



WPDI UGANDA

Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

2024 Annual Report

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Introduction

This year, WPDI successfully implemented transformative peacebuilding activities in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement (KRS) and its surrounding host communities. We witnessed remarkable progress toward sustainable peace, reconciliation, and healing among conflicting tribes, with young peacemakers, youth, and women leading efforts to build a culture of lasting peace and economic resilience among community members displaced by conflicts in South Sudan and Sudan.

According to records from the UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) registration desks, approximately 133,733 refugees are currently living in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, with an average influx of 750 new arrivals from Sudan each week. These numbers must be compared to those of the 72,000 residents accounted for in 2021. This near doubling in the number of residents mostly stems from the crisis in Sudan, one of the most violent ongoing civil wars. Approximately 90% of the settlement population consists of vulnerable women, youth, and children. The situation is assuredly critical, which not only prompted WPDI to expand its program deployment in the settlement to promote peace, but

also inspired us to strengthen our implementation through collaboration and networking with camp management authorities such as OPM, UNHCR, and other stakeholders. These efforts aim to better respond to new arrivals from Sudan, who are predominantly Arabic-speaking.

We revamped our Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) package to provide basic English language instruction and numeracy training, thereby enhancing communication and business skills development. Additionally, we scaled up trauma healing, counseling, and other support activities.

The Community Learning Center serves as a hub for program implementation; this year, we hosted 2,067 visitors at the center, confirming its role as a safe space and a community hub for all.

This narrative report highlights our experiences, achievements, and outcomes while working with the refugee and host communities to promote peace, peaceful coexistence, advocacy, livelihood, sports, health, and wellness in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.



Key Achievements

40,078 Grand Total For People Reached In The Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

VECTORS OF CHANGE

2,067

Community Learning Centers (CLC)
Visitors

347

Total Youth
Peacemakers

16,356

Individuals Reached by Lead
Peacemakers

PEACEBUILDING

Capacity Building

180

Conflict Resolution
Education (CRE) Trainees

1,586

Participants in
Cinema for Peace

3,107

Participants in CLC
Advocacy Campaigns

4,873

Total Participants In
CLC-Based Peacebuilding
Activities

Peacebuilding in Schools

41

Schools
Hosting
WPDI
Programs

2,800

Learners
Trained in
CRE in
Schools

50

Parents,
Administrative
Staff, and
Teachers
Trained

7,968

People Reached
through
Advocacy
Campaigns in
Schools

232

Students
Supported
Through
Scholarships

10,768

Total
Participants in
School-based
Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding in the Community

11

Community
Dialogues Held

2,538

Participants
in Dialogues

60

Local
Leaders Trained

2,598

Total Participants
In Community-Level
Peacebuilding

LIVELIHOOD

288

Information and
Communication
Technologies (ICT)
Trainees

347

Entrepreneurship
Trainees

160

Vulnerable
Women Trained in
Business

139

Arts
and Crafts
Trainees

1,316

Total
Trainees in
Vocational Courses

19

SMEs
Created in
2024

164

Total SMEs
Supported by WPDI

720

Jobs
Created

3,656

Indirect Beneficiaries
of Businesses
(Families)

4,376

Beneficiaries
of All SMEs

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

122

Sexual &
Reproductive Health
Beneficiaries

572

Sexual &
Reproductive Health
Event Participants

202

Trauma Healing
Beneficiaries

515

Trauma Healing
Event Participants

1,411

Total Health & Well-
being Participants

PEACE THROUGH SPORTS

98

Teams Managed
by WPDI

1,666

Regular Training
Participants

35,918

Participants in
Competitions Events

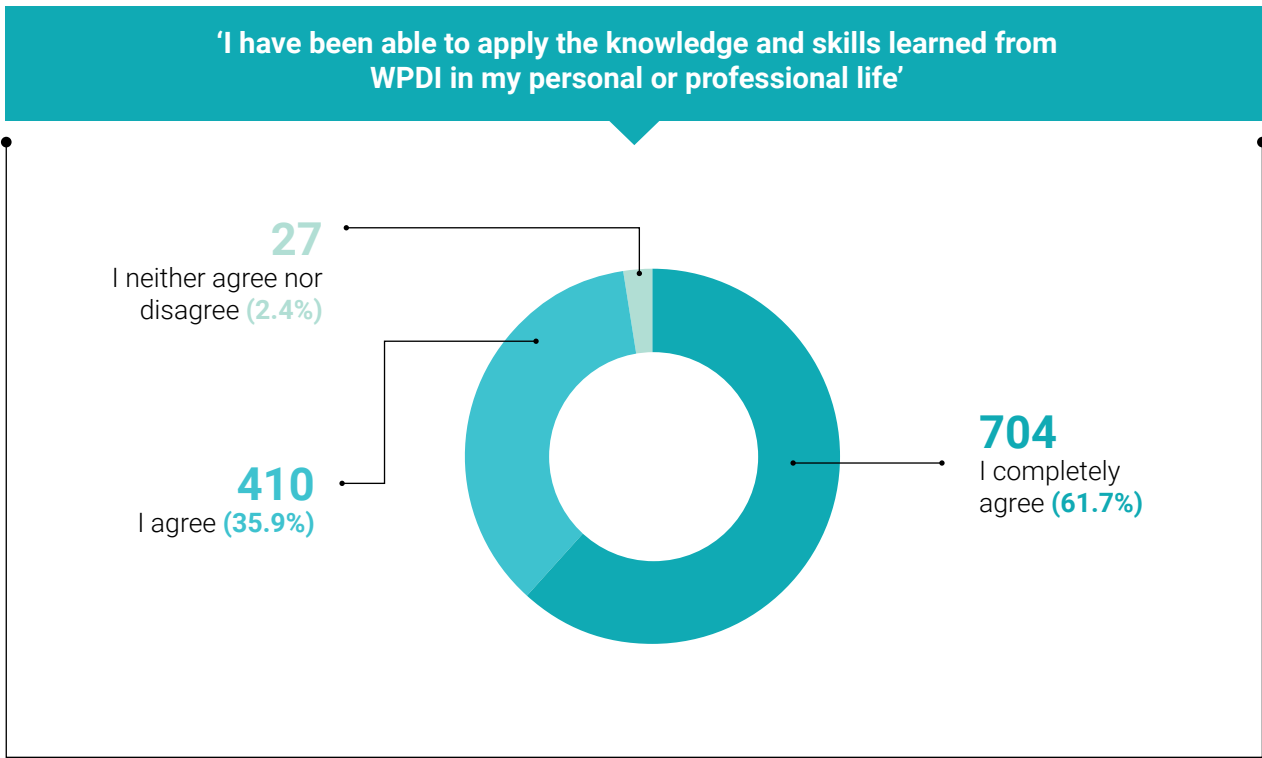
37,584

Total Participants in All
Sportive Activities

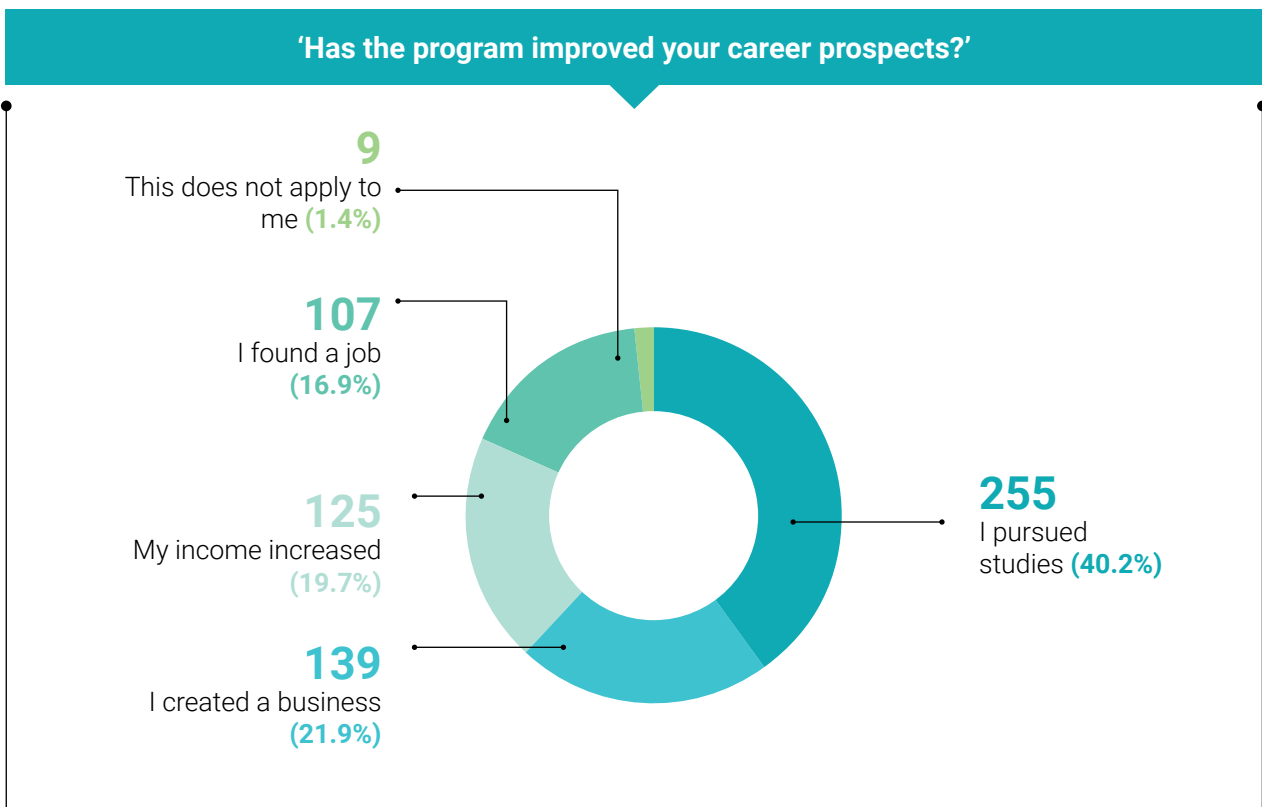


Survey Results

Out of 1,441 individuals surveyed, the following responses were collected.



635 participants from the vocational courses were surveyed.



Feedback from Local & National Stakeholders

“Ever since WPD I had been working here, Kiryandongo District stakeholders have felt the impact of its livelihood intervention. There is improved livelihood for the youth and women clearly demonstrated by the blossoming social cooperative business projects that are supported in both the settlement and host community respectively. These new entrepreneurs can afford their basic needs.”

