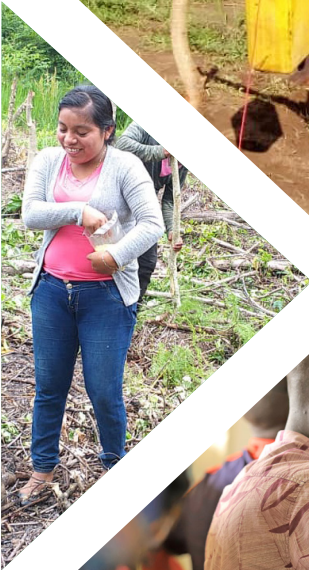




WHITAKER
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



PEACE IS CONTAGIOUS

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FOREWORD

2020 started in a world that today feels very different than the one we inhabit. Simple actions have become cumbersome undertakings - if they are possible in the first place. Everyone and every organization has been affected by COVID-19 and its impact on the fabric of our societies as well as the workings of our economies. Social distancing has translated into many hurdles for institutions like WPDJ that work to bring people together, whether that be at our Community Learning Centers, at our Community Dialogues, Cinema for Peace sessions, or Peace Through Sports events. Our regular activities have been impacted in all of our countries of operations and our managing offices are still under lockdown as of the first quarter of 2021.

We worried for our families, colleagues, and all the people participating in our programs. And we worried also for the welfare of the communities that we work for. Often located in remote areas, the fragile communities were, we knew, exposed in many ways. Peace is always a fragile process and confinement is rarely an experience that fosters it if people are left to themselves mired in their fears, angers, and desires for rushed action or violence for the sake of it. Moreover, the remoteness of these communities is never only an issue of spatial distances, it is principally a matter of distance from the mainstream, that is, in effect, from reliable and safe information. These communities were therefore at risk of being overwhelmed by the virus and bypassed by safe information, or, worse, contaminated by misinformation and rumors. Time and again, people have, in the face of epidemics, accused "the

others" - foes, neighbors and, always, minorities - of spreading diseases. These were somber, albeit realistic, prospects as it became manifest in some of the places in which we operate.

But we were not powerless. Very early on into the nearly worldwide lockdown in March, youths from our diverse programs came to us to ask how they could help. Some of them took initiatives on their own, like reorienting a small business's operations to produce face masks for others in their communities. There was an energy to be tapped - and we did tap it. This was our model after all: empowering young people to address the needs of their communities. While we would provide them with resources - UN-backed data and equipment (masks, hand-washing devices, etc.) - they would run campaigns online or on the ground to bring to their peers and their communities information about the virus and how to address it. In many places, they distributed equipment, joined forces with local authorities, and participated in radio talk shows. In other places, local government stakeholders requested that they carry out targeted activities, as in Cape Town where they were asked to organize a community dialogue about Gender-Based Violence. All those efforts - unplanned and unprecedented for us - reached, by our data, nearly 350,000 people.

Meanwhile, our regular activities - mainly in education and training - did not remain idle either. In Mexico and the United States, where the impact of the epidemic was much more strongly felt at first than in Africa, we were able to quickly shift our educational



offerings online. We were prepared, in fact, since we had been working to create new digital tools, notably for the Domestic Harmonizer Program in Southern California. This shift prompted in-depth reflection as to our educational programs in general, in particular those located in other places around the world, where access to the Internet is much more intermittent. We identified that we needed to combine the advantages of online and in-person learning into a blended approach, which we are currently exploring through partnerships that we undertook during the year.

This effort will allow us to impact even more beneficiaries, adding to the 450,000 who were reached in 2020. Since our beginnings, we have reached over 1,100,000 people across five countries. This is, amid a complicated year, a positive

development. 2020 will have been, in the end, a year of learning. A crisis is never just an episode of disruption – it is a time for learning more about one’s weaknesses and strengths, one’s limitations and possibilities. Such reinvention is what the youths and the staff of WPDI have proven is at the core of WPDI.

Peace and Light,

Forest Whitaker
Founder & CEO, Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative
UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation
UN Advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals

WHY WPD?

