



WHITAKER
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE

2022 Annual Report

SOUTH SUDAN

PEACE IS CONTAGIOUS

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التعليم
فوق
الجميع

education
above
all

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Executive Summary

Background

South Sudan is the youngest country in the world, having only attained its independence in July 2011 after a protracted armed struggle against the government of Sudan that spanned decades. As a result of years of marginalization, neglect, and insecurity, South Sudan is lagging in almost all development indexes among all other countries of the world. This is seen in the very low social development indicators ranging from education to health, infrastructure to food security, communal violence to climate change pressures. South Sudan is also a country of young people, with more than 70% of the population below the age of 30. While this is to be considered an asset, the high level of unemployment in the country due to the underdeveloped economy and the lack of life skills, literacy and numeracy skills of the population present a formidable challenge. The situation of the youth remains a concern as they often lack the means to support themselves through employment or securing their livelihood on their own. It is in this context that WPDI tailored the YPN Program to support local community members, focusing on youths and women in particular, providing them skills and resources that they can mobilize for their development as active citizens and economic actors. To this effect, we have established and currently maintain a network of 8 CLCs distributed across the three States of the Equatorias region that offer access to various services, including computers and training programs in Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution, Arts and Crafts, and Business and Entrepreneurship. Another asset of WPDI are the three networks of Youth Peacemakers that we support at the local level in Central, Eastern and Western Equatoria. These young women and men that we have taken for a year through a Youth Peacemaker program have the capacity to implement all aspects of our mandate on the ground, including the teaching of conflict resolution to students or local leaders, the organization of Community Dialogues, and the development of businesses that bring jobs and services in remote areas. As we work in close collaboration with local authorities and organizations, WPDI is growingly recognized as a key partner for helping communities to develop and mobilize their potential for

transformative change. It should be noted that, in 2022, South Sudan remained a fragile country plagued by complex emergencies ranging from sustained perennial flooding, insecurity from various armed groups, inter-communal violence, cattle raiding, farmers and herders' conflict and threat of famine for almost a third of the population, according to the World Food Program.

Introduction

With nearly 45,000 beneficiaries reached in South Sudan, including 14,200 direct beneficiaries, 2022 can be considered a year of positive achievements for WPDI, even as the country gradually recovers from the COVID-19 crisis and despite the uncertainty incurred by high levels of insecurity. Programs that involve face-to-face interactions have achieved solid results that should consolidate over the coming period. For example, the program for Conflict Resolution Education in Schools has grown very significantly, now covering 84 schools, which is more than double the 38 schools that we were covering by the end of 2021. Moreover, 24,500 people were reached by advocacy campaigns in 2022, compared to 958 in 2021. Similarly, the number of participants in activities proposed at our 8 CLCs increased from 3,900 in 2021 to 6,300 for 2022. Other programs have been slower to regain their outputs of the previous years, notably the business program which added three new businesses in 2022. However, it must be noted that most of the businesses that we have helped launch in South Sudan have been able to survive despite the challenges they have recently faced. All in all, we believe that these results are not just about the good numbers they also speak to the fact that our programs have proved to be resilient and have in turn helped to strengthen the resilience capacity of our target communities.

This positive dynamic was confirmed by the findings of an external evaluation of our programs that was conducted by the Institute of Social Policy and Research (ISPR) in the context of our partnership with the Swiss Development and Cooperation

agency (SDC). The evaluator, whose conclusions and recommendations are summarized in the present report, noted that WPDI had a very positive impact on the young women and men in the community because our programs focus on life skills and creating a conducive environment for the community to be productive. They added that our programs in sports, peacebuilding, training, and entrepreneurship have consequently led to self-employment as well as a reduction in crime and conflict in the project locations. Stakeholders interviewed by the evaluators also declared that WPDI's approach had positioned youths as agents of change, and leaders in their community, and were equipped with the skills and opportunities necessary to leverage their role as peacebuilders actively involved in shaping their future.

In concluding that “there is a likelihood that the results and benefits of this project will continue after the end of donor funding outcomes within the communities”, the external evaluation directly highlighted the work accomplished by our staff and youths and, at a deeper level, testified to the very relevance of our approach to build assets that can be appropriated by local communities so as to create a lasting foundation for a future of endogenous peace and sustainable development.



Key Achievements

Youth Peacemaker Network in South Sudan

2022 Impact: 44,872 beneficiaries, including 14,277 direct beneficiaries

Our Touchpoints



60 Youth Peacemakers
500 Local Youths



Eight Community Learning Centers
(Juba, Maridi, Yambio, Budi, Ikwotos, Lafon, Nimule, Torit)

Components of our Programs



Peacebuilding

- **528** graduates in Conflict Resolution Education (CRE)
- CRE in schools **7,169** children and **600** teachers trained across **84** primary and secondary schools
- **21** Community Dialogues with **1,464** participants and **453** Community Leaders trained
- We have supported **85** people through Trauma Healing and **293** through Sexual and Reproductive Health awareness



Livelihood

- **56** business are supported, three of which were launched this year
- **821** graduates in ICT
- **465** graduates in Business and Entrepreneurship

