3	Stationery shop
Adere Foods And Restaurant	3	Local foods restaurant
Nakamistae Warriors Youth Group	5	Wholesale (general merchandise)
Arecheck Youth Group	6	Produce buying and selling



# Testimonials

"I thank WPDI for the two weeks of full-time training in Business and Entrepreneurship. After graduation, we were invited to take part in the business plan competition where we emerged as the best group. This grant will help us start a small wholesale dealing in sugar and soda, which is highly demanded in our community in Karita Sub-County and the neighboring areas across Kenya. Our future plan is to grow our business and support our family members to access better education."

## Krop Abe

from Natekoi village, Naporokocha parish, Karita Sub-County in Amudat district

"I appreciate the organization for the support given to selected groups in his sub-county. An organization that trains you how to fish is better than the one that gives you fish. Kindly utilize the grants well for your wellbeing and grow it even more. For those that haven't succeeded, let's not have negative energies for the winners because there are other opportunities out there for us to try."

## LCIII

of Namalu Sub-County

# Supporting Vulnerable Women

In 2022, the businesses of five vulnerable women groups were selected to be awarded grants and will continue to receive backstopping support. Prior to their selection, the 25 women composing these five groups were trained for two weeks in their respective communities across the Karamoja Sub-Region. They were selected with support from Community Development Officers who are in charge of all community activities. The training was delivered by WPDI Youth Peacemakers, in local languages. The courses covered Basic and Intermediate Business and Entrepreneurship curricula and exams were done orally. Five Business Plan Competitions were organized across the different counties in which this program was delivered. Youth Peacemakers helped each group to design robust business plans and prepare their pitches. The groups then presented their ideas to committees, composed of six members, including local government officials and WPDI staff.

## Ribcing En Teko Ladies Restaurant

Number of employees: 5  
Local restaurant



## Ligot Youth Group

Number of employees: 5  
Produce buying and selling



## Kalogwel Women's Millers

Number of employees: 5  
Grinding mill



## Nakitait South Millers

Number of employees: 6  
Grinding mill



## Kikeunai Produce Dealers

Number of employees: 4  
Produce buying and selling





# Kikeunai Produce Dealers

Members of this group are from Namalu Sub-County, Nakapiripirit district. They all suffered from different forms of trauma (due to domestic abuse, loss, etc..) and were supported by WPDI's Trauma Healing and Rehabilitation Officer. These women regained hope by attending regular counseling sessions. They then began attending the Business and Entrepreneurship courses delivered by Youth Peacemakers in their communities.

"We graduated with certificates in the presence of our Community Leaders. We came first among five competing projects. With the produce business we chose, we believe we shall better our lives and show an example to several distressed people out there who are about to give up on life."

## Kikeunai Produce Dealers

Namalu Sub County,  
Nakapiripirit district





# Community Outreach

## Radio Talk Shows



During the year, WPDI held, in the aftermath of two of its dialogues, two radio talk shows targeting the Karamoja Sub-Region audiences at local Ateker FM Moroto and Heritage FM Nakapiripirit with District Chairpersons of Napak and Nabilatuk then Amudat, Nabilatuk and Nakapiripirit. The talk shows were an opportunity to publicize the resolutions agreed on during dialogues. We also emphasized the importance of peaceful coexistence in Karamoja, notably through promoting joint animal grazing.

Some of the resolutions that were aired on radio include:

- The different ethnic groups have joint kraals and animal grazing at a place called “Kothuwat” in Nabilatuk district.
- Tracking of stolen animals to be done jointly and at the village level.
- Those caught with stolen animals will compensate twice the animals recovered.
- Efforts must be made to sustain peace among the two districts.

Many callers thanked WPDI for uniting the leaders and for championing peace in the region, a publicly voiced support that matters in an area where local radios remain one of the most important sources of information.

## International Days



Taking advantage of UN observances of significant relevance to its mandate, WPDI organizes events to disseminate appropriate messages, showcase our programs, and encourage its beneficiaries to explain our work to local community members. In 2022, WPDI women groups participated in International Women’s Day (March 8) celebrations in the districts of Napak, Nabilatuk, & Amudat, which they took as opportunities to disseminate messages against GBV to both women and men. Additionally, they displayed Arts and Crafts items and made sales worth \$122. It is worth reporting that there was appreciation from District Leaders and Members of Parliament, most of them from Napak and Amudat districts to WPDI for providing relevant skills to vulnerable women and giving start-up grants as well.



# Advocacy Campaigns



During the year, four advocacy campaigns were held, under the leadership of our Youth Peacemakers in Rengen Sub-County, in Kotido and then two secondary schools of Moroto High School and Nadunget Senior Secondary School. The themes of the campaigns included: low enrolment in schools, poor attitudes toward learning and teenage pregnancies among female students. These events attracted 839 students and community members to discuss the way forward in addressing these topics. The Youth advocates played drama skits with students to showcase the dangers of dropping school, teenage marriages and lack of commitment to learning. Additionally, One radio talk show campaign on low primary school enrollments was held on September 16, at Etoil Akaramoja 92.7FM, Kotido district and 6 callers gave feedback during the talk show. Some of the action points raised include:

- The community members testified that the attendance in schools was low as parents did not do enough follow up and encourage the children to go to school.
- The District Education Officers, Headteachers and Teachers appreciated the campaign and confessed that a majority of the students dodge classes and lack class concentration and the campaign has bridged their gap and will encourage students to attend classes.

"Personally, I have been having a negative attitude towards education with the belief that education is meant for boys only, but now I have realized this was due to the negative perception, moving forward positive thinking on education is the best for it starts with an individual, thank you WPD for supporting such important advocacy campaign in my school."

**Acilat Betty**

17-year-old Senior 2 student, Moroto High School

The District Education Officers further thanked WPD for coordinating with their department and extending advocacy campaigns to schools in Moroto. They explained that this will help teachers and students focus on studies.







# Conclusion

This year has been positive for WPDJ in creating a sustainable impact in the Karamoja Sub-Region. WPDJ nurtured seeds of lasting change through conflict resolution activities in schools, peacebuilding processes in remote areas, or the launch of new businesses in districts of Karamoja. In this light, one example from this report captures very well the gist of the objectives we seek to achieve in the Sub-Region: the training and trauma counseling of reformed cattle raiders. They had engaged in a disarmament process and learned with us that the value of silencing the guns is only the beginning of the road to peace. They committed to become peace ambassadors. We are confident that many of these former warriors will be recognized by their communities. Such commitment of local people to our values and programs is a result to be gauged against our ambition to foster endogenous change in the communities where we operate. Our Youth Peacemakers have continued to carry so much work on our behalf, affording us the trust of local authorities and eminent personalities. Their trust is indispensable - just as the trust we receive from our donors. As we prepare for 2023, we wish to express our gratitude to them for their support of our work in the highly challenging environment of Karamoja.



# Partners



Foundation wishing to  
remain anonymous