WPD was born out of the belief that, in order to foster peace, youths around the planet must be empowered with tools and skills so that they can become leaders and agents of positive change. With a world youth population at 1.3 billion, young people offer potential that we cannot ignore – especially in conflict-affected places, where 408 million of them live. Violence has always had a major impact on the lives of young people, as they are often among the first to become victims or be recruited to join armed forces. For too long, leaders and policymakers have seen youths as being only victims or perpetrators, not as partners with the capacity to be voices for hope and forces for peace.

Empowering young people to become partners and leaders of change is exactly what WPD is doing on the ground in Mexico, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, and the United States. Founded in 2012 by artist, social activist, and UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation Forest Whitaker, WPD seeks to help young men and women become leaders for peace and agents of transformation in their countries and communities.

At a time of unprecedented crisis, our work in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world continued to demonstrate the relevance of our efforts to empower youths with the skills and resources needed to positively transform their communities. Nearly ten years after first launching our work on the ground, we are more determined than ever to pursue this ambition, in 2021 and beyond.



UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are objectives adopted by the international community as part of the 2030 Agenda to achieve peace and sustainable development, notably through the elimination of extreme poverty, gender inequality, and youth exclusion. A global roadmap recognized in all countries and regions, the SDGs offer a formidable platform for working with partners at all levels and from all sectors, including governments, businesses, and civil society to harness the power of youths. In light of his work as UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation and as CEO/Founder of WPD, Forest Whitaker was appointed by the UN Secretary-General to the SDGs Advocacy Group to raise awareness of these goals around the world and promote a spirit of cooperation and solidarity. In addition to this global advocacy work regarding the whole 17-goal framework, WPD's programs are making substantive contributions towards achieving specific goals of the 2030 Agenda.



WPDI 2020 OVERVIEW

450,000+ PEOPLE REACHED AND IMPACTED THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS WORLDWIDE, INCLUDING:



18,000+

PEOPLE UTILIZED SERVICES AT WPDI'S GLOBAL NETWORK OF COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS.



350,000+

PEOPLE IN UGANDA, SOUTH SUDAN, SOUTH AFRICA, AND MEXICO WERE EDUCATED ABOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN A CAMPAIGN LED BY WPDI YOUTH PEACEMAKERS.

150+ INCOME-GENERATING COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN SOUTH SUDAN, UGANDA, SOUTH AFRICA, AND MEXICO EMPLOY THOUSANDS OF VULNERABLE YOUTHS.



5,000+

PEOPLE TOOK WPDI-DESIGNED VOCATIONAL COURSES - BOTH IN-PERSON AND ONLINE - IN TOPICS LIKE CONFLICT RESOLUTION EDUCATION, INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, AND BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP.



6,800+

PEOPLE WERE DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY WPDI-SUPPORTED, YOUTH-LED SMALL BUSINESSES.



WPDl'S PROGRAMS ARE ADVANCING **12** OF THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



14 COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS
IN SOUTH SUDAN, UGANDA, SOUTH AFRICA,
AND MEXICO HELP COMMUNITY MEMBERS
ACCESS FREE VOCATIONAL COURSES, THE
INTERNET, BOOKS AND COMPUTERS, AND
PARTICIPATE IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

2,500+

STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY WPDl'S DOMESTIC
HARMONIZER PROGRAM.



1,400+

YOUTHS PEACEMAKERS
HAVE BEEN TRAINED AND
CERTIFIED AS TRAINERS
OF TRAINEES IN SOUTH
SUDAN, UGANDA, SOUTH
AFRICA, AND MEXICO.



75,000+

REUSABLE CLOTH
FACEMASKS WERE CREATED
AND DISTRIBUTED BY WPDl
YOUTH PEACEMAKERS TO
VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES
IN UGANDA, SOUTH SUDAN,
AND SOUTH AFRICA.

WPDI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In 2020, despite the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, WPDI continued to help vulnerable communities remain on the path to a more peaceful future.

Thanks in large part to the dedication of its staff and youth volunteers, WPDI demonstrated that it is first and foremost a resilience-driven organization. More than 1,200 WPDI-supported Youth Peacemakers were mobilized to educate people in their communities about COVID-19. They conducted Community Dialogues and participated in numerous radio talk shows to inform the public about the disease and combat misinformation. They also produced and distributed more than **75,000** face masks and other hygienic supplies. Their actions have directly reached more than **350,000** people in some of the most remote areas of Uganda, Mexico, South Sudan, and South Africa, vindicating our approach that empowered youths can be an incredible community resