



WHITAKER
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



2022 Annual Report

Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a soccer game in progress. Several players are visible on a grassy field, some in motion. The image is covered with a semi-transparent teal filter. In the center, the text "PEACE IS CONTAGIOUS" is written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below this, the website address "www.wpdi.org" is displayed in a smaller, white sans-serif font. At the bottom center, there is a row of five white social media icons: Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

PEACE IS CONTAGIOUS

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Introduction

Context and Background

The Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in Bweyale, mid-West Uganda, is a gazetted government land for refugees resettlement that provides shelter, arable plots and support to 65,747 refugees. Refugees are from Kenya, Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, and, in majority, from South Sudan. The Kiryandongo settlement also serves as an interim stop for displaced people transiting to other camps.

Up to 80% of the population are vulnerable women and children growing barely enough food to survive on one meal a day.

Refugee populations suffer from a number of predicaments, including child mortality, which is at around 50% in the area, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and youth unemployment.

The national authority in charge of the settlement is the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) manages the humanitarian dimension of the settlement.

WPDI has been active in the settlement since 2017, notably through a Community Learning Center that has become one of the central places of the area. As our programs positively impact the whole settlement and surrounding areas, WPDI has been designated by the settlement authorities as a lead organization for peacebuilding programs.

What is more, the participation of OPM and UNHCR in many of our activities is a source of encouragement and motivation for community members to embrace our programs, which reinforces a spirit of ownership of local initiatives among the program beneficiaries.

This annual report features the results of activities undertaken by WPDI in 2022, in and around the settlement, which benefited, directly and indirectly, nearly 50,000 refugees and host community members through peacebuilding and educational activities, sensitization including radio talk shows. All in all, 2022 can be considered as a year of rebound as we were able to return to full operations after two years impacted by COVID-19.

WPDI priority groups are women and youth. Providing tools and support to these particular groups, in the communities we service, was a top priority, for WPDI staff and Youth Peacemakers.

With our operations back to their normal capacity, our 33 active Youth Peacemakers led the implementation of all activities included in our model to provide long-term support to their communities. They conducted advocacy campaigns and raised awareness against the Ebola outbreak. They trained community members in conflict mediation, and increased their employability skills. Youth Peacemakers conducted community dialogues to find collective solutions to issues ranging from sharing scarce resources to keeping children in school, particularly young girls.

At our Community Learning Center (CLC) we were able to greet around 100 visitors per day. They came to access free training, connectivity, participate in peace engagement days or access resources in our reading corner. We strive to be as inclusive as possible in the opportunities we make available. It is therefore with great pride that we recently opened our new playground and our new IT Lab.

The playground is right next to the building where training is delivered. It includes all the necessary safety requirements and allows for parents (often mothers) to leave their children to play to then focus on attending training and building their employability.

This fall, WPDI was excited to launch its pilot IT Lab. This hybrid learning scheme allows WPDI to offer courses both in presence and online. We will be able to better respond to the increasing demand for training, as they have become more and more popular in the settlement over the years.

We also focused on our priority groups, youths and women, in the support we gave to income generating projects. Indeed, we provided training, grants, and backstopping support to 27 businesses led by vulnerable women and 16 led by vulnerable youths. We were conscious about supporting income-generating projects across all clusters of the settlement and in communities around it.

Key Achievements

Youth Peacemakers

33 WPDI Youth Peacemakers empowered
320 local youths coordinated by WPDI's Youth Peacemakers



46% of direct beneficiaries
are women



Community Learning Center

29,693

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

- Of which **400** visited the CLC to use the Reading Corner
- The IT Lab was launched at the end of the year, **20** trainees are enrolled in the online ICT course



Community Dialogues

- **46** Community Dialogues held to resolve conflicts within the settlement gathered **3,000** people
- **480** Community Leaders trained in Conflict Resolution



Education and Training

- **526** graduates in Conflict Resolution Education
- **878** graduates in Information and Communication Technologies
- **342** graduates in Business and Entrepreneurship
- **178** graduates in Arts and Crafts
- **120** trained in Functional Adult Literacy



Peace Education in Schools

- **2,760** students and **240** teachers from **24** schools trained in Conflict Resolution Education
- **150** girls/students supported with scholarships during this academic year



Cinema for Peace

- **97** film screenings held and attended by **13,937** people



Healthcare

- **1,962** people treated by our trauma healing counselors
- **1,407** people reached by WPDI's Sexual and Reproductive Health activities



Livelihood

- **1** Business Plan Competition held throughout the year
- **147** businesses currently being supported by WPDI
 - **45** of those businesses were launched in **2022**

45 Businesses created in 2022 (by type)

Farming	12
Wholesale	2
Retail	15
Service	13
Manufacture	3

Total 45

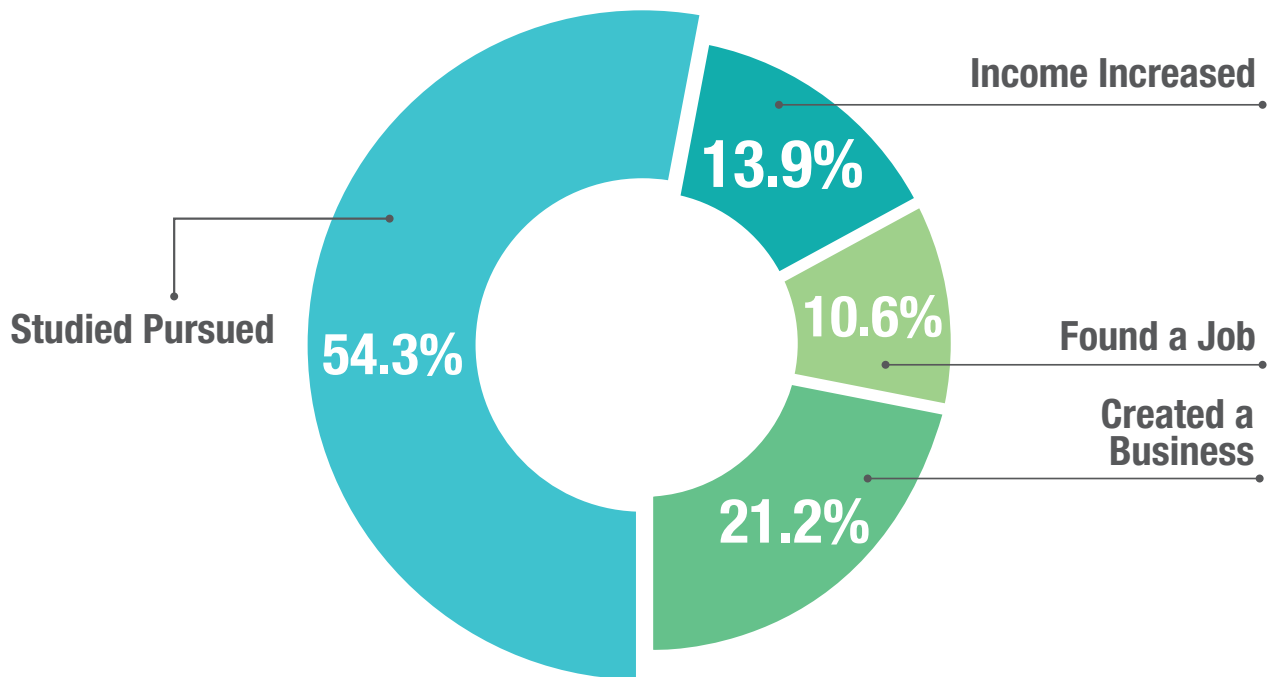


Community Engagement

- **36** radio talk shows reaching an estimated **120,000** people
- **1,650** youths trained in soccer and **+11,000** community members attending sports events
- **3,050** participants in Peace Engagement days
- **1,540** beneficiaries of our advocacy campaigns