Bukenya Bernard Savion,

District Agricultural focal person, Kiryandongo District Local Government



“The Office of the President acknowledges the key role played by WPD I in serving the vulnerable people in the refugee settlement and host community of Kiryandongo. Such commitment is what other NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, operating to support government programs in Kiryandongo district, should emulate for accountability to both government and donors.”

Resident District Commissioner, Kiryandongo District



“WPD I has been one of the most resilient and committed operational partners here in the settlement. From our perspective, WPD I has always included us in the implementation of projects including screening the groups supported, community dialogues, peace through support, in addition to providing the sports platform for many. So, well done.”

Camp Commandant, Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



External Evaluation of WPDl's Peacebuilding Activities

In 2024, WPDl commissioned an external evaluation from the Kenya-based firm QDATAMS. They provided evaluation of the peacebuilding programs deployed in three sub-regions in Uganda and three others in South Sudan. Their report highlighted WPDl's significant impact in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. Some of their main findings were that:

- The project provided valuable insights for strengthening future peacebuilding and community development efforts.
- By empowering local individuals, particularly youth, and fostering a sense of ownership, the initiative ensured sustainability beyond external funding.
- Integrating peace education into school curricula and after-school activities effectively reduced conflicts, demonstrating the role of education in conflict prevention.
- A holistic approach, combining peace education, vocational training, and health education, proved more effective than focusing on a single area, promoting long-term stability and resilience.

The evaluators stressed the central importance of youth empowerment in the project, particularly among those most affected by conflict, such

as former child soldiers, displaced youth, and refugees. The establishment of youth-led peace clubs, community learning centers, and mentorship programs fostered a culture of non-violence and civic responsibility, enabling young people to actively participate in peacebuilding efforts and contribute to lasting community stability.

The evaluation also found that WPDl's interventions improved discipline and academic performance in schools, strengthening relationships between students, parents, and educators. Community dialogue meetings helped shift mindsets, encouraging peaceful dispute resolution. Evaluators also collected feedback from stakeholders and beneficiaries, reporting a decline in land conflicts due to WPDl's successful mediation efforts, while youth participation in structured peacebuilding activities contributed to reduced violence and greater social cohesion.

Overall, the findings underscored WPDl's role in fostering sustainable peace in the region, noting that, equipping youth with essential skills, empowering local leaders, and strengthening community dialogue, WPDl has contributed to rebuilding trust and resilience in a region once deeply affected by conflict





Vectors of Change

To foster meaningful and lasting change, WPD collaborates with local communities through key vectors of change, namely locally rooted assets through which we implement key aspects of our programs: Youth Peacemakers, young leaders dedicated to promoting peace and conflict resolution, and Community Learning Centers (CLCs), which offer training, access to technology, and vital resources to support community development.

Mobilizing Youth Leaders to Drive Change at the Grassroots

16,356 Individuals Reached by Lead Peacemakers

32

Lead Youth Peacemakers

315

Local Youth Peacemakers

347

Total Youth Peacemakers

The cohort of peacemakers at KRS consists of 32 Lead Youth Peacemakers and 315 Local Youth Peacemakers from both the refugee settlement and the host community. This group is part of WPDI's flagship program, which aims to equip young leaders with the skills, knowledge, and networks necessary to become effective peacebuilders and development practitioners.

The cohort is composed of individuals between the ages of 25 and 35, with an even gender distribution and representation from various community clusters and the host population.

Within the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, peacemakers have played an important role in promoting peace, conflict resolution, and community development. Their work has contributed to a reduction in violent incidents between ethnic groups, which were reduced from three per week to three over six months. This progress has been acknowledged by both the United Nations and the Office of the Prime Minister, which oversees the settlement.



"When I started the CRE sessions at Kiryandongo High School, the students were stubborn and insensitive toward one another, with a significant amount of hate speech directed at other tribes that led to clashes and fights within the school. The practical CRE sessions transformed the students' mindsets, and many became peace ambassadors. We subsequently formed a peace club to address various student-related conflicts and other issues affecting education. Gradually, the peace club's activities gained momentum through peace forums, advocacy campaigns, school peace debates, and initiatives to raise awareness about peace values. These activities had a significant influence on the students' attitudes and behaviors, leading to a reduction in conflict incidents both at school and in the community."

Ajang Nathaniel,

Youth Lead Peacemaker in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



"I am training students, youth, and community members in Conflict Resolution Education and ICT at the Community Learning Center and schools. I've taught key topics such as types of conflict, communication, mediation, negotiation, and peacebuilding. These trainings have brought visible transformation, students now express themselves better and handle disputes calmly, youth are more open to dialogue, and community members are resolving long-standing issues with empathy and understanding. The knowledge shared is making a real difference, not just in individuals, but in how people relate and live together. Personally, the CRE journey has also shaped me. I've become a better listener, a more patient facilitator, and someone who values peaceful approaches to problems. It has boosted my confidence in public speaking and helped me build strong, trusting relationships within the community. Seeing people grow through these sessions and hearing their positive feedback reminds me of the power of education in creating lasting change. The settlement community is grateful for the opportunity and contributions made by WPDI in restoring peace."

Abigaba Moses,

Lead Peacemaker in KRS



WPDI Youth Peacemakers bring peace to Kiryandongo High School

A high school faced with several challenges

The conflict issues within the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, which likely affect Kiryandongo High School, are deeply rooted in tribalism and ethnic tensions. Long-standing intertribal rivalries, notably between ethnic groups such as the South-Sudan-originated Dinka and Nuer, have further intensified tensions. Moreover, certain cultural and traditional practices—such as early forced marriage—have been identified as contributing to discord within the school. These issues have significantly affected the lives of both refugees and host communities. It has directly reverberated in the Kiryandongo High School.

WPDI Peacemakers provide support to the whole school community

To address these conflicts at Kiryandongo High School, WPDI's Lead Youth Peacemakers provided training in conflict resolution for students, teachers, and school governing authorities, with some parents also benefiting from mediation sessions during human rights studies at the CLC or community leaders' CRE training sessions. The initiative helped establish a peace club where students engage in discussions about conflict issues and develop peaceful solutions, encouraging many students to participate in CRE training and transforming them into peace ambassadors for both the school and the community. WPDI also organized intercultural dialogue sessions that brought together students from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds to promote understanding, tolerance, and peacebuilding. In addition, the initiative supported sports and recreational activities that foster social cohesion and teamwork among students, and established a mentorship program pairing student leaders with experienced mentors. WPDI further engaged in community outreach by working with parents, local leaders, and community members to promote peace and social cohesion, and in close collaboration with the school administration, developed and implemented conflict resolution strategies to nurture a culture of peace within the school.

The trainings result in a more peaceful environment

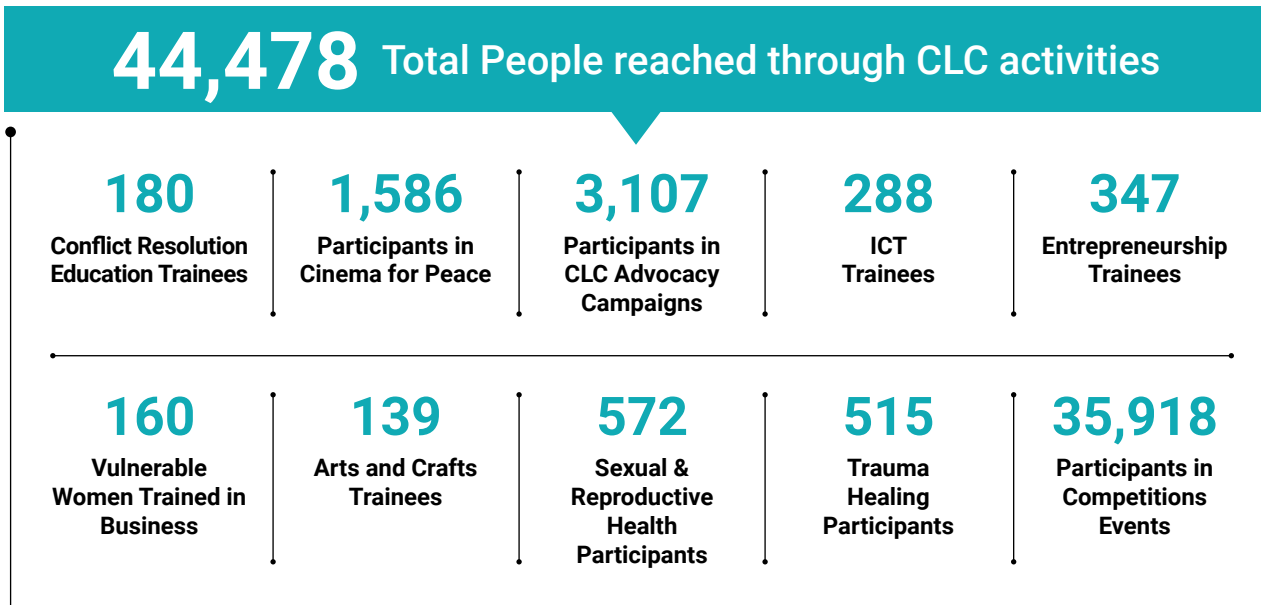
These initiatives have contributed to a significant reduction in conflicts and improved social cohesion among students, teachers, and the wider community. Through advocacy campaigns with education stakeholders, the community surrounding the school has even relocated farming activities and livestock away from the school environment in order to limit issues around the management of these operations. Additionally, education management staff and head teachers in the KRS have received training to address capacity gaps, aiming to enhance education management and leadership in schools like Kiryandongo High School.

The Head Teacher's testimonial

Odongo Nixion, the Head teacher of Kiryandongo High School, was grateful for the help provided by WPDI: "The CRE training in school has had a huge direct positive impact on our students and indirectly on the communities around the school. The school used to conflict with neighboring communities on a daily basis, and this was creating tension with the school administration. The CRE training transformed the school into a peaceful and calm environment where students are concentrating on their studies and thriving well. Thank you, WPDI."



Improving Local Access to Skills, Knowledge, and Connectivity



The KRS Community Learning Center (CLC) is located along Camp Road, Cluster 'P', and is managed by seven staff members and 40 volunteers. Approximately 2,067 people visited the premises this year to participate in organized activities, inquire about the program's implementation, and utilize resources available to them, such as connectivity and books.

The CLC serves as a hub for education, peacebuilding, advocacy, and community development initiatives. It is a safe space for refugees and host communities to come together, study, and build positive relationships. Key programs and activities at the center include training courses in Conflict Resolution Education, Arts and Crafts, Business and Entrepreneurship, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to foster economic empowerment and self-sufficiency.