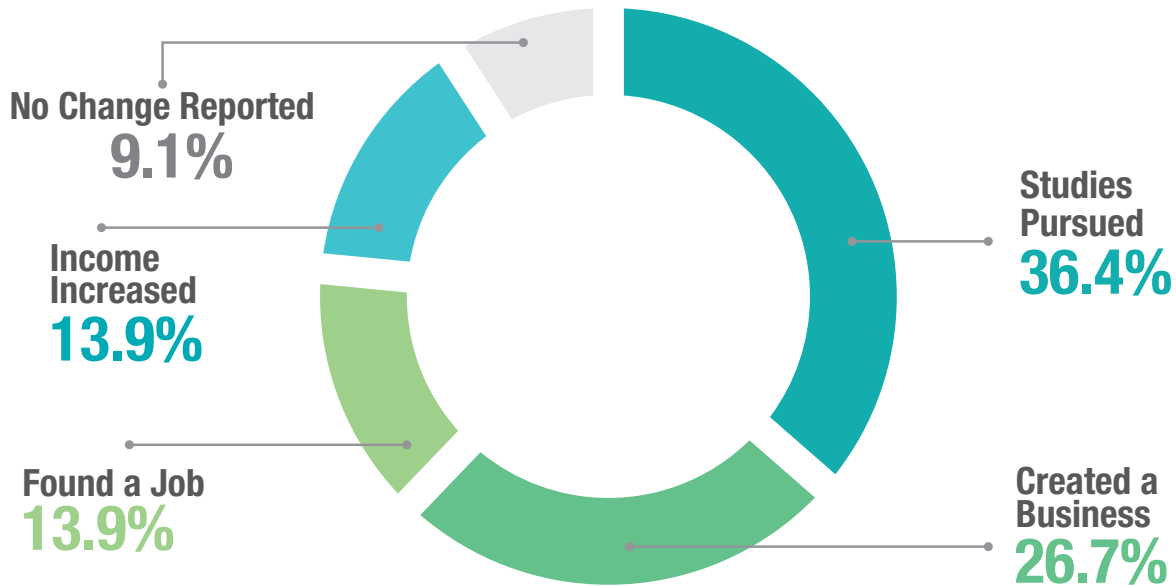


Community Outreach

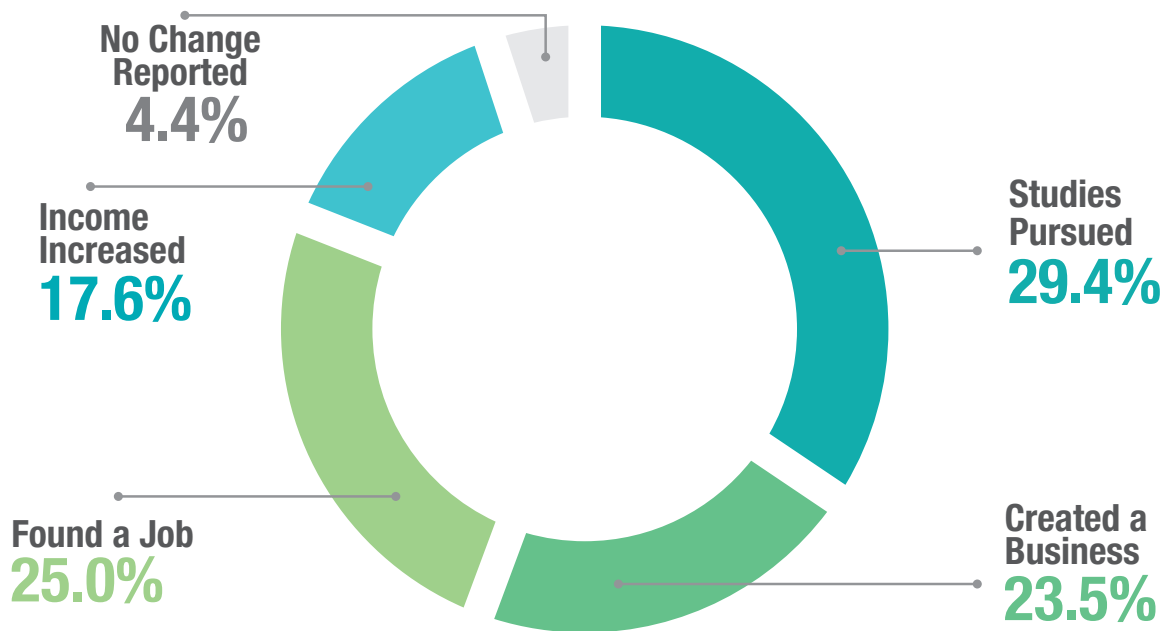
- **29** youth participants in Peace Through Sports
- **120** screenings and **2,407** participants in our Cinema for Peace activity
- **8** events with **778** participants in our Peace Engagement Days
- **56** Advocacy Campaigns with **24,548** participants

Survey Results

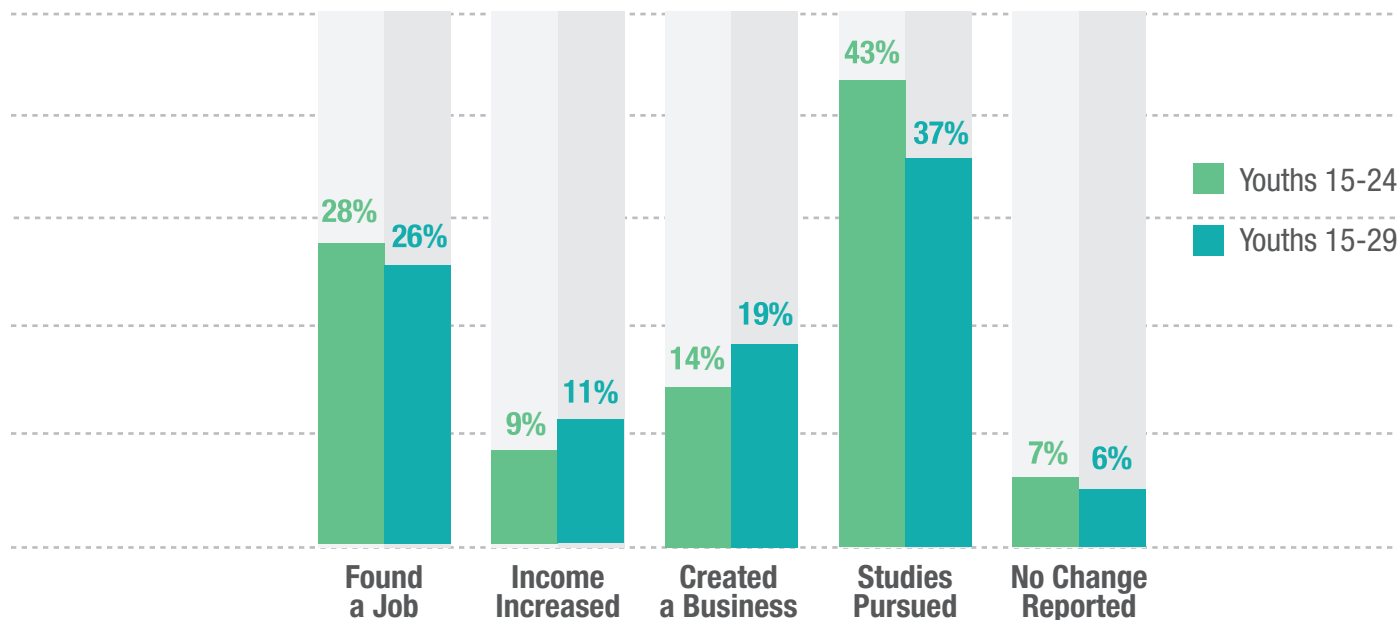
246 graduate trainees responded to the questionnaire that was circulated to evaluate the outcomes of our trainings. Out of these, 85 were women.



Outcomes of Vocational Training for All Respondents



Outcomes of Vocational Training for Women



Outcomes of Vocational Trainings for Youths

Feedback from Local and National Stakeholders

“

I would like to assure WPDI and its partners that efforts to address issues in my country will never be in vain. As we wind up the year 2022, we are optimistic that development partners will continue working with WPDI to effect positive changes in the lives of the youths, not only within South Sudan, but globally.

”

Hon. Margaret Fozia Emmanuel
Commissioner, Mundri East County

“

Many thanks to the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative. WPDI indeed has demonstrated that they are capable of empowering everyone. When I became the minister, the only organization that had an impact in the lives of the youths was WPDI. Again, I say WPDI you have taken it a step further in educating not only the youths but also Community Leaders and children to be agents of change. Providing an opportunity for children to grow up in an environment conducive to peace of mind will help our country, South Sudan, to find a way against violence or war.

”

Hon. Margaret Idwa Okuye
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

External Evaluation of the Project

As part of our collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), we procured the services of an independent consultancy service, The Institute of Social Policy and Research (ISPR), to design, plan, and conduct a comprehensive outcome monitoring and final impact evaluation. The evaluation of our programs was conducted through two sequences, namely a midterm review and a final assessment, the conclusions of both are presented below.

Highlights of the Evaluation Findings

Theory of Change Assessment

“The participants in this evaluation affirm that WPDI’s approach has positioned youth as agents of change, and leaders in their community, and are now equipped with the skills and opportunities to leverage themselves as peacebuilders actively involved in shaping their future. This contrasts with prevailing assumptions of youth in the country, particularly in a post-civil war context that has been marred by inter-communal violence.”

Efficiency

“The evaluator is of the opinion that the project’s institutional and financial management was competent. Overall, the project has been efficient in the implementation of project activities using the available resources to achieve the project objectives and outcomes through some challenges noted.”

Effectiveness

“The Project has substantially improved human and institutional capacity through the provision of training for different stakeholders at different levels. As the endline evaluation showed in the assessed locations, the project focus, goal, and implementation approach were effective to the needs and demands of young people in the selected areas.”

Relevance

“The project addressed the national and county priorities in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict management as it intervened at a time when the government was undertaking a national reform agenda. The relevance of the project to the South Sudan context is also found in its main aim of promoting inclusive peacebuilding and sustainable livelihoods in the Equatorias region of South Sudan through youth empowerment and entrepreneurship.”

Participation

“Project beneficiaries are actively involved in the implementation, management, and monitoring of the project, and beneficiaries feel a sense of ‘ownership’ of the project.”

Partnership

“The cooperation and collaboration between WPDI, the State Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Peace, and other partner organizations were regarded as useful.”

Impact

“The project strategy and activities had a very positive impact on young women and men in the community. The project has an impact among young people in communities because it focuses on life skills and creates a conducive environment for the community to be productive. Involving them in sports, skills building, and peacebuilding training has consequently led to self-employment as well as a reduction in crimes and conflict in the project locations. The school peace clubs have fostered peaceful coexistence in the schools.”

Sustainability

“There is a likelihood that the results and benefits of this project will continue after the end of donor funding outcomes within the communities. The evaluation respondents said that skills they had acquired from the Community Dialogues will be put into action by extending the knowledge to others.”

Vectors for Change

Youth Peacemakers

60
Youth Peacemakers

500
Local Youths

A key dimension of the Youth Peacemaker Network (YPN) program is the work carried out by youths that have enrolled in each of the three States of the Equatorias in view of delivering activities and taking initiatives at the grass roots on behalf of WPDI. Each network is composed of two tiers of youths. In the first tier are Youth Peacemakers who have been enrolled at the county level (usually in pairs ideally composed of one male and one female) and subsequently taken through our curriculum – Conflict Resolution, Entrepreneurship, and ICT – to ensure that they have the capacity to effectively undertake educational, peacebuilding and income-generating projects in their communities, where they are our vanguard and representatives. Right after their training, these youth leaders go back into their counties where their first mission as Youth Peacemakers is to train cohorts of youths recruited locally at the Payam level, who make up the second tier of Local Youths and who assist the Youth Peacemakers as they carry their projects on the ground. The three networks are distributed like this:

- In Central Equatoria, there are 33 Youth Peacemakers and 320 local or Payam youths. The CES network is the most recently established, as the training of the Youth Peacemakers started in 2018.
- In Western Equatoria, the network was launched in 2017 and is currently composed of 17 Youth Peacemakers and 90 Payam youths.
- In Eastern Equatoria, where we had piloted the YPN model beginning in 2014, there are a total of 100 youths, including 10 Youth Peacemakers still with us, although some have pursued careers elsewhere.

Strengthening the Capacity of Youth Peacemakers for Peacebuilding

In 2022, aiming to continuously improve the skill set of its Youth Peacemakers, WPDI gathered them for a refresher training session on a new training handbook to support our Conflict Resolution Education program in schools. Peacemakers from the three States of the Equatoria region took part in this session in June and July. At the end of the 5-day workshop, led by one of our international experts on CRE, participants reported that the training had been highly helpful for them to take stock of their knowledge, reflect upon, and share their experiences as CRE trainers, and learn new concepts and approaches.

WPDI convened the Peacemakers to a workshop facilitated by Anand Chulani, Founder of the Absolute Champion Methodology, a Trusted Leadership Advisor and Success Coach, and an expert in Mental and Emotional Strength and Well-Being. Mr. Chulani's session is centered on family healing, and he encourages people to realize that success never leads to lasting happiness, but rather, that happiness with ourselves can lead to lasting success. These sessions enabled Youth Peacemakers to deepen their understanding of how people come into conflict and provided them tools to nudge people's way of thinking and actions in order to foster communal peace.

Successful Coordination of High-Level Peace Dialogues

One of the high points of 2022 for WPDI's Peacemakers was the organization of a dialogue they steered between civilians and military groups in Goja village, Yei County, CES. This process was a success as it enabled WPDI to bring together members of armed groups that ordinarily would not meet with one another. Local Authority representatives also agreed to participate. The dialogue managed to unblock a lot of issues, making it easier for civilians to return to their villages. The dialogue also reduced fear among local populations as roadblocks would be removed.

Payam Youths Trained in Peacebuilding and Business

A group of local youths from the Payams of the Central Equatoria State graduated this September after successfully completing a 4 part training course with WPDI in Business, Entrepreneurship, Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution. Back in 2020, WPDI, in collaboration with the local government authorities in the region, embarked on a recruitment campaign in the Juba, Yei River, Lainya and Terekeka counties of Central Equatoria State with the aim of empowering young men and women to become leaders of peace and development in their respective communities. 320 (135 females and 185 males) were selected following a rigorous process that benefitted from inputs and recommendations of the Boma and Payam chiefs. The selected youths subsequently attended the four training sessions over a COVID-marked, 2 year period before sitting for their final exams.

Participants provided highly positive feedback on the program, which was run by WPDI-trained Youth Peacemakers. Participants will now be expected to use the knowledge and skills that they have acquired in their communities by convening Community Dialogues, mediation, venturing into business endeavors and organizing awareness campaigns to enlighten people in their communities about Peacebuilding and Business.

“Anand’s session on trauma healing has positively changed me. Growing up as a child soldier in South Sudan was difficult. I was tortured, beaten, hurt and traumatized. I have been thinking of taking revenge for what had been done to me when I was young, but the trauma healing session has come to my rescue. I am now going to work towards forgiving those who have hurt me. I have chosen to use my pain to help others become peace champions.”

Albino Dieri Lubadu

Youth Peacemaker from Terekeka County

“I joined WPDI in 2017-2018 as a trainee under the Youth Peacemaker Network program at the Torit CLC. I have gained skills and knowledge on how to deliver information. The two refresher trainings organized in Juba on Trauma Healing and Leadership were fantastic! WPDI has empowered me.”

William Losiata Rock

Youth Peacemaker from Torit County

“Before, I didn’t know how to handle my own problems as a youth but now with this training I have come to know myself. I have seen a greater difference after completing my training. I have acquired knowledge that will help me solve individual or collective community problems. The expectations become our actions. When we embrace change, we can go ahead and let’s think positive. Our minds are open, and we are very much encouraged.”

Moriku Rose

Local Youth

The Mayor of Juba commends the Payam Youths during the graduation ceremony

The mayor of Juba City Council, Michael Lado Allah-Jabu, congratulated the youths for committing to completing the training program and encouraged them to disseminate the skills acquired in their respective communities:

“I am extremely pleased to see you graduating from such very important courses. Many of our youth indulge in criminal activities because of ignorance or lack of opportunities. This training is going to contribute to changing the mindset of the youth in Juba City Council to create peace and economic prosperity. I appreciate the work WPDI is doing in empowering our young men and women.”

Community Learning Centers

7,952 Participants

in activities at our 8 CLCs, including 2,870 trainees

Over 8,000 people

visited our Community Learning Centers
to use the libraries, access
connected devices or attend our activities.

To ensure an effective and sustainable impact of its programs directly on the ground, the strategy of WPDI is to establish Community Learning Centers (CLCs) in its areas of operation, which are often remote and lacking in infrastructure. This approach has proven highly valuable over the years as it creates access to ICT, skills and values for local populations who quickly adopt them as safe spaces and community hubs. The impact of the CLCs is to bridge communication gaps and helping local populations coordinate meetings to address matters of community security, reporting to the outside world their local challenges and access tools to improve needed skills.

WPDI currently runs eight CLCs in the Equatorias, which were established progressively from 2014 to 2017. Altogether, there are 49 staff members employed across the CLCs in EES, CES, WES. Locations of our Community Learning Centers:

- Five CLCs in Eastern Equatoria State (EES) respectively in the counties of Lafon, Torit, Ikwoto, Budi (Chukudum), and Magwi (Nimule)
- One CLC in Juba, Central Equatoria State (CES)
- Two CLCs in Western Equatoria State (WES) in the counties of Yambio and Maridi

Visitors came to access the services available for free, such as connectivity, books, events and more. Most of the users come from universities, schools, government offices and the general public. The CLCs were also used as spaces to convene various community engagements such as awareness raising sessions on pertinent issues like:

- Reproductive Health
- Civic Participation
- Women
- Youth Empowerment



Peacebuilding Programs

Healthcare

293 Beneficiaries
of our Sexual and Reproductive Health program

85 Beneficiaries
of our Trauma Healing program

Sexual and Reproductive Health

WPDI's Sexual and Reproductive Health program seeks to empower young people around our Community Learning Centers with accurate health information to improve their lives. Activities conducted for the program are often led by Youth Peacemakers and include community engagement activities, peer outreach sessions, and home visits.

For the sexual reproductive health program, WPDI is working with expert counselors seconded by the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) to support the program. This program is being implemented at the CLCs in Yambio and Maridi. Statistics from the South Sudan Ministry of Health and the HIV/AIDS commission shows that, youths in WES are at particularly high risks of STDs, due to lack of knowledge on safe Sexual and Reproductive Health. This intervention is therefore needed to create awareness for young people.

"The youth friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health services which are being conducted at the WPDI Community Learning Center in Yambio, include a range of reproductive, relationship and sexuality counseling services. So far, I have acquired basic knowledge, skills and ability to make responsible, positive, informed and safe sexual choices. Now the choice to make informed decisions is ours, and as the saying goes, "If you choose to close your eyes to facts, you will learn through accidents". We the youth must take responsibility and make health a priority."

Emmanuel Victor
21 years old, Yambio

"Had this comprehensive sexuality education been there when I was growing up as a teenager, I would not have gotten pregnant so young. Initially I was ignorant, especially during my adolescent years when I was transitioning from childhood to adulthood. The physical changes I experienced through puberty made me think I was a grown woman. I didn't behave responsibly. With the teachings on Comprehensive Sexuality Education that WPDI and AMREF deliver, I can advocate for so many young girls in my community. I don't want to see them follow the path I took. I will continue transforming their lives."

Merci Kango
17 years old, Yambio

Trauma Healing Support

This type of care is almost non-existent in South Sudan, despite the trauma caused by war. According to the WHO, in 2019, the country had the 4th highest suicide rate in Africa, and the 13th in the world. But there is a lack of funding and a lack of data which makes it difficult to gather precise measurements of the phenomenon. While some NGOs (like WPDI) provide psychosocial support, there are only three South Sudanese psychiatrists in the whole country for some 12 million inhabitants (source: Le Monde, October 2022).



Mediation Among Community Members

Community Dialogues

21 Community Dialogues with
1,464 participants

10 in Central Equatoria State

5 in Eastern Equatoria State

6 in Western Equatoria State

There is a high prevalence of land conflicts, Gender-Based Violence, inter-communal, and farmer / pastoralist conflicts in South Sudan. To help address these issues, we deliver Community Dialogues as a platform for communities to gather and discuss issues to either resolve them or engage on the path of solutions by alerting relevant entities in an open and transparent manner. This initiative is a key component of the YPN program designed to strengthen our organization's support to community peacebuilding and conflict mediation processes. To this effect, WPDJ conducted a total of 21 Community Dialogues this year, which included 1,464 people directly. The topics addressed during those dialogues and their follow-ups included:

- Land disputes
- Conflict on criteria to appoint chiefs
- Conflict between cattle herders' and farmers
- Child abductions
- Youth unemployment
- Drug abuse
- Insecurity issues
- Harassment by armed individuals on roads and in villages
- Domestic violence
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- Early and forced marriages
- Disputes over limited resources (water points)



Terekeka Chiefs United to Promote Peace and Reconciliation

On June 7, WPDI organized a Community Dialogue in the Terekeka County of Central Equatoria State to address conflicts between different clans within the Mundari Tribe, Terekeka County. Despite speaking the same language and sharing similar cultures, clans have been in conflict between each other. They fight for power over the Mundari Tribe. As a result, youths raid cattle of other clans, and inter-marriages also are sources of conflict. After a first Community Dialogue with the chiefs and community members, three follow-up dialogues were organized to ensure the resolutions were implemented.

Resolutions agreed on:

- The resolution to uphold fair and transparent elections of chiefs was shared with the local authority. This will be incorporated in their policies.
- Security around female cattle camps will be increased to prevent abductions from conflicting clans.
- Follow-up discussions will be organized to form Cattle Camp Peace Committees and task those committees to visit cattle camps and disseminate the resolutions of the previous peace dialogue.
- The dialogue participants also recommended for a dialogue involving Jonglei and Pibor (neighboring administrative areas). Indeed, conflicts also involve these locations. It is important to involve them to address issues of border security, cattle raiding and child abduction.

"I want to thank WPDI from the bottom of my heart for supporting peace building and reconciliation efforts in Terekeka County. The dialogues that were conducted in Terekeka have all yielded positive results. The fighting involving the people of Terekeka within the county in the neighboring counties has stopped. As a commissioner, I want to say that we have greatly felt the impact of your work in our communities and encourage WPDI to support the remaining follow-up dialogues in cattle camps and with the neighboring communities of Jonglei and Pibor administrative area."

Hon. James Lino Malou

Commissioner of Terekeka County

"WPDI has contributed to the restoration of calm and reconciliation in Terekeka. Thank you very much WPDI and your partners for the wonderful effort and support towards peace and development in Terekeka. As women we want WPDI to provide more support so that we can engage those women who have lost their dear ones during the conflicts through trauma healing and awareness campaigns."

Joyce Jeremiah

Chairperson of Terekeka Women Association



Community Leaders Training

453
Community Leaders trained

The Community Leaders' training program is designed to empower community leaders with tools, knowledge, and skills in handling conflicts and preventing them by encouraging dialogue before disputes escalate. On many occasions, these programs are undertaken as part of or in as a follow-up to Community Dialogues, to ensure that local stakeholders can follow up on the decisions even after WPDI is departed. During the sessions, participants improve their skills for their leadership, mediation, and communication notably by touching on key concepts such as Peace, Human Rights, Diversity and Sustainable Development - which they need to sustain and promote peace in their community. The following topics were covered during the training:

Human Rights:

- Defining Human Rights
- Explanations of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Women Rights
- Understanding Gender as an integral aspect of Human Rights

Conflict:

- Types of conflict
- Sources of conflict
- Approaches to conflict
- The different forms of violence

Mediation:

- Definition of mediation
- Types of mediation
- Characteristics of a good mediator
- Mediation skills
- Stages of mediation
- The mediation processes

Leadership

- Servant leadership
- Types of leadership
- Qualities of a good leader
- How to become a good leader

Equality

- Definition of equality and equity
- Substantive equality
- Formal equality
- Diversity (definition and its benefits)

Development

- What is personal and collective development?
- What is sustainable development?
- The Sustainable Development Goals

This year alone, a total of 453 community leaders were reached across 13 counties in WES, CES and EES. The community leaders training added impetus to the development of local skilled human resources to address their respective community issues and build the knowledge pool on peacebuilding and conflict resolution in the different localities. Given that the target for these training programs are community leaders, the knowledge, and skills they obtained directly contribute to their status as influential and respected leaders thus enabling them to exert more open and progressive forms of leadership over their people. At the same time they are able to effectively partner with development partners like WPDI.

"I am grateful to WPDI for this program that has empowered us with knowledge that will help us in our administrative work with the community. It is the mediation, early warning of conflicts, and the leadership topics that I found most helpful. I am a different leader who is equipped to unite people for peaceful coexistence."

Simon Peter

Head Chief of Wonduruba
Administrative Payam, Juba County

"I must testify that it is through the WPDI project of Promoting Inclusive Peacebuilding and Sustainable Livelihoods through Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship that I was able to become the Youth leader I am today. Now I am the spokesperson of the Youth union of EES. The training has given me confidence in leadership and skills of humility while serving my fellow youths. As I speak today, I am employed in the Ministry State for Peace Building as an early Warning and Response Officer. I thank WPDI for bringing these courses to Torit and empowering young people. I am a changed person because of WPDI."

Acayo Grace

Speaker of Youth Union,
Eastern Equatoria State

"As an employee with the state ministry of local government and law enforcement, I found the skills in conflict resolution and peacebuilding relevant because we come across conflict issues when dealing with people at work and the local government administrations. The mediation and conflict analysis sessions have helped me to mediate conflict issues within the local government administration and in my community. I thank WPDI for this noble investment in empowering us with these skills."