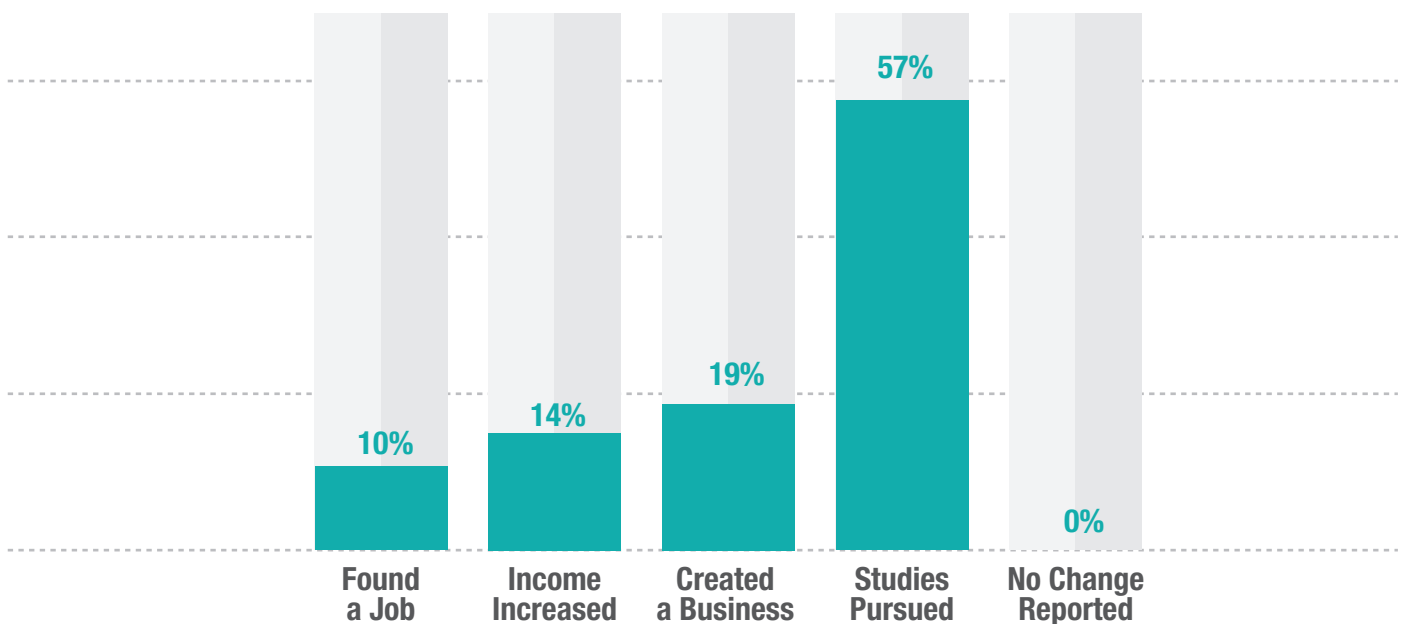


Post-Training Questionnaire Results

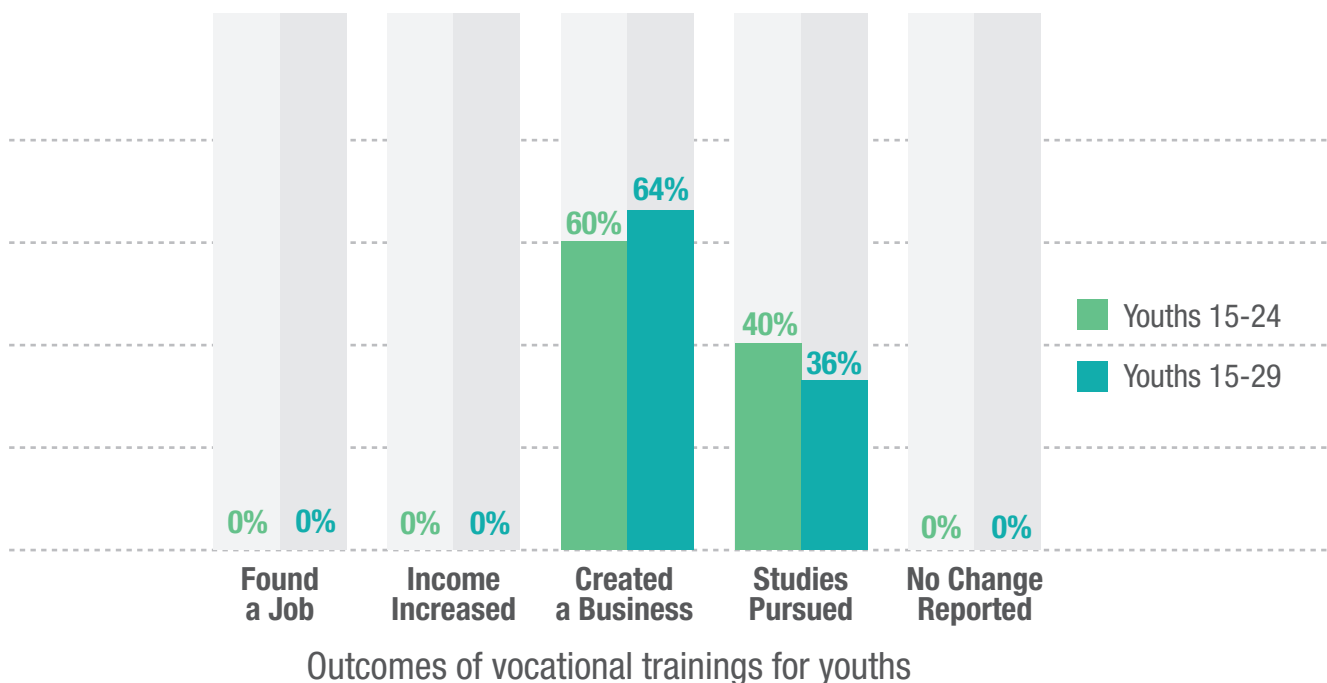


Outcomes of vocational training for all respondents

1,001 graduate trainees responded to the questionnaire, including 452 women



Outcomes of vocational trainings for women



Feedback from Local and National Stakeholders

“

The involvement of WPDJ in the refugee operations at Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement has been very instrumental in transforming the lives of the refugee community and promoting peaceful coexistence, especially among the most conflicting tribes.

Mr. Jesse Byaruhanga

Town Clerk of Kiryandongo District Local Government

”

“

The Business training and grant support for youth and vulnerable women groups has empowered and enhanced the livelihood and household income of the refugee community, especially at this time where the food ratio has been drastically reduced by the World Food Program.

Turaigyenda Emmanuel

Settlement Commandant

”

Vectors for Change

Youth Peacemakers

A key dimension of the Youth Peacemaker Network (YPN) program is its reliance on WPDI's model featuring a network of Youth Peacemakers located in targeted communities.

This network is composed of two tiers:

- A group of 33 Youth Peacemakers (of which 15 are women);
- A larger group of 320 local youths who are recruited at settlement's clusters and host communities.

With our operations back to their normal capacity, the 33 Peacemakers took a lead role to demonstrate the relevance of our model to nurture a new generation of leaders and renewed styles of leadership. They enhanced governmental efforts to prevent the spread of viruses, including COVID-19 and Ebola, by disseminating tailored materials and best practices. Youth Peacemakers also distributed 8,000 packets of reusable sanitary pads to adolescent girls and mothers, thereby also improving hygiene and dignity.

The comparative advantage of this approach is for WPDI to have activities undertaken on its behalf in remote areas. The added-value of this network is apparent throughout the year, as the Youth Peacemakers carry out their regular activities, including developing businesses that generate revenue and jobs for other youths and relevant services for the community.

Today, the Youth Peacemakers have become a force of positive change recognized by all the key stakeholders of the settlement, including by the Office of the Prime Minister and the UNHCR, which regularly mobilize our youth to carry ad hoc projects conducive to lasting peace, sustainability and improved relations among refugee and host communities.

Youth Peacemakers 33



Local Youths 320



Refresher Training for Youth Peacemakers

Maintaining effectiveness and resilience is the hallmark of the Youth Peacemakers. We continuously provide them with additional trainings over the years to ensure that their skill set is strengthened and even expanded.



Advocacy and Human Rights

Five Youth Peacemakers participated in a 5-day workshop on advocacy and human rights. This capacity building training equipped the selected youth with specific skills to be used in advocating for the rights of girls. The five Peacemakers now have the skills and confidence to create awareness in schools and in their communities, as they speak on behalf of the voiceless youth and school going children, especially the girls whose education is constantly under attack.

Peace Education Handbook

The 33 active Youth Peacemakers participated in a 5-day refresher training on WPD's Peace Education Handbook for Primary and Secondary Schools. This training strengthened their knowledge and understanding, further empowering them to effectively and efficiently deliver peace education training and promote a culture of peace in schools. They are now armed with skills and confidence to interpret training content using the revised training modules and comfortably translate specific peacebuilding concepts in a classroom setting.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services

This activity was conducted to strengthen the capacity of 27 of our Youth Peacemakers, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary in delivering Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services to the community in which they live.

They were trained on services such as Psychological First Aid (PFA), Psychophysiology of Stress and Trauma, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) assessment and diagnosis, Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), treatment processes and follow-ups.

The training was highly participatory with lots of discussions and experience sharing, alongside Questions and Answers sessions.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

The refresher training on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) was conducted to empower and re-energize the Youth Peacemakers with information in areas including, referrals, family planning, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, and HIV/AIDS prevention. The main objective of the activity was to strengthen their knowledge and mentor the Youth Peacemakers, to allow them to deliver information and counseling to their vulnerable peers. A total of 27 Youth Peacemakers (12 men and 15 women) benefitted from this training.

Business and Entrepreneurship

WPD conducted refresher training for Youth Peacemakers in Business and Entrepreneurship to strengthen their skills in delivering training to their communities. Topics covered included record keeping, financial management, risk management, marketing and market analysis, budgeting, business ethics and social responsibilities, report writing and data collection. Training was successful and the Youth Peacemakers committed to scale up their work in promoting SMEs among the youth and women groups in a sustainable manner.



Testimonials



"I am so grateful for the trauma healing training that I have attended. It gave me very important knowledge and skills. Before the training, I did not know how to identify and support people with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Now I am able to identify, counsel and follow up trauma survivors after recovery. It has also strengthened my facilitation skills which has enabled me to handle the trauma healing class at WPDI. Thank you WPDI for the brilliant program."

Chothum Emmanuel
Youth Peacemaker

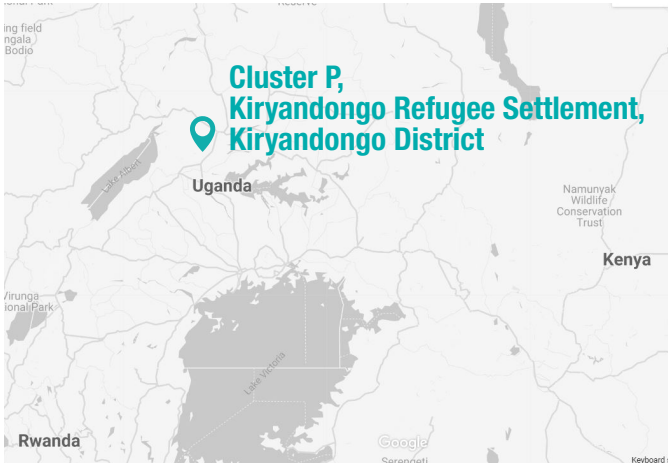
"I am a Ugandan national who came into the settlement as a result of the Bududa Landslide (Mudslide) in Eastern Uganda, in early 2010. While at the settlement, WPDI trained me and I became a Youth Peacemaker. In November 2022, I attended Sexual and Reproductive Health and Trauma Healing refresher training at the CLC. This gave me a good opportunity to expand my knowledge, learn how to live a healthy and productive life and also help other young people on hygiene education, adolescent health, gender and HIV/AIDS awareness. I want to thank WPDI for building my capacity and expanding my knowledge. The community now looks at me as a role model for their young children. Thank you WPDI."

Namara Ali
Youth Peacemaker



Community Learning Center

One Community Learning Center (CLC) Around 100 visitors/ day



Our Community Learning Center (CLC) located along Camp road, Cluster 'P', continues to be a hub for our program. The Center allows local residents to access computers and library services, to build their skills. Courses at the CLCs include core training in Conflict Resolution Education (CRE), ICT, Business and Entrepreneurship, Arts and Crafts or Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH).

Follow-up of former trainees revealed that many beneficiaries who visit the CLC and benefit from available resources go on to promote peace in their communities, improve their living conditions, start local Small Business Enterprises (SMEs), secure jobs, further their education, or increase their income.

The CLC constitutes a unique platform to disseminate messages on peace, human rights and sustainability. To this effect, the CLC regularly hosts awareness raising events, taking opportunity, in particular, of UN observances such as Women's Day, Youth Day and International Peace Day.

We receive an average of 100 visitors per day, coming from within the settlement, Bweyale Town Council, Kiryandongo District Local Government and elsewhere. These visitors either participate in the planned activities or come to conduct research and learn from best practices at the CLC.



The Community Center's IT Lab

To satisfy the high demand of the community, in 2022 we also developed the IT Lab, an e-learning platform that users can use on their own to follow our courses. Participants can use it at the CLC, where we created a dedicated room with 25 laptops or at home if they have a connected device. Quickly after the IT Lab was launched at the end of the year, 20 people (12 men and 8 women) registered and started the online ICT course. We developed this IT Lab in partnership with MIT.



Creation of a Playground for Children

The latest feature added to the CLC is a playground which was built to offer children a place for fun activities and also to offer their parents - mostly mothers - a safe space where they can safely leave their children while they attend courses to build their employability. This is instrumental to foster gender equality. Indeed, we had observed for some time that many women with young children faced difficulties participating in our programs due to the lack of childcare solutions. We also noticed that more women feel able and entitled to attend training and entrepreneurship programs if they can leave their children in a safe space. The playground will, therefore, provide a solution to gender-related challenges and also encourage the children to participate in tailored activities, such as 'Kids Interface Day' which we plan to hold twice a year.



We began building the playground in November and it was ready by the following month. It stands on a piece of land of 30 by 30 meters, without interfering with CLC activities. A point of great satisfaction is that the training shed is adjacent to this new playground. It is equipped with swings, a sandbox, climbers, slides, goalposts to play soccer, and indoor games. It met the expectations set out by the project, ensuring a safe environment to play in for children of participants in CLC activities.

So far, 800 children have already participated in the children's interface day which was organized at the playground.

They engaged in different activities and performances including music, dance and drama, face painting, molding blocks, rope skipping, slides, swings, and more.



Testimonials



"I appreciate WPD I for the efforts put in by the different departments. Different categories of people including children, women and youths are successful. Besides being a spacious environment, it's welcoming - I was so moved by this. The launch of the children's playground that day drew the entire community's attention. This was a first within Kiryandongo and children could not hide their joy, excitement and love for the place as they played around with the different games and materials including Ludo, Chess and ladders, tyres, swings and many others. The time WPD I staff spent with the kids will even have a lasting impact in the minds of the children that came by."

Cynthia Angel, 24

Refugee living in the Kiryandongo
Refugee Settlement



"I want to thank WPD I for bringing the playground to us. It was such a wonderful day as we enjoyed playing around with the different games. There has never been such a welcoming and friendly place within Kiryandongo because in most of the offices around, children are not allowed time to play nor can the adults play along with them. The moments I had will always be in my mind. The playground is the only place for us, where we can play freely and also meet many friends."

Twinomujund Elisha, 12

Refugee living in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



"I appreciate WPD I for such a wonderful initiative of establishing a children's playground and organizing an event for its inauguration. This is the first of its kind in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. I loved the way children enjoyed playing with adults, made friends, and learned to share among themselves."

Babirya Aidah, 30

Living in Bweyale Town Council

Peacebuilding Programs

As a key dimension of our programs, peacebuilding is understood by WPDI as both, an objective - that communities can achieve peace - and an empowerment approach, whereby local residents directly act for peaceful conditions of coexistence. Mobilizing youths, local leaders, children, and adolescents in their schools ensures that solutions are decided by the communities and can therefore induce positive outcomes in the long term.

Conflict Resolution Education

This training is made available for adults at our CLC. It improves employability skills as it teaches trainees how to manage conflict and lead mediation conversations peacefully. This training also improves relationships among individuals and groups within communities. We also provide tailored Human Rights training at our CLC to expand on the rights and duties of people.

CRE and special human rights training at the CLC has promoted peaceful coexistence among community members. Feedback from beneficiaries indicates that their knowledge to manage and successfully mediate conflicts is strengthened.

526 
**graduates in Conflict
Resolution Education**



301
**Women
Graduates**



225
**Men
Graduates**

Testimonials



"The three months training in Conflict Resolution Education & special human rights has widened my knowledge & understanding in conflict management. I am confident, inspired to become a grassroots peace force to promote peace and stand up for the vulnerable community members. Thank you WPDI."

Marlene Nyangoma, 30

Trainee in Conflict Resolution Education at the CLC



"I am inspired with the new knowledge & understanding I have gained through these three months training in CRE & special human rights. I am a peace champion in my community because of this training."

Anena Josephine, 25

Trainee in Conflict Resolution Education at the CLC

Mediation Among Community Members

Community Dialogues

An important part of peacebuilding is to gather local community members to either mediate existing conflicts or to promote values conducive to a culture of peace and non-violence. To this effect, the theory of change of WPDI emphasizes the role that local community dialogues can have to foster peace and long-term resilience for our target communities. In 2022, the community dialogues returned as a full-fledged activity.

46 Community Dialogues



3,000 Participants



A total of 46 Community dialogues were conducted in the 19 clusters and four host communities in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. The community dialogue meetings are demand-driven based on issues that would arise in each cluster and host villages. The issues were often around:

- Conflict at Water Collection Points
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- Child Abuse
- Child Neglect
- Poor Parenting
- Land Border Conflict
- Ethnic Conflict
- Religious Conflict
- Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- High School Dropout Rates
- Teenage Pregnancy

Action points and recommendations from the 46 dialogue sessions held in 2022 included efforts to:

- Continue holding weekly community dialogue meetings to empower affected local community members with knowledge on fundamental human rights;
- Strengthen Gender-based Violence (GBV) referral pathways through a continuous awareness on service points to reduce delay and improve timely reporting of cases for immediate support;
- Strengthen the capacity of religious structures to address conflicts and promote peace;
- Increase community policing in each cluster to deter community members from engaging in drug abuse and alcoholism;
- Conduct joint community dialogues between refugee and host community leaders to peacefully share farmland and other resources;
- Continue to hold weekly intensive awareness and sensitization sessions with girls and parents to raise awareness on the importance of staying in school and provide sexual and reproductive health information.



Testimonials



"My community has experienced less conflicts thanks to the weekly community dialogue meetings that has positively transformed the mindset of community members to appreciate peace, unity and love for one another. Thank you, WPDI."

Victor Machok, 32

Cluster B leader, Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



"In my community, WPDI is called "Light" because the community dialogue meetings have changed our community from darkness to light. We now understand each other better than before, and ethnic group hostility has been reduced totally this year."

Ile, 46

Cluster G leader, Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



"The community dialogue meetings have made us, leaders, realize the power of a meaningful conversation. WPDI is a center for peacebuilding and we appreciate them working with refugees closely as partners, to help our communities positively transform into safer societies. Thank you, WPDI."

Regina Aloyo, 38

Cluster H leader, Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



Impact Story

Refugees and host community members sharing resources and land

November 2022

The Conflict

At the border of the refugee camp, many conflicts happen between the refugees and the host community due to the lack of resources. Conflicts often break out around the usage of water points or firewood.

The Community Dialogues

To ease the tensions between communities, WPDI Youth Peacemakers, Emad and Alice, organized a series of 10 community dialogues to solve this issue. The main message of the dialogue was to share scarce and limited resources.

The dialogue meetings - gathering 80 participants from refugees and host communities, including OPM, UNHCR, police and local leaders - aimed at resolving these conflicts and creating an atmosphere for peaceful coexistence, mutual understanding and reconciliation. As a result, the conflicts were successfully resolved.

The Resolutions

The participants in the dialogues agreed on the following resolutions:

- The portion of land in contention to be equally shared with refugees for farming purposes,
- Host community members to stop hostility against refugees farming on the land,
- Police to enforce peaceful co-existence through community policing,
- Regular community peacebuilding, awareness and sensitization campaigns to be held for both refugee and host communities.

Testimonials

From a local leader:

“WPDI has been able to transform this border land conflict and disrupted the destructive nature of the conflict into a more constructive conflict. Thank you WPDI for the good work.”

Abdu Suleiman

Ranch leader, Kiryandongo
Refugee Settlement

From a community member:

“This land conflict had reached a potentially dangerous boiling point with hostilities from either side. However, WPDI Youth Peacemakers have done a great job in bringing the two conflicting communities around the table to be able to talk and resolve the conflict amicably. This is an excellent job and kudos to WPDI.”

Lemin Joseph Okeng

Community member, Kiryandongo
Refugee Settlement

From one of the peacemakers:

“From a simple phone call regarding the land conflict to being able to help the conflicting parties, have them agree to come together and harmoniously resolve the farmland dispute is a plus in our achievements this year. The two communities are now living peacefully and embracing tolerance and meaningful dialogue to continue building peace amongst themselves.”

Rajab Emad Said

Youth Peacemaker,
Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

Community Leaders Training

480 Community Leaders Trained



As our overarching objective is to help communities become more peaceful and resilient in the long-term, it is critical that our work is recognized by local leaders, consolidated and built upon to be sustainable beyond our intervention. It is why we provide community leaders training in conflict mediation. This year, they were trained on identifying the different types of conflict and empowered to be in a position to identify its sources, to disrupt its violent patterns and collectively resolve conflicts. This training strengthened the capacity of 480 community leaders in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Additionally, it further led to increased confidence and trust in leaders while handling conflict-associated matters at the community level.

During the year, four community leaders training sessions were conducted within and outside the settlement. These trainings covered topics such as introduction to conflict, violence, peace, diversity, emotions and leadership.



Testimonials



“This was my very first time attending formal training in Conflict Resolution and transformative peacebuilding! My knowledge and confidence in approaching conflict has increased and my mediation skills also improved hugely thanks to the training. Thank you WPDI.”

Deborah, 31

Refugee community leader



“This leaders’ training has strengthened my knowledge. It has opened my mind to think widely about peace, how to practically engage my community to build sustainable peace and also how to promote non-violent methods to resolve conflicts. Big appreciation to WPDI.”

Makong Simon, 40

Community leader



Peace Education in Schools

Scholarships

150

Girls aged
between 14 and 18
received scholarships to pursue
their education



To help address this gap, we have put in place a scholarship program that empowers talented and motivated girls. This year, 150 girls received scholarships to pursue their studies thanks to WPDI. Out of the 150 girls, 20 were enrolled for advanced level education while 130 were enrolled for ordinary level studies based on the Ugandan system of education. From two schools located in the refugee settlement and the host community respectively, the students are between 14 and 18 years old.

WPDI scholarship program has recorded notable success in the refugee settlement and across the surrounding host community. We have received positive feedback from the Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR, Refugee Welfare Committee members (RWC), School Management Committee (SMC), Parents Teachers Association (PTA), headteachers, classroom teachers, and students.

Other indicators seem to show the positive impact of this project beyond allowing hard-working girls to pursue their education.

Ensuring lasting peace and sustainable development in fragile communities requires that all the members have access to opportunities, equally. However, among the refugee communities of Kiryandongo, financially strained families will often choose to school boys rather than girls.

The program has:

- **Broken stereotypes about girls in schools:**

It has contributed to changing the views of certain parents and guardians by showing the importance of school for all children, including girls. Indeed, it created a momentum whereby girls were encouraged to show their motivation to attend school, as remarked by Joseph Lemi, Chairperson Refugee Welfare Committee III, Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

- **Opened opportunities for higher education:**

The scholarship program has laid a foundation and opened further opportunities for students to secure grants at university level. At least six students were admitted this year to higher institutions and universities. As remarked by Lagu Yasiri, head teacher at Panyadoli Self-Help Secondary School.

- **Fostered peace for the benefit of young girls:**

Through engaging the learners in the scholarship program and holding regular follow-up and mentorship meetings with scholarship beneficiaries, the different conflicting tribes are harmoniously co-existing and learning together. They participate in organized activities within the schools, which now gives the students a greater sense of cultural diversity and tolerance, as remarked by Adoke Charles, a classroom teacher, during the beneficiaries' follow-up and termly meeting at Panyadoli Self-Help Secondary School.

- **Improved the reputation of schools:**

Ms. Adam Shamila, the focal point person for Education at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), noticed that this program has contributed to the building of a cordial relationship between different stakeholders in and around schools. This, in turn, improves the reputation of these schools.



Testimonials



"I appreciate WPD for the scholarship opportunity given to me because without it, I would not have completed my studies up to senior four. I successfully sat for my final examinations without any interference like being denied access to the examination room because of failure to pay school fees. Thank you for giving me hope for a bright future. As a member of the peace club in my school, I promise to pass peace values and the importance of education to fellow students in my community."

Ayoo Lucy

A student at Stella Matutina Girls' Secondary School



"I am grateful to the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative for supporting me when no one was there. I lost my parents and didn't know how to continue with my studies but when I heard of the scholarships, I took the opportunity. I am grateful and hopeful that my dream of becoming a Human Resource Officer will be fulfilled. I appreciate the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative for their tireless support."

Joanitha Joyce, 16

A refugee from South Sudan and senior five student at Panyadoli S.S



Conflict Resolution Education for Primary and Secondary School Students

Working with children and adolescents directly in their school environment has proved to be one of the most effective ways to disseminate a culture of peace and nonviolence in our target communities. The program is critical because it prepares future adults to adopt peace-conducive attitudes. The program helps to transform schools into safer places, where the relationships of students among themselves and with teachers are improved, and positively impacts academic results. This explains why the program is very much appreciated by the school staff, notably the teachers who also receive training to strengthen the effectiveness and coherence of the program for maximum impact. The peace education training, conducted in 14 primary schools and 10 secondary schools this year, built the capacity of 2,760 young pupils and students as peace and human rights advocates. The children and adolescents were from both refugee and host communities of the Kiryandongo district.

Training in CRE delivered in

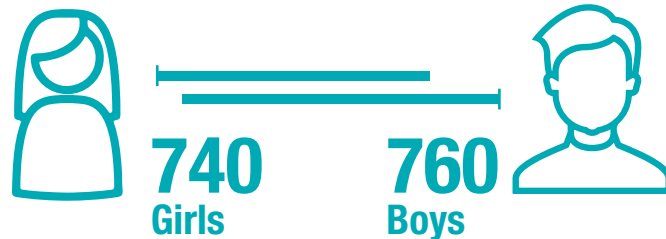
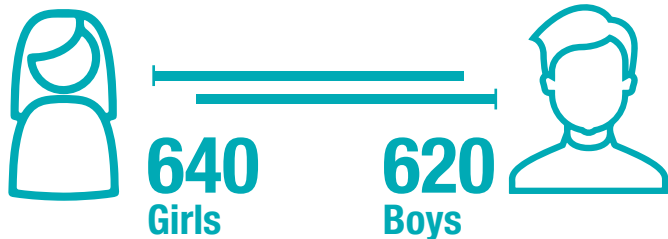
14
primary schools

1,260
pupils trained

Training in CRE delivered in

10
secondary schools

1,500
students trained



Testimonials



"The peace education program brought by WPDI to my school helped me to become a changed person. I used to fight a lot with my friends and siblings but now I can handle my temper. All thanks go to WPDI for the great initiative."