Community engagement and outreach are integral to the center's mission. Clean-up initiatives and

environmental conservation activities, such as tree planting and cleaning public gathering places in the settlement, health facilities, water points, and markets, exemplify the center's commitment to giving back to the community. WPDI also organizes inter-community sports tournaments, competitions, friendly matches, and mini-championships to promote social cohesion, peaceful coexistence, and wellness among refugees and host communities. Cultural exchange programs further foster cross-cultural understanding between refugees and host communities through peace engagement days, awareness campaigns, and other events.

The center also hosts several events, such as the annual celebrations for International Peace Day to promote peace, tolerance, and understanding among refugees and host communities, the Commemoration of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, and World Refugee Day Celebrations.





Peacebuilding as Grassroots Empowerment

WPDI's peacebuilding initiatives center on grassroots empowerment, understanding that lasting peace begins within communities. By collaborating with local leaders, youth, and educators, WPDI nurtures a culture of dialogue, mediation, and cooperation. Through training in conflict resolution and peace advocacy, individuals gain the skills needed to manage disputes constructively. By actively engaging with communities, WPDI helps bridge divides, transforming conflicts into opportunities for mutual understanding.

Mediation Among Community Members

Community Dialogues for Sowing Seeds of Peace

2,598 Total Participants in Community-level Peacebuilding

11

Community Dialogues Held

2,538

Participants in Dialogues

60

Local Leaders Trained

Community Dialogues serve as essential platforms for open discussion and conflict resolution, rooted in the belief that sustainable peace cannot exist without dialogue. Led by WPDI-trained peacemakers, who possess deep local knowledge and trust, these forums address both immediate disputes and long-term social challenges. In addition to resolving conflicts, they also serve a preventative and educational role, raising awareness of critical issues such as human rights and gender-based violence. Through these dialogues, WPDI has empowered local communities to take ownership of conflict resolution, foster peaceful coexistence, and create long-term stability within the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

In 2024, 11 community dialogue meetings were successfully held in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, engaging 2,538 participants. These demand-driven dialogues, designed around the community's needs, yielded a profound impact. Feedback from community members has been overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the

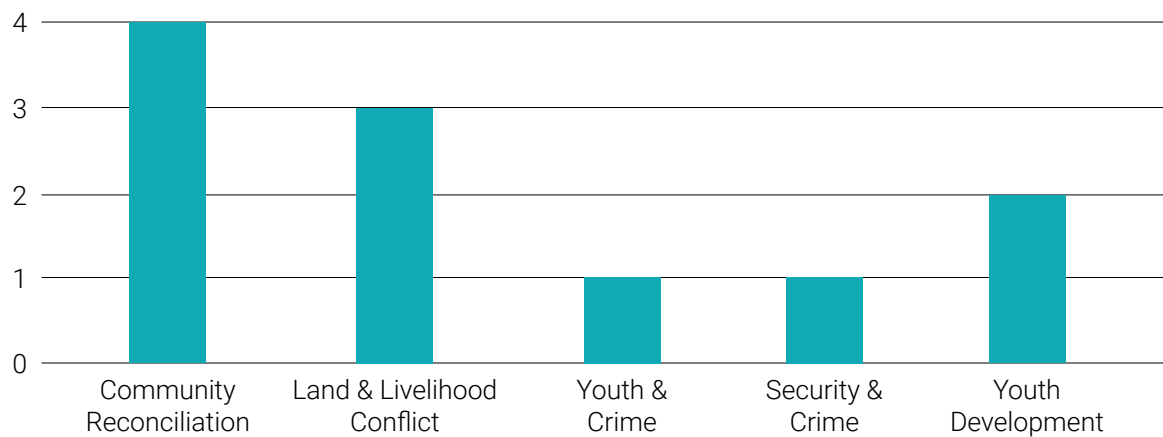
initiative for providing a space to share perspectives, address concerns, and identify collective solutions.

A particularly impactful dialogue took place in March 2024 in Cluster N, where local leaders raised concerns about gender-based violence, child neglect, and substance abuse. In response, the community committed to regular dialogues, awareness campaigns, and radio talk shows to educate residents. Follow-up assessments indicated improved knowledge of referral pathways, greater confidence in WPDI interventions, and stronger community engagement in conflict resolution.

Another notable community dialogue took place in June in Cluster G, when WPDI brought together UNHCR, district officials, and local leaders to address land disputes, ethnic tensions, and school dropouts. The community implemented separate dialogues for men and women, human rights sensitization, and English language training to break communication barriers. Results showed higher school attendance, increased participation in literacy programs, and ongoing advocacy efforts to support education.



Themes discussed during community dialogues in KRS



"As a youth leader, I have witnessed the profound impact of WPDJ community dialogue meetings in my cluster. These meetings have united young people in championing peaceful coexistence, bridging the gap between youths and leaders. The WPDJ community dialogue meeting has served as a platform to hear the voices of the voiceless. Despite cultural differences, the dialogues have fostered increased tolerance and encouraged the adoption of non-violent methods for resolving conflicts."

Adokorach Beatrice,
Youth Leader, Cluster A



"The community dialogue meetings have been very useful in managing and resolving conflict in my community. They encourage meaningful dialogue and reconciliation among refugees, promoting cooperation, unity, and togetherness despite our differences."

Majuma Mbugani Rose,
Female Representative for Refugee Welfare



Peacebuilding for Refugees through a Special Community Dialogue

Tensions between refugees are de-escalated

The tension and hostility in Cluster G reached a fragile state due to the new arrivals from Sudan, especially as youths began moving in groups. These group movements were seen as an early conflict warning sign, prompting WPD I to engage in a conversation with one of the Cluster G leaders. Reports indicated high levels of mistrust and incidents of hate speech. In response, WPD I organized a community dialogue focused on de-escalating tensions by fostering meaningful conversation between new arrivals and older refugees to promote respect and peace. With 157 participants in attendance, 107 females and 50 males, the session brought together community leaders, beneficiaries, and youth to provide a 360-degree perspective. This initiative successfully reduced tensions, leading to visible peaceful coexistence among community members.

Positive feedback from stakeholders

“WPD I is a crucial development partner in Kiryandongo, and we greatly appreciate their interventions in peacebuilding among both refugee and host communities. Reliable reports indicate that new arrivals from Sudan were selectively targeted by hate speech and faced a hostile environment from their fellow South Sudanese counterparts. Recognizing these as early warning signs of conflict, WPD I organized a dialogue specifically in Cluster G to de-escalate tensions and hostility, successfully restoring harmony.”

Baguma Pius Patrick,
CDO Bweyale Town Council



“Before the community dialogue organized by WPD I, the community—mainly from South Sudan—was hostile, using unfriendly language towards new arrivals from Sudan. This hostility led our youths to move in groups to avoid and counter potential conflicts, but these group movements worsened perceptions of the new arrivals, and tension was visibly evident throughout the refugee communities. WPD I did a wonderful job restoring calm, hope, and understanding, encouraging everyone to be peaceful and respectful, and to embrace meaningful dialogue and reconciliation.”

Abdullah Muhammad,
Community leader, Cluster G



Community Leaders Training

In 2024, WPD I equipped 60 local leaders in KRS with essential conflict resolution skills, enabling them to mediate disputes and foster peace within their communities. Through comprehensive training sessions, participants gained a deeper understanding of conflict dynamics, communication, negotiation, and mediation, empowering them to take proactive steps in preventing and resolving conflicts. The training covered key conflict concepts, including their types, characteristics, sources, and phases, providing leaders with the tools to identify early signs of tension and address them effectively. Trainees also explored the intersection of perception and emotions in conflict, recognizing how cultural beliefs, historical grievances, and emotional regulation influence disputes. By the end of the program, participants expressed greater confidence in their ability to manage conflicts, communicate effectively, and uphold the trust placed in them by their communities.





"As a woman councilor, this training has greatly empowered me and enhanced my capacity by providing practical skills in conflict resolution and management, which I will use to de-escalate conflicts and embrace non-violent methods of resolution."

Alice Abalo,
Community Leader, Cluster 'B'



"As a leader, I was using an ineffective approach to conflict resolution before attending this community leader's training session. After the training, I am now equipped with the skills and knowledge to better handle conflict—especially in peace mediation—with a deeper understanding of how to manage emotions in conflict."

Wabwire Samuel,
Community Leader



Conflict Resolution Skills for Everyone in the Community

4,873 Total Beneficiaries

180

**Conflict Resolution
Education Trainees**

1,586

**Participants in
Cinema for Peace**

3,107

**Participants in CLC
Advocacy Campaigns**

In 2024, WPDI continued to provide Conflict Resolution Skills at the CLC and within local communities, reaching a total of 4,873 people through various programs. These include 180 CRE

trainees, 1,586 participants in Cinema for Peace, and 3,107 individuals engaged in CLC advocacy campaigns. These programs aim to empower individuals to apply skills to foster peace.

