



WPD Uganda

Karamoja Sub-Region

2024 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Introduction	03
Key Achievements	04
Survey Results	05
Feedback from Local & National Stakeholders	06
Vectors for Change	07
Mobilizing Youth Leaders to Drive Change at the Grassroots	08
Improving Local Access to Skills, Knowledge and Connectivity	10
Peacebuilding as Grassroots Empowerment	12
External Evaluation of the Activities Carried under the Peacebuilding Pillar	13
Bringing a Culture of Peacebuilding at the Grassroots through Our CLC	13
Cinema for Peace	15
Mediation Among Community Members	17
Community Dialogues: Safe Spaces for Sowing Seeds of Peace	17
Training Community Leaders to Cultivate Peace	21
Bringing Conflict Resolution Education Skills and Values to Schools	22
Teachers training in Conflict Resolution Education	24
Promoting Access to Education for Girls through Scholarships	26
A very positive program according to internal and external evaluations	28
Livelihood: Opportunities for Socio-Economic Empowerment	30
Capacity Building Courses	32
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	32
Business and Entrepreneurship	35
Arts and Crafts	38
Supporting Income-Generating Projects	40
Women's Livelihood Program	43
Health and Well-being: Pathways to Inner Peace	46
Delivering Trauma Healing Services in Karamoja Sub-Region	46
A Fruitful Experience at the Moroto Prison: Taking Trauma Healing to Inmates and Ward	47
Sexual and Reproductive Health Support	48
Peace Through Sports	50
Peace Engagement Days	53
Conclusion	55
Partners	57

Introduction

Nestled in the heart of Northeastern Uganda, Karamoja is a vast, semi-arid region home to 1.6 million people. Despite its rich cultural heritage and potential, Karamoja remains the most underdeveloped sub-region in Uganda, grappling with chronic poverty, food insecurity, high illiteracy rates, and malnutrition. The sub-region faces persistent challenges rooted in historical marginalization, prolonged conflict, and resource-based inter- and intra-clan disputes.

In response to these challenges, the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative (WPDI) has been actively engaged in Karamoja since 2020, implementing a comprehensive range of interventions aimed at fostering peace, improving livelihoods, enhancing health and well-being, and promoting socio-economic empowerment. WPDI's efforts are centered around empowering local communities through programs designed and implemented into four main strategic areas: Peacebuilding, Livelihood, Health and Well-being, and Sports.

The primary objectives of WPDI's interventions in Karamoja are to build sustainable peace, enhance community resilience, and create opportunities for socio-economic development. By mobilizing youth leaders, training community members, and establishing Community Learning Centers (CLCs),

WPDI aims to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to drive positive change at the grassroots level.

WPDI has made a tangible impact on the lives of thousands of individuals, fostering a culture of peace and empowering communities to overcome adversity. In 2024 alone, WPDI reached over 40,000 individuals through various training programs and initiatives, including 1,071 Conflict Resolution Education trainees, 884 Entrepreneurship trainees, and 690 Trauma Healing participants.

This year was particularly important as WPDI, thanks to key partnerships, was able to implement full-fledged programs under all four pillars, demonstrating the value of its holistic approach. This comprehensive strategy was praised by local stakeholders and validated by an external evaluation covering all WPDI's peacebuilding activities. The evaluation revealed the value of WPDI's work against international criteria, highlighting its transformative impact on the region's development and stability.

This report outlines the key achievements and outcomes of WPDI's interventions in Karamoja in 2024, showcasing the positive changes brought about by its programs and the continued progress towards a more peaceful and prosperous future for the region.



Key Achievements

Grand Total For People Reached Through WPDJ Activities In The Region: **40,078**

VECTORS OF CHANGE

300
Number of Community
Learning Center (CLC) Visitors

205
Youth
Peacemakers

14,854
Individuals Impacted by Lead
Peacemakers

PEACEBUILDING

Capacity Building

1,071
Individuals Trained in
Conflict Resolution
Education (CRE)

6,832
Participants in Cinema for
Peace Screenings

2,175
Participants in Community
Learning Center (CLC)
Advocacy Campaigns

10,078
Total Individuals Reached
through Community
Peacebuilding Activities

Peacebuilding in Schools

20
Schools
Hosting WPDJ
Peacebuilding
Programs

1,775
Students
Reached through
Peace Education
Programs

300
Parents,
Teachers, and
Administrative
Staff Trained

6,719
Individuals
Reached through
School-Based
Advocacy
Campaigns

75
Students
Supported
through
Scholarships

8,494
Total
Participants in
School-Based
Peacebuilding
Initiatives

Peacebuilding in the Community

19
Community Dialogues
Conducted

2,980
Participants in Peace
Dialogues

80
Local Leaders Trained in
Peacebuilding

3,060
Total Participants
In Community Level
Peacebuilding

LIVELIHOOD

352
Individuals Trained
in ICT (Information
and Communication
Technologies)

884
Individuals Trained
in Business and
Entrepreneurship

259
Vulnerable Women
Trained in Business
Skills

199
Individuals Trained in
Arts and Crafts

1,694
Total Individuals
Trained in Vocational
Courses

58
New Small and
Medium Enterprises
(SMEs) Created in
2024

188
Total SMEs
Supported by WPDJ

1,348
Jobs Created through
WPDJ-Supported
Enterprises

3,866
Family Members
Benefiting Indirectly
from Businesses

5,214
Total Beneficiaries
of WPDJ-Supported
SMEs (Direct and
Indirect)

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

406
Individuals
Reached through
Sexual &
Reproductive
Health Services

1,800
Participants
in Sexual &
Reproductive
Health Awareness
Events

690
Individuals
Reached through
Trauma Healing
Services

1,433
Participants in
Trauma Healing
Events

406
Students
Trained in Social
Emotional
Learning

4,735
Total
Participants in
Health & Well-
being Programss

PEACE THROUGH SPORTS

24
Sports Teams Managed By
WPDJ

288
Participants in Routine
Training Sessions

5,537
Participants in Competitions
Events

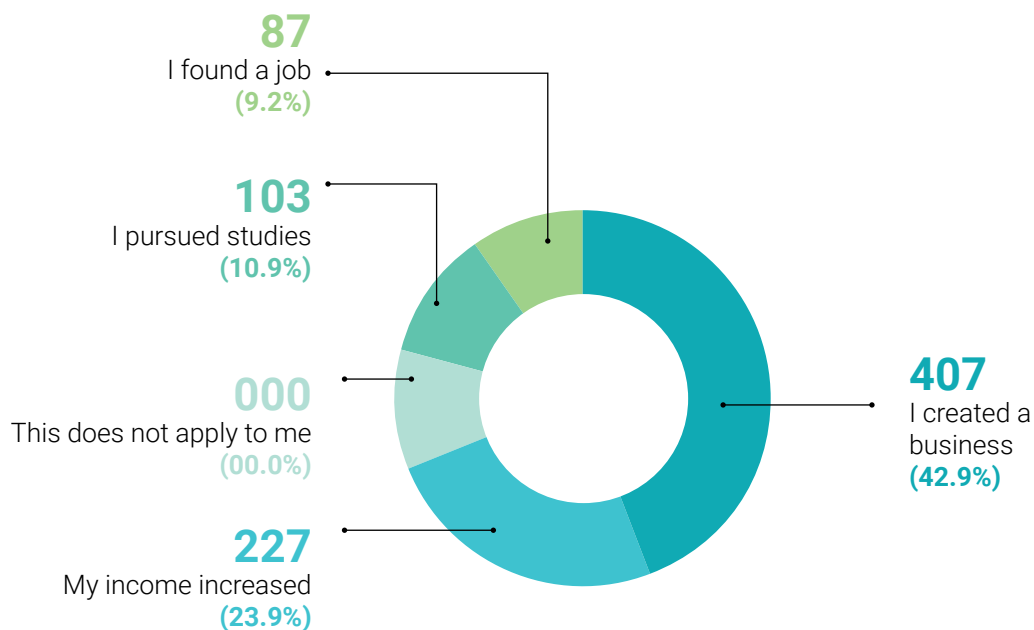
5,825
Total Participants in Sports
Activities



Survey Results

Out of 950 individuals surveyed, the following responses were collected.

Has the program improved your career prospects?



Feedback from Local & National Stakeholders

"Thank you to WPDl for all your support to us leaders of Moroto District. It wouldn't have been possible to attain the current peace in the Karamoja region if it wasn't for your assistance and input because making a peace process work requires an ideal overview of options, approaches, commitment and competence. Working with the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative this year has been most enjoyable and rewarding. The organization's programs are just the right choice for our communities. The Conflict Resolution Education training for community leaders was very relevant because it has empowered our leaders as advocates for peace in their communities and now, they can handle peace dialogues in their communities. They do mediation too."

Koryang David,
District Chairperson, Moroto



"WPDl is one of the partners in Karamoja whose work in the socio-economic space is very transparent, involving and community focused. The way they involve the respective district stakeholder and Government infrastructure in the implementation of their programs is commendable. WPDl has contributed greatly to the security and relative peace that we enjoy in Karamoja through support and participation in inter and intra district community engagement. They have supported a number of dialogues with conflicting communities and there is a peaceful co-existence between many previously them over sharing natural resources. The skilling program and support to community livelihoods through grants is one of the best things that WPDl has done and we are happy for it. As the Resident District Commissioner for Nakapiripirit and Chief Whip for the RDCs of Karamoja, I want to applaud partners like WPDl for having our region at heart"

George E. Owany,
Regional Chief Whip for Karamoja Resident District Commissioners





Vectors of Change

To create a meaningful and lasting impact, WPDI engages with local communities through vectors of change: the Youth Peacemakers, a group of young leaders who advocate for peacebuilding and conflict reduction, and Community Learning Centers (CLCs), which provide training, connectivity, and essential resources at the community level.

Mobilizing Youth Leaders to Drive Change at the Grassroots

14,854 Individuals Reached By Lead Peacemakers

27

Lead Youth Peacemakers

178

Local Youth Peacemakers

205

Total Youth Peacemakers

Karamoja sub-region, 27 Lead Youth Peacemakers and 178 local Youth Peacemakers serve as key drivers of change at the grassroots level. They support the implementation of peacebuilding initiatives, mobilize communities, and provide training in conflict resolution, equipping individuals with skills to foster peaceful coexistence within their families and communities. Their efforts have contributed to a significant shift in how conflicts are addressed, with more people applying mediation and dialogue-based approaches to resolve disputes. In 2024, the Lead Youth Peacemakers reached a total of 14,854 people, including 2,075 learners and teachers trained, 6,719 individuals reached through advocacy campaigns in schools, 2,980 participants in dialogues, and 80 local leaders trained.

This year, a significant achievement was the awareness sessions in schools and communities to educate and sensitize them on sexual reproductive health, mental health, and trauma management.

Many beneficiaries have reported significant improvements in their mental well-being after engaging in these sessions.

Beyond peacebuilding, Youth Peacemakers played a crucial role in economic empowerment by delivering Business and Entrepreneurship training to local communities. This year alone, WPDI Youth Peacemakers trained 259 vulnerable women in Business and Entrepreneurship across the sub-region, enabling them to initiate income-generating activities and improve household livelihoods.

To enhance their impact, 27 Lead Youth Peacemakers participated in a refresher training on trauma healing and mental health at the Moroto CLC. This training strengthened their ability to support individuals in need, conduct counseling sessions, and perform follow-ups more effectively. As a result, they are now better equipped to address psychological and emotional challenges within their communities.





"I am proud to serve as a Youth Peacemaker with WPDI, representing my sub-county. I carry out my work with passion because I deeply care for my community. My greatest hope is to see them rise above poverty, trauma, and discrimination to build better lives for themselves. As a single mother of three, I have faced immense challenges since my husband abandoned us. Supporting my children alone has not been easy, but becoming a Youth Peacemaker has given me strength, purpose, and resilience. The training I received from WPDI transformed me into a confident leader, capable of delivering Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) and business training, screening and counseling trauma clients, and facilitating community dialogues. Today, my community recognizes and values my efforts, as I have helped bring positive change to their lives. One of my proudest achievements is working with a group of women who had experienced trauma. Through counseling and business training, I have helped them rebuild their confidence and start income-generating activities, improving their livelihoods. Their transformation is a testament to the impact of WPDI's work. On a personal level, this journey has changed my life in ways I never imagined. I now own a plot of land, where I have built a home for my children and me. Two of my children are in school—something I once thought was beyond my reach. WPDI has not only empowered my community but has also given me the tools to create a better future for my family. For that, I am deeply grateful."