Among Neimah, 14
Canrom Primary School



"I have greatly improved on making peace happen in my community and among my fellow pupils in school. The stress I had from the war had made me a chaotic person whom people never felt safe around."

Choul Mathew, 15
Bidong Primary School

Conflict Resolution Education for Teachers

CRE training for teachers
delivered in

24
schools

240
Teachers trained



"The knowledge and skills I gained in Conflict Resolution Education in my school has been very instrumental in transforming me into a person with great inner peace. I used to store strong emotions that would even make me sick and I would not easily let go of offenses. Thank you WPD I for transforming my life. I am a champion now, peace!"

Nyakuma Koul

Trainee from Alliance Integrated
High School



"The peace education training has helped me understand peace, conflict perception and relate well with others. I am now a peace ambassador and my dream is to become a big peace mediator and help my country to prioritize peace and health."

Abdul Rajab Safi

Trainee from Bweyale
Senior Secondary School



The teachers training was conducted in 24 schools, reaching out to 240 teachers. The goal of the program is to build and strengthen the teachers' capacity, for them to be able to demonstrate confidence in managing, resolving daily conflicts and promoting peace at school and in their respective community.

Testimonials



"The three-day training in Conflict Resolution Education and peace building processes was so powerful! I have gained useful knowledge, understanding and skills that will forever transform my professional career to the next level. Thank you WPD I and EAA."

Tumusiime Armstrong

Teacher at Victoria Primary School

"It was my first formal training in conflict resolution education and transformative peacebuilding processes. I am very excited with the new skills in peace mediation that I acquired during the three days of vigorous training from WPDl peace experts."

Afoyochan Janet

Teacher at Siriba School

"This training has brought positive transformation in my life and my teaching career and I am fully confident, more knowledgeable in peacebuilding processes and it will go a long way to promote sustainable peace in my school and communities."

Bakaki Jaliru

Teacher at Bweyale Senior Secondary School





Impact Story

Blessed Mother Teresa School
Katulikire, Kiryandongo District

The Context of the School

The Blessed Mother Teresa school has 1,400+ students, with 80% of the students being refugees from South Sudan. The children attending this school come from different ethnic groups.

Testimonials

“Peace education in school has been a strong pillar in promoting a peaceful academic environment for both students, administrative staff and teachers.”

Sityaku Henry

School Patron Peace Club,
Blessed Mother Teresa College

The Rising Violence

In 2022, the school witnessed an increase in the number of violent incidents involving indisciplined students, challenging teachers and school administration. It has been a burden for the school administrators to try to resolve it, not always successfully. The rise of violence increased school drop-out rates, because students fled the hostile environment at school, resulting in a high rate of absenteeism.

WPDI's Help on the Issue

The school administration requested WPDI to specifically train those indisciplined students and others to embrace unity and peace. Through the weekly peacebuilding training that our Peacemakers conducted, attitudes started changing positively, the level of indiscipline cases were reduced and school attendance increased due to a friendly peaceful environment at school. For sustainability purposes, the students formed a peace club to continue championing for peace, unity, respect and peaceful co-existence in school.

“As a Youth Peacemaker, I knew the violent behaviors of the students were all about being accepted and respected. I used my expert knowledge to deliver Conflict Resolution Education sessions while connecting with the students on issues such as, respect and peace building. Once they feel accepted and respected, they will open up to learning and that is when knowledge starts to change their attitudes. They then gradually become friendlier and happier - then peace is inevitable.”

Ajwok Mary Valentino

WPDI Youth Peacemaker in the
Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

Healthcare

Our focus is on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Trauma Healing. SRH contributes to fostering gender equality and women's empowerment (men are also encouraged to participate in this activity) and Trauma Healing, is of high relevance for refugees in particular, considering how many of them suffered from the violence of war and the hardships of displacement.



Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

1,407
Beneficiaries



775
Women



632
Men

WPDI SRH intervention in the settlement aims to:

- Improving access and utilization of SRH services (including contraception),
- Build the capacity of institutions to deliver quality Family Planning and Reproductive Health services through the establishment of functional school health clubs and sensitization and awareness campaigns at the health facilities respectively.

In order to achieve the above objectives, WPDI is supporting access and retention of adolescent girls and young people in school through ensuring functional school health clubs that are able to create awareness and sensitization of learners on SRH issues.

Our Youth Peacemakers were trained on topics that included family planning, menstrual hygiene, sexuality and gender, peer education, referral, communication and facilitation skills. They were also trained to be able to conduct outreach and referrals in their communities. In addition, for this program, WPDI has recruited an experienced officer in charge of the SRH program at the settlement. We established and strengthened health clubs in six schools.

Testimonials

"In the first years of puberty, I did not know how to manage menstrual cycles. My life became very hard and I would be absent from school until the last days of each monthly cycle. This greatly affected my performance. However, when Sir Emmanuel and Madam Gladys from WPDI came to our school and taught us about menstrual hygiene, I learned how to use sanitary towels properly. I can now sit comfortably in class without fear of my uniform getting stained. Thank you WPDI for the menstrual Hygiene Education which has helped young girls to remain in school."

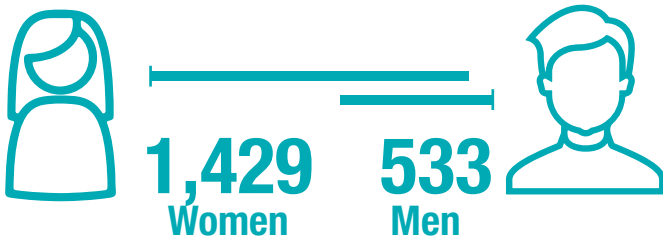
Nabukonde Joyce

Student of Panyadoli Self-Help Secondary School

Trauma Healing and Rehabilitation Support

1,962
Beneficiaries

862
of these were supported
as individual clients



Despite the high number of refugee trauma in the settlement, there are still very few organizations (only three, including WPDI) providing the Mental Health and Psychosocial support services in the settlement, leaving an immense unmet need. This led us to create a program in 2018, shortly after the beginning of our operations in the settlement in 2017. This program has quickly been noted for its results, leading us to expand it in the settlement but also in other places where we have deployed the YPN.

Upon the establishment of the trauma healing department, WPDI quickly recruited a qualified and experienced Trauma Healing and Rehabilitation Officer who provides oversight on the overall implementation of the trauma healing process in the Kiryandongo Settlement and surrounding host community. As WPDI continues to implement the trauma healing program in the settlement, the following are some of the activities or services which we provide:



- Trauma healing awareness sessions in schools and the community which enables the community to embrace and have full ownership of the program, building sustainability beyond WPDI;
- Screenings for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders and other mental health disorders to help identify those with different mental health issues to give guidance into their counseling therapy;
- Provision of Narrative Exposure Therapy for those with PTSD (this includes Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Psycho education, Testimonies and lifeline narration);
- Follow-ups and home visits for every survivor during their therapy sessions and after recovery to ensure well being and guide on the next action to be taken as well as avoiding relapse of the trauma;
- WPDI also provides short trauma healing courses to youth and women to build their capacity so that they are able to provide trauma healing services in the community and also act as advocates for trauma healing and peacebuilding in the settlement and host community.

The most common trauma-related disorders among the refugees in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement are PTSD, depression, generalized anxiety, conduct disorder, social phobia, panic disorder, suicidal behavior disorder, aggression, feelings of revenge, agoraphobia, outbursts of anger, functional disorder, substance abuse disorder, sleep disorder, and alcohol abuse. We have also observed that GBV cases remain under-reported, due to a variety of factors such as fear of stigma, shame, family reactions, dissolution, and the perception of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) as a private matter or a lack of confidence in reporting channels; yet SGBV still remains a prodigious root of trauma in the community that we have worked to address more directly and effectively.

Understanding the program through our Youth Peacemakers



“My name is Duncan Karanja, a WPDY Youth Peacemaker and a Kenyan Refugee in cluster OQ Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. To create a relationship with someone and have the necessary dedication for your community to trust you, it takes time and certain skills, such as empathy, as people will trust you with their innermost feelings.

Often, my clients don't open up on the first day of the meeting - we must be patient. As a trauma healing counselor, I have to screen my clients for PTSD so that I understand the underlying problem behind what is first expressed. This is an entry point into the counseling session.”

A notable case you worked on:

“My commendable case is a survivor, Geoffrey. He was almost killed in Kenya and sustained a lot of injuries. He crossed the border to seek refuge in Uganda during the post-election violence in 2010.



While in Uganda at the refugee settlement, Geoffrey met a woman with whom he had three children. In 2018, Geoffrey fell ill and was diagnosed with HIV/AIDs. This devastated him, he blamed his partner and the mother of his children. He took this diagnosis as a death sentence in addition to fear of the stigma that people with HIV can suffer from in this community. He began to drink, he would not feed himself, and soon, his health deteriorated. His partner could not accept his behavior and he was asked to move out of their home. He reached out to me one day, in tears.

I provided him with Psychological First Aid (PFA). After this, I enrolled him in eight counseling sessions to help him to recover psychologically. And I still pay him home visits to ensure that he doesn't relapse and to make sure that he adheres to his treatment for HIV.

Geoffrey is better now. He found a new partner, who is also HIV positive, and they mutually support each other. He is volunteering at the Antiretroviral Therapy Clinic in Panyidoli Health Centre IV.”

Testimonials from clients

“The birth of my child should have been the happiest time of my life. I was newly married, enjoying life to the full with a fantastic and supportive husband and a father. I had a difficult labor which was very frightening for my husband who thought after gaining a son he would also lose his wife. Three months after the birth, the WPDl mental health team noticed signs of postnatal depression. I remember crying for no reason, feeling guilty for everything and generally feeling bad that I couldn’t cope with the demands of my new baby. I lost all confidence in myself and my self-esteem was at rock-bottom. After three therapy sessions with the WPDl trauma counselor, I was referred for proper treatment of my depression and anxiety. I was also referred to a post-natal support nurse who came to visit me on a weekly basis together with WPDl staff. I am so appreciative of the WPDl trauma healing program; I am now a happy mother.”

Josephine
Trauma healing client

“I was abducted by rebels in 2016 when the war broke out in South Sudan. I got recruited as a child soldier. While in captivity, I was forced to do many bad things. My turning point was in 2017 when a group of child soldiers (including myself) were rescued by Government troops, brought to Uganda and handed over to OPM and UNHCR. Despite all the support given by the UN, I didn’t shake off the feeling of guilt and hopelessness until I met the WPDl trauma healing officer, who helped me get out of my Post Traumatic Stress problems. Thank you WPDl for the Mental Health program which is helping heal wounded souls.”

Gatluak John

South Sudanese living in cluster OQ



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.

Capacity Building Courses

**Kiryandongo
2022**

Outcomes reported by participants in all vocational programs

**All
Respondents**

**Female
Respondents**

Number of responses

245

73

Overall percentage of vocational trainees
reporting a positive career outcome

100%

100%

Specific outcomes reported in vocational training programs

**All
Respondents**

**Female
Respondents**

Found a job

11%

10%

Income increased

14%

14%

Created a business

21%

19%

Studies pursued

54%

57%

No change reported

0%

0%

Percentage of surveyed beneficiaries
declaring that WPDI's program made a
difference in their lives.

100%

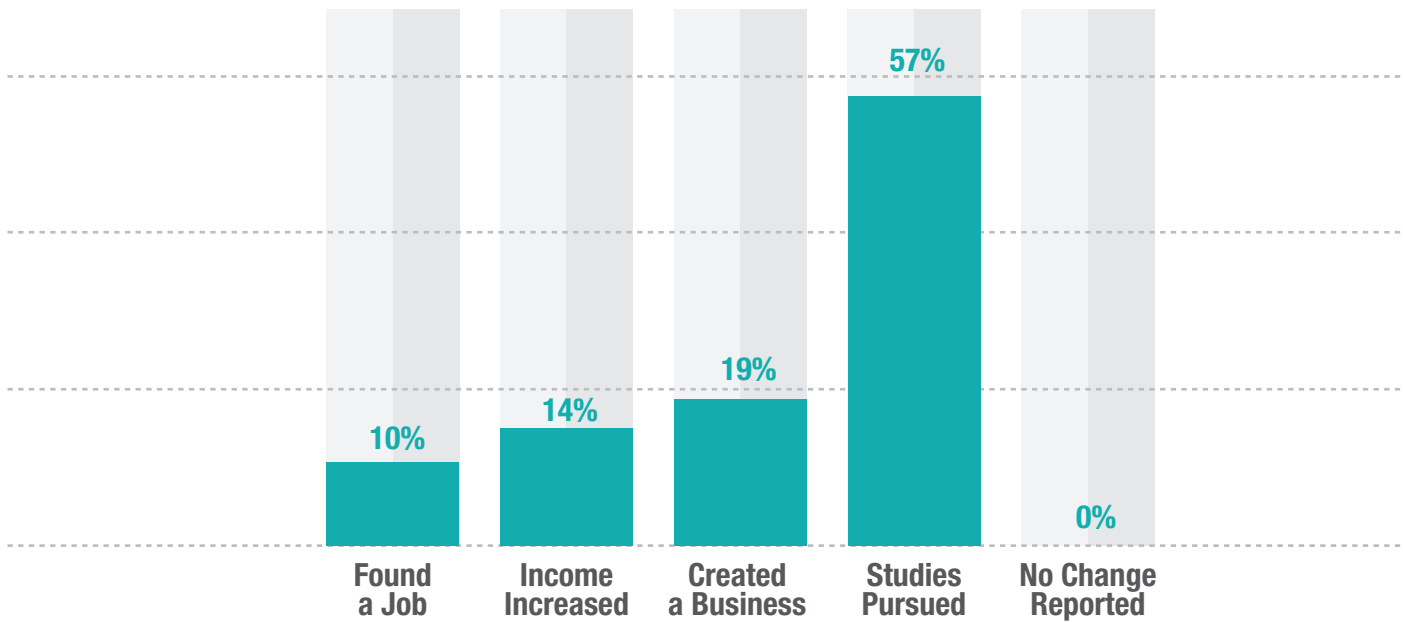
100%

Created a business

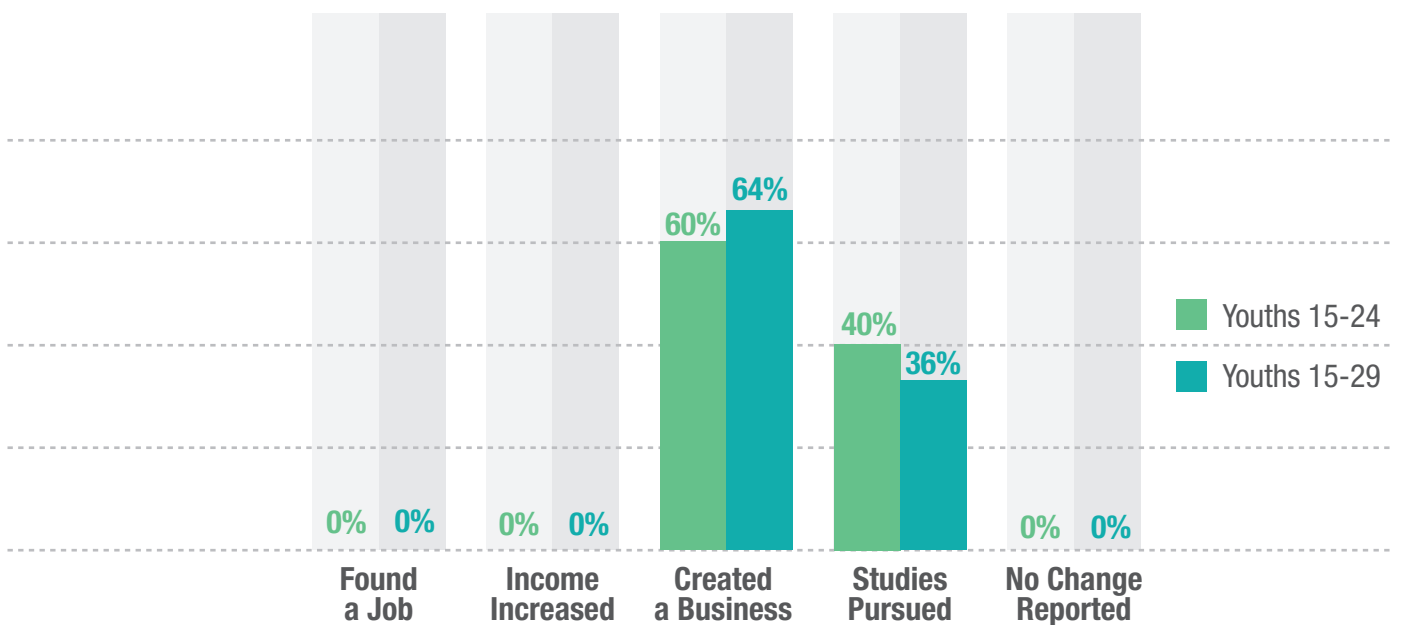
99%

100%

Outcomes of vocational trainings for women

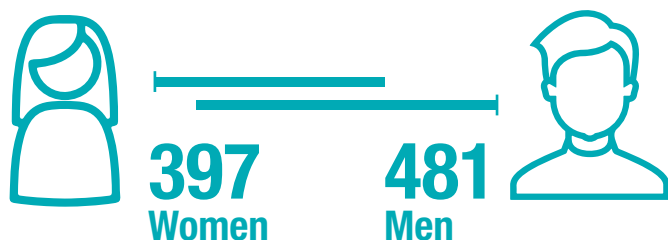


Outcomes of vocational trainings for youths



ICT

878
Trainees graduated from
the ICT training



20
People registered to the
online ICT training



The topics - for both in-person and online studies - covered in ICT skills include: introduction to computers, using the internet, online communication and collaboration, creating and publishing, spreadsheets, designing, editing and setting up a presentation. All courses are offered in three levels: basic, intermediate and advanced.

This year, given the popularity of the ICT training and the high demand from the community, we didn't need to conduct any outreach campaign in and outside the settlement. We received a high number of registrations from community members, including school teachers and community leaders, who were eager to attend our ICT-certified short courses offered at the CLC. A total of 878 trainees graduated this year.

Expanding our reach with our new IT Lab

The IT Lab is a flexible and reliable platform that allows a maximum number of individuals to be trained by WPDl, who can access online training courses in their own time and at their own pace, without the need for direct supervision in a classroom. For this purpose, an extension of our Community Learning Center in the settlement was built and equipped with 25 new laptops last year.



WPDl worked with MIT ReACT (Refugee Action Hub) and the R2 digital agency to create an e-learning platform, the first of its kind at a WPDl CLC, funded by the Western Union Foundation. The platform is accessible at itlab-uganda.wpdil.org, where trainees can register for free and access a wide range of courses and resources in Conflict Resolution Education, Business & Entrepreneurship or Information & Communication Technologies, all available at three levels: Basic, Intermediate or Advanced. Educational materials are provided in video and PDF format, and trainees are invited to partake in short quizzes to test their knowledge on each module, before undertaking a final test to obtain their certificate.

MIT also contributed by sharing their course content that can be accessed through the platform, such as advanced courses on Data Science and Entrepreneurship. Lana Cook, Assistant Director, Strategic Initiatives at MIT, said: “We are proud to be part of this collaboration with WPDI and Western Union, as part of MIT ReACT’s mission is to open up education and employment pathways for refugee communities through digital learning. Co-designing with local educators was a valuable professional experience for our MIT ReACT interns who served as instructional designers on the project. Efforts like these are creating a next generation of digital learning designers and educators, who are leveraging the power of these technologies to open up flexible, high quality education opportunities for all.



“I am grateful for ICT training at the CLC. I am not ashamed to testify about my transformation in terms of the knowledge and skills that I obtained from the intermediate level training. The intervention saved me from my ignorance. Now I can browse the web and perform calculations in excel, type documents and share to friends through email. I thought using a computer was so hard but now I can pass the knowledge to someone else. I encourage my friends to come and acquire knowledge in ICT with the organization.”

Chek Jock Dak
ICT trainee

Testimonials



“My gratitude goes to WPDI for the great support as far as ICT is concerned. This program positively changed my life in terms of knowledge and skills acquisition. I could not believe that I would one day use a computer, do calculations in excel, draw a budget, develop an excel form and even write a validated report with an excel pivot table. Advanced learning really enlightened me to understand different operating systems and installations as well.”

Kuol Thilvan Gatdet
ICT trainee



“When I got to know about WPDI from a friend, I started the training in ICT as a beginner. For the first two weeks I felt like technology was not for me. But I can testify today that with hard work and support from my tutors, I got to learn how to operate a computer. I can now type an application and attach relevant photos, edit format, and share via email, Facebook and Twitter, and design graphs of different kinds in excel. To my fellow youth who are out there, I encourage you to come and join computer studies at WPDI, just to connect and learn. Thanks, for the opportunity.”

Jacob Gatdiet Wuor
ICT trainee

Business and Entrepreneurship

342

Trainees graduated in
Business and Entrepreneurship

This is a central vocational training in the Business Bootcamp. Indeed, the Entrepreneurship component aims to equip participants with an array of skills that they can use to create a business or excel in their current activity. WPDl carried out training in Business and Entrepreneurship, targeting young men and women, both refugees and nationals. Mobilization of these young men and women was done through advertisements and informing people about the existing programs. 380 youth trainees were able to register. Out of 380 trainees who sat for their examinations, 342 (90%) trainees graduated.

For both the basic and intermediate levels, the topics covered were:

- Entrepreneurship and Personal Awareness
- Business Idea Generation
- Business Identification
- Screening and Selection of the Best Business Idea
- Best Idea and Business Plan Development
- Marketing and Market Assessment
- Communication Skills
- Financial Management
- Work Plan and Budgeting
- Record Keeping
- Forms of Businesses
- Business Planning
- Risk Management
- Leadership and Group Dynamics
- Self-Confidence
- Business Conflict Management
- Business Ethics and Social Responsibilities

Testimonials



"I am so happy and excited that I got the opportunity of being enrolled as a Business student. When I first visited the Community Learning Center to inquire if I could join one of the programs, I thought I was late. I am so happy that the sessions are going on well and I have learned so many things including how to reduce poverty in my community. I want to send my great appreciation to WPDl and wish that this program continues supporting youth like me in the community who had lost hope of learning."

John Olga
Cluster P

"I am so grateful to WPDl in Kiryandongo. I want to thank my business trainers and explain my heartfelt gratitude for the skills I attained, which is the intermediate level, where I was taught marketing and market analysis, communication skills and negotiation skills, and record-keeping among others. I will never be the same again. With these few remarks I would like to thank WPDl for extending their services to those of us also in the host community (Bweyale Town Council). Thank you."

Abitegeka Joan
Bweyale Town

Arts and Crafts

178

Trainees graduated
in Arts and Crafts



130
Women



48
Men



Under Arts and Crafts, we carry out an evaluation on the performance of learners through formal end-of-course assessment. At the end of the training, participants are expected to complete a practical examination of the items they have been able to learn during the training. Some of the products made by the youth are displayed during exhibitions on national and international celebration events.

The three cohorts of trainees in 2022 attended the training for an average of 16 weeks (46 sessions, 144 hours). The topics covered were:

- Introduction to tailoring, sewing machine parts and their function and maintenance;
- Practicals on how to: treadle, apply rope, insert and remove the bobbin and its case, rewind the bobbin and to apply the thread;
- Practice sessions included: knife, box, inverted pleated skirts, short and long sleeve free wear and shirts, standard and double pleated pairs of shorts, pajamas, round, umbrella, and straight back vent skirt, and a dress with gathers, a straight back vent skirt.

In order to raise awareness on this training, we conducted three outreach campaigns in and outside of the settlement. We took the opportunity of different gatherings, such as the celebration of Womens Day in cluster G or the trade exhibitions days in cluster P, to spread the word about our training. We showcased and sold some products made by our trainees. During the year, we trained 292 participants. Out of these, 178 graduated.





Impact Story

Finding hope and improving livelihoods through Arts and Crafts

Fleeing war

James Andrew is a 24-year-old South Sudanese, born in a family of seven children. When insurgency broke out in his home country, their parents both died and James fled the country with his siblings. As orphans, he says they had lost hope in life, as with many other children who face similar situations. They found refuge in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in Uganda, where they were registered as a child-headed family.

Joining WPDI

Living in the settlement, James heard about WPDI through his friends who would come to the CLC regularly to participate in activities. They were enrolled in the Arts and Crafts course, making many craft items using local materials. James saw his friends' lifestyles completely change compared to the life they were living before joining WPDI, so he decided to join as well.

Making friends and learning skills

James told us: "I have made new friends, and socialized with people from different conflicting communities. Besides that, I also developed good communication skills which I didn't have before, and I realized it's a key aspect of life. When I joined the WPDI Arts and Crafts program, I was empowered and equipped with new knowledge and skills. This has changed my life. I now have a better livelihood as I have become self-reliant through this training program."



"I am very excited about the opportunity that WPDI gave me to be trained in the tailoring and garment cutting course offered at the CLC. It was my dream to learn how to design and sew clothes. I could not afford to pay for the training cost. I now work with 'God's Mercy Tailoring' workshop and get some payment to help support and cater for my basic needs. Thank you WPDI for building my career."

Kabonesa Daisy, 22

A Ugandan living in the host community Bweyale Town Council



"I am so happy to be a participant in tailoring and cutting garments at WPDI CLC. This has helped me learn how to sew different fashions and designs of clothes. I am so grateful that WPDI has built my career and that I gained more experience in the tailoring section. I am self-reliant and can comfortably support myself and my siblings by providing for their requirements and basic needs."

Katusiime Isha

Arts and Crafts trainee from the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

Supporting Income-Generating Projects

We have continued to provide aspiring entrepreneurs with opportunities to create their own businesses, which led to the creation of 45 new businesses this year.

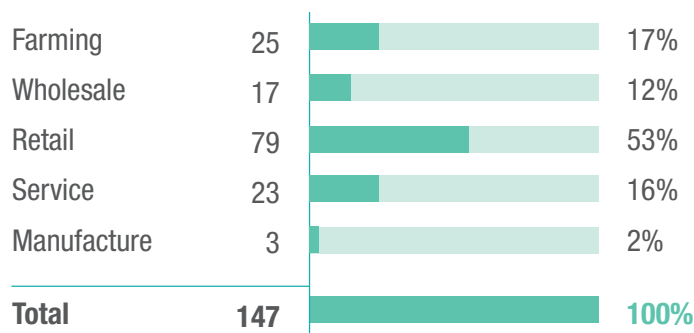
Since the 2017 launch of the YPN in Kiryandongo, WPDI is proud to have supported the creation of 147 businesses developed by Youth Peacemakers, graduates from our vocational programs, groups of vulnerable women and youths.

Since 2017, the businesses created have benefitted 9,204 people directly (managers and employees) and indirectly (families). This means that the program has improved livelihoods for a significant number of refugees and members of host communities. Around 65,000 refugees live in the settlement and each business created generates services and contributes, by its very presence, to a climate of normalcy and opportunity.

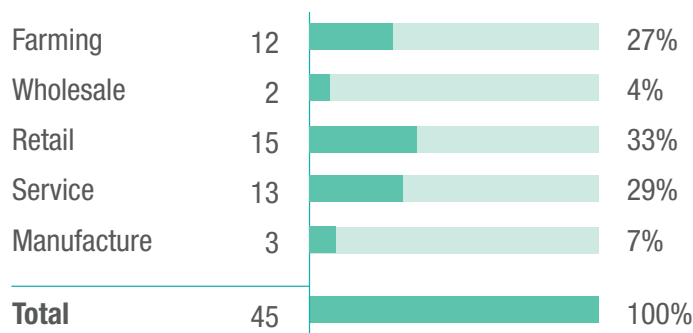
Overall, the Business Bootcamp proves to be a successful model, as exemplified in the 84% survival rate of the ventures we support. Additionally, the closure of 14% of incubated businesses since 2017 should be taken in the broader economic context which has seen over 55% of Ugandan small businesses close since 2017 (Monitor, 2022). Thus, the survival rate of WPDI-backed businesses (84%) is at a near double of the national rate (45%), which can be attributed to the design of our model which creates a strongly enabling environment by providing training, space for market research, capital grants as well as monitoring and backstopping services.

147 businesses created in Kiryandongo since 2017,
of which **126** are still active,
including **45** businesses created in 2022.

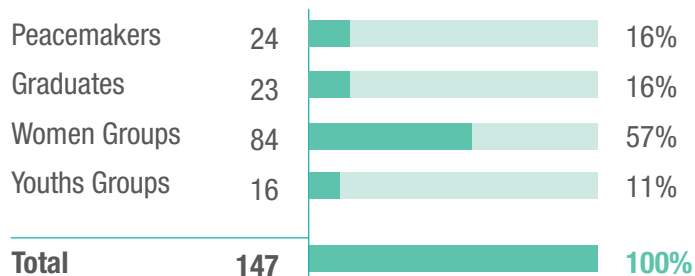
Types of the 147 Businesses incubated in Kiryandongo



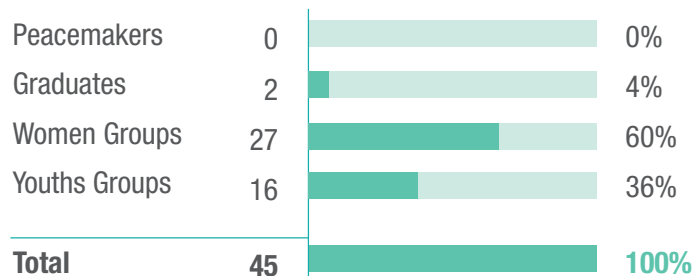
45 Businesses created in 2022 in Kiryandongo (by type)



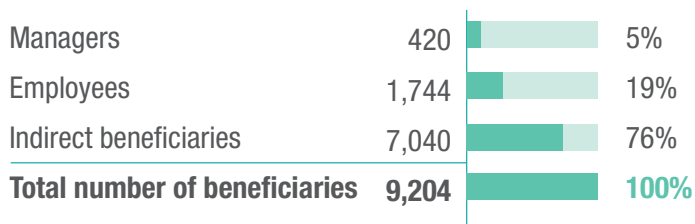
Origin of the 147 Businesses incubated in Kiryandongo



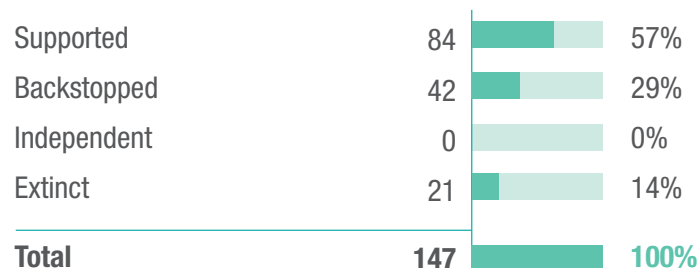
Origin of the 45 Businesses Created in Kiryandongo in 2022



Business Beneficiaries in Kiryandongo since 2017



Status of Businesses





Business Beneficiaries in Kiryandongo since 2017 (by gender)

Managers F	2,238	<div><div></div></div>	57%
Managers M	182	<div><div></div></div>	43%
Employees F	1,027	<div><div></div></div>	59%
Employees M	717	<div><div></div></div>	41%
Indirect beneficiaries F	3,608	<div><div></div></div>	51%
Indirect beneficiaries M	3,432	<div><div></div></div>	49%
Total of Women beneficiary	4,873	<div><div></div></div>	53%
Total of Men beneficiary	4,331	<div><div></div></div>	47%
Total	9,204	<div><div></div></div>	100%

Business Plan Competition

This year, WPDl conducted one Business Plan Competition with the overall objective to stimulate and unleash the essence of entrepreneurship and local innovation among aspiring entrepreneurs. The Business Plan Competition targeted graduates from our CLC who had completed the intermediate-level business course that we offer. The competition attracted 50% refugees and 50% host community members. Candidates were asked to write an elevator pitch which was assessed by the Oversight Committee and later approved for development into a business plan.

The selection of group winners depended on: their capacity to implement proposed projects, previous training and certification attained at the WPDl CLC. In accordance with local stakeholders, we also make sure that the group has received previous support. We also factor in gender equality, and the level of members' involvement and commitment in the project.

The results of the competition were announced on July 30, 2022 after conducting on-site verification of the aspiring winners' projects. This announcement was made in the presence of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) Assistant Commandant, Mr. Joseph Agotre, who is the focal point person of livelihood and environment.

The competition attracted a total of 28 youths (17 men and 11 women). Overall, the competition took two months.



Results of the Business Plan Competition



1st Place Winner
Second Generation youth group

📍 Host community
Poultry project



2nd Place Winner
Pair Africa Leather and Design

📍 Refugees
Leather works



3rd Place Winner
Bweyale Sunflower Growers Group

📍 Host community
Sunflower project

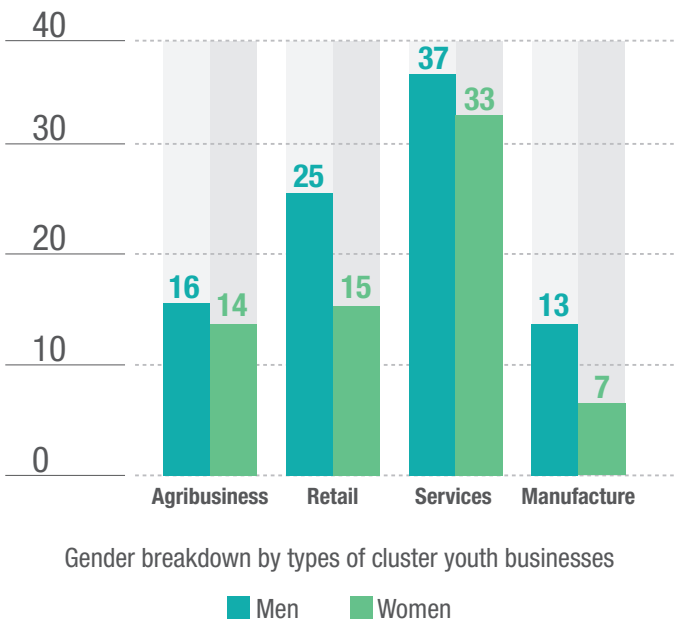
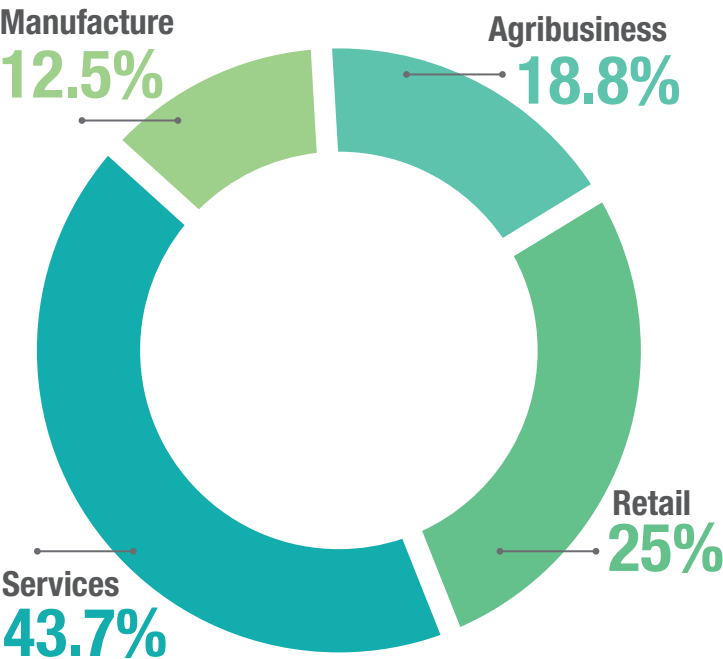


4th Place Winner
St. Cecilia Primary School

📍 Refugees and Host
School management

Supporting 160 cluster youths to become entrepreneurs

The program started with the recruitment of 160 (88 men and 72 women) local youth from 16 clusters (ten groups from the settlement and six groups from the host community). The youths were selected in June 2021, with the help of Cluster leaders in the settlement and overseen by the Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR who coordinate activities in the settlement. The role of these stakeholders was to ensure the transparency of the process by adequately distributing the opportunity of participating in our activities among partners in the settlement. In the host community, the local leaders accompanied these youth candidates with an introductory letter to confirm they were the right picks to benefit from the program. The training was delivered by WPDJ Youth Peacemakers, in the refugee settlement and the host community, in Katulikire, Nyakadot, Bududa, Kalwala and Mutunda villages respectively. Beneficiaries were trained for two hours per day, two days a week over six months from July 2021 to December 2021. For these cluster youths, the average age is 25 with a median age at 23. The gender breakdown is 42% female and 58% male. After completing the training program, the 160 cluster youth, divided in 16 groups developed income-generating cooperative projects that we are supporting. We began supporting the implementation of their businesses in January 2022.





Impact Story

Azoom Youth Group - Horticulture growers

10 members (18-35 years old)

A Highly Motivated Youth Group

Azoom Youth Group is a project gathering 10 youths from cluster N in the settlement. They participated in our cluster youth bootcamp program and have shown constant strive to achieve their dreams. After hearing about the program within the settlement thanks to the awareness campaigns, the community dialogues meetings and WPDI events such as sports competitions and engagement days celebrations, they decided to join the program to become agents of change in their community. They wanted to get involved in building peace, but also transforming their community by taking lead in the implementation of social cooperative income projects. This led them to create the Azoom Youth Group project.

Achievements

In 2022, they managed to plant hot peppers and chili on 6 acres of land and made 10 million shillings (around \$2,700) worth of hot pepper and chili to the outside market. Azoom Youth Group is also carrying out collective savings and coordinating with local farmers to find different exporters.

Economic Challenges

Although the group members face challenges such as price fluctuation, weather changes affecting production, and the difficulty of meeting market standards to export, WPDI has helped them overcome some of the challenges. Indeed, WPDI provided funding to kickstart their activities and continues to provide backstopping support. In addition, to help the groups address some of the challenges, WPDI has linked them to institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture and line district departments, such as production and trade offices, to solve some of these problems.

Impact of the Business

The business being implemented by Azoom Youth Group is now a viable project addressing the needs of the community like food security, providing employment, and supporting local livelihoods.

Testimonial



“My name is Adam Muhamad. I am 29 years old, and a resident of cluster MR1, in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. I am the chairperson of Azoom Youth Group. I would like to take this opportunity to thank WPDI for supporting the 16 youth groups. Indeed by building our capacity to handle finances and manage a business, we improved our standard of living as youths because now we have something to do that improves our livelihood, gives us motivation and benefits our community.”



Supporting 27 businesses launched by vulnerable women

For the fourth year in a row, WPDI ran an initiative designed to train vulnerable women - mostly widows, single mothers, disabled women, and refugees - in business and entrepreneurship, empowering them with skills to improve their livelihoods.

The program began with the enrollment of 120 vulnerable women, who were identified in collaboration with local stakeholders and organizations, followed by a six-month training of the women in topics including business and literacy. When they completed the training, we supported them as they developed businesses (in groups of 15) in a variety of areas, including retail, wholesale, and agriculture, among others. This approach was widely successful and showcased how the women used their new skills to create sustainable entrepreneurial ventures that supported not only themselves and their families, but their communities as well.

Since 2018, we have trained more than 1,200 women and supported 84 women-led businesses, including 27 this year alone (8 businesses had been identified in 2021 and were effectively funded in 2022). Each women group (of 15 members each) put their ideas into a written business plan proposal. After pitching their project in front of the review committee who screened and approved the plans for support, they received grants and mentoring. These businesses shall support the needs of the group members and their communities so that their livelihoods are improved and they become self-reliant.

These women received training in three areas:

■ Business and Entrepreneurship

The women are given basic skills training and the following topics:

- Poverty and personal awareness,
- Business idea generation and selection,
- Record keeping,
- Market and research,
- To customer care,
- Group dynamics,
- Risk management,
- Forms of business,
- Business environment, and
- Writing a simple business plan.

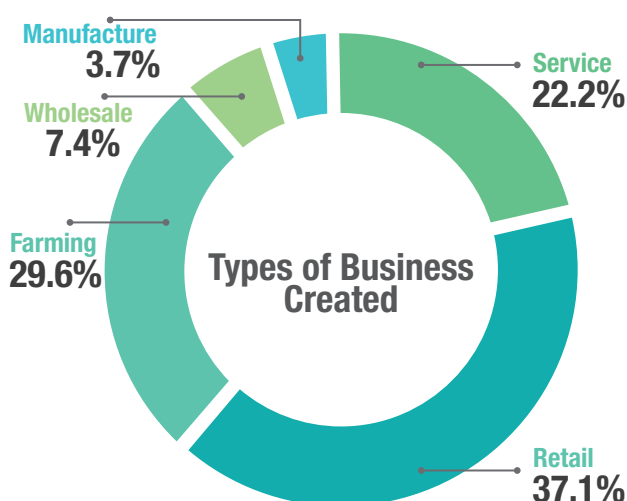
■ Functional Adult Literacy (FAL)

FAL sessions were delivered to women who are unable to read and write. Topics covered include letters, pronunciation of vowels, construction of sentences and words, writing, numeracy and making records in a small business.

■ Financial Literacy

Financial literacy sessions cover topics like financial management on both personal and group money, savings, investment and plan, managing digital transformation in business and old age. These trainings are delivered to the women groups for a period of six months, after which they are tested and passed for certification.

After their training, the women groups were guided with the support of the peacemakers to write their business plans. The creation of the business plan starts with the groups participating in an elevator pitch for their business ideas which are screened to determine their viability and reality in providing solutions to the pressing need in their communities. Most of the businesses created are with the purpose of providing solutions of basic needs at household level. Some of the profits are shared among the group members to be able to buy some of the basics like food and provide healthcare in the family. They become self-reliant and increase their standards of living.





Impact Story

Lubanga Lakica Women's Group Tailoring and Sales of Garments

15 women (18 to 45 years old)

'Lubanga Lakica Women's Group' is a registered group located in Agobe West Bweyale Town Council, Kiryandongo District. The 15-women group offer sewing, tailoring and garment-cutting services, and training to young mothers in tailoring and garment-cutting.

The Background

In their community, the women used to sell clothes or other products at the market without having been trained in sales. As a result, their revenue was low, and it increased the challenges they already faced in the community, such as difficult access to education, health care, or food.

The Training with WPD

For six months, the women followed our capacity-building training in business and entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and -when necessary - in reading and writing. Once the training sessions ended, they worked on a proposal for their income-generating project and received grants to launch it. They will continue to receive backstopping support in the coming months.

The Impact

The business now generates an income that has significantly helped its members support their households and meet their needs (the total revenue is on average \$260 per month). The women have reported now being able to: pay school fees for their children, increase their food security, and purchase clothes and help community members fix their clothes too, to avoid the additional cost of buying new garments.

Hear it from them!



"My name is Lamunu Agness Joseph. I am 37 years old. I am very happy to express my feeling about the training offered to us by WPD. As a group, we now train people in tailoring, saving and selling kitenge. Previously, I sold used clothes at the Bweyale main market but after attending this training, I developed new skills that have improved my livelihood. I know how to manage my record books, good customer care, secure a good location for my business, and handle savings and borrowing money from the bank. This has improved the level of my income and spending habits. Therefore, I thank WPD Uganda."

Community Outreach

Striving to disseminate a culture of peace within and around the settlement, our efforts include activities designed to reach out to larger segments of the community, through such vectors as cinema, sports and local radios. These activities allow us to raise awareness of the community on values of peace while showcasing the work of WPDI and its partners, which contributes, in turn, to reinforce our presence and the recognition of our programs.

Cinema for Peace

97
Movie Screenings



13,937 Participants

The WPDI 'Cinema for Peace' program shows screenings to the kids, youth and the general community with the aim of promoting peaceful co-existence, transformation and improving of life skills in the settlement and participation in discussions. Participants are also given assessment forms to fill in which helps to monitor their engagement and achievements. In 2022, WPDI held 97 movie screenings targeting children, youth and the general community.

The values shared by the movies we screened focused on forgiveness, friendship, kindness, bravery, tolerance, love, family, hope, and resilience, among others. Each movie session was followed by a discussion with the participants, to debate and reflect on the learnings of the film.



Testimonials



"I appreciate WPDI for bringing cinema for peace to my school. Cinema sessions have taught us about love, peacemaking and standing up for our rights. My friends and I have started taking up leadership roles outside of our school community which has brought about peace."

Jessica Achiro

Student at Stella Matutina Secondary School



"The film we watched with WPDI taught me anger management. I have learned to control my feelings in bad situations and to always choose love over hate. I am now respected in my community for spreading peaceful co-existence and transformation."

John Mamuch

Student at Kiryandongo High School



"I come from the refugee settlement. I want to appreciate WPDl for bringing Cinema for peace movies screening in Cluster OQ. The cartoon we watched has taught us to be appreciative of one another regardless of where we come from. Cinema for Peace has also taught me about peace-making and we are now able to live peacefully in our community."

Student at Stella Matutina Secondary School

Radio Talk Shows

120,000
Listeners



Live radio talk shows have been conducted in the local radio stations to address and sensitize the community on pressing issues. Radio-recorded messages have also been played as a means of sensitizing the communities. The topics covered during the different talk shows included: peacemaking, the activities which WPDl conducts to bring peace in the settlement, peace talks, ceasefire, peace dialogues, reconciliation, agreements, issues of human rights and responsibilities, and conflict prevention and transformation. The radio talk shows reached out to more than 120,000 listeners, with an audience of youth, women and general community members.



Peace Through Sports Program

The WPDl 'Peace Through Sports' program recognizes sports as a vehicle to transmit self and mutual respect and rules-based behavior among children and youth who have gravely suffered from conflict.



36
Sports teams



16

Female
Teams



20

Male
Teams



1,650

Youths are enrolled into our
soccer teams



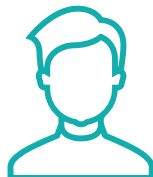
550

Women



1,100

Men



11,229

People attended sports
events at the CLC



4,449

Women



6,780

Men

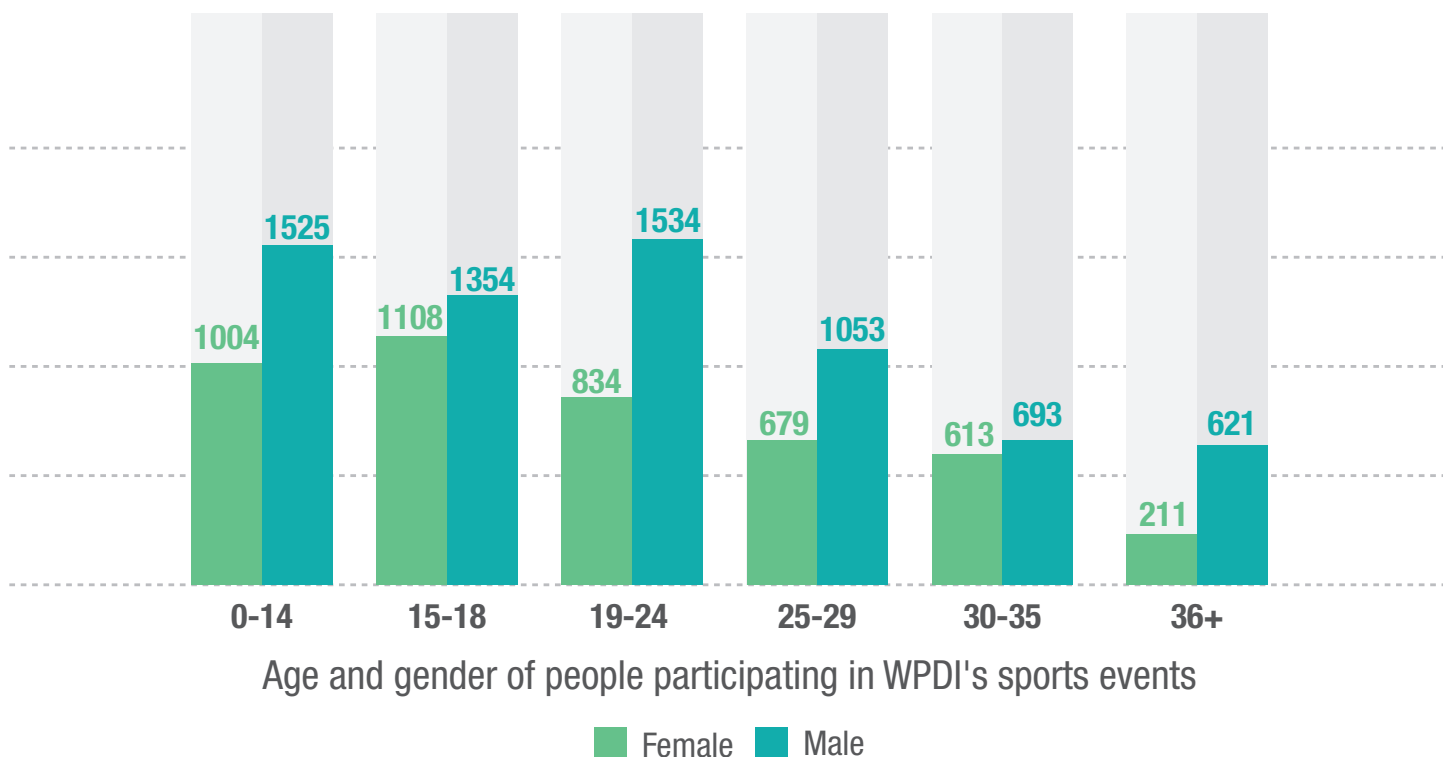


WPDI soccer teams are involved in daily training and awareness-raising sessions among the girls' and boys' teams characterized by pre-match talks and classroom sessions. Every month, a mini championship is organized featuring short, fast-paced games among the teams of the settlement and host community including soccer academies located within Kiryandongo District. Friendly games are held among WPDI soccer teams and teams within the refugee settlement and surrounding host community. Competition games are arranged among teams on a regular basis and this forms the basis of selecting players to participate in the Whitaker Peace Cup which takes place twice each year.

These events bring together many teams from different conflicting tribes, backgrounds and nationalities to mingle and play together in a team. It also involves key stakeholders from the settlement, such as the settlement Commandant, UNHCR representatives, the Federation of Uganda Football Associations District Chairperson, youths and women delegates, cluster youth representatives and the settlement youths' leaders.

The success of this tournament resides in the fact that young people from Kiryandongo are provided with an entertaining and dynamic outlet for their energy, reducing stress and anger in the at-risk population of the refugee community. There is a strengthened peaceful co-existence amongst the participants and spectators, and exposure of talent as a number of exceptional talents get noticed and are awarded gifts. The planned soccer events provided trauma relief and psychosocial support for young women and men henceforth, fostering a culture of dialogue and peaceful engagement by starting and ending each game with a handshake and discussion between competing teams on values relating to respect, non-violence and peace. Above all this promoted emotional healing, mutual respect, and peace education that has empowered a new generation of peace-builders and community leaders.

WPDI organized two Whitaker Peace Cups, 12 mini-championships, 24 competitions, and 50 friendly outreach sport events.



"I am so proud of the person I have become since I enrolled to the WPDI soccer teams as a beneficiary in the 'Peace Through Sports' program. Thanks to the opportunities given to me by the WPDI coaches to participate in the various soccer competitions, tournaments and friendly activities, I have made friends from different walks of life and tribes as a result of these encounters. I am so grateful and happy that WPDI gave me the chance to discover myself!"

Buay Super
17 year-old soccer player



"I joined the WPDI football team with the dream of being a football star but I never had the skills required like long kicks. I am grateful to WPDI for motivating me, and to my coach who trained me tirelessly. The program has also helped to keep me away from other antisocial behaviors and peer pressure. I am so grateful that my dream has come true and I am hopeful that when I get back to South Sudan, I will be able to replicate the skills I have acquired to promote sports activities and peace in my country. Thank you WPDI for supporting the girls and empowering them to promote peace."

Acen Rosemary
12 year-old soccer player



Impact Story

Meet Jerry, a 23 year-old refugee who benefitted from WPDl's training and sports program

Hi Jerry! Can you introduce yourself?

"I am Jerry Bravo, 23, a South Sudanese born in a family of five children. I am currently living in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement since I came to Uganda after the civil war that broke out in South Sudan. I took refuge in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement with my mother and four other siblings. I had lost hope in life and was heartbroken following the death of my father while we were trying to escape from the civil strife that was happening at that time."

How did you hear about the program?

"I heard about the WPDl Peace Through Sports program through my friend. What captured my attention was that my friend's life and way of behavior had radically changed and completely altered. Becoming part of WPDl was the best choice that I have ever made in my lifetime! When I joined WPDl, I realized that I was able to gain knowledge in Peacebuilding and Conflict resolution so as to contribute to peaceful co-existence in my community, participate in ICT course offered at the CLC and also contribute to the community social development through my membership as a cluster youth and participation in the weekly dialogue meetings. I also love the 'Peace Through Sports' program where I am thrilled by the pre-match talks and classroom sessions that are conducted by our trainers, and motivational speakers who encourage us and give us hope through sharing with us their experiences."

What impact do you think the program has on the lives of youth refugees?

"Young people's participation in WPDl 'Peace Through Sports' programs has helped them to attain a stress-free and anger-free environment. The program further helped us to participate in a trauma healing and rehabilitation session that is offered at the CLC. This has provided relief. I now feel emotionally healed, empowered and able to contribute to the peace building process in my community. Many participants in this program have their own stories and testimonies to tell, but this program has enhanced our capacity to build resilience, lasting peace and prosperity by empowering us and mobilizing us as partners of peace and unity."

What do you like best about the program?

"We like the Whitaker Peace Tournament! This is one of the WPDl program activities that happen here at the settlement twice a year but it is very memorable for several months because of the thrilling impact that it leaves behind. Thousands of young people from the settlement and the surrounding host communities gather together to participate in the event and celebrate peace while having fun. We experience unity in diversity, our circle of friendship is widened to reach community youths from other tribal lines, we experience a culture of dialogue and peaceful engagements."

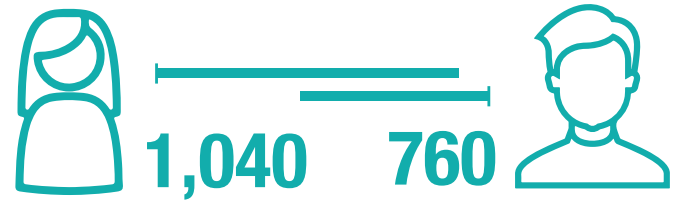
The event is always strategically organized when students come back for the school term holiday and this provides an opportunity for us to reconnect and compare our notes at the WPDI CLC. We have witnessed members from conflicting tribes mingle together and share ball games as a team. This is something that never happened before WPDI's intervention in the refugee settlement."

Did you make new friends from different communities or backgrounds?

"Yes, this is very evident, we have made lasting friendships with other children, youths and even women who are passionate about providing morale boosting as games progresses irrespective of the tribal or community differences. Taking us out of the settlement to other districts and regions of Uganda for friendly matches, competition and tournaments has further exposed us to new friends and talents found out there. We enjoy these experiences and learn best practices from each other which in turn reinforce our peaceful co-existence in the camp. We have so far made friends from different communities such as Dinka, Nuer, Acholi, Bari, Suluk and many other tribes."

Peace Engagement Days

1,800
Participants



Peace Engagement Days are social and cultural events organized to celebrate peace among different ethnic groups in the refugee settlement. It aims at fostering unity and peace. In 2022, we successfully conducted two Peace Engagement Day celebrations, reaching 1,800 people. The celebrations highlighted the topics of human rights and responsibility, peace and peaceful co-existence, mediation, mutual understanding, tolerance and reconciliation.

Peace Engagement Days increase knowledge of human rights and reduce issues of human rights violation. In 2022, the event strengthened peaceful co-existence in the refugee settlement, reduced incidences of ethnic conflict amongst the refugee community and improved working relationships between local leaders and community members.





After the immense challenges that our programs faced in Kiryandongo during the COVID-19 crisis, the results achieved by our staff and volunteers are welcomed news - not just because they demonstrate that we have fully recovered our capacity to deliver programs and services in a difficult context, but also because they demonstrate the capacity for resilience of our model. This is all the more important that, in the end, our continued presence in the settlement means that the beneficiaries have more and more skills and capacities to face the challenges.

Five years of action in the settlement have generated tangible results and, above all, realistic promises for the future of its communities. These efforts have been made possible thanks to the incredible support of our partners - Western Union Foundation, Education Above All, and L'Oréal Fund for Women - and their commitment to support our engagement on the ground, and their underwriting of our conviction that the communities residing in the settlement, notably their women and their youths, can be trusted with the driving wheel of change.

Partners



L'ORÉAL
FUND FOR WOMEN

التعليم | education
فوق | above
الجميع | all

Support from a foundation
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