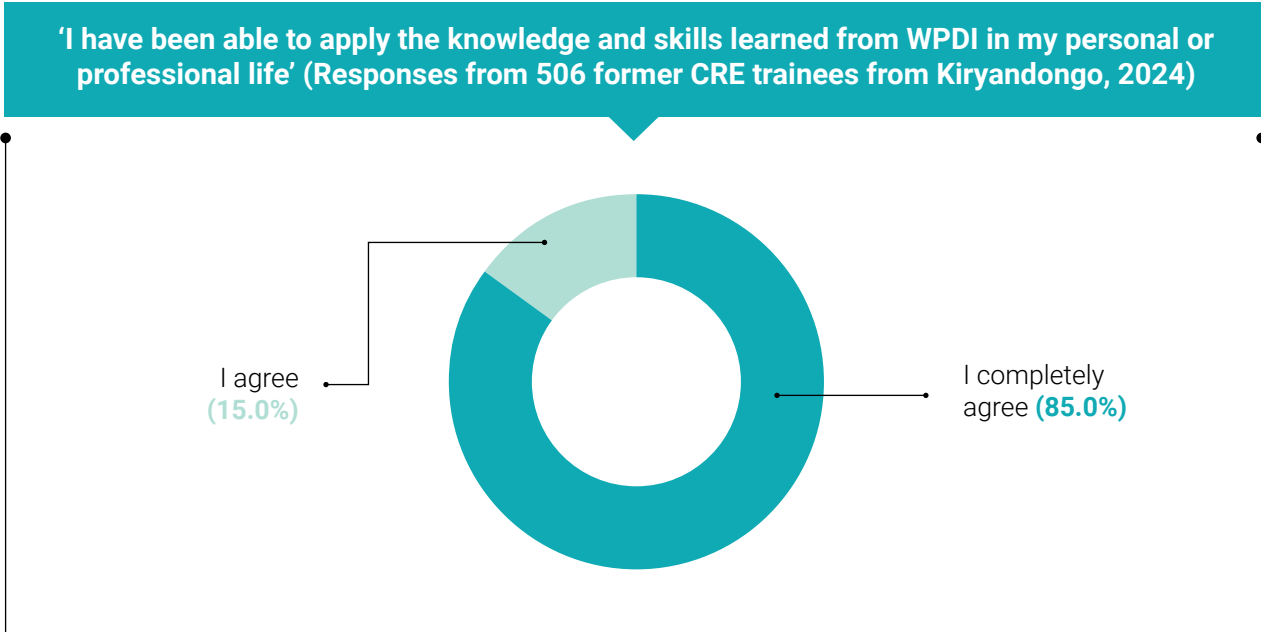
Conflict Resolution Education at the Community Learning Center

In 2024, WPDI expanded its conflict resolution training efforts in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, equipping local leaders and youth with essential skills to address disputes and promote peace. The training provided a deeper understanding of conflict dynamics, including its types, sources, and phases, helping trainees recognize early warning signs and apply appropriate resolution strategies. Discussions on perception, emotions, and diversity helped trainees navigate cultural differences and historical grievances while promoting tolerance and coexistence. By the end of the program, trainees

were empowered to replicate their learning by raising awareness, leading sensitization efforts, and mobilizing peace forums and advocacy campaigns. Many have since become active in their communities, supporting local initiatives aimed at preventing violence, addressing youth challenges, and fostering social cohesion. Additionally, the training has increased employability among youth, with some securing roles as community activists and mobilizers dedicated to peacebuilding efforts in the settlement.



In 2024, we conducted a survey among 506 former trainees in Kiryandongo, 100% of whom declared that they had used their skills in their daily or professional lives.



“The training has improved my communication and listening skills compared to how I used to interact with my friends, relatives, and workmates. I have high confidence in myself, and I will use the knowledge gained to search for better job opportunities while promoting peaceful coexistence in my community.”

Abalo Scovia Odong,
CRE Trainee



“I feel that my self-esteem has significantly improved after successfully completing the three-month training in Conflict Resolution Education. I have gained a wealth of skills, and my knowledge has greatly expanded, allowing me to confidently speak with authority on matters of peacebuilding. My community will benefit from me as I serve as a peace ambassador with strong expertise in peace mediation.”

Acan Dorcus Inzikuru,
CRE Trainee



Cinema for Peace

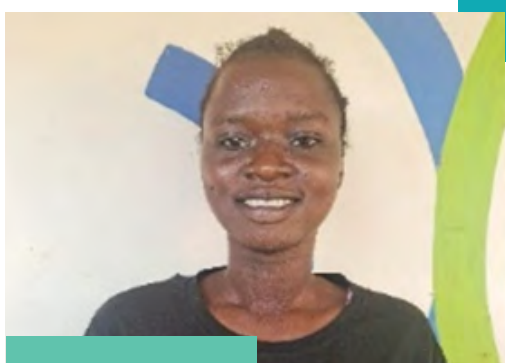
The WPDI Cinema for Peace program uses film screenings to promote peacebuilding, social cohesion, and community engagement in the KRS and surrounding host communities. The program plays a role in fostering peace, tolerance, and understanding by sparking meaningful discussions, encouraging social interaction, and providing a platform for sharing perspectives inspired by the films. Through screenings of films with powerful characters and narratives centered on peace, reconciliation, and

conflict resolution, the program engaged 1,586 children and young people in conversations about critical topics. The films covered a range of themes, including courage and resilience, teamwork and cooperation, overcoming adversity, leadership and responsibility, cultural diversity and inclusion, the power of forgiveness, environmental conservation, personal growth, and the importance of unity in resolving conflicts.



"The Cinema for Peace program has inspired my brother and I to persevere and work hard. Life as a refugee is challenging, especially when it comes to finding employment. However, films that highlight resilience, determination, and the pursuit of success have motivated us to continue studying hard and chasing our dreams."

Danial Richard,
Community Member



"The Cinema for Peace sessions have truly empowered us girls to stand up and advocate for our rights. In the communities we come from, women are often not given the respect they deserve and are seen as the weaker gender. However, through this program, I have gained confidence and awareness, and today, I am proud to say that I am a peace ambassador in my community."

Nyamal William Rick Biel,
Community Member



Finding Home Through Film: How Cinema for Peace Supports Refugee Children

Struggling to adjust: Sarah's arrival in KRS

Sarah Kojo, a 12-year-old girl living in KRS, fled from her country, Sudan, with her family due to ongoing violence. Upon arrival in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Sarah felt lost and disconnected. She struggled to cope with her new reality, often haunted by memories of her past.

Seeing herself on screen: Sarah joins Cinema for Peace

Sarah eagerly joined the program, where she could participate in movie screenings and express herself freely through the discussions. Here she began to channel her hopes and fears through creative narratives with the guidance of a Cinema for Peace mobilizer. She participated in a short film project that depicted the journey of the young girl finding hope amidst challenges.

Forging a sense of community through shared stories

After months of participation, Sarah developed friendships with other children in the program. This helped her process her trauma, build confidence, and regain a sense of familiarity. The Cinema for Peace program had a ripple effect on the broader community. As children like Sarah shared their movies during community screenings, families and adults were drawn into conversations about resilience and healing. The program fostered empathy, forgiveness, reconciliation, and understanding, bridging gaps between different cultural background experiences.

The transformative power of Cinema for refugee youth

Sarah's journey through the Cinema for Peace program demonstrates the transformative power of the arts in healing and rebuilding life. By providing refugee children with tools for expression and connection, the program also nurtured individual growth and cultivated a supportive community.

Bringing Skills and Values to Schools

10,768 Total Participants in School-based Peacebuilding

41

**Schools Hosting
WPDI Programs**

2,850

**Learners and
Teachers Trained**

7,968

**People Reached
Through Advocacy
Campaigns in
Schools**

232

**Girls and Boys
Supported Through
Scholarships**

In 2024, the Conflict Resolution Education training was conducted in 41 primary and secondary schools in and around the Settlement. This training equipped 2,850 students with essential skills in conflict management and peace promotion, fostering peace values both within their schools and in their respective communities. After completing the training, some participants established a

peace club within the school to continue raising awareness about the importance of peace. These clubs play a vital role in supporting peers during incidents of bullying and misconduct, promoting positive behavior, and working closely with teachers to amplify student voices through advocacy campaigns. After graduation, trainees join peace clubs as peace ambassadors, actively participating



in weekly activities such as drama presentations on the importance of peace and education. They also engage in advocacy campaigns aimed at protecting

education from attacks, both within their schools and in their respective communities. This year, 7,968 people were reached through such campaigns.



Teachers' training in Conflict Resolution Education

WPDI acknowledges the critical role that teachers play in creating a safe and peaceful learning environment, where they lead by example. The teacher training in CRE is therefore designed to enhance school teachers' knowledge and skills in managing and resolving conflicts in schools and

communities. This year, five schools participated, each with ten teachers, benefiting a total of 50 in-school teachers in KRS. In addition to their training, the teachers support school peace clubs in resolving conflicts and amplifying voices for change, with a specific focus on protecting education from attacks.





"CRE training has greatly shaped my teaching style, as it gave me a deeper understanding of the diversity and uniqueness of each learner. This has made teaching more enjoyable for me, unlike before when I would become emotionally overwhelmed, which caused a lot of strain. Thank you, WPDI for bringing teachers on board."

Kilebera Mildred,
Teacher at Can-Rom Primary School



"I have gained valuable mediation skills through CRE training, which has helped me handle many conflicts within the teachers' quarters, among learners, and in the community. I feel happy that people around me now see me as someone who can offer solutions whenever needed, giving me a sense of purpose in my life."

Obedgiu Patrick,
Teacher at Arnold Primary School



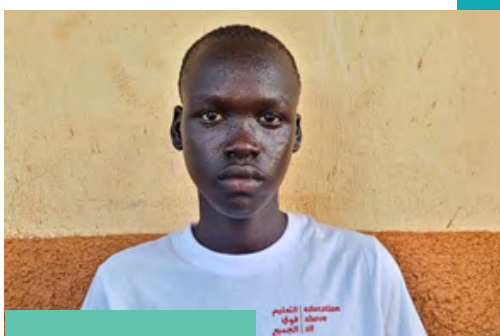
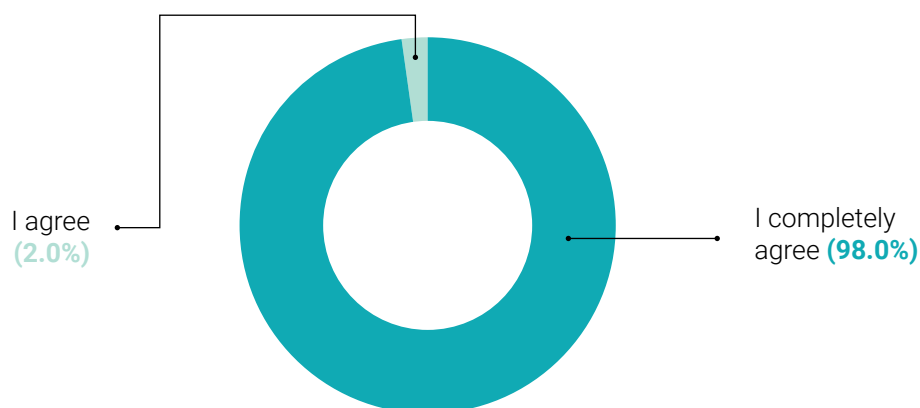
Positive Feedback from Stakeholders: Conflict Resolution in Schools

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 seven 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, nonviolence, 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'. 96% of them agreed that 'The Peace Education program of WPDI helps to improve learning conditions for the learners of the school'. The laudatory feedback from 2024 echoes closely that from 2023, which confirms the program's relevance as a vector for positive outcomes in schools as learning communities.



The peace education program of WPDI is a useful contribution for preventing or addressing bullying and other forms of conflict and violence in school? (51 responses from educators and school staff)



"The CRE training has taught me the importance of loving and caring for one another because peace is about sharing love and supporting each other. I enjoy helping my classmates, even when they come from different tribes and speak different languages, as we are all part of the same community."

Anyuen Kur Lieth,
Pupil at Can-Rom Primary school



"The training has empowered me as a girl to remain calm during conflicts and resolve them in a non-violent way. It has also strengthened my relationship with teachers, and with their support, I am performing better academically. Additionally, the peace values I have learned have boosted my self-esteem, making me more confident in myself and my abilities."

Aber Sarah,
Student at Bweyale Senior Secondary School



Planting Seeds of Peace: WPDl's Work in Refugee and Host Community Schools

Ongoing issues in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement schools

The Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement and its surrounding host communities continue to experience persistent conflict, especially within schools. These tensions are deeply rooted in tribalism and ethnic divisions, with long-standing rivalries playing a significant role. These divisions, originating from the prolonged conflicts in South Sudan and Sudan, have extended into the Ugandan settlement, affecting not just interpersonal relationships but the overall atmosphere in schools. Social media has exacerbated these issues, with influential figures and activists spreading hate speech and disinformation, further fueling division. Cultural traditions, including early and forced marriages often driven by poverty, also contribute to unrest and negatively impact education, especially for girls.

Limited resources hinder learning

The consequences of these conflicts are felt strongly in schools, where numerous challenges hinder learning. Overcrowded classrooms and a shortage of learning spaces result in an unmanageable student-to-teacher ratio, negatively impacting the quality of education. Sanitation facilities are often inadequate, and limited access to clean water raises concerns about student health, hygiene, and overall well-being. Technology remains out of reach for many learners due to the lack of computers, internet access, and digital resources. Additionally, poverty and socioeconomic inequalities make it difficult for many families to afford school fees and necessary materials, leading to low attendance and disparities in academic performance. Cultural and social norms also influence student participation, requiring schools to adopt culturally sensitive approaches to ensure all children are engaged and supported.

WPDl's response to the crisis

In response to these complex issues, the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative has implemented a range of programs aimed at promoting peace and improving the learning environment in KRS schools. WPDl began by providing conflict resolution training to students, teachers, school administrators, and even some parents, equipping them with tools to manage disputes constructively. To further support this, peace clubs were established in many schools, offering students a platform to discuss challenges and collaboratively develop peaceful solutions. These clubs inspired many to participate in Conflict Resolution Education, helping to transform their perspectives and enabling them to become peace ambassadors within their schools and communities.

Students learn understanding, tolerance, and unity

WPDl also organized intercultural dialogue sessions that brought together students from diverse ethnic backgrounds. These sessions fostered greater understanding, tolerance, and unity. Additionally, sports and recreational activities were introduced to foster teamwork and social cohesion, while student leaders received training in leadership, community development, and conflict resolution. A mentorship program was also launched, pairing young leaders with experienced mentors to guide and support their growth.

Peace skills engage the whole community

Beyond the school environment, WPDl carried out community outreach initiatives, engaging parents, local leaders, and other stakeholders to promote peace and reconciliation. The organization worked closely with school administrations to develop long-term strategies for conflict resolution and to embed a culture of peace within schools. Advocacy campaigns involving education authorities and local stakeholders also led to positive change, such as the relocation of farming and grazing activities that were disrupting the school environment. This restored a sense of safety and order around school compounds.

Impact and outcomes

Through these combined efforts, WPDl has contributed to a noticeable reduction in conflict and a stronger sense of unity within both the refugee and host community schools. The initiatives have not only helped students regain a sense of purpose and belonging but have also fostered a broader environment of understanding and peace. By addressing the root causes of conflict and actively promoting reconciliation, WPDl has helped transform schools into safer, more inclusive spaces where all children have the opportunity to learn and grow.

Providing Scholarships for Students Living in the Settlement

Since 2021, WPDI has been providing scholarships to 165 girls throughout Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement and surrounding host communities. The scholarship program has increased access to education for girls who would otherwise be unable to attend school due to financial constraints at the secondary and university levels. The girls who receive the scholarships are empowered to take control of their education, build confidence, and develop leadership skills during mentorship meetings. The scholars

have demonstrated significant improvements in their academic performance, with many achieving top grades and academic awards in the target schools and have become role models and leaders in their communities, promoting girls' education and empowerment among their peers and families.

More recently, WPDI has helped 67 children, part of the Peace Through Sports program, pursue their education through scholarships.



Empowering Girls in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement: Overcoming Barriers to Education and Empowerment

Challenges faced by girls in Kiryandongo

Girls and women make up about 52% of Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement's population, but they face significant obstacles to education and empowerment. Cultural barriers, poverty, and limited resources often force girls to drop out of school to care for siblings, contribute to household chores, or marry early. Additionally, girls face protection concerns such as early marriage, teenage pregnancies, gender-based violence, and exploitation, all while lacking basic healthcare services.

WPDI's response to support girls' education

WPDI has been committed to closing the education gap by providing scholarships to vulnerable girls. These scholarships cover school fees, materials, uniforms, and meals, enabling girls to continue their education despite financial difficulties. Regular mentorship programs have fostered empowerment, boosting self-confidence and life skills. WPDI also engages with community leaders and parents to raise awareness about the importance of girls' education and challenges traditional norms.

A success story: Gisma Peace Samson

Since 2019, Gisma Peace Samson has been a scholarship beneficiary of WPDI. Gisma shares, "With the WPDI scholarship, I completed my Ordinary and Advanced Level education and am now pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Medicine at Mbarara University. Being a scholarship beneficiary since primary school has helped me fulfill my dream of completing my education. I hope my journey inspires other young women facing challenges in the refugee settlement. My goal is to give back to my community, advocate for human rights, and break stereotypes about women. I aspire to be a role model, encouraging girls to stay focused and pursue their dreams."





Livelihood: Opportunities for Socio- Economic Empowerment

WPDI's livelihood pillars aim to break the cycle of poverty and instability by equipping individuals with practical skills that enhance their employability and economic independence. In fragile contexts where poverty and conflict are closely linked, many young people face barriers to formal education, making them vulnerable to unemployment and financial hardship. By bridging the gap between peacebuilding and economic empowerment, WPDI ensures that stability translates into long-term prosperity.

Capacity-Building Courses

934 Total Trainees in Vocational Courses

288

**ICT
Trainees**

347

**Business and
Entrepreneurship
Trainees**

160

**Vulnerable Women
Trained in Business**

139

**Arts and Crafts
Trainees**

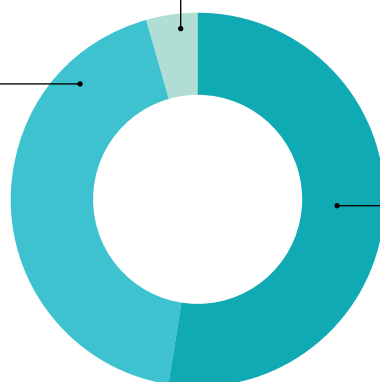
WPDI offers vocational training in ICT, Business and Entrepreneurship, and Arts and Crafts, providing participants with the knowledge and tools needed to secure job opportunities or launch their own businesses. These initiatives not only equip

individuals with essential livelihood skills but also contribute to sustainable community development, reinforcing the link between economic progress and lasting peace.

96% of 635 vocational trainees surveyed in 2024 reported using their skills in their personal and professional lives

I neither agree nor
disagree (4.3%)

I completely
agree (43.1%)



I agree
(52.6%)

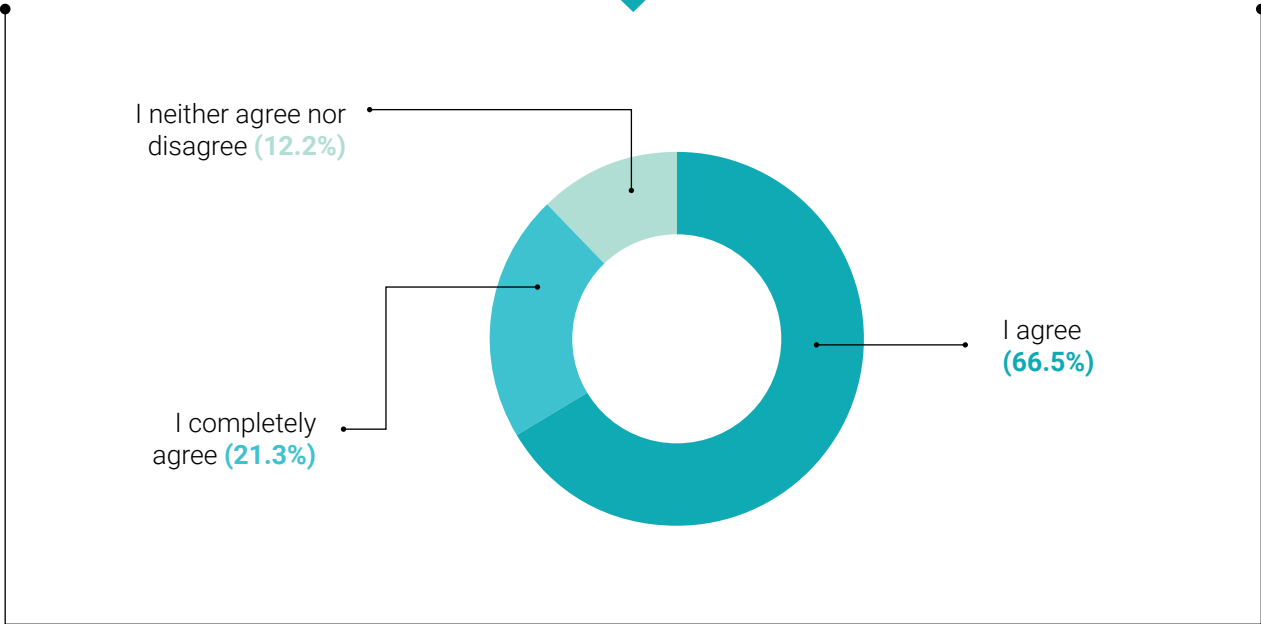


Information and Communication Technologies

In today’s digital age, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) skills are essential for everyone, regardless of age or background. WPDI’s ICT training program aims to empower beneficiaries, including students, community members, and young people, with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the digital world with confidence. In 2024, 288 trainees learned how to browse the web, use search engines, evaluate online information, create email accounts, compose emails, manage their inboxes, and edit, format, and share documents in real time. By equipping individuals with ICT skills, we enable them to access information, communicate effectively, and actively participate in the global digital economy.



88% of 221 ICT trainees surveyed in 2024 reported using their skills in their personal and professional lives





“The advanced ICT training was an invaluable experience for me. Over the three months, I gained hands-on practice with Microsoft 365 applications such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Access. I can now create professional documents, design forms with VBA/Macros, make presentations, and manage and analyze data in spreadsheets—skills that are essential for many jobs. Learning to communicate and collaborate online has also helped me connect with people beyond my community. This training has opened new doors for me, and I am excited to put these skills to use in a real workplace.”

Ayman Abdallah Khreef,
ICT trainee



“The ICT training program was a life-changing experience for me. Before the program, I had a basic understanding of technology, but I lacked the skills and confidence to pursue a career in the field. The program challenged me to think critically and creatively while helping me develop problem-solving skills that I can apply in any profession. The instructors were knowledgeable, supportive, and passionate about the subject, making the program both engaging and enjoyable. I also appreciated the sense of community it fostered, as I connected with other students who shared my interests and aspirations. This training has opened up a world of possibilities for me, and I am excited to pursue a career in ICT.”

Monday Isaac,
ICT trainee



Ayman receives the ICT training he needs to find employment

Ayman Abdallah Khreef, a 25-year-old Sudanese refugee residing in Cluster G of the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, graduated from the ICT advanced class. Despite facing challenges such as long distances to the Community Learning Center, disruptions caused by rain, and the time required for food distribution, he successfully completed the training. Through WPD, Ayman gained valuable computer skills that now enable him to generate income and apply his knowledge effectively in various areas.

Ayman shares: “The advanced ICT training was a valuable experience for me. Over three months, I gained hands-on practice with Microsoft 365 applications, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Access. I can now create professional documents, make presentations, design forms with VBA/Macros, and manage and analyze data in spreadsheets—important skills for many jobs. Learning to communicate and collaborate online has also helped me connect with people beyond my community. This training has opened new opportunities for me, and I am excited to apply these skills in a real workplace.”



Arts and Crafts

WPDI's Arts and Crafts program aims to equip community members with practical skills that enhance their economic independence and self-empowerment. Through hands-on training, participants develop expertise in creating marketable products and skills in the production of craft shoes, liquid and laundry soap, beaded bags and purses, bracelets, necklaces, hair shampoo, shoe polish, bag knitting, and crocheting. This program has empowered participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to start their own businesses in art, design, and tailoring. In 2024, a total of 139 community members attended the Arts, Crafts, and Design training. Beyond economic benefits,

the initiative has fostered social connections and strengthened relationships among trainees from diverse backgrounds, contributing to communal transformation and peaceful coexistence. During 2024, WPDI conducted outreach and mobilization efforts through community dialogues, trade exhibitions, and participation in events such as World Refugee Day and Women's Day to showcase handcrafted products and engage with potential beneficiaries. Beyond economic benefits, the initiative has fostered social connections and strengthened relationships among trainees from diverse backgrounds, contributing to communal transformation and peaceful coexistence.



"I enrolled in the WPDI tailoring program at the CLC, which has enabled me to acquire life-changing skills in tailoring and garment cutting. I had stayed home for two years without going to school after my parents couldn't support me to complete my primary education due to financial constraints. I was in serious distress and often conflicted with my parents because they were unable to meet my educational needs. The opportunity WPDI offered me in tailoring supported, inspired, and taught me to always stay focused, never lose hope, and restore my dreams. Now, I have a skill at hand that can help me feed myself and live an independent life. The program has not only provided me with technical skills but also boosted my confidence and passion to pursue tailoring as a profession."

Nabifu Agnes,
Arts & Crafts Trainee





“Joining the arts, craft, and design program was a transformative experience that opened my eyes to endless possibilities of creativity and opportunity due to its market demand. This has helped me save some of my money and reduce my financial burden. I am happy to say that I no longer buy soap for my family; instead, I make and sell it to the community. Through this, I earn a living for myself and provide for my two children. Another valuable aspect of the course was the exposure through trade shows and exhibitions, which provided insights into how to turn my passion into a career. The knowledge and skills I acquired in arts, craft, and design exceeded my expectations. It was a perfect blend of education, inspiration, and creativity.”

Nusuar Nakyeze,
Arts & Crafts Trainee



Eunice Gains Skills and Friends through Arts and Crafts

A history of challenges

Apiyo Eunice, and her siblings ended up in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement after the abduction of their parents during the insurgency of the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda, an experience that left them deeply traumatized.

Inspired by her friends, Eunice joins WPD's Arts and Crafts program

She first heard about the WPD's Arts & Crafts program through her friends, who attended the Community Learning Center daily to participate in the program. They were enrolled in the Arts and Crafts course, and Eunice became interested after seeing her friends create many crafty items using local materials. She noticed a positive change in her friends' behavior compared to their lives before joining WPD.

Learning life skills through art

This program has provided Eunice and others with an opportunity to build a happy and supportive social community, as they learn and engage in craft activities with people from different communities. Eunice learned valuable life skills, such as good personal behaviors that she had not known or practiced before. She has made new friendships and is now able to socialize with people from different, often conflicting, communities. Additionally, Eunice developed strong communication skills, a crucial aspect of life that helps build good rapport among people. The tailoring and garment cutting course, in which women from different communities are trained together, provided Eunice with new skills and knowledge in fashion and design. Participating in trade exhibitions has also created valuable networking opportunities and linkages with partners involved in livelihood activities.

Making friends beyond the training

Through the program, Eunice and others have formed strong, lasting friendships with youth, women, and children who attend the Community Learning Center and even those outside the center. Participation in trade shows has further expanded these friendships, creating connections with partners, different communities within the settlement, and the host community.

Eunice's experience in her own words

Eunice shares her experience: “The Arts and Crafts program has helped me acquire new skills and knowledge, building my competence while allowing me to focus less on the past. It has also helped me create new friendships with people from different tribes and cultural backgrounds. We now live happily as one people, enjoying total peace, freedom, and unity. We wholeheartedly recommend the Arts and Craft department to continue its work, as it is a life-changing activity being implemented by WPD.”



Business and Entrepreneurship

WPDI’s Business and Entrepreneurship program equips community members with essential skills to foster economic resilience, self-sufficiency, and long-term stability. By promoting business knowledge and financial management, these programs empower individuals to generate income, break the cycle of poverty, and contribute to sustainable development and social cohesion.

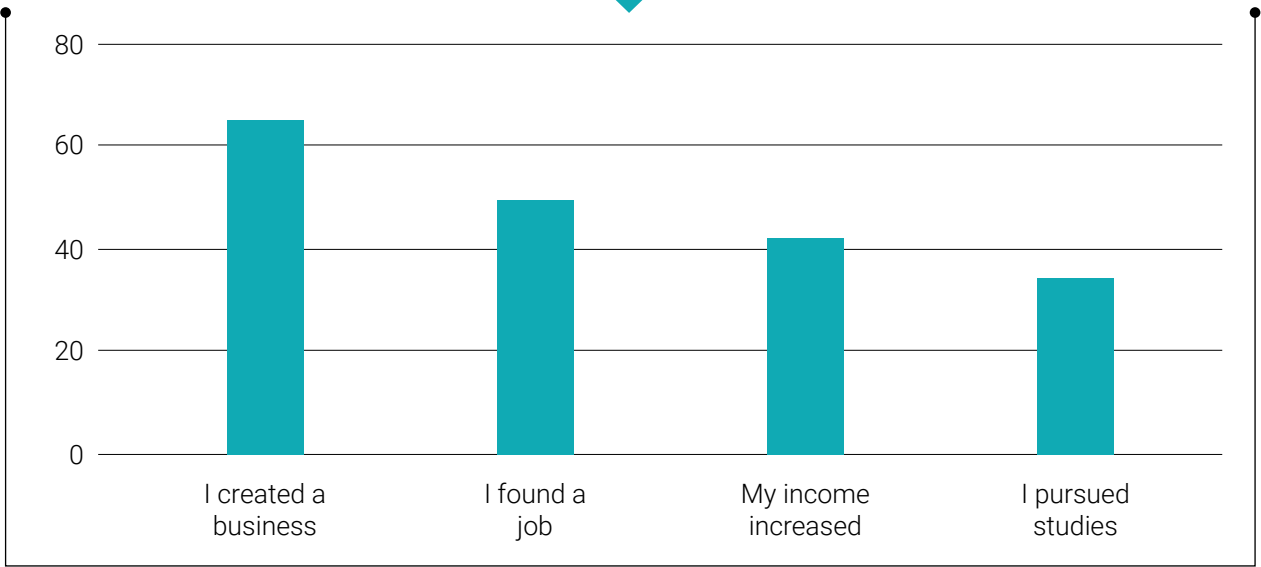
Throughout the year, WPDI has provided training to vulnerable youth, including school dropouts and child-headed families, helping them develop entrepreneurial and literacy skills. A total of 347 participants enrolled in Business and Entrepreneurship courses. The training covered key topics, including business idea generation, financial management, customer care, marketing, record-keeping, and business ethics.

In response to the influx of new refugee arrivals, WPDI also integrated English for Adults and Functional Adult Literacy (EFA/FAL) to address language barriers. A total of 475 individuals (220 males and 255 females) participated, enhancing their ability to communicate, integrate socially, and pursue economic opportunities.

These programs serve as a gateway for economic and social empowerment. Graduates have applied their skills to launch businesses and engage in community development, reinforcing resilience and fostering peaceful coexistence within the settlement and host community.



‘Has the program improved your career prospects?’ (82 responses from Business Skills trainees)





"I arrived due to the war in South Sudan and have not returned because the conflict is ongoing. I learned about the WPDI program from my friends and was fortunate to be enrolled in the Functional Adult Literacy program in 2023. At 32, I struggled to communicate in English, which limited my ability to interact and conduct business. With WPDI's support and an engaging curriculum, I gained confidence in my language skills and completed level three. I can now speak, read, and write in English fluently. This training has opened doors to new opportunities, allowing me to communicate effectively, negotiate business deals, and grow my network. My improved English has enhanced both my business prospects and my confidence. I now work as a Field Officer with the Red Cross Uganda in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. I highly recommend WPDI's English programs for anyone looking to improve their language skills. I am grateful to WPDI for helping me achieve my goals and am proud to represent their programs in my community."

Roberto Chuaol Chauk,
Business and Entrepreneurship Trainee



"I am very happy and excited that my family and I arrived safely in Uganda. I am 22 years old, and we are starting over. We lost everything back home, so we are building a new life here. I am grateful to WPDI for enrolling me among the 75 trainees learning business and entrepreneurship skills. I attended the Business Leadership Training program, and it was transformative. I gained valuable insights into effective leadership, communication, and strategic planning. The training helped me develop the confidence to lead my team and drive business growth."

Abdala Eltag,
Business and Entrepreneurship Trainee



Hana Adam's Journey from Escaping War and Finding Peace

Hana leaves South Sudan and learns English in KRS

Hana Adam is a refugee from Sudan who, along with her family, relocated to Uganda due to the war that broke out in Sudan. After enduring difficult travel conditions, she arrived in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. During a meeting at the refugee reception center, various partners were present to inform the refugees about available opportunities, and WPDI was one of them. Hana took an interest in visiting their CLC, where she was able to enroll in English classes with the help of translators, as she couldn't speak English at the time.

From English classes to further education

At 18 years old, Hana faced significant challenges, with language barriers being her first obstacle. Unemployment compounded these challenges, as she struggled to afford basic needs such as education, clothing, and sanitary pads. However, with the support of WPDI, she successfully completed her English course up to level three and continued her studies in business, which she found particularly engaging. Hana hopes to further education once she finishes the program. She believes the opportunities provided by WPDI are invaluable, especially for vulnerable individuals like refugees.

In Hana's own words

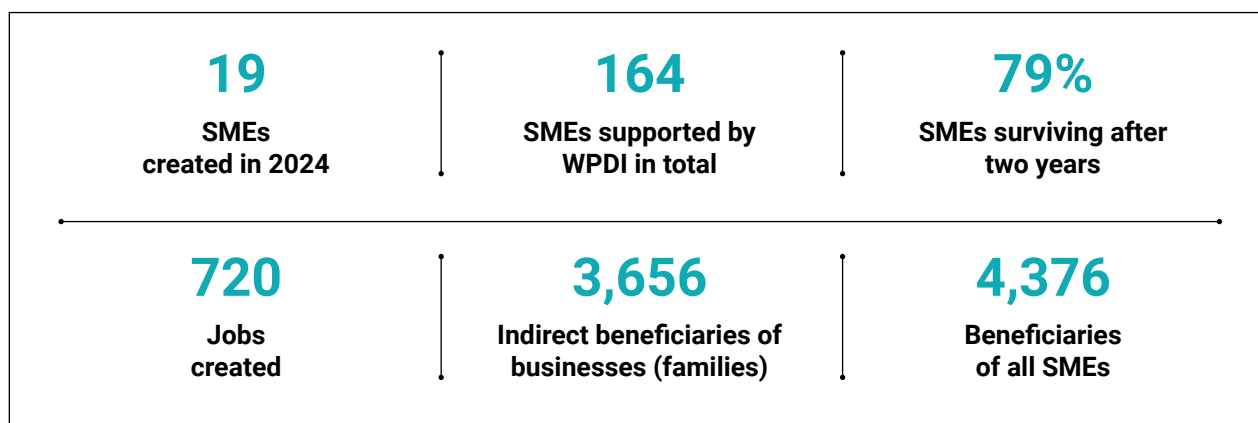


"Such a program offered by WPDI is incredibly helpful for vulnerable individuals, including refugees. For me, I have found it to be closely connected to my life. It has made starting over possible because I now have a place to go for help and support."

Hana Adam

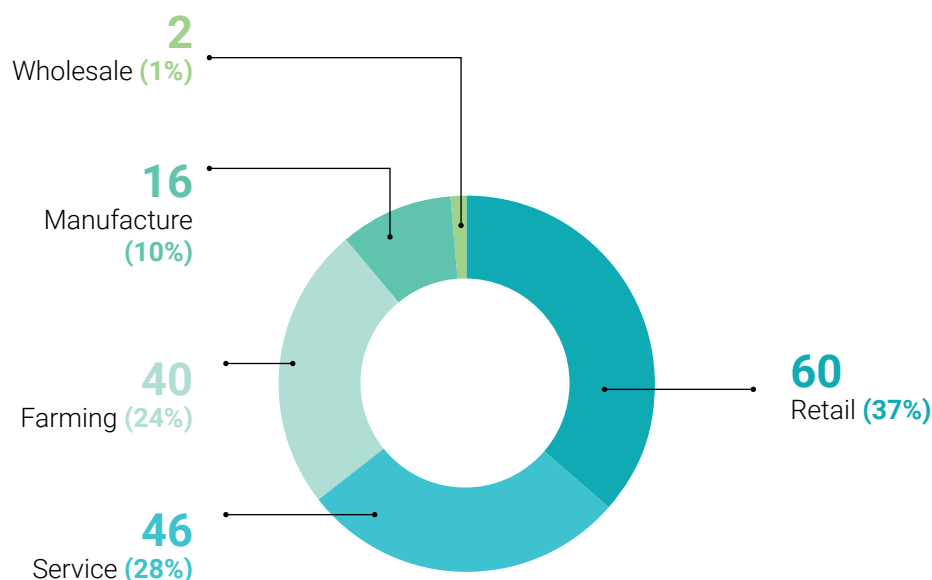


Supporting Income-Generating Projects



WPDI supports community-based Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) by providing business grants and training to help them establish and sustain their income-generating projects. In 2024, 19 groups and 190 members successfully participated in the program, leading to the creation of 720 jobs. The Business Plan Competition (BPC) runs for one month and includes a structured process: a one-week period for advertising and applicant outreach, a one-week business plan workshop, and two weeks for screening and approval. Once selected, groups are required to open bank accounts. WPDI verifies these details before disbursing grants in two or three installments, depending on the progress and achievement of key milestones.

Types of the 164 businesses active in 2024 in Kiryandongo



To ensure long-term sustainability, WPDl provides ongoing business support, including regular counseling, technical guidance, and assistance with value chain development. Business Skills Officers and Peacemakers conduct onsite monitoring to track progress and address challenges. Additionally, all grant recipients receive training in savings and loan association (VSLA) practices to strengthen financial management and group cohesion. Following grant disbursement, participating youth and women's groups engaged in specialized VSLA training and received toolkits to support their activities. WPDl continues to monitor their monthly savings and overall impact, reinforcing financial literacy and sustainable economic growth.

Building Confidence through Business: Tukende Liboso Village Saving Women's Group story

Introducing the Tukende Liboso Village Saving Women's Group

The business is called "Tukende Liboso Village Saving Women's Group," located in Cluster G within the settlement. The group was formed in 2022 by 15 members, mainly consisting of refugee women, many of whom are single mothers and widows from South Sudan, after receiving six months of training from WPDl. At the time, they were solely dependent on food rations, which were insufficient to last the entire month, leading to hunger and other challenges within the household.

Joining WPDl for empowerment

The group learned about WPDl during regular community dialogues aimed at addressing pressing needs and problems in the clusters. Upon hearing about the WPDl program, the group developed an interest in joining and sent their leadership to visit the WPDl CLC, bringing their details to complete the registration process. They joined the program due to the widespread food insecurity affecting all members, as they were single mothers and widows who could only rely on inadequate food rations. They believed that by joining the program, they would be empowered to become self-reliant.

Business and Entrepreneurship training brings confidence to the group

The group members are mothers between the ages of 30 and 45 years. Their main challenges included food insecurity and the inability to afford basic needs like water in their area.

The WPDl program helped the group build confidence through entrepreneurship and business training, which led to the initiation of an income-generating project. This income, combined with group savings, allowed the group to diversify their activities into farming, focusing on cereal and horticulture production.

Impact and future growth

So far, through the WPDl program, the group has been able to meet their basic needs, such as paying school fees and purchasing clothing. Additionally, as a group, they have increased their income by serving the surrounding community with vegetables and maize grains. With access to water for irrigation and additional support from a partner, their agricultural activities have expanded, further strengthening their self-reliance and economic stability.

Supporting Women- and Youth-Led Businesses

WPDI has continued to support women- and youth-led businesses in KRS. This continued support empowers both women and youth to establish sustainable businesses, fostering economic independence and resilience within the refugee settlement.

In 2024, 8 women-led businesses received support, including two tailoring businesses, one salon, an events management venture, a piggery farm, an apiary project, a produce business, and a restaurant. Additionally, 11 youth-led businesses were supported, three of which are standalone enterprises.



Overcoming Shared Challenges through Perseverance and Training: The Safari Youth Group

Introduction to the Safari Youth Group and its challenges

The Safari Youth Group is a refugee-led initiative located in Cluster OQ within the settlement. Formed in 2023, the group consists of ten members—five Kenyans and five Rwandese—who came together despite their different nationalities to address the shared challenges they faced as refugees. Recognizing the need to find solutions to their pressing issues, they decided to work collaboratively to improve their livelihoods.

A meeting with a WPD I Peacemaker changes their trajectory

During one of their meetings in Cluster OQ, they encountered a WPD I Peacemaker who advised them to visit the WPD I CLC. Following this recommendation, they explored the available opportunities and successfully enrolled all members in business and Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) training. They joined the program because its activities aligned with the action plans they had envisioned to support themselves and their communities.



Through Business and Entrepreneurship skills, they learn to raise capital

The group consists of members aged between 20 and 30 years. Their main challenge was poverty caused by unemployment, despite their willingness and ability to work towards a solution. WPD I helped the group address this challenge by providing them with entrepreneurship and business management skills. These skills enabled them not only to start saving collectively to raise capital for an income-generating project but also to secure grant support. This funding allowed them to establish their social cooperative business, Safari Youth Restaurant, located in Cluster OQ.

The Safari Youth Group's Testimonial

"On behalf of the Safari Youth Group, we sincerely appreciate the WPD I program for restoring hope among many youths, including ourselves. It has given us a gateway to a more stable and self-sufficient life, allowing us to integrate and thrive alongside nationals. We now feel empowered to do even better and experience a great sense of relief as we coexist and work together with the host communities. Programs like this should continue to exist to bridge gaps where government interventions may be limited or insufficient. Safari Youth Restaurant, located in Cluster OQ, provides high-quality food and outside catering services, competing effectively with other restaurants in the area. We serve a variety of local dishes, Kenyan cuisine, and other takeaway meals based on customer orders. So far, our primary market consists of the community in Cluster OQ, as well as organizations and institutions that place catering orders. Our members and staff are committed to maintaining quality through professionalism and ensuring a welcoming business environment."



Health and Well-being

Health and well-being play a crucial role in fostering inner peace, particularly in communities affected by persistent violence and poverty, where individuals often endure deep trauma and psychosocial challenges. To address these pressing needs, WPDJ expanded its efforts in 2024, offering specialized programs in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) education and Trauma Healing. By addressing both emotional and physical well-being, these programs empower individuals to rebuild their lives and contribute to healthier, more resilient communities.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

In 2024, 572 participants took part in WPD's Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) programs, which play a crucial role in promoting the well-being of individuals, particularly adolescents and marginalized communities. These programs encompass a range of activities designed to enhance access to healthcare services, education, and support systems. Key activities implemented include community engagement and support, youth-friendly health services, life skills education, and dialogue and awareness sessions on SRH. In KRS, refugee women and girls in particular face heightened risks due to displacement, conflict, and instability. They are more vulnerable to unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. Providing access to comprehensive SRH services can significantly reduce these risks and improve overall health outcomes. A key objective of the SRH

122

**Sexual & Reproductive Health
Beneficiaries**

572

**Sexual & Reproductive
Health Event Participants**

program in KRS is addressing gender-based violence (GBV). This includes providing support services for survivors, such as psychological counseling, as well as awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and promote safety within the community.





"Before joining the SRH program through the school health club, I often felt isolated and confused about my body and health. The program taught me about my rights and how to protect myself from unwanted pregnancies and STIs. I also learned about the importance of consent and maintaining healthy relationships. Now, I feel more confident discussing these issues with my friends and family. I even help organize discussion groups for girls in my community to share what we have learned. This program has not only educated me but has also empowered me to be a leader among my peers."

Ghada Abubaker,
SRH Trainee



"The implementation of the WPD I SRH program in the community has been a game changer. Before this program, many women were hesitant to seek help due to cultural stigmas surrounding reproductive health. Now, with the support of WPD I-trained staff, a safe space has been created for discussions about sexual health. This has led to increased awareness and greater utilization of services, ultimately reducing the rate of unintended pregnancies and STIs among women in the community."

Hol Gatwei



Trauma Healing Support

202

Trauma Healing Beneficiaries

515

Trauma Healing Event Participants

Given the high prevalence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental health challenges resulting from experiences of violence, torture, and displacement, the Trauma Healing program

remains essential in this region. Many refugees in KRS face significant psychological difficulties, including anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and psychological distress, which severely impact their quality of life and ability to integrate into their new community.

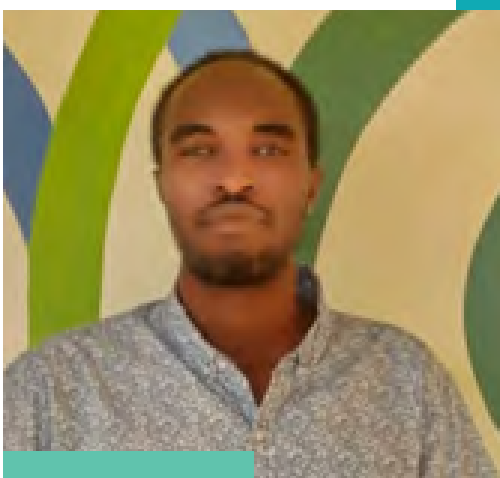
In 2024, 515 individuals received Trauma Healing support in KRS. Some of the most effective trauma healing activities include screening for mental health challenges, home visits and follow-ups, psychoeducation workshops, art and animated therapies, group counseling sessions, cognitive behavioral therapy, narrative exposure therapy, trauma-informed yoga, life skills training, community-building events, dialogue and awareness meetings, and peer support networks.





"When my family arrived at KRS, we were all deeply affected by the trauma we had endured. It was difficult for us to support each other, as we were each struggling with our own pain. However, everything changed when we joined the WPDI family-focused program. The counselors helped us understand how trauma had impacted our relationships and guided us through exercises to rebuild trust and communication. Now, our family is stronger than ever. We have learned to share our feelings openly and find joy in the simple moments of life. This program has truly transformed our lives and given us hope for the future."

Alfshid Adam Baget,
Trauma Healing Trainee



"The WPDI Trauma Healing program in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement has been a guiding light of hope for many families. As a community leader, I have witnessed how this program empowers individuals to share their stories and support one another. The healing circles have created a safe space for dialogue, which is crucial for rebuilding trust within our community. It is heartening to see participants not only heal personally but also take on leadership roles in supporting others. This ripple effect is vital for our collective recovery."

Jawaria Osman,
Trauma Healing Trainee





Sports

35,918 Participants in competition events

98

Teams managed by WPD I

1,666

Regular training participants

Peace through Sports

The WPDl Peace through Sports program utilizes sports as a tool to promote peace, social cohesion, and community development. This initiative brings together young people from diverse backgrounds to participate in sports activities, fostering teamwork, mutual understanding, and respect. This year, 98 teams were trained, with 1,666 team players engaged in the Peace through Sports program. Football tournaments were a major highlight, with three WPDl Tournaments organized for both boys and girls, taking place, and over 35,000 locals attending and taking part. These events promoted healthy competition, teamwork, and social interaction while

encouraging broader youth participation. WPDl also distributed sports equipment, including footballs and volleyballs, to support the development of sports programs in the settlement. In addition, coaching and training sessions that integrated peacebuilding and life skills concepts into sports activities, promoting conflict resolution, communication, and problem-solving skills, were provided for local youth. As a result, participants have not only developed valuable life skills, such as teamwork and leadership, but have also adopted healthier lifestyles, improved their physical fitness, and enhanced their overall well-being while living in the refugee settlement.



Koul Atem Koul: Finding Peace Through Sports

Koul joins WPDl to play football

My name is Koul Atem Koul, the fourth-born among twelve children to South Sudanese parents. I am 14 years old and a proud participant in the Peace Through Sports program.

I first heard about the program from a WPDl Peace Through Sports mobilizer who introduced me to the initiative and encouraged me to register and join a team in my age category. Since then, my experience has been nothing short of transformative.



Overcoming challenges and embracing diversity through sports

One of the challenges I have faced is the lack of adequate soccer boots, bibs, and jerseys for training, competitions, and tournaments. However, despite these challenges, the program has given me so much. I have learned to appreciate people from different backgrounds, coexist peacefully with individuals from diverse cultures, races, and tribes, and work together as a team. This experience has taught me the value of teamwork, respect, and unity.

A new team spirit and a new-found sense of community

Our daily training sessions are always fun, and I look forward to competitions and tournaments. These events excite me because they allow me to interact with so many people—players, competitors, spectators, and supporters alike. The sense of community and celebration during these tournaments is truly inspiring. Being part of this program has changed my perspective and given me new opportunities to grow, both as an athlete and as a person. I am grateful for the chance to be involved, and I hope more young people can benefit from this initiative just as I have.



“With this opportunity, I was able to learn how to improve my playing skills. Now, I am able to progress with practice due to daily training. I have been actively fighting discrimination by creating friendships with teammates from different tribes. I hope that by playing in the WPDJ teams, I can set an example for other young girls and women. In my school and community, I have created a legacy of influence. My football skills have inspired other girls in my community and country, and I want to continue developing at a high level. My goal is to help players understand that all people deserve respect and equal treatment, regardless of their differences.”

Acayo Gloria,
Peace through Sports trainee



“This program has helped me become the person I am proud of today. I once thought my dreams of playing football and continuing my education were over. The war made me believe there was nothing left for me. Many of my former teammates either joined the army on the government side or went to fight with the rebel movement. Some lost their lives, while others, like me, fled the country in search of survival. However, through the Peace Through Sports program, I have been able to return to school and rebuild my life. I now have a strong circle of friends with whom I share discussions about careers and life challenges. This program has given me hope and a renewed sense of purpose.”

Nyial Aliet,
Peace through Sports trainee



Peace Engagement Days

WPDl's monthly Peace Engagement Days, part of the Peace Through Sports initiative, blend football tournaments with community dialogues on peace and reconciliation. These events provide a platform for promoting teamwork, personal development, and social cohesion through sports and discussions. In 2024, four events were held in Kiryandongo Refugee

Settlement, benefiting over 2,000 refugees. Each event centered on a unique theme, from women's empowerment and cultural unity to mental health and peacebuilding among ethnic groups. Activities included sports competitions, board games, and cultural performances, fostering dialogue, inclusion, and mutual respect within the community.



"The Peace Engagement Day celebration, organized by WPDl, feels like therapy. We laugh, smile, dance, and connect with one another, recognizing and celebrating our diverse cultures within the refugee settlement despite the challenges we face. I truly appreciate and love this event."

Acan Milly Odora,
Community Mobilizer



"Engaging in cultural dances brings back good memories and restores hope that our culture will live on. It unites people from different tribes, allowing us to share and celebrate our traditions, which fosters peace among refugees. I am very happy to have attended the Peace Engagement Day celebration in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement."

Sabina Amenya,
Female Refugee





Conclusion

Conclusion

The year 2024 has been a pivotal one for our organization, marked by significant achievements and challenges that have tested our resilience and adaptability. Despite the considerable surge in refugees due to the ongoing crisis in Sudan over recent years, we successfully implemented our program, demonstrating our capacity to respond effectively to dynamic and complex situations.

We successfully rolled out our initiatives across multiple locations in and around Kiryandongo, ensuring that our services reached those in need, including both refugee and host communities. The trust we had already earned from local stakeholders played a significant role in facilitating our work with host refugees who also had to bear the consequences of the sudden influx of new refugee populations. This was achieved through meticulous planning, resource allocation, and the dedication of our team.

Our ability to maintain operational efficiency amidst the surge of refugees is a testament to our robust systems and processes. We streamlined our operations to handle increased demand without compromising on quality. We strengthened our engagement with local communities, fostering

partnerships that enhanced the impact of our program. These collaborations were crucial in addressing the needs of refugees and integrating them into the host communities.

While the increase in refugee numbers posed significant logistical and resource challenges, our Kiryandongo team's quick adaptation and innovative solutions ensured that we could meet these challenges head-on. Efficient management of resources was also a critical factor in sustaining our operations, enabling us to optimize resource allocation and ensure that every aspect of our program was adequately supported.

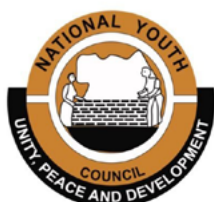
As we move forward, we are committed to building on the successes of 2024. Our focus will be on expanding our services to a broader population. We will continue to innovate and adapt our strategies to meet emerging challenges, notably by mainstreaming climate and environmental perspectives into our regular programming. This shift will help us better respond to the needs of our beneficiaries and undoubtedly create opportunities for new partnerships in support of local communities.



Our Partners



A foundation wishing to remain anonymous





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