Faith Aliat,
Youth Peacemaker, from Moruita village in
Moruita sub-county



"I joined WPDI in September 2020. Through WPDI, I received extensive training in Business and Entrepreneurship, Conflict Resolution Education, computer literacy, and Trauma Healing, knowledge that has not only shaped my career but also transformed my mindset and outlook on life. These skills allow me to understand the world in ways I never had before. This year, I successfully graduated with a Diploma in Crop Production and Management (Agronomy) and am now a qualified Agricultural Extension Worker. With this expertise, I am empowering my community by providing training on best agronomic practices and promoting mindset shifts toward modern, sustainable farming to improve livelihoods.

My work as a Peacemaker has also opened doors to incredible opportunities. I have trained dozens of young men and women in my sub-county, equipping them with valuable skills to initiate positive changes in their communities. One of my proudest moments was being entrusted by the district chairperson to train political leaders in Conflict Resolution Education—a task I accomplished successfully with WPDI's support. Knowing that my community trusts me to share and apply the knowledge I've gained is an honor and a responsibility I deeply cherish.

Also, WPDI enabled me to establish a profitable business. This venture has not only supported my education—allowing me to pay my tuition—but has also helped me provide for my siblings and create employment opportunities for others."

Emmanuel Opio Logwee,
Youth Peacemaker from Karenga Sub-County in
Karenga District



Improving Local Access to Skills, Knowledge and Connectivity

17,999 Total Individuals Reach of Community Learning Center (CLC) Programs

1,071

Individuals Trained in Conflict Resolution Education (CRE)

6,832

Participants in Cinema for Peace Screenings

2,175

Participants in Community Learning Center (CLC) Advocacy Campaigns

352

Individuals Trained in ICT (Information and Communication Technologies)

884

Individuals Trained in Business and Entrepreneurship

259

Vulnerable Women Trained in Business Skills

199

Individuals Trained in Arts and Crafts

690

Participants in Trauma Healing Programs

Located in the heart of the Karamoja Sub-Region, the Moroto Community Learning Center (CLC) serves as a vital hub for WPDI's interventions in the region. As the central facility for skills training and community empowerment, the CLC provides accessible education in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Business and Entrepreneurship, Arts and Crafts, Conflict Resolution Education (CRE), and Trauma Healing to individuals from surrounding communities. Managed by a team of 11 dedicated staff members, the center has hosted 537 visitors this year, who are individuals who take advantage of the available resources such as free connectivity, books, and access to information on local events.

Notable events held at the CLC include Cinema for Peace screenings, graduation ceremonies for trainees, and peace through sports tournaments, where teams from different sub-counties engage in friendly matches after participating in peace dialogues and reconciliation sessions.

By expanding access to skills, knowledge, and technology, WPDI continues to drive meaningful change in the Karamoja Sub-Region. The impact of these initiatives is evident in the growing number of individuals who are not only improving their own lives but also contributing to the development and stability of their communities.





"I have witnessed firsthand the remarkable work WPDl has done in the Karamoja Sub-Region, particularly in my own community. Your continued support for the youth, women, and the entire sub-county has brought meaningful change. Today, you have once again stepped in to help us address a major issue, forced marriage and the violence it has inflicted on young girls and their families. This conflict had led to bloodshed and fueled deep resentment between neighboring communities. However, today's dialogue has been a turning point. The resolutions made will restore peace among my people. I sincerely pray that you continue to receive support from donors so that your incredible work can reach even more communities in need."

Lobur Elijah Lokoribok,
the Sub-County Chairperson for Rengen



"Every day, my office was overwhelmed with reports of violence and grievances from the community, and I feared the situation was spiraling out of control. I longed for a partner to step in and help mediate and reconcile our people. Today, I am relieved beyond words. This dialogue has brought long-awaited peace, and our community has wholeheartedly embraced the resolutions made. We will never forget the impact you have had on us. May we be blessed with more opportunities to extend this vital work across the Karamoja Sub-Region."

Bari Francis,
the Community Development Officer of Rengen Sub-County





Peacebuilding as Grassroots Empowerment

WPDI's peacebuilding efforts focus on grassroots empowerment, recognizing that sustainable peace starts within communities. By engaging local leaders, youth, and educators, WPDI fosters a culture of dialogue, conflict mediation, and cooperation. Through training in conflict resolution and advocacy for peace, individuals are equipped with the skills to address disputes constructively. By working closely with communities, WPDI helps bridge divides, turning conflict into opportunities for mutual understanding and long-term stability.

10,078 Total Individuals Reached through Peacebuilding Programs

1,071

Individuals Trained in
Conflict Resolution
Education (CRE)

6,832

Participants in
Cinema for Peace
Screenings

2,175

Participants
in CLC Advocacy
Campaigns

External Evaluation of the Activities Carried under the Peacebuilding Pillar

An Africa-based consultancy, QDATAMS, evaluated all the activities that WPDI carried out under its peacebuilding pillar from 2021 to 2024 in South Sudan and Uganda, including the Karamoja Sub-Region. The evaluation yielded a lot of information on the results and outcomes of our peacebuilding activities, stressing that local stakeholders consistently advocated for the continuation and expansion of WPDI's efforts.

Key lessons from the QDATAMS report include the importance of empowering local individuals for sustainable peacebuilding and integrating educational initiatives with peacebuilding efforts. This approach highlighted youth as key agents of change, in line with the UN Security Council agenda on Youth Peace and Security. WPDI's practice of engaging a wide array of stakeholders was crucial for the effectiveness, sustainability, and acceptance of its programs. The evaluators also noted that WPDI developed a strong capacity to address the needs of conflict-affected communities by equipping youth with mediation skills and training community members in conflict resolution. WPDI's integration with local actors, such as the police and community leaders, bridged trust gaps and supported local government priorities. The action of WPDI was praised for its efficiency, particularly through the Trainer of Trainees (ToT)

model. The transformative impact was evident in improved student behavior, academic performance, social interactions, strengthened inter-community relations, and economic and social empowerment. The ToT approach and continuous engagement of local leaders ensure the sustainability of the project's achievements.

In sum, the evaluators' report was generally very positive, notably highlighting particular strengths in our implementation:

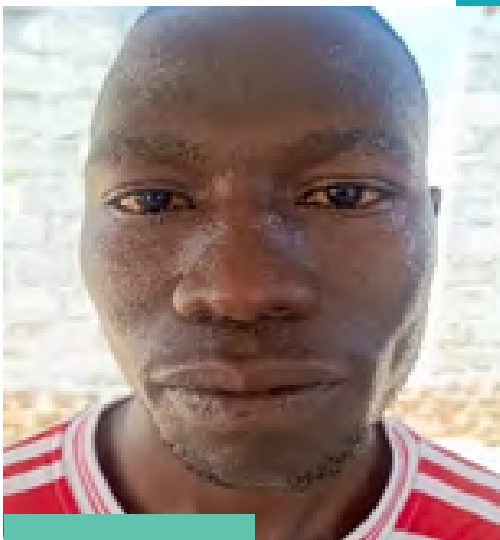
- Coherent: strong coherence on how it enhances efforts of local and national actors.
- Effective: we were able to fully achieve the objectives of the project.
- Efficient: remarkable financial and human resources efficiency through carefully designed and executed strategies.
- Impactful: the project has a transformative impact on targeted communities.
- Sustainable: the sustainability of the project achievements is supported by several strategic elements, including ToT approach and continuous engagement of local leaders and institutions.

Bringing a Culture of Peacebuilding at the Grassroots through Our CLC

In 2024, WPDI continued to implement Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) at the Moroto CLC and within local communities, reaching a total of 1,071 CRE trainees. Led by Youth Peacemakers and the Conflict Resolution Trainer, these sessions equip participants with essential skills to address and resolve conflicts peacefully, covering key topics such as Conflict Analysis, Mediation and Negotiation, and Communication & Active Listening. These topics have proven highly relevant to community leaders, who actively engage in discussions and recognize the training's importance in fostering peace and stability.

The CLC also hosted training sessions for the sports teams of our Peace Through Sports program. This has equipped them for incorporating peace dialogues before their matches, ensuring that any lingering tensions or past conflicts are addressed and diffused before competitions begin. This approach has reinforced unity and strengthened the bonds between different sub-county teams, further promoting harmony within the region. As a community hub for peace, the CLC also hosted CLC advocacy campaigns which gathered a total of 2,175 individuals throughout the year, taking opportunity of UN observances day and Women's day, in particular (celebrated March 8th).





"I am grateful for the Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) program, which has truly empowered me. Before joining the training, I was short-tempered and often reacted harshly in difficult situations. However, through lessons in peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding, my mindset has transformed. I have learned valuable techniques for maintaining inner peace, which have helped me manage challenges with a positive outlook. Even my friends have noticed a change, saying I now appear calmer and happier than before. This program has significantly improved my way of life, and I am excited to continue applying these skills to foster peace in my community."

Lotem Mark,
CRE Trainee from Napedo Village



"The Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) program has had a profound impact on my understanding of handling conflicts. In the past, I believed that force and intimidation were the best ways to resolve disputes. However, through this training, I have learned more effective strategies such as avoidance and accommodation rather than confrontation. I am truly grateful for this opportunity, as it has transformed not only my perspective but also that of my fellow teammates in the Tapac Sub County girls' football team. Thanks to the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative, we are now equipped with the knowledge to resolve conflicts peacefully and create a more harmonious community."

Lolem Agnes,
CRE Trainee from Tapac Village



Cinema for Peace

Our Cinema for Peace program is another of the key activities offered at our CLC. It is designed to engage children in meaningful conversations about peace and reconciliation by building on films they have watched together. By showcasing movies with powerful characters and narratives centered on peace and conflict resolution, we aim to inspire a culture of peace that is rooted in entertaining cultural practices. Over the course of 2024, 13 screenings took place, engaging a total of 6,832 pupils, students,

and community members. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with participants showing great enthusiasm and engagement. Children found inspiration in the courageous characters portrayed in the films, drawing lessons that helped shape their aspirations and dreams as they grew. After each screening, interactive discussions were held to reflect on the lessons learned, fostering a deeper understanding of peacebuilding and conflict resolution.



"Whenever I return home for the holidays, my first stop is always the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative office because of its inspiring Cinema for Peace program. I first learned about it while enrolling in a computer course at WPD. Before watching these peace-themed films, I often found myself fueling trouble and conflicts. However, I have learned to be fearless, to use my talents for positive change, and to help solve problems rather than create them."

Ekong Aaron,
Cinema for Peace Participant in Soroti District





"I live in Camp Swahili Juu village in Moroto District and first heard about the Cinema for Peace program through a friend. This program has helped me overcome many personal challenges. I see myself as brave and fearless, like the characters in the films. I truly believe this program should continue to inspire and uplift the children of the Karamoja Sub-Region, helping them become responsible citizens who contribute to the development of Uganda."

Akol Emily Modo,
Cinema for Peace Participant



Cinema for Peace Transforms Moroto High School

Moroto High School, a mixed government-aided secondary school in the heart of Moroto Municipality, has long struggled with student unrest. In the past, it experienced strikes, with students rebelling against school policies and causing damage to property.

As the first term was ending, students refused to attend lessons, boycotted meals, and openly defied school authorities. The situation was spiraling out of control, and another violent strike seemed inevitable.

A Timely Intervention: The Power of Cinema for Peace

At this critical moment, WPDI had a scheduled Cinema for Peace session at the school. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the CRE team swiftly mobilized the students for the program. They screened a film that mirrored the very crisis unfolding at Moroto High. The students watched intently, seeing their own struggles reflected in the story on screen. As the film concluded, a facilitated discussion followed, encouraging students to reflect on the consequences of their actions and explore alternative ways to express their grievances.

Encouraged by the powerful message in the film, they resolved to present their concerns constructively to the school administration. The planned strike was averted, and classes resumed smoothly. By the end of

the term, peace and order had prevailed, a testament to the power of storytelling and structured dialogue.

Student Testimonial: A New Perspective on Conflict Resolution

Reflecting on the experience, Lokong John, a Senior Four student, expressed his gratitude: "Special thanks to WPDI for the Cinema for Peace program. Our attitude toward strikes has completely changed. After watching the movie, many of us realized that engaging with the school administration was a much better approach than resorting to destruction. I am confident that today's interaction will lead to a lasting change among my fellow students."