Suraya Faith

CRE graduate, Juba

Conflict Resolution Education at WPDI CLCs

528

**trainees graduated in CRE at
WPDI CLCs**

"I used to be emotional and violent whenever I felt offended, but the Conflict Resolution course offered by the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative has changed my mindset. My attitude got transformed and people in my family can't believe that I'll be like this one day because I now have the strength to analyze conflicts and use dialogues and mediation to resolve conflicts as opposed to the use of violence which is destructive."

James Athian

CRE graduate, Juba

The Conflict Resolution aspect of training forms the core of WPDI's philosophy of mitigating conflict through young people and harnessing their powers to be forces of positive change and development in their communities. While WPDI uses a variety of channels to disseminate skills in Conflict Resolution, its core program is delivered through its network of CLCs, where expert trainers provide courses throughout the year to residents, youths, and women.

Trainees often find out about this opportunity via word-of-mouth, or through outreach campaigns. They then enroll for a 3-month course at one of our Community Learning Centers. At the end of the program, they take exams. If successful, they receive a certificate. Graduates do share that the skills acquired help them in their communities, to better engage with others, and improves their employability. Overall, these trainees are highly appreciated as revealed by the surveys that we circulate among former trainees months after course completion: in 2022, all polled trainees declared that the course had had a positive impact in their lives and 98% reported that they had recommended the training to other people.

Peace Education in Schools

7,169
Children trained in CRE

600
Teachers trained in CRE

84
Schools covered

WPDI has developed the Peace Education in schools' program to support its core objective of reaching out through Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution education to children in both primary and secondary schools. The program is designed to impart Conflict Resolution knowledge to prepare the future citizens of South Sudan for their responsibilities as members of a country that has been affected by conflict over the past decade, to empower them as peacebuilders who can promote peace in their schools today, and in society tomorrow.

Conflict Resolution Education in 43 Primary Schools

For Conflict Resolution Education in primary schools, the program is implemented through Peace Clubs which act as platforms for engaging with pupils, 3,692 of whom participated in 2022. We work with school administrations, teachers, and students to set up these clubs at the beginning of each year. By learning and engaging with others on the concept of peace and the importance of dialogue, pupils, even at their young age, can participate in the culture change necessary to bring peace in the schools and their communities. The knowledge they acquire through this program can then be shared with their peers, families, and communities.



Nehemiah Academy Primary School

Context

The civil war and the subsequent violent conflicts in South Sudan, particularly Yei River County, have left a significant physical and psychological impact on young people. Pupils at school who come from different tribes developed hatred toward other ethnic communities due to the conflicts. Many young people are unable to control their emotions resulting in the use of violence as a means of addressing issues.

Before

Nehemiah Academy Primary School was affected by high rates of indiscipline, bullying, disrespect of pupils towards adults, and tribalism.

After

The peace education in Nehemiah Academy Primary School has had a positive impact in the lives of the pupils as school administration explained they had seen behavioral changes.

Cases of fighting and bullying have been drastically reduced, and pupils now have more respect for one another and use their new leadership skills. Indeed, many peace club members have taken up leadership positions as prefects and monitors.

Parents have also testified about the positive changes they have seen in their children's behavior. They further explained that they were more polite and able to resolve conflicts using dialogue instead of violence.

Testimonial

"The creation of a peace education program in our school has instilled in us the values of forgiveness, love and unity. Cases of fighting and bullying have significantly reduced in our school and villages because of the peace education program."

Rose Mary

Pupil
Nehemiah Academy Primary School.



Conflict Resolution Education in 41 Secondary Schools

Similar to the primary schools' engagement, the Peace Education in secondary schools seeks to equip young people with values, knowledge and skills conducive to a culture of non-violence, mutual respect and dialogue. Empowerment is at the heart of the program, as it seeks to ensure not only that participants adopt positive attitudes as individuals but also that they contribute to enact change in their immediate environment, be it at school, at home with their families, in their neighborhood or in their local communities.

"I used to be arrogant and violent in the schools and at home but through the Peace Education by WPDI I have learned the values of peace, love, care, respect and effective communication."

Emmanuel Lako Juma

Student from Terekeka county

"I am glad because the Peace Education program has created a positive change in my behavior and attitude. I used to fight a lot whenever I disagreed with someone because I could not control my emotions. Now I have learned about managing emotions and using dialogue and mediation to resolve conflict rather than violence. I also used to hate people from other tribes because I was told that they were bad, but this Peace Education program has helped me to love people from all ethnicities."

Suzana Pamela

Student from Yei Day
Secondary Schools, Yei County



CRE at Juba Girls Secondary School

Context

The prolonged civil war in South Sudan affected generations of South Sudanese and destroyed important elements of the social fabric. Even after South Sudan attained independence, conflict continued. The younger generation continues to grow with a deep-rooted mindset of violence and conflict. At Juba Girls Secondary School, students have been directly affected by the waves of violence that have hit the country since 2013, leaving a significant physical and psychological impact on them.

Before

Juba Girls Secondary School recorded an increase of cases of indiscipline between 2019 and 2020 where students used to disrespect teachers and fight among themselves. The number of serious cases of fighting and other disciplinary cases recorded in 2021 was about 25, although many were not reported to the administration because they sometimes happen as students go back home, after school. As a result, several students were dismissed from the school and teachers developed fear.

After

WPDI set up a Peace Club at Juba Girls Secondary school with 75 students undergoing Peace Education and getting involved in advocacy campaigns.

The trained students managed to positively influence the lives of their peers; mediating conflict, providing counseling and peer support. As a result, there has been a reduction in cases of fighting and other disciplinary cases. Indeed, only 5 were recorded in 2022 compared to the 25 recorded in 2021.

Respect for teachers and among the students increased, thereby improving the learning environment and peaceful coexistence.

Testimonial:

"WPDI, you have brought a positive change to our school. These students used to disrespect teachers. They used to be violent and every day we could record over five cases of fighting or indiscipline. Some of the teachers feared the students who behaved like members of a gang, but this Peace Education program has worked miracles. A tremendous change that we didn't expect at first. The cases of fighting are rare. Students do respect us now and they are the ones who are acting as peer mediators bringing a big relief to us teachers. These positive changes can be attributed to the work of WPDI, and I want to say thank you. Please continue."

Robert Sokiri
Teacher at Juba Girls
Secondary School, CES



Conflict Resolution Education for Teachers

As a strategy to reinforce the CRE program in schools and to ensure its sustainability beyond the current partners, WPDI has also incorporated teachers from the participating schools to be trained in the CRE and leadership to enable them to effectively support the program. The aim of this engagement with the teachers is to enable them to backstop the initiative as employees of the respective schools and ensure that pupils and students that are participating are fully mobilized. A total of 600 teachers were trained in 2022.



“As a teacher, surely, I don’t know everything. I didn’t have any skills that would enable me to resolve conflicts among students and even among fellow teachers. Thanks WPDI for the gesture of goodwill and for initiating this program. Thank you for choosing me to benefit from such an auspicious training. The skills I have gained so far are now helping me resolve disputes amicably. My community will also benefit from my conflict resolution skills and knowledge. The training has come at the right time. To WPDI, please continue with the good work.”

Michael Dakpari

Teacher at Bishop Abangite College of Science and Technology, Yambio county, WES



“We teachers are almost like parents for our students when they are away from home. WPDI has done us good by recognizing us as role models and conducting this training program for us. The skills and knowledge of Conflict Resolution instilled in us are already having an impact because we are already translating theory into tangible reality on ground from which our community and school are benefiting. We will continue to work for peace and stability at all levels, courtesy of the training program provided to us by WPDI.”

Viola Richard Babiro

Teacher at Alliance High School, Yambio

Advocacy Campaigns

In line with our mandate to sensitize communities in the most extensive manner, WPDI continued to organize several awareness events and advocacy campaigns at and around the CLCs, notably to celebrate international observances such as International Women’s Day or the International Day of Peace. These events are designed to be interactive and participative, allowing a wide array of individuals to share their experiences while learning from others. Hundreds of youths took these opportunities to advocate and campaign for youth empowerment. Local stakeholders delivered inspirational speeches during these events who brought together members of neighboring communities. 718 individuals, 206 of them female, took part in the various events, including 575 youths.

“As a good student in school and member of the peace club, I managed to talk to other girls during campaigns and persuade them to abandon groups that had a bad influence. As for boys, they warned me that if I keep disturbing them, they will fight me. This is the most difficult part and I encourage good boys to do like me, and to also talk to their friends to help them improve their behavior.”

Joy Manase

Peace Club member



CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Venue: Juba Junior International School (Juba) and Yei Day Secondary School (Yei)

Date: September 21, 2022

Theme: “End tribalism! Build peace!”

Number of attendees: 511 (Female: 287; Male:224)

We celebrated the International Day of Peace in two locations



Yei

Hundreds of youths, students, pupils, and government officials gathered in shades of Yei Day Mango Trees to celebrate the International Day of Peace. The objective was mainly to advocate for peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation. The event was organized by the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative (WPDI) in partnership with the Education Above All Foundation (EAA). During the event, participants sang peace songs, gave speeches to spread peace messages, and younger participants shared drawings of peace symbols. Other activities included dances, and different games. The County Education Director called on young people still carrying arms to denounce tribalism and work for peace, love and unity. He further explained:

“Peaceful coexistence can only be achieved in South Sudan if we accept one another regardless of our ethnic backgrounds. The learners in the schools are the ones to positively transform this country to a more peaceful and prosperous nation.”



Juba

WPDI celebrated the International Day of Peace in Juba Commercial Secondary School. This was an opportunity for participants to exchange and debate about the role of young people in promoting peace and reconciliation in South Sudan. Participants also discussed how best to address tribalism and racism in South Sudan.

The program coordinator and a Youth Peacemaker also had a live radio talk show on Advance Youth Radio to discuss the role of youth in peacebuilding and fighting tribalism in South Sudan. This talk show was listened to by approximately 25,000 people.

Testimonial from a student

“The messages I got from the International Day of Peace organized by the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative has taught me to be confident and use dialogue and mediation as peaceful means of resolving conflicts. I was able to unite my family members to forgive each other and reconcile after the celebration.”

Nicholas Leri

Student from Yei River County

Business Bootcamp

WPDl's Business Bootcamp initiative is designed to help support entrepreneurship in vulnerable communities. This training and incubation program is geared towards reaching young people, providing aspiring entrepreneurs with training in such vocational areas as Entrepreneurship and ICT as well as opportunities for the development and growth of businesses created by graduates.

Capacity Building Courses

Information and Communication Technologies

821
Graduates in ICT

The ICT training program delivered at the CLCs has greatly helped in bridging the gap of ICT knowledge and skills in the target locations. It is also helping trainees create opportunities for themselves and their communities through their knowledge acquired to search for jobs online, access employment or start small businesses. The training modules were developed to constitute the training curriculum in partnership with Ericsson and the South Sudan National Ministry of General Education and Instruction. The training is adding momentum to the Ministry's national strategy for holistic learning and the provision of alternative education for youths who may have dropped out of school or girls who may have been victims of early marriages or teenage pregnancies. An ICT training curriculum takes three months. The three curriculums are: Basic level, Intermediate level, and Advanced level. A majority of the 84 former ICT trainees who responded to the surveys we circulate six months after course completion declared that they had experienced positive outcomes and 99% of them declared that they had recommended our course to other people.

"Since completing my secondary school level in 2018, I have spent four years stuck without a job or any prospects. Computer courses were too expensive for me. I was listening to the radio and heard that WPDl was looking for students to enroll in free training at their CLC. I enrolled for ICT training. It's of great joy and happiness to me that today I can operate a computer and perform different tasks. Thank you WPDl for the greatest opportunity given to us young people of the country which has changed the lives of so many in this community."

Mborigie Rejoice Yepeta

ICT trainee, WES

"I am very good with ICT now, it is really helping me a lot. Thanks to the training program of WPDl at the CLC in Juba, I have acquired good computer skills since I have finished the Intermediate level. I have seen the changes even though I don't have a job yet. I am satisfied with our trainer. Indeed, his deep insight on the use of computers and protection against scammers was very informative."

Joseph Chol Mapur



Business and Entrepreneurship

465

Graduates in Business and Entrepreneurship

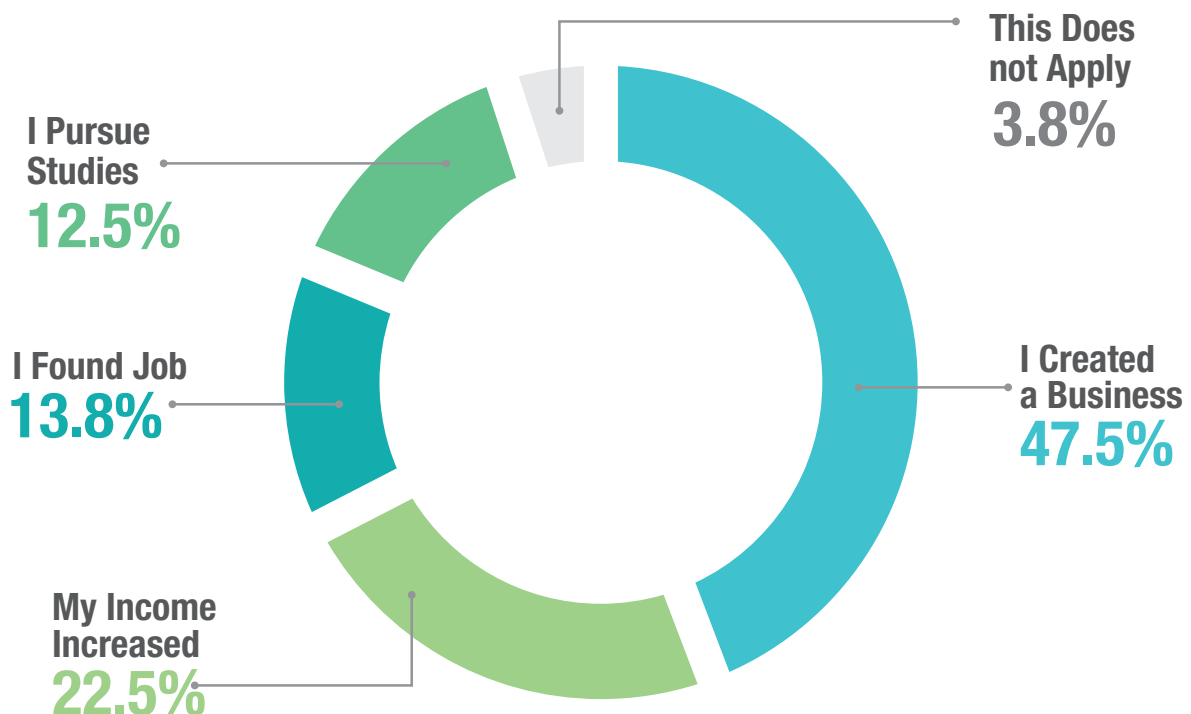
Our Business and Entrepreneurship courses are geared towards the acquisition of the skills that are indispensable to create and manage a small business towards success. Participants partake in a 3-month training program focused on business management and entrepreneurship headed by WPDI trainers. At the end of each course, graduates can enter Business Plan Competitions to submit business projects that are examined by our jury composed of WPDI experts and local representatives. Winners in this process gain access to WPDI funding and guidance to help get their business projects off the ground. However, as revealed by our post training surveys (see chart below), the benefits of the courses extend far beyond the scope of those who succeed at the business plan competitions, since most of the respondents declared that they have experienced positive outcomes.

“After completing the Business and Entrepreneurship training at WPDI’s Community Learning Center, in Torit, I was further supported to begin my poultry business. I began with 100 chicks, now I have 300 chickens in my farm and created employment opportunities for three people. And because of this successful business, I am exposed to many stakeholders. I am now hired by Caritas Luxembourg, as an extension worker in-training. I will be supporting farmers. This is because of the opportunity given to me by WPDI.”

Obale Emmanuel

Business training graduate

Ourcomes Reported by 80 Former Business Trainees in 2022



Supporting Income-Generating Projects

56/62 Businesses

that have been launched since 2017 are still active

3 of them
were launched this year

We trained members of youth associations in Business and Entrepreneurship in three counties of Torit, Budi and Madi corridor, in Magwi county. Each youth association

was provided with grants to kick start their income-generating projects. The objective for these youths is to generate income from their new projects in order to fund activities under their pre-existing associations.

For context, these associations represent the interests of local youths. They also seek opportunities relevant for their beneficiaries, encourage youth participation in civic activities, and mobilize youths for protests on certain policies that might affect local youths. One association had protested to local NGOs and UN representation as they felt opportunities were not given to local communities. That is why WPDI specifically targeted them with this program. We included a Conflict Resolution Education component to the program in an effort to teach these youths how to advocate for their interests in a peaceful and productive way.

62 Businesses created since 2018 in South Sudan (by origin)		Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria
Peacemakers	23	9	4	10
Graduates	39	15	15	9
Total	62	24	19	19
62 Businesses created since 2018 in South Sudan (by origin)		Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria
Managers	377	124	122	131
Employees	25	25	0	0
Total number of beneficiaries	402	149	122	131
Number of jobs created	402	149	122	131

The Three New Businesses Created in 2022

Maya Food Store

Number of employees | 2
Support start year | 2022
Food store



Torit Youth Association

Number of employees | 3
Support start year | 2022
Restaurant service



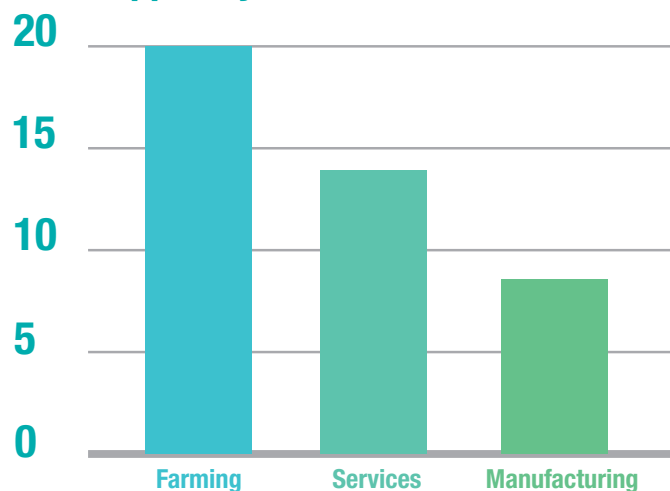
Budi Youth Association

Number of employees | 5
Support start year | 2022
Restaurant service



Since 2017, we have been delivering activities in the framework of our Business Bootcamp program. Thereby providing employability skills to local communities. Many go on to improve their income by perfecting pre-existing projects or by finding jobs in which they put their newly acquired skills to use. Others compete in our Business Plan Competitions, they create a business plan, conduct market research, and present them to our review committees. The best ideas receive funding and continuous backstopping support. As mentioned previously in the report, in 2022, we funded three new businesses. However, we do continue to support businesses funded in previous years. Helping them thrive increases the number of indirect beneficiaries of these programs. We still mentor 43 out of the 53 active businesses funded prior to 2022.

Categories of active business still backstopped by WPDJ



The Diplomatic Salon launched by a Youth Peacemaker

This unisex salon is located in Gureyi Juba. Dusuman Joseph, the owner, was part of the 2020 cohort of WPDJ beneficiaries of the Business Bootcamp program.

Hearing from the business owner

- “I joined WPDJ in 2018 as a Youth Peacemaker. I appreciate WPDJ very much for the intensive one-year training I received. I followed courses in Conflict Resolution, Business and Entrepreneurship, and ICT. Through this organization I engaged in many different activities. Indeed, I trained community members, participated in radio talk shows to spread peace messages, and conducted Community Dialogues. WPDJ gave us a chance to apply for a grant in 2020, I emerged as one of the grant winners. The grant helped me to open a Unisex Salon in November 2020. The business has made me gain respect from my family members, my employees, and my community members.”

How has this business helped Dusuman Joseph

- “The business continues to have a huge positive impact in my life and in the life of others. It has increased my income level which allows me to provide for basic needs for myself, and my family. Indeed, I can now pay school fees for five children and my wife who is also pursuing studies. I can buy clothing for my family. Most importantly, I can take care of my family when it comes to health issues. This business also pays for monthly expenses such as rent, power, or taxes. I made a net profit of 800 USD in 2022.”

Helping others beyond the business owner

- “Through this business, I have been able to provide employment opportunities to youths in my community. My salon can employ five young women and four young men who are improving their standard of living with the commissions from their work.”

Concluding remarks

“With a few words, I would like to say, without WPDJ, other youths and I wouldn't have been this productive. Bravo WPDJ and the partners for this great support and for being generous.”



Community Outreach

Cinema for Peace

2,407 Participants

120
Screenings



The Cinema for Peace initiative is one of WPD's programs designed to create a platform for youth and community members to interact, share ideas, make new friends, forge ways of peaceful co-existence and behavioral change. Educational films are screened for children and youths as well as members of the public. Projections are followed by group discussions during which members of the audience share and debate on the themes brought forward by the film. The objective is to create a moment for self-reflection, to understand how events in the film resonate with their own experiences.

In Central Equatoria State, for example, some of the screenings played a movie produced by a South Sudanese filmmaker to promote peace and reconciliation. The lessons learned from the film include a reflection on the 2013 violent conflict in South Sudan which claimed thousands of lives and displaced millions of people due to ethnic tensions. The creative part of this movie was inspiring because young people learned lessons about the importance of dialogue to resolve conflicts rather than resorting to violence.

"The Cinema for Peace program has helped me to learn about forgiveness. In the movie I have watched Nuer and Dinka men reconciling and that has touched my heart to also forgive those who have wronged me so that I can have inner peace."

Joy Manase

16 years old



"The films that we have been watching at the WPD Center have been very educational. I took this rare moment to learn something from the message. I learned about Nelson Mandela and his non-violent approach to bringing peace to South Africa, where there would be no black dominance over the white population, but where everyone has equal opportunity and dignity. South Sudan can learn from this."

Majuline Panzua Gisma

14 years old, Yambio Model Nursery &
Primary School Yambio County



Radio Talk Shows



Participation of our staff and youths in radio talk shows serves to amplify the work of WPDl on the various projects and activities under the YPN Program. In a country where many people get their information from local radios, this is a unique platform for creating awareness among the general public on WPDl, its work, how people can join the various trainings on offer in the CLCs, how the youths can become a Youth Peacemakers or local youths in their communities. It is also an opportunity to broadcast information on events like Community Dialogues and peace outreach campaigns being host by WPDl and opportunities to contribute to causes amongst other things.

With the coordinating efforts of our Youth Peacemakers, WPDl was featured in 12 radio talk shows this year on different local and national radios:

- Radio Miraya
- Advance Youth Radio
- Spirit FM (Yei)
- Access radio (Yei)
- Anisa Radio (Yambio)

We were featured to cover topics related to the role of youths in peacebuilding and development, as well as gender equality and human rights. Pre-recorded programs were also broadcasted on SSBC and Eye Radio reaching over 450,000 listeners across South Sudan.

Peace Through Sports



WPDl's 'Peace Through Sports' program was initiated with the aim of combining sports with Peacebuilding activities and traditional activities that bring people together like music, dance and drama. During its implementation, communities come together to watch sports while also engaging in activities that foster a peaceful co-existence. Therefore, the project's goal remains to give young people an outlet to harness their energy in productive activities. It emphasizes cooperation and teamwork, while providing life skills training

and psycho-social support in the aftermath of traumatic experiences of war and displacement. In this regard, WPDl uses sports events to serve as a perfect platform to instill values of nonviolence and a based order among the participants. The Peace Through Sports program also serves as a social unifier by teaching respect for others. The 2022 program was implemented in Budi County in EES and it will expand in 2023 to encompass five other locations.

In 2022, the program focused on football as the main sporting activity. In Budi County, the program started with capacity building training sessions for 45 youth coaches, referees and sports administrators. We then selected a group of young men and women from four Payams where the project was implemented - taking into consideration diversity and gender equality. They were trained in partnership with South Sudan Football Association (SSFA).

The format of the Peace Through Sports program was organized through inter-Payam tournaments and a premier league competition. 16 teams were formed under the project: (8 male teams and 8 female teams) from Homiri Payam, Lotugei Payam, Nagrich Payam, Kikilia Payam of Budi County. The tournaments, premier league and friendly games kicked off from the inception of the project. These games have allowed teams to play each other while messages of peace and fair play were being passed to the players and spectators during and after each football match. Throughout the implementation period of the project, 240 games were played.

16
teams

358
players

Sport teams (girls)	Payam	Number of members
Ngarich Girls FC I	Ngarich Payam	30
Ngarich Girls FC II	Ngarich Payam	17
Kikilia Girls FC I	Kikilia Payam	18
Kikilia Girls FC II	Kikilia Payam	18
Homiri Girls FC I	Homiri Payam	34
Homiri Girls FC II	Homiri Payam	17
Lotukei Girls FC I	Lotukei Payam	25
Lotukei Girls FC II	Lotukei Payam	17
Total		176

Sport teams (boys)	Payam	Number of members
Ngarich Boys FC I	Ngarich Payam	17
Ngarich Boys FC II	Ngarich Payam	17
Kikilia Boys FC I	Kikilia Payam	22
Kikilia Boys FC II	Kikilia Payam	25
Homiri Boys FC I	Homiri Payam	17
Homiri Boys FC II	Homiri Payam	34
Lotukei Boys FC I	Lotukei Payam	20
Lotukei Boys FC II	Lotukei Payam	30
Total		182

WPDJ was able to reach players and managed to engage the community by ensuring that people interacted fully with one another during matches. The project successfully forged unity and social cohesion and encouraged conversations among the youths. Feedback from community leaders is that the violent attitudes of youths involved in this project have drastically changed for the better, as pre-existing tensions within Payam youth communities have been drastically reduced.

“

Today, I can proudly testify that I am a changed person. The coaches and other supporting staff at WPDJ have had a great impact in my life as a youth in this village. It is nice to take part in the training and pre-match talks held by WPDJ. We can transform the community by what we do. Some of us are now peace ambassadors in our own communities. I am proud to speak about peace to my family, friends, neighbors, and the community at large. Peace is essential for every person regardless of tribe, culture, religion, or race. Football games made me reach Chukudum and become friends with the Didinga. Before this, we were sometimes told they were our enemies. These games proved that wrong. They are good people.

”

Lojore

A team captain from Ngarich

Peace Engagement Days

The ‘Peace Engagement Day’ is an activity in the framework of the Peace Through Sports program which usually consists of an all-day, sports-based, Peacebuilding event that provides the community and team players with a forum within which they can come together and discuss important issues that affect them. It is also an opportunity to disseminate messages of forgiveness and reconciliation. More specifically, this activity sought to increase interactions among sports teams and different communities living in Budi County to help foster better relations among different groups of people in the Payams. During this event, team players participated in football games that ended with dissemination of peace messages by the coaches and community leaders.

All the 8 Peace Engagement Day events were great successes as they managed to bring people together to engage with one another and perform traditional dances.

“

This sports activity has had a quick impact. Young people come alone to these activities without the need for us to do outreach or mobilization efforts. Sports is a powerful medium for peace. The local community and local authority express joy to see young people from different ethnic communities interact and play matches together, something that did not happen in the history of Budi County. I am excited to see young people playing and talking together. These games have reduced alcoholism and crime rates in my county.

”

Mr. Lino

Local Chief of Budi County

“

Playing football has helped me a lot. The positive advice I get from our regular training sessions has pushed me to remain in school. I have made good friends who only talk about positive things like how to become an international football player. All in all, the games have reduced stress and made my community enjoy leisure every evening here in my village of Lotugei.

”

Hellen Achien

19 years old



Conclusion

An Environment that Remains Marked by Many Challenges

Throughout the year, WPDI was able to navigate several challenges that are, of a structural and lasting nature, meaning that they should be expected to remain a concern in the coming years. Below are details on the most prominent risks that WPDI must face as an organization working on the ground.

Insecurity: Insecurity continues to be a massive structural challenge in South Sudan. We continue to work closely with the NGO Forum and other entities for detailed security briefings and updates before embarking on activities that may endanger staff and locals.

Infrastructural issues: Because of the poor infrastructural situation, some areas become cut-off during the rainy season as road access becomes impossible. WPDI is faced with that situation in Lafon County in EES and almost all parts of WES making implementation of project activities a costly affair.

Roadblocks: The issue of unauthorized roadblocks on various roads manned by different armed elements are making it difficult to access otherwise easy-to-access areas.

Cost of projects: The cost of implementing projects in South Sudan is increased by the lack of infrastructure and basic services, as well as the scarcity of financial services. As a result, private entities must be hired to perform financial services like making payments and transporting cash, which incurs additional costs for delivering programs effectively.

Inflation and unpredictable interest rate rises: Because of the overall fragility of the country being compounded by the high levels of insecurity documented in many regions, South Sudan has been affected by significant inflation rates over the past years, a situation that has been made worse by the global rise in interest rates. The impact has been the rise of commodity prices and cost of living.

Concluding Remarks

As WPDI South Sudan ushers in 2023, we cannot downplay the reality of the challenges that we will continue to face. However, it is important to stress that we have been able to operate in the country for a decade, and have always been able to overcome obstacles as they manifest themselves.

More importantly, the achievements highlighted in this report should be regarded not just as proof of past success but also as building strong foundations for future action. For instance, WPDI has been able, as part of the Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience Trust Fund – Area based programming (RSRTF – ABP) consortium led by IOM, to expand its work in two additional counties of Morobo and Kajo Keji in Southern CES. On top of that, WPDI was able to revive the Peace Through Sports program in Budi County in EES, a decisive step towards the significant boost that this sports-based peace program will receive next year thanks to the support of the Swedish Postcode Lottery Foundation.

In this respect, one of the most meaningful conclusions to this report is that our partnerships are stronger than ever. We have deepened our engagements with the Ministry of Peace and the Ministry of General Education and Instructions as well as various local government entities at the county levels. WPDI has signed various Memorandums of Understanding making our work much easier. We have continued to consolidate our collaboration with long-term partners such as EAA and SDC while gaining new partners. These include the UN Multi-Donor Trust Fund which is administered through UNMISS under the custody of the UN Country Team and DT Global which is implementing the 'Shevjah Salaam' project with funding from USAID.

As we seek to further improve our impact over the next period, the strengthening of our partnerships at the local, national, and international levels gives hope and confidence in our capacity to continue serving the communities of the Equatorias.



Partners



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