Trainer's Reflection: The Lasting Impact of the Program

"The Cinema for Peace program at Moroto High School was a turning point. During the reflection session, it was clear that students understood why striking was not the solution. They engaged in meaningful discussions and ultimately chose peaceful means to air their grievances. The school administration was deeply appreciative, noting that teachers felt more motivated to continue their work after seeing a positive change in student attitudes." Loumo Moses

Mediation Among Community Members

3,060 Total Individuals Engaged in Community-Level Peacebuilding Activities

19

Community Dialogues Held

2,980

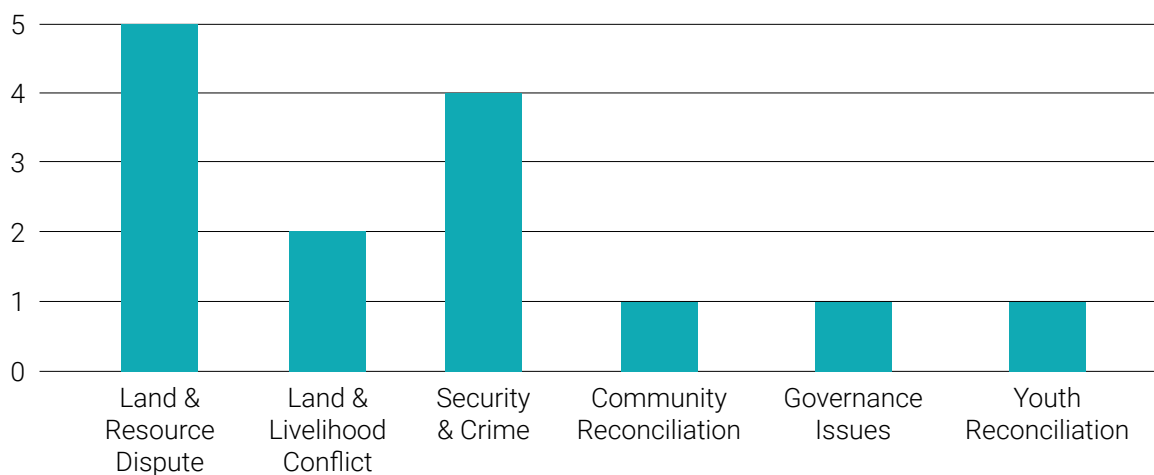
Participants In Dialogues

80

Local Leaders Trained

Community Dialogues: Safe Spaces for Sowing Seeds of Peace

Issues raised during community dialogues



In 2024, WPDI fostered peace across the Karamoja Sub-Region region by facilitating community dialogues that brought 2,980 people together to resolve conflicts and strengthen relationships. WPDI supported 19 such dialogues in areas experiencing tensions, responding to requests from district chairpersons eager to find peaceful solutions to ongoing disputes. These dialogues have created safe spaces for open discussions on critical issues such as cattle conflicts, land disputes, resource-sharing challenges, and the illegal possession of firearms. By engaging local leaders, security personnel, and community members, these meetings have led to actionable resolutions that not only address immediate concerns but also promote long-term stability.

One of the most impactful dialogues took place in Apeitolim, where pastoral communities from Napak

and Kapelebyong districts gathered to discuss challenges related to access to grazing land and water sources. Amidst a severe drought and ongoing cattle conflicts, tensions between these neighboring districts had been rising. The dialogue, attended by 300 community members, provided an opportunity to acknowledge the root causes of these conflicts, including uncoordinated migration patterns and the lack of resource-sharing knowledge among pastoralists. Concerns were also raised about children being used to herd cattle instead of attending school, as well as inadequate security presence in the area. As a result of these discussions, community members committed to informing local leaders before migrating to prevent misunderstandings, identifying individuals responsible for disrupting peace, and ensuring that adults, rather than children, take responsibility for cattle herding.



Another significant dialogue took place on December 7, 2024, in Rengen Sub-County. It tackled forced marriages and their relation to cattle raiding. Tensions had escalated between the Kotyang and Ngirengen clans due to young men forcing girls into

marriage through violence, often leading to injuries and deaths. The elders imposed strict penalties, including heavy fines in money and cattle, while also promoting reconciliation between the two clans.





"Thank you WPDl for supporting today's meeting with local leaders present. I am very happy and confident the two communities will enjoy the sharing of water and pasture as discussed. It is evident that co-existence will prevail. We have been having a lot of struggles over sharing the water and pasture for animals between the lteso and the Karimojong, there have been attacks and counter attacks between these two ethnic groups. The dialogue we have had today was a good one and from the interactions among the conflicting members, there has been a harmonious resolution to live peacefully. WPDl you have done us well by bringing us together."

Atim Miriam,
District Vice Chairperson, Kapelebyong district



"As a Reformed warrior, I am happy and confident that peace is here to stay permanently because the entire Youth of the Ateker cluster are here discussing pertinent issues that will develop our region. With a commitment to education I am seeing a bright future for our children. Personally, though I am not educated, I have seen the value of education and I have taken my two children to school. The government must ensure education is affordable and schools are improved. Thank you WPDl for supporting us at the dialogue meeting"

Loyep Mark,
Community Dialogue Participant in Lopeei Sub County, Napak district



Embracing Peace for a Peaceful Coexistence in the Karamoja Sub-Region

A Gathering for Peace

On April 24, 2024, in the heart of Nakamuryai Moruita Sub-county, a dialogue, led by Youth Peacemaker Aliat Faith, brought together 499 members of the Pokot and Pian communities. They had been long caught in the cycle of cattle rustling, raids, and land conflicts so the dialogue provided a rare opportunity for open discussion, reconciliation, and commitment to peace.

Breaking the Cycle of Cattle Raiding and Land Disputes

The elders, weary of the bloodshed, stood together to demand an end to violence, and those who defied this resolution would face severe consequences. The communities agreed to unite, recognizing that they must share their grazing lands rather than fight over them. For generations, these lands had been a source of both sustenance and conflict, but today, the elders vowed that no more lives would be lost over them.

Testimonial from an Elder

"I have been waiting for this peace dialogue. I thank those who made it possible for us to meet with our leaders and neighbors to talk about peace. We want peace, and today in this meeting, we accept peace. I want to ask the youth to release the guns, which are a source of conflict, violence, and pain. Thank you, WPD, for bringing us together. We shall reconcile today and be united forever."



Acknowledgment from Leadership

Among those in attendance was the LC3 Chairperson for Karita Sub-county in Amudat District, who praised WPD's efforts in facilitating the peace dialogues. "Thank you very much, WPD, for supporting peace dialogues in Karita Sub-county," he said. "We pledge our support to you, and we pray that you continue fostering peace and standing with us."

A Personal Victory for a Youth Peacemaker

For Aliat Faith, the young Peacemaker who worked tirelessly to mobilize the communities, this was a deeply personal victory. "As a child of the soil," she said, "I feel very grateful to WPD for always endeavoring to facilitate mediations and reconciliations. Seeing the Pokot and Pian embrace peace and commit to unity gives me hope for a better future."



Training Community Leaders to Cultivate Peace

In regions affected by conflict, it is crucial that leaders are equipped with the skills necessary to mediate disputes and foster peace in general, and it is also critical that they have the capacity to follow up on the results, thereby ensuring the long-term sustainability of WPDI's action. To this effect, we maintained in 2024, our efforts to provide skills to local leaders across the Karamoja Sub-Region. 80 leaders were trained, with many expressing that the knowledge came at the right time, giving them a deeper understanding

of conflict dynamics and resolution strategies. They are now able to recognize early signs of conflict both at home and in the community, take proactive measures to prevent escalation, and apply structured approaches to resolve conflicts when they arise. The training was conducted across various districts, with leaders mobilized by their district chairpersons. They were taken through 12 key topics, including Conflict Analysis, Early Warning Systems, Mediation, Negotiation, Servant Leadership, and Reconciliation.



"Peace is fundamental for sustainable development, and WPDI's training came at the perfect time. As a local leader, I was fortunate to gain essential skills in mediation, negotiation, and peacebuilding, skills that proved invaluable as my young warriors were embroiled in bitter conflicts with neighboring communities. I took the initiative to organize mediation sessions, facilitating dialogues between warring clans and even across district borders. With support from WPDI, I played a key role in resolving conflicts, including recent tensions between the Tepeth and Matheniko communities over cattle theft. By spearheading negotiations and fostering dialogue, I have helped counter ongoing hostilities and bring stability to Moroto District."

Lokir Emmanuel,
a District Youth Councillor for Katikekile Sub-county



"I initially joined the training thinking it would be just a refresher course. However, I was surprised to discover entirely new concepts that transformed my understanding of conflict resolution. I had no idea about situational analysis and conflict approaches before this training. With these new techniques, I am confident that I can better serve my community. Thank you, WPDI, for this invaluable knowledge."

Lobere James,
from Kaabong District



Bringing Conflict Resolution Education Skills and Values to Schools

As part of its efforts to empower and build resilience among young people in the Karamoja Sub-Region, WPDI has been actively implementing peace initiatives in schools. By integrating CRE and peacebuilding training into both primary and secondary school curricula, WPDI ensures that students acquire essential skills and values that promote harmony and personal growth. This year, WPDI successfully trained 1,275 pupils across 15 elementary schools and 500 students across five secondary schools in the region. The pupils also engaged in advocacy campaigns within their schools. These campaigns

focused on critical issues that could impact their future, such as alcoholism, misconduct, absenteeism, and disrespect towards teachers and authority figures. By addressing these challenges through advocacy, the students were encouraged to refocus their energies on their studies and steer clear of negative behaviors, setting a foundation for healthier, more productive futures. These initiatives not only shape students into responsible individuals but also foster a culture of peace within schools, preparing the next generation to become proactive agents of positive change in their communities.

8,494 Total Participants in School-Based Peacebuilding Initiatives

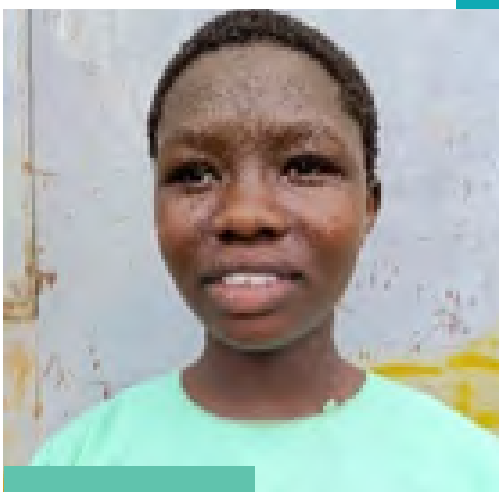
20
Schools
Hosting WPDI
Peacebuilding
Programs

1,775
Students
Reached
through Peace
Education
Activities

300
Parents,
Teachers, and
Administrative
Staff Trained

6,719
Individuals
Reached
through
School-Based
Advocacy
Campaigns

75
Students
Supported
through Peace
Scholarships



"Through today's advocacy campaign, we discussed many issues related to indiscipline, such as fighting, disrespecting teachers, stealing, skipping classes, and drinking alcohol. We now understand the negative effects of indiscipline. It can lead to poor performance, absenteeism, dropping out of school, and even imprisonment, which negatively impacts our lives. I've decided to change for the better because I want to achieve my dream of completing school and becoming someone important in life. I want to make my parents proud by excelling in my exams. Thank you, WPDI, for these powerful messages."

Lolem Regina,
student from Kasemeri Primary School,
Moroto District





“Before I joined the peace education program, I often behaved poorly, showing disrespect towards my teachers, parents, and fellow students. However, after attending the Conflict Resolution training by WPD, I have become a completely changed person. My attitude and behavior towards teachers and classmates have improved significantly, and even my teachers and peers have noticed the positive transformation in me. I used to be chaotic and caused a lot of conflicts at school, but now, I feel different—both in my heart and in how I interact with others. I am truly grateful to the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative for bringing this program to our school.”

Lopeyok David,
student from St. Kizito Lorengedwat Senior
Secondary School in Nabilatuk District



Addressing Alcoholism at St. Kizito Lorengedwat Secondary School

St. Kizito Lorengedwat Secondary School, located in the rural Nabilatuk District, attracts students from both within and outside of the Karamoja Sub-Region. While the school holds strong values, it faced a significant challenge due to the local context in which it operates. In the surrounding community, alcohol over-consumption is prevalent. Unfortunately, this culture of drinking influenced the students, who began to adopt the habit of sneaking away from school to drink alcohol. This led to rising absenteeism, poor academic performance, misconduct, and engagement in unhealthy relationships. The impact on the students' discipline and education was becoming increasingly worrying.

WPDI Steps in to Address the Issue

In response to this growing issue, the leadership of St. Kizito Lorengedwat Secondary School and the local community leaders reached out to WPDI for support. WPDI organized an advocacy campaign aimed at educating the students on the dangers of alcohol consumption and its negative effects, especially on young people. The campaign focused on raising awareness about the risks associated with drinking and provided a platform for students to engage in discussions about the importance of education, discipline, and personal responsibility.

Engagement and Reflection from the Students

The advocacy session was met with great enthusiasm from the students, who were actively involved in the discussions. Many students expressed a desire to break free from the habit of drinking and focused on making positive choices for their future.

Testimonial from a School Patron

Esadu John, a patron at St. Kizito Lorengedwat Secondary School, remarked on the effectiveness of

the advocacy campaign: "Some of the students are involved in acts of drinking, which has affected their attitudes and performance. With today's advocacy campaign, we hope they will truly understand their responsibilities, rights, and how to respond to issues affecting them in a constructive way. Thank you, WPDI, for your efforts towards education in the Karamoja Sub-Region."

The Role of the Youth Peacemaker

The youth peacemaker involved in the advocacy campaign, who had witnessed firsthand the transformation in students' attitudes, shared their experience: "The advocacy campaign at St. Kizito Lorengedwat Secondary School was impactful. Students were very receptive to the message about the dangers of alcohol. By engaging them in open discussions, we were able to help them understand the importance of making responsible decisions for their future. It was clear that they were motivated to change their behavior and focus on their education."

The Positive Long-Term Impact on School and Community

As a result of this intervention, there was a noticeable shift in the students' behavior. Many stopped skipping school to drink, and absenteeism decreased significantly. The students began to take their studies more seriously, and their performance in school improved. The students began to make positive decisions regarding their future, and a new sense of responsibility and discipline emerged.

Teachers training in Conflict Resolution Education

Given that teachers interact with students daily, they are often the first to witness and address conflicts between students. However, many teachers find themselves unequipped to resolve these issues effectively. With this in mind, WPDI recognized the need to empower teachers with the skills to handle

and mediate conflicts, ensuring they could better support their students in overcoming challenges. WPDI incorporated teachers into its peacebuilding and conflict resolution initiatives. 150 teachers attended the CRE comprehensive three-day training, which took place in schools across these districts.



"This training has enriched me with valuable knowledge and practical skills that help me better engage with my learners and the members of my community, many of whom are struggling with fear, desperation, and unforgiveness. Topics like understanding conflict, identifying its sources and types, and exploring various conflict resolution approaches have been instrumental in fostering peace and harmony in my interactions. I now have a deeper understanding of my community and a renewed sense of compassion for this region. Thank you for investing in our school and community."

Okudra Florence,
teacher at St. Kizito Senior Secondary School



"Swallow your pride and acknowledge that learning never ends. Before the CRE training, there were several topics I didn't give enough attention to, especially the concept of diversity. I now realize how crucial it is to understand diversity more deeply and embrace the fact that we are all united. This understanding has had a significant impact on my life and the entire community. I once thought I knew everything, but this experience has shown me that learning is an ongoing journey."

Agan Joshua,
Deputy Head Teacher, Moroto High School



Promoting Access to Education for Girls through Scholarships

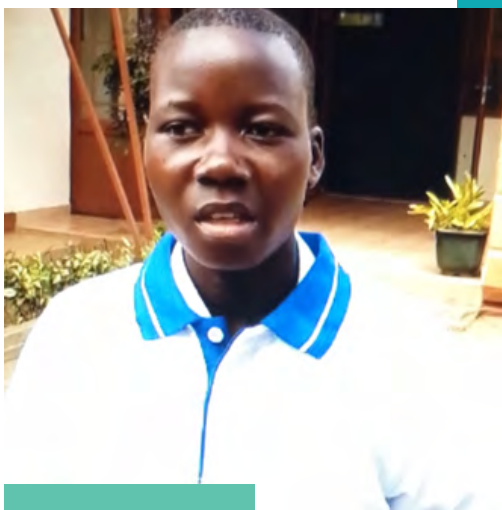
Through its scholarship program, WPDl has continued to support 75 vulnerable adolescent girls from the Karamoja Sub-Region since 2023 in their pursuit of secondary education. The girls are in eight secondary schools in the region, where WPDl provides not only tuition and school supplies but also ongoing mentorship, until the girls will graduate in 2028. Given the challenges these girls face, including the pressures of adolescence, indecisiveness, and the difficult backgrounds they come from, regular mentorship, counseling, and

guidance are essential to their success. This year, WPDl conducted mentorship programs at each of their respective schools to help these girls develop crucial life skills, stay focused on their studies, and maintain the discipline necessary to prevent school dropouts. The mentorship was delivered by WPDl staff, district education officers, school directors of studies, and their personal school mentors. The girls clearly appreciated these sessions, as they were visibly encouraged and uplifted by the support they received.



"I want to take this opportunity to thank WPDl for always supporting us. Thank you for the scholastic materials you have consistently provided. Thank you for giving us the chance to pursue our education. At one point, I had given up on ever finishing my studies, but you came into my life and rescued me from that situation. I will always remain grateful for what you have done for me, and I promise I will never disappoint you, but will make you proud."

Nachap Maureen,
student at Kangole Girls School



"To WPDl, our sponsors, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for your support of us girls under the scholarship program. Without your help, I would not be where I am today, as I had lost all hope for the future. I would likely be somewhere in the village, struggling and without any opportunity. Please continue supporting us, we will never disappoint you, but we will embrace our studies with all our hearts. I promise that I will not disappoint you, as I never want to return to the difficult situation you helped me escape. I hope more opportunities will arise so you can continue supporting the vulnerable girls of the Karamoja Sub-Region."

Koryang Sarah,
student at, Kangole Girls School



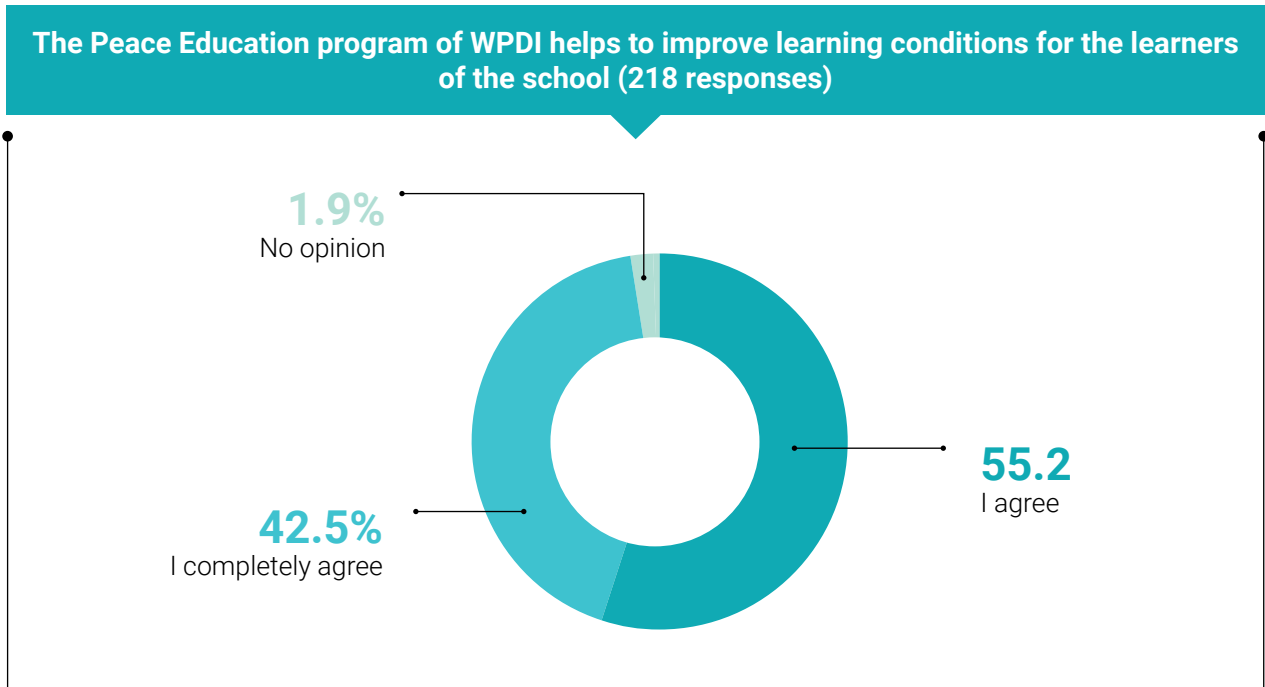
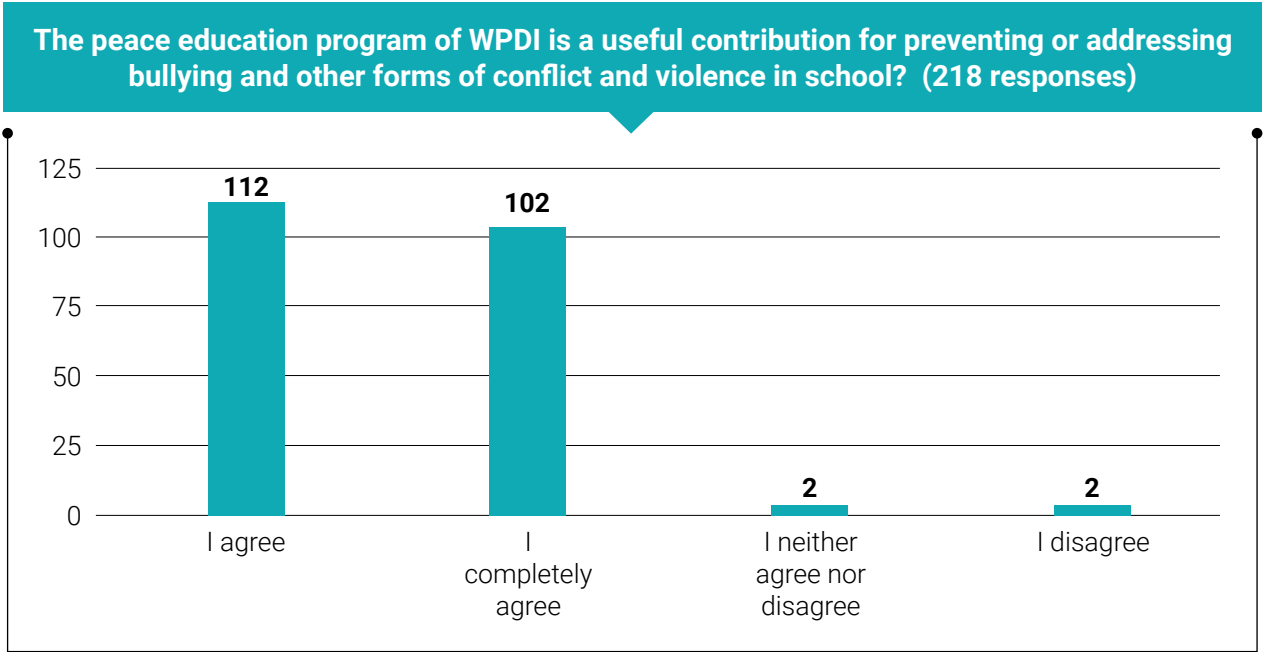


A very positive program according to internal and external evaluations

Internal Evaluation:

To assess the outcomes of its Conflict Resolution Education program, WPDI conducts surveys among teachers, administrators and parents of our partner schools. In the survey conducted in 2024 within school communities of Karamoja, where WPDI runs peace education programs, 218 educators at 7 schools provided feedback on these activities. 99% of them agreed on the affirmation that ‘The program

of WPDI is effectively teaching and promoting peaceful attitudes, self-discipline, non-violence, and other civic mindsets’. 98% of them agreed that ‘The peace education program of WPDI is a useful contribution for preventing or addressing bullying and other forms of conflict and violence in school’. Very importantly, 96% of them agreed that ‘The Peace Education program of WPDI helps to improve learning conditions for the learners of the school’.



External Evaluation:

The results of these surveys were corroborated by the external evaluation of 2024, noting that “Most students informed the study that their participation in peace clubs has bolstered their understanding of conflict avoidance and the promotion of peaceful interactions, ultimately contributing to a more peaceful and harmonious school environment. As shared by one student, “...being part of the peace club taught me how to avoid conflicts and promote peace among my peers. I now actively contribute to creating a peaceful environment in my school...” (Focus Group Discussant, Junior Peacemaker FGD in Karamoja)

The evaluators added that “The peace programs have also significantly reduced disciplinary issues within schools. Both students and teachers reported fewer cases of indiscipline, with students becoming proactive in mediating conflicts among their peers. Key Interviews with teachers highlighted how the peace clubs have reduced the workload of the disciplinary committees as students have learned to resolve their disputes through negotiation and dialogue. This shift in responsibility has empowered students and created a more peaceful atmosphere in schools.”





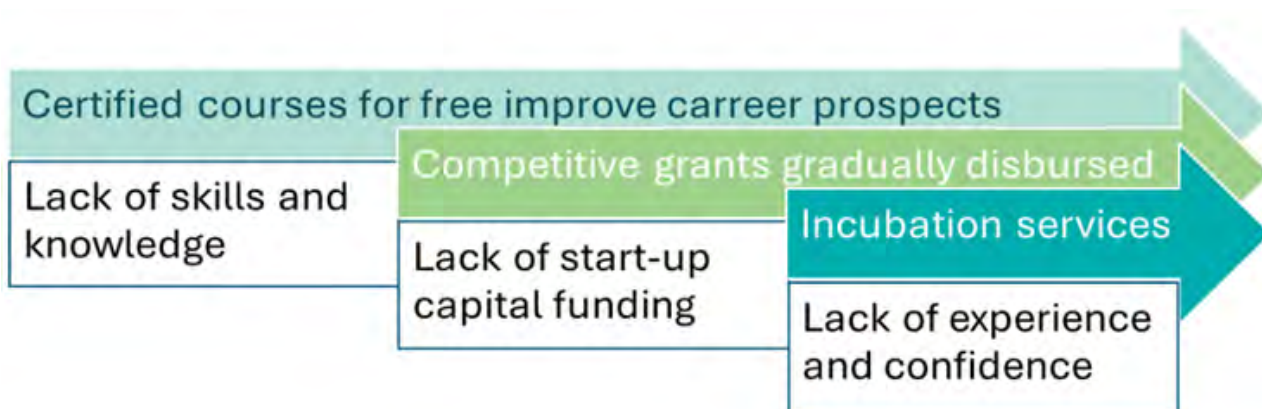
Livelihood: Opportunities for Socio- Economic Empowerment

WPDI's livelihood initiatives are designed to break the cycle of poverty and violence that affect fragility-affected communities by equipping individuals with practical skills that enhance their employability and economic independence. Through vocational training programs in ICT, Business and Entrepreneurship, and Arts and Crafts, beneficiaries gain valuable knowledge that enables them to pursue career opportunities and start their own businesses. To further support aspiring entrepreneurs, WPDI organizes business plan competitions that provide startup grants and mentorship, helping transform innovative ideas into sustainable enterprises. In 2024, the program has continued to expand, reaching more individuals and fostering self-reliance within communities. By bridging the gap between peacebuilding and economic empowerment, WPDI ensures that communities can translate stability into long-term prosperity.

WPDI's Business Bootcamp: Supporting Entrepreneurship in Fragility-affected Contexts

Any obstacle or bottleneck that aspiring entrepreneurs and the managers of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) usually face in normal places will be drastically aggravated in environments chronically affected by violence, poverty, and marginalization. Yet, as peace and development are two sides of the same coin, overcoming those obstacles is even more vital to ensure that individuals have access to endogenous and sound sources of revenue while communities can host key services rather than depending on outside or distant providers for them.

WPDI has identified three critical bottlenecks that we address through our Business Bootcamp: an integrated platform that combines the main assets aspiring entrepreneurs need to thrive.



Capacity Building Courses

1,694 Total Individuals Trained in Vocational Courses

352

Individuals Trained
in ICT (Information
and Communication
Technologies)

884

Individuals Trained
in Business and
Entrepreneurship

259

Vulnerable Women
Trained in Business
Skills

199

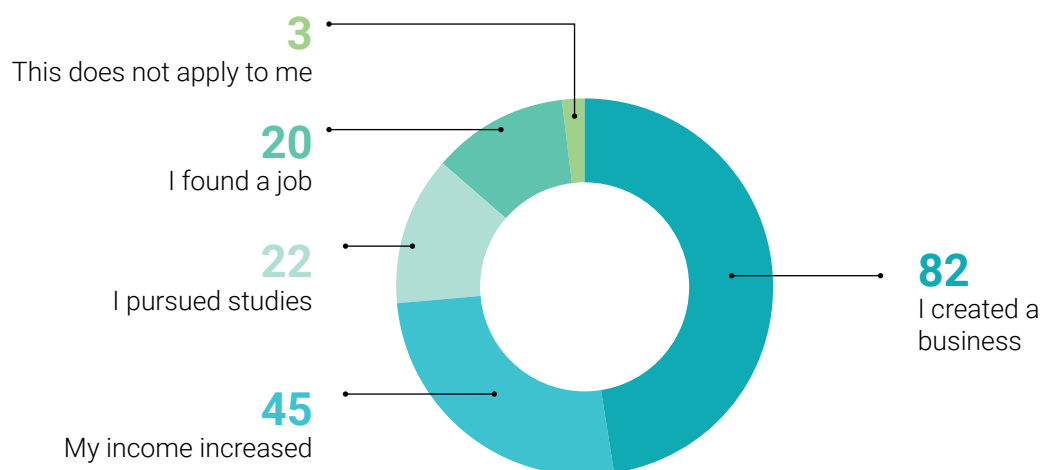
Individuals
Trained in Arts and
Crafts

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

In the Karamoja Sub-Region, as in most urban centers, there is a growing demand for digital literacy. The importance of this training cannot be overstated, especially in today's digital world, where ICT skills are essential for both personal and professional success. Recognizing this, WPDJ has made it a priority to empower local communities with ICT skills, which in turn helps individuals improve their livelihoods and opportunities. Throughout the year, WPDJ reached out to a total of 352 trainees at the Community Learning Center (CLC), providing them with valuable ICT training that opened new doors for personal and professional growth.

This year, two districts, Moroto and Kaabong, expressed interest in enhancing ICT skills of their local government staff. Responding to this request, WPDJ facilitated an ICT training program for 51 civil servants, including staff from Nadunget sub-county and Parish chiefs from Kaabong District. These trainees were equipped with practical skills in various ICT areas, including the components of a computer, word processing, PowerPoint presentations, Excel spreadsheets, internet usage, social media, Gmail, and cloud computing. At the end of the training, all 51 participants were successfully certified, marking a significant achievement in their professional development.

Has the program improved your career prospects?
172 responses from all ICT trainees, Karamoja (2024)





"Before I joined WPDI's ICT training, I struggled with using computers at my workplace, which put my job at risk of termination. However, after acquiring skills in computer applications, everything changed. I am now proficient in word processing, creating PowerPoint presentations, and using Excel spreadsheets. Thanks to these skills, my work has become much more manageable, and I've been promoted from receptionist to secretary. This promotion has significantly improved my standard of living, including an increase in my salary. I'm incredibly grateful to WPDI for this opportunity, and I'm proud of the growth it has enabled in my career."

Nambozo Beatrice,
Nambozo Beatrice, ICT graduate from Gulu
University College in Moroto



Thanks to the skills I gained from WPDI, I've become an essential asset in my department at the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF), especially in records management and data storage. I now handle ammunition records with confidence, using computer applications like Microsoft Word and Excel. I've also become proficient in internet use, which makes my daily tasks much easier. These skills have elevated me to a higher position in the store management department, where I manage and securely store all ammunition records. I'm thankful to WPDI for investing in my development, and I'm committed to continuing to invest in myself with the valuable skills I've acquired, which will benefit me for a lifetime."

Mr. Odongo Freddy,
ICT graduate



The ICT Training Transformed Okello Robert's Personal and Professional Life

Technological Challenge at Work

Okello Robert, a 32-year-old soldier at the Army Primary School in Moroto Army Barracks, found himself facing a significant challenge in his work. His role required him to design report cards and manage various office documents, tasks that he struggled with due to a lack of computer skills. Despite his dedication, the inability to efficiently handle these tasks on a computer was a constant hurdle in his professional life.



Discovery of the Program

His breakthrough came when a former trainee, a friend of his, informed him about the ICT training program offered by WPD I. Motivated by the prospect of gaining the skills he needed, Robert decided to enroll.

Transformation After the Training

Since completing the training, his work has transformed. Robert is now able to design report cards and handle various office tasks with ease, something he had previously struggled with. "I am very happy now because I can use computers effectively, something I couldn't do before. The computer lessons I received from WPD I have made a huge difference in my work life," Robert says.

Reflections from Participants

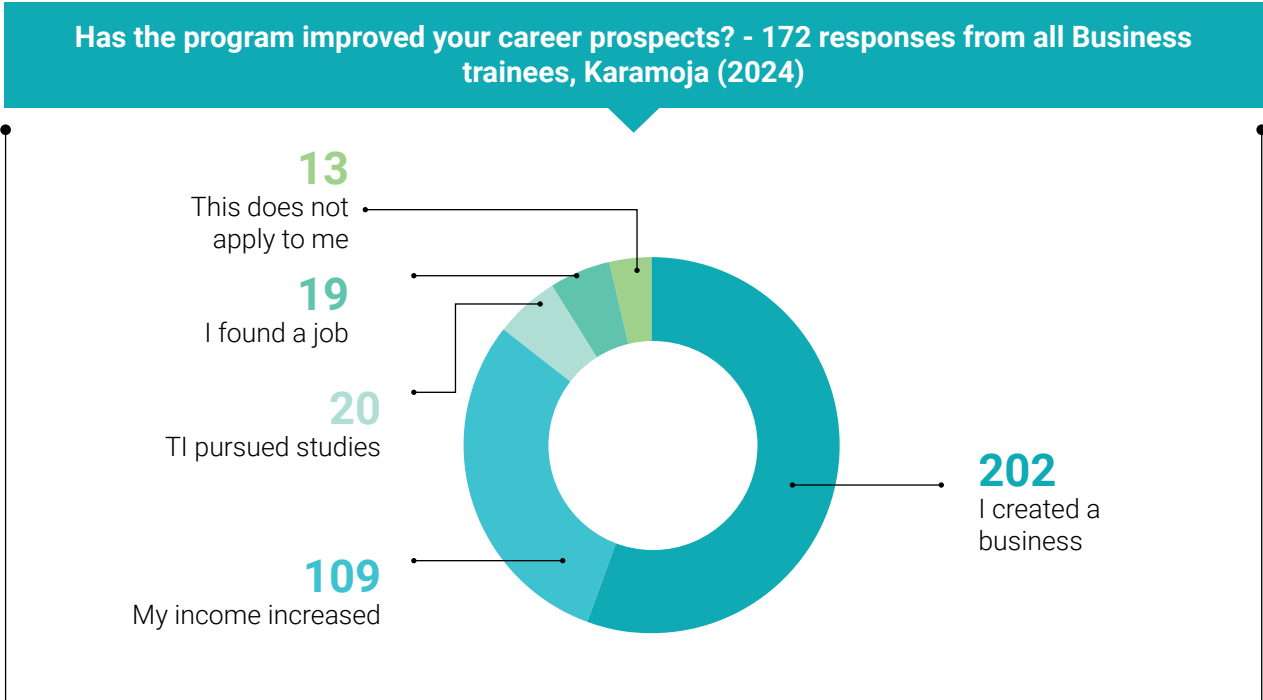
Reflecting on the impact of the training, Robert expresses his deep gratitude: "I thank WPD I for granting me the opportunity to learn digital skills. These skills have eased my work and made my job much more manageable." His story is a testament to the power of knowledge and how a simple skill can have a profound effect on both an individual's personal and professional life.

With the skills he has gained, Robert is now better equipped to handle his responsibilities and is more confident in his role. "Long live WPD I in embracing peace," he adds, grateful for the chance to improve not only his professional life but also his community.

Business and Entrepreneurship

Throughout the year, WPDI has worked to empower communities both within and around Moroto. The skills imparted through these programs have a transformative effect, creating lasting change that reaches all members of the household. As the world increasingly shifts toward business and income-generating activities, it has become essential for communities to understand how to run businesses

and manage economic ventures. The CLC, serving as a central hub, has attracted numerous community members from Moroto, who have recognized the importance of these skills. Thanks to the program, 884 individuals have been trained in Business and Entrepreneurship over the year, gaining valuable business knowledge that will continue to impact their lives and communities for years to come.



"I am deeply grateful for the business skills training I received from WPDI. The expert guidance I received has given me the tools to turn my entrepreneurial dreams into a reality. I gained invaluable knowledge in business planning, marketing, and financial management. The training boosted my confidence in business, teaching me how to handle and retain customers while attracting loyal ones. I now know how to develop a business plan, conduct market research, and create marketing strategies that produce results. One of the most important lessons I learned was resilience. I now understand that despite the challenges businesses face, resilience enables you to navigate through them. I feel confident in my ability to succeed in the business world and achieve my goals. WPDI truly exceeded my expectations. I highly recommend this training to anyone looking to start or grow their business. Thank you for your continued support of our communities."

Napeyok Doreen,
Business and Entrepreneurship Graduate





"I run a general merchandise business, but before joining the business skills training, my business was struggling. I couldn't track my transactions or understand the true value of my work. Managing the business was a challenge because I lacked the proper skills. However, after joining the training, I learned everything I was missing. I now understand my business's strengths and weaknesses, and I feel much more confident in managing it. Thanks to the skills I gained, I am sure that my business will grow and thrive. I am thankful to WPDl for supporting the youth and women of Karamoja and helping us reach our full potential."

Atim Irene,
Business and Entrepreneurship Graduate
from Katikekile Sub-county



Empowering Growth: The Success Story of Karamoja Buzzy Bee Association

Background of Karamoja Buzzy Bee Association

Karamoja Buzzy Bee Association is a group of five passionate individuals from Moruita Sub-County in Nakapiripirit District who began their beekeeping journey in 2022. Despite initial enthusiasm, the group's dream of establishing a successful beekeeping business was nearly hindered by financial constraints. The group learned about WPDI's business skills training program through advertisements from the sub-county. Motivated by the opportunity to improve their situation, they enrolled in the program.

The group faced significant financial barriers that threatened their ability to turn their beekeeping business into a reality. The lack of funding was a key obstacle to achieving their goals.

WPDI's Role and Support

WPDI's business skills training equipped the group with essential knowledge in business planning, marketing, and entrepreneurship. The association also participated in WPDI's business plan competition and emerged as winners. Their prize, a grant of USD 2,250, was instrumental in helping them overcome their financial challenges.

Achievements and Impact

Since receiving the support, Karamoja Buzzy Bee Association has made notable strides. They have created employment opportunities for 31 farmers who supply raw honey and have trained six young individuals in apiary farming, with plans for DIT registration in the upcoming year. Beekeeping has become a reliable source of income for the group, contributing to their financial stability.

Testimonial and Future Plans

Loli Sam, the chairperson of the Karamoja Buzzy Bee Association, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the support from WPDI: "We extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to WPDI for your invaluable support. With renewed confidence and expertise, we look forward to expanding our operations by increasing the number of hives and exploring new markets, empowering more youth by providing life skills training and mentorship, and sustaining our growth to ensure the long-term viability of our beekeeping business."



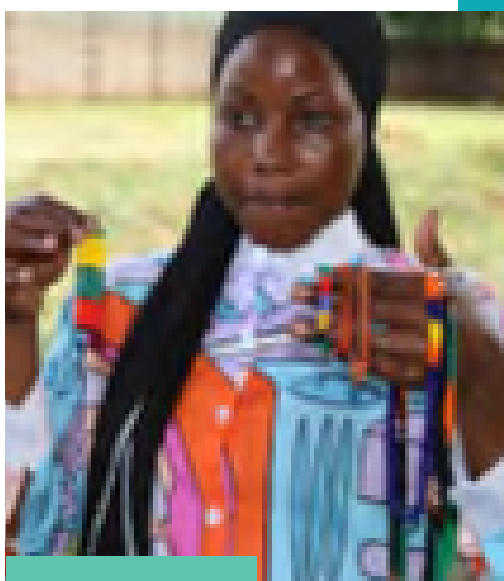
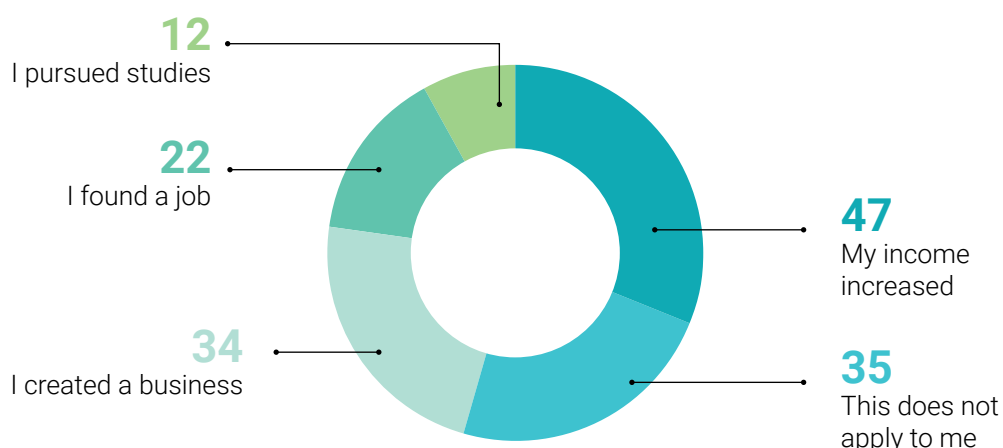
Arts and Crafts

WPDI's Arts and Crafts program is designed to equip community members with practical skills that enhance their economic independence and foster self-reliance. Through hands-on training, participants gain expertise in producing marketable goods, enabling them to generate sustainable incomes and support their families.

At the Community Learning Center, WPDI provided Arts and Crafts training to 199 trainees, who successfully graduated with the skills needed to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities. This initiative has empowered individuals with knowledge in product-making, helping them establish small businesses and improve their livelihoods.

In response to requests from community leaders, WPDI also conducted an outreach training program in the sub-counties of Lotome and Lokopo, specifically targeting women eager to learn Arts and Crafts. A total of 81 women participated in the three-month training, where they learned how to produce liquid soap, detergents, shower gels, bar soap, shampoo, and body cream. These practical skills have provided them with the foundation to create and sell their products, helping them achieve financial stability. After successfully completing the training, all 81 women graduated, ready to embark on their entrepreneurial journey.

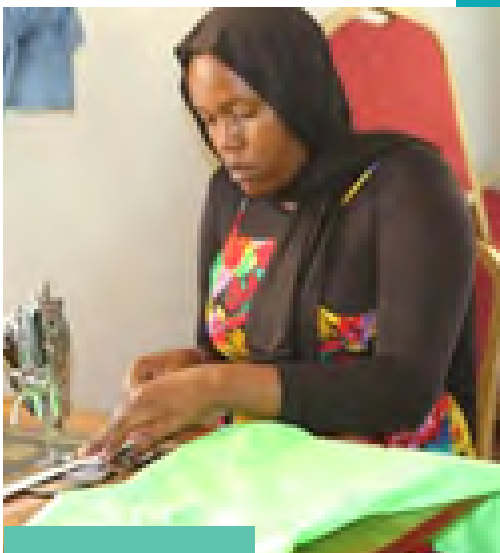
Has the program improved your career prospects? 150 responses from all Arts and Crafts trainees, Karamoja (2024)



"I am currently a trainee in the Art and Crafts program at WPDI. It was my mother who introduced me to WPDI, encouraging me to explore the courses offered. I became particularly interested in Art and Crafts, as well as Tailoring. The Art and Crafts course was incredibly inspiring, especially with the vibrant use of colors. I learned how to create various handmade artifacts, such as bangles, necklaces, earrings, and liquid soap detergents – skills I had never imagined I would acquire before joining the course. After completing my three-month training, I plan to become self-employed by opening my own jewelry shop. I am extremely grateful for the skills I've gained so far, and I feel that I am one step closer to achieving my dream. Thank you, WPDI and its partners, for helping me on this journey."

Nakanda Hadijah,
Arts and Crafts Trainee in the Police
Barracks in Moroto District





"I found out about the tailoring and garment cutting program at WPDl through my brother, who had benefited from the training the previous year. Although I had no prior experience in garment making, I was eager to gain these skills and eventually become self-employed. After just two months of training, I am now able to make and stitch garments such as skirts, shirts, hair bonnets, and buttonholes, which I consider a significant accomplishment. Upon completing the course, I plan to rent a shop in Moroto Central Market to open my own fashion business, where I will make garments, uniforms, and accessories like bags for customers. I am deeply thankful to WPDl for offering me the opportunity to learn these valuable skills."

Nayor Kastah Nabigambo,
Arts and Crafts Trainee from Nadungent
Sub-county



Empowering Dreams Through Soap-Making: The Story of Opuuwa Natalina

A Dream to Create Soap Products

Opuuwa Natalina, a 33-year-old housewife living in Acholi Inn, Rupa Sub-County in Moroto District, Karamoja Sub-Region, had always harbored a strong ambition to become a manufacturer of liquid soap and bar soap. However, despite her enthusiasm, she struggled with knowledge gaps. Natalina first heard about the WPDl's arts and crafts training program through the radio, and after confirming the information with a friend who had already completed the course at the Community Learning Center (CLC), she decided to enroll. The training not only taught her how to perfect her liquid soap-making technique but also introduced her to the art of creating laundry bar soap. This newfound expertise helped her transform her ambition into a profitable business.

Starting A Small Business

Natalina set up a small workshop in Acholi Inn, where she began producing soap products like liquid soap,

hair shampoo, and shower gel. Her business quickly gained traction within the local community. The products she made were much more affordable than those found in local markets, which resonated with the people who were struggling with the high prices of store-bought soaps. The success of her business provided her with a steady income, and she was able to sustain her family through her hard work.

Plans for Expansion and the Future

Looking ahead, Natalina has big plans for the future of her business. She aims to form a group of like-minded individuals to produce laundry bar soap in larger quantities. Her goal is to expand her reach beyond her local community and target neighboring districts, providing affordable soap products to a wider audience. Natalina is committed to continuing her journey, confident that with the skills and knowledge she gained from WPDl, she can further grow her business and help others in the process.



Supporting Income-Generating Projects

5,214 Total Beneficiaries of WPDI-Supported SMEs (Direct and Indirect)

58

New Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Created in 2024

188

Total SMEs Supported by WPDI

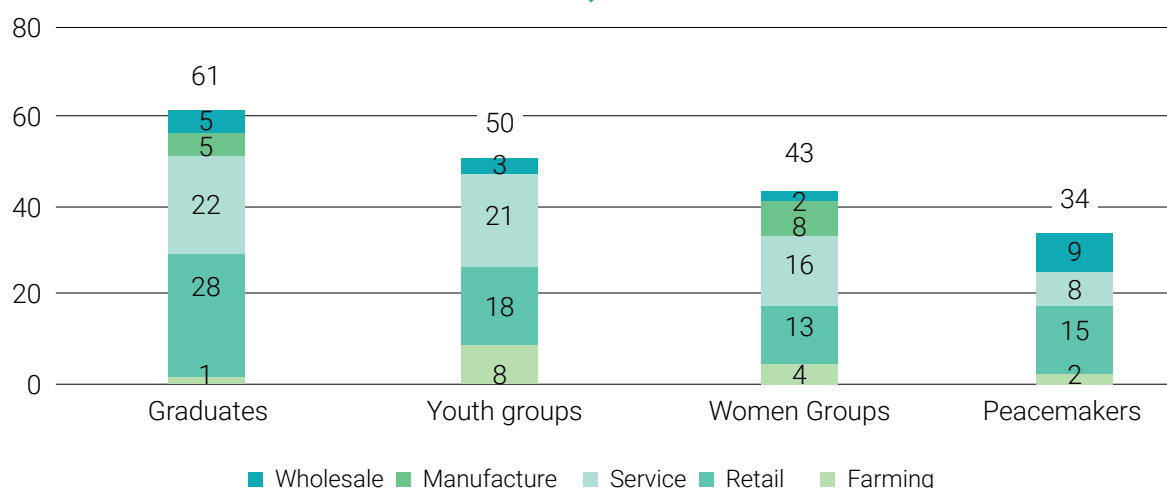
1,348

Jobs Created through WPDI-Supported Enterprises

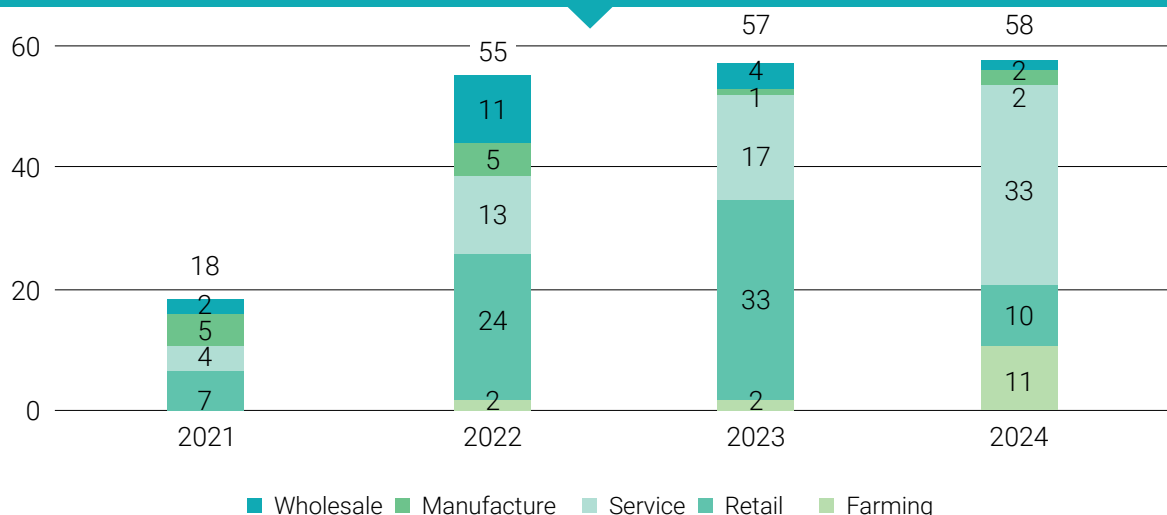
3,866

Family Members Benefiting Indirectly from WPDI Supported Businesses

Types of businesses launched by different groups in the Karamoja Sub-Region since 2021



Types of businesses funded in the Karamoja Sub-Region since 2021



WPDI supports community groups by providing business grants to help them start and sustain their income-generating projects. This year, WPDI organized three business plan competitions and awarded grants to 58 out of 141 applicants. These applicants were primarily women and youth from both South and North Karamoja. The business plan competitions involved a collaborative effort with various stakeholders from local districts and sub-counties, who brought their technical expertise to assess and evaluate the business ideas presented by the groups. The business ideas were carefully scrutinized, with group members being asked a series of specific questions to evaluate the feasibility and potential of their proposals. Marks were awarded based on how effectively the groups defended their ideas, with those achieving the highest scores receiving the grants. Once the competition

concluded, the winning groups were guided through the registration process in their respective districts and assisted with opening bank accounts to receive their grants.

The district and Sub-County officials commended WPDI for stepping in to fill a critical gap in government support for the community. They praised the organization for not only providing tangible benefits but also for offering valuable support in a way that was selfless and impactful.

WPDI continues to offer business support and backstopping through its dedicated team, ensuring that each group has the resources and guidance needed to succeed. Regular monitoring helps track the progress and impact of the businesses on the beneficiaries, addressing any challenges that arise along the way and ensuring long-term sustainability.



"I am incredibly grateful for how far my business has come with the support of WPDI. Before receiving the grant, I had no business or assets to my name and had to rent land from neighbors just to cultivate crops. But after starting a grinding mill business with WPDI's help, I began making profits. With my share of the earnings, I bought two acres of land and planted green grams. When I sold the harvest, I made a profit of UGX 1,500,000 (USD 416), which I reinvested to start a general merchandise business. This new venture also brought in UGX 1,500,000 (USD 416), allowing me to buy two bulls. By next year, 2025, I plan to sell them for UGX 2,000,000 (USD 555) each. Looking back, I can't believe how much my life has changed. From having nothing to now owning land, a business, and livestock, I feel truly empowered, and I owe this transformation to the support and opportunities WPDI provided me."

Longolekol John,
Business Trainee



Lolemuyek's Journey: Entrepreneurship Driving Growth and Community Transformation

Income Growth Brings Personal Growth

Lolemuyek began their milling business in October 2023, and during a recent follow-up and monitoring visit, the group showcased impressive progress. Initially, they reported profits of 200,000UGX, but they have since significantly grown their earnings to 2,000,000UGX. This remarkable growth has allowed the group to set their sights on acquiring an additional grinding mill, with funds being carefully saved to make this goal a reality.

The purchase of a new machine is expected to further increase their profits, which will enable members to meet a broader range of basic needs and substantially improve their standard of living. The benefits of their business venture are already evident, as each member

has experienced personal growth. Some have started small retail businesses within the community, others have purchased seeds to cultivate personal gardens, and many are able to provide better for their families. These positive changes have fostered a renewed sense of hope and optimism for the future.

Learning the Importance of Teamwork

In addition, the group's collective effort has strengthened relationships and encouraged a sense of teamwork among members. This collaboration has not only contributed to the group's success but has also promoted peaceful coexistence within the community, reducing the likelihood of engaging in conflict or criminal behavior.



Women's Livelihood Program



WPDI is dedicated to supporting vulnerable women in rural Karamoja Sub-Region through business grants, enabling them to establish and run income-generating projects within their communities. In many rural households, women are the primary breadwinners, shouldering the responsibility of fulfilling nearly all the family's needs. WPDI's efforts have helped address this imbalance by empowering women, allowing them to become financially independent and self-sufficient. With the financial independence gained through their income-generating projects, women have been able to send their children to school, improving educational opportunities for the next generation. Household nutrition has also seen

improvement as women can now afford better food, leading to healthier families. Furthermore, the dignity of these women has been restored, and they now stand with pride in their communities.

The contributions of the Youth Peacemakers have been crucial in ensuring that these women remain focused and committed to their goals. With guidance and ongoing support, the women continue to thrive and grow in their respective ventures, creating lasting change not only in their own lives but also in their communities. WPDI's focus on empowering women has proven to be a key driver of social and economic transformation in the Karamoja Sub-Region.



We started our cereal banking group business in 2023, by that time I did not have any assets, I was just a full time housewife waiting for my husband to provide for the family. When WPDI supported our group with grants to start up a cereal banking business, the business was doing well and was able to generate profits of Ugx 3,000,000. We used the profits to purchase two acres of land to settle in and managed to construct three grass-thatched huts. This was a good move for my family and I, since we did not have land to settle and were still living in someone else's land. My husband was so happy when I bought the land for us to settle and I was so proud of myself since I had also gained an asset to call my own. I want to say thank you to WPDI for helping us to acquire a home."

Hellen,
a group member of Eteteunos Makee
Women Group from Lolachat Sub-County.





Empowering Women Through Business and Resilience: “Let’s Be Together Women Group”

Trauma Healing and Business Skills Bring Rebirth

Akareut Lucy, a 45-year-old mother of eight, had faced significant hardship after her divorce from her second husband following their migration to Moruita Sub-County in Nakapiripirit District. The trauma of her experience lingered for a long time, affecting her deeply. However, after undergoing counseling as part of a Trauma Healing program, Lucy found a new path toward healing and empowerment. During these counseling sessions, she learned about a business skills training program offered by WPD, which sparked a new hope in her. Eager to improve her circumstances and provide for her children, she enrolled in the Business and Entrepreneurship training, which she completed in 2023, alongside 25 other women from her community.

Training and Support

The training, lasting three weeks, equipped Lucy with crucial business skills that would later help her establish a livelihood. Upon completion of the course, the group of women formed a collective called the “Let’s Be Together Women Group.” Motivated and inspired, they participated in a business plan competition targeting community groups in South Karamoja. Their hard work and determination paid off when they emerged as winners, receiving the necessary support to start their business.

Starting the Business and Overcoming Challenges

Lucy’s business journey began with selling cereals in her community, but due to scarcity in her location, they struggled to maintain a steady supply. Undeterred, the group diversified their income streams by venturing into poultry rearing. By early 2024, they expanded even further, cultivating five acres of groundnuts, two acres of millet, five acres of maize, and three acres of simsim. Their collective effort allowed each member to tend to

their individual gardens as well, cultivating five acres of land for maize and beans. By September, their hard work bore fruit, yielding 11 bags of groundnuts, four bags of millet, and six bags of sorghum, with simsim yet to be harvested.

Impact on Family and Community

The business not only provided them with food security but also helped meet their financial needs. As Lucy proudly states, the success of their venture has been instrumental in covering their children’s school fees. “Thanks to the support received, my child successfully completed S.4 and is now poised to advance further in his academic journey,” Lucy shares.

Plans for the Future and Personal Reflections

The impact of this business extends beyond just the women in the group. It has strengthened the fabric of the community, inspiring others to pursue income-generating activities and embrace new opportunities for growth. The group is now in the process of constructing a two-room store and office for their business, further solidifying their presence and stability in the area.

Reflecting on her journey, Lucy expresses heartfelt gratitude to WPD, stating, “We extend our sincerest appreciation to WPD for its invaluable initiative and support extended to our group. This partnership has truly empowered us to achieve greater heights and positively impact our lives and communities.” Through WPD’s support, Akareut Lucy and her group have not only overcome trauma but have also built a sustainable source of income that is transforming their lives and the futures of their children.



Health and Well-being: Pathways to Inner Peace

Health and well-being are essential pathways to achieving inner peace, especially in regions affected by chronic violence and poverty, where individuals often experience profound trauma and psychosocial distress. In response to this need, in 2024 WPDI provided dedicated services in Trauma Healing and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

education, with this year marking the first time we've implemented SRH initiatives. Recognizing the importance of healing from the wounds of conflict, our Trauma Healing programs aim to break the cycles of pain and suffering by fostering empathy and creating supportive environments for personal recovery.

Delivering Trauma Healing Services in Karamoja Sub-Region

690

Individuals Participating In Trauma Healing Programs

406

Sexual and Reproductive Health Beneficiaries

WPDI has strengthened a cohort of youth peacemakers, equipping them with the skills to provide psychosocial counseling and raise awareness on mental health and sexual reproductive health within their communities. The Karamoja Sub-Region has endured decades of conflict, leaving many residents in deep emotional pain and bitterness due to the loss of loved ones, assets, and livestock. Extending trauma healing interventions remains one of the most urgent and impactful initiatives in the region. This year, WPDI delivered trauma healing to 690 individuals and implemented a series of initiatives, including screening trauma clients, providing counseling and follow-up support, and conducting specialized training on basic counseling and mental health at the Community Learning Center (CLC).

Recognizing critical gaps in healthcare across the Karamoja Sub-Region, WPDI integrated mental

health support into its scheduled health outreaches. These health camps deliver essential medical services, diagnostic testing, and basic healthcare to underserved communities. When cases require specialized care beyond WPDI's capacity, clients are referred to appropriate health facilities to ensure comprehensive treatment.

To enhance public awareness of mental health, WPDI organized community sensitization activities—radio talk shows, community dialogues, and school-based campaigns. In many fragile contexts, limited service availability and cultural stigma discourage open discussion of mental illness. By raising awareness of mental health issues and available support pathways, these initiatives aim to foster more resilient communities.



A Fruitful Experience at the Moroto Prison: Taking Trauma Healing to Inmates and Ward

Trauma Healing Training was delivered at Moroto Government Prisons in 2024 to strengthen inmates' capacity for coping with and recovering from psychological distress. A total of 93 participants (42 male and 51 female inmates, together with prison staff) completed the training. The curriculum began with an overview of mental health and mental illness, including the World Health Organization's Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) classification of common disorders. Participants learned to recognize the signs and symptoms of various mental health conditions and to provide initial support for individuals exhibiting these indicators.

The final segment addressed Trauma Healing. Trainees explored the definition and types of trauma,

identified typical trauma symptoms, and practiced strategies to assist individuals living with trauma. Building on this foundation, a continuous training plan for 2025 will enroll new inmates and interested staff members in the same curriculum.

Finally, to support participants' overall well-being, the program incorporated Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) education. Topics included adolescent hygiene, sexuality, growth and development, life skills, and parenting. This holistic approach ensures that trainees gain both the psychological and life-skills knowledge necessary for sustained health and personal development.



"This training has brought healing and renewed hope to the inmates," he shared. "It has significantly improved communication among them, fostering better relationships and reducing misunderstandings. Many have expressed how the training first brought them inner peace and self-reflection, and then equipped them with the knowledge to interact more positively with others. As someone responsible for their physical and mental well-being, I can confidently say that this program has made my work easier. Now, the inmates themselves are taking on the role of mediators, helping their fellow prisoners navigate difficult situations, allowing me to intervene only in the most challenging cases. Thank you, WPD, for bringing such a meaningful program to our prison."

Okello Samuel,
Welfare Officer at Moroto Government Prisons





"I am a single mother of four who has been living with HIV. I am truly grateful for how my life has changed for the better, all thanks to WPD. Before this program, I had lost all hope. The burden of raising four children alone while dealing with my health condition felt unbearable. But after receiving counseling and encouragement from WPD staff, I picked myself up and started a small business buying and selling produce. Today, I am able to pay for my children's education and provide for my family. We are living a happy and stable life, something I never thought possible before. If it weren't for the Trauma Healing program, I don't know where I would be today. I urge WPD to continue supporting our community because this program has truly given people like me a second chance at life."

Atim Susan,
Trauma Healing Participant from Yara-Yara
Village in Lotuke Sub-county



Sexual and Reproductive Health Support

WPD's Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) education program aims to help individuals make informed decisions about their health. In communities where access to such services is limited, this initiative helps to reduce misinformation, combat stigma, and improve overall health outcomes. The program provides comprehensive education on key SRH topics, including body hygiene, teenage pregnancy, adolescent growth and development, harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation (FGM) and early marriages, adolescent sexuality, building healthy relationships, the consequences of early sexual activity, menstrual health, and menstrual hygiene. These efforts are particularly important in addressing harmful sexual attitudes and behaviors that reinforce gender stereotypes and inequalities, which often hinder youth development. A lack of understanding of SRH can entrench prejudices about gender roles, limiting socio-economic opportunities and negatively impacting the self-image of women. In its first year, the SRH education program trained 406 individuals and reached 1,800 individuals through seven awareness campaigns across five secondary schools and two primary schools in Karamoja.

"I, like many others, had a Urinary Tract Infection (UTI). Despite my hesitation, I eventually went to the school clinic and received treatment. The illness had a significant impact on my studies as I missed a lot of classes, and my concentration was affected, which resulted in poor performance that term. Today's lessons focused on hygiene, what it is,

the signs of poor hygiene, the effects of neglecting hygiene, and the benefits of good hygiene practices. I now understand where I went wrong, which led to my condition. From now on, I am committed to practicing good hygiene to protect myself from getting UTI again. I'm also motivated to share this important knowledge with my fellow students so we can all practice better hygiene together and improve the health of our school." SRH Trainee from Abim Secondary School in Abim District.

"I am extremely happy and grateful to WPD for educating us about body development. We learned so much about growth, the changes our bodies go through, and how these changes can impact us both positively and negatively, as well as how to handle them. Before this, I was too shy to talk about these topics openly. When I first got my menstrual period, I was so scared, I thought I was going to die. There was no one to guide me through it, and I stayed in the dormitory, afraid of being laughed at by the boys. I didn't even know how to use sanitary pads, and this affected not just me, but my fellow girls as well. When I confided in my parents, they told me I was now mature and ready for marriage, something I didn't want, which stressed me a lot. However, I am thankful that they still allowed me to stay in school. Today's awareness sessions helped me and I am also excited to help younger girls who will experience this for the first time." SRH Trainee from Kabong Secondary School in Kabong District.





Peace Through Sports

5,825 Participants in all Sportive Activities

24

Teams Managed
by WPDl

288

Regular Training
Participants

5,537

Participants in Competitions
Events

WPDl, through its Peace Through Sports initiative, has laid a strong foundation for youth empowerment and reconciliation in Moroto District. This program brings together reformed youth from eight sub-counties, Katikakile, Rupa, Loputuk, Nadunget, Lotisan, Tapac, Katikakile-Kakingol, and Tapac-Kodonyo, uniting them through sports as a tool for peacebuilding.

Recognizing that sustainable peace in the Karamoja Sub-Region requires a multi-faceted approach, WPDl integrates sports as a powerful medium for conflict resolution and community engagement. This year, WPDl actively supported 24 local sports teams by organizing regular games, football competitions, and the growingly prestigious Whitaker Football Tournament, where teams competed for the coveted Trophy for Peace. The tournament's final match, held at Moroto Boma Ground, drew immense participation from teams, supporters, local leaders, and the broader community, all rallying behind the spirit of unity and peace.

Beyond the excitement of competition, WPDl leverages these gatherings to instill peacebuilding values through open dialogues before each match. These discussions help players and spectators alike understand the significance of coexistence and reconciliation. The impact has been remarkable, with over 288 team members actively engaging in football games, leading to tournaments that attracted more than 5,500 attendees.

In addition to sports, these youth teams have undergone training in Business and Entrepreneurship, ICT, and Conflict Resolution Education, equipping them with valuable skills to contribute meaningfully to their communities. By blending sports with personal and professional development, WPDl empowers young people not only as athletes but also as peace ambassadors and future leaders capable of driving social change and economic resilience.



"I want to extend my sincere appreciation to WPDl for the business skills training provided to our sports team. It was an invaluable addition to the daily sports training we receive from our coaches. With these new skills, I was able to start a small retail business in my village, and the record-keeping lessons have been especially helpful in tracking my business's progress."

Lokol Anjellina,
member of WPDl sports team in Lotisan
Sub-County, Moroto District





“We have not been on good terms because we raided among ourselves. Today’s sports between us (Rupa Sports team) and Tapac started with a peace engagement before entering the field. This engagement will bring sustainable peace and development as well as stability among Tapac and Rupa communities. Issues raised were related to cattle raids that have affected people with rampant killings due to raids. With emphasis on making peace as a permanent solution I am hopeful that peace will reign”

Sagal Mark,
member of WPDI sports team in Rupa Sub-County Moroto district.



Finding Peace Through Football: Lolem Iko’s Journey



A Troubled Past and No Clear Direction

Lolem Iko, a 21-year-old youth from Rupa Sub County, once lived a life of idleness and conflict, often contributing to tensions in his community. With no clear direction and little to occupy his time, he found himself entangled in disputes that only deepened divisions among young people in his village. Everything changed when he was selected to join a football team under WPDI’s Peace Through Sports initiative. His coach introduced him to the program, and it became a turning point in his life. Through WPDI’s mentorship and conflict resolution training, Lolem began to see football as more than just a game—it became a tool for peace and personal transformation.

Learning to Resolve Conflict

The daily training sessions, combined with guidance from WPDI staff and his coach, helped him develop a new perspective on handling disputes. He learned valuable skills in conflict resolution, enabling him to navigate tensions not only within his team but also in his broader community.

“As a sports person, there are always a lot of conflicts among us. After the training in conflict resolution, I have acquired vast skills and knowledge on how to resolve conflicts. Thanks to the daily mentorship from WPDI staff and our coach, who always sits down with us to encourage us during practice, we have seen a big change. Conflict that used to exist within the team has drastically reduced, and we have started enjoying ourselves as a team. We are also helping other young people learn to live in peace. Thank you, WPDI, for the opportunity to be involved in the Rupa sports team,” Lolem shared.

Building Friendships and a Brighter Future

Beyond improving his game, the program has allowed Lolem to build friendships with teammates from different sub-counties—connections that would have been unlikely in the past due to existing divisions. Today, he stands as a reformed youth, not only embracing peace himself but also inspiring others in his community to do the same.

Peace Engagement Days

Peace Engagement Days, organized monthly as part of WPD's Peace Through Sports program, combine football mini-tournaments with community dialogues focused on peace-related themes. These events offer a platform for discussing personal growth, teamwork, and broader issues of reconciliation. In 2024, WPD played a vital role in fostering peace and unity across the Karamoja Sub-Region by organizing community-driven activities that promoted dialogue, cultural cohesion, and conflict resolution. These efforts brought together local communities, leaders, and neighboring regions, contributing to long-term peacebuilding and reconciliation.

At the grassroots level, WPD facilitated reconciliation in Rengen Sub-County, where the Ngirengen and Ngikotyanga clans had long-standing conflicts over forced marriage. Through an emotional but productive dialogue, both clans agreed to work

together, demonstrating the power of community-led peacebuilding. Similarly, Peace Engagement through Sports in Tapac, held on November 28, 2024, leveraged sports as a unifying tool. Communities participated in friendly matches after engaging in dialogue sessions focused on conflict resolution, showcasing how sports can break down barriers and strengthen social cohesion.

The Karamoja Talent Festival, from December 6th to 8th in Moroto Municipality, further reinforced the role of culture in peacebuilding. Attracting over 600 participants, including reformed warriors, sports teams, cultural youth groups, artists, and comedians, the festival used music, dance, and drama to promote peace and socio-economic transformation. This event demonstrated the power of artistic expression in uniting communities and reinforcing a shared commitment to a peaceful Karamoja Sub-Region.

One of the most significant events was the Karamoja Cultural Event, held from September 2nd to 7th, which brought together tribes from Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. Under the theme Celebrating Cultural Diversity, Peaceful Coexistence, and Embracing Tourism for Sustainable Development, the event served as a platform for youth, women, elders, and leaders to engage in dialogue sessions aimed at strengthening regional cooperation. The resolutions generated were presented to President Yoweri Museveni, who pledged government support for their implementation. Over 1,500 participants joined in discussions on peacebuilding, culture, and economic development, reinforcing the significance of cultural unity in fostering sustainable peace.



"WPD is one of the few organizations that has left a pronounced and lasting impact on our communities. I am grateful to the government of Uganda for welcoming such a humanitarian and life-changing partner. Through continuous dialogues within and beyond our community, WPD has helped foster relative peace. As North Division, we will always cherish, remember, and uphold you as the organization that left a legacy of peace in our region."

Kiyonga Sean Paul Atanya,
the LC3 Chairperson for North Division in
Kotido District





“Attending today’s youth peace dialogue meeting with other reformed warriors within the Karamoja Sub-Region was amazing and the first of its kind. Different clans of the Matheniko, Bokora, Pian as well as Pokot of Amudat were engaged in the youth Dialogue sessions and dressed in traditional attires that clearly showed the relevance of Peace for the region. I learnt that being at peace is not just about avoiding conflict or hiding in a bush; it is something we can express through our dress, our joy, and our interactions. With the resolutions drawn from today’s discussions, I am confident that if we commit to implementing them, the Karamoja Sub-Region will move toward a future of prosperity and harmony.”

Muria Issa,
from Sangar Sub County, Karenga District





Conclusion



Conclusion

WPDI's interventions in the Karamoja Sub-Region in 2024 have had a profound impact on the targeted communities. By bringing essential services closer to the underserved populations, WPDI has fulfilled its mandate and made a significant difference in the region. Through various forums and stakeholder engagements, WPDI has played a crucial role in fostering peace across the Karamoja Sub-Region through its extensive peacebuilding efforts.

The skilling programs have empowered communities, helping them become more resilient and enabling them to develop initiatives that lift them out of poverty. Our efforts have led to the creation of 1,348 jobs and supported 188 SMEs, benefiting over 5,214 individuals directly and indirectly.

The Trauma Healing activities have provided much-needed support, offering relief to communities that have long been affected by conflict, notably through our experiment with inmates and wards of the Moroto Government Prison. Additionally, the Sexual and Reproductive Health education reached 406 individuals directly and 1,800 through awareness

campaigns, addressing critical health issues and promoting well-being.

The Peace Through Sports initiatives have served as a key pillar in uniting reformed youth, offering them opportunities for dialogue on peace while promoting physical fitness. With 24 teams managed by WPDI and 5,825 participants in sportive activities, these initiatives have been instrumental in keeping young people engaged, steering them away from violent behaviors, and fostering unity within the community.

As WPDI looks to the future, it remains committed to building on these successes, addressing ongoing challenges, and continuing to empower the people of Karamoja. Looking for everyone's support, WPDI will continue to leverage its holistic approach to resilience, fostering initiatives for lasting peace and opportunities for socio-economic growth. WPDI extends its heartfelt gratitude to all partners, stakeholders, and community members for their unwavering support and collaboration.

Together, we will continue to work towards a more peaceful, resilient, and prosperous Karamoja.

Our Partners



*A Foundation Wishing
to Remain Anonymous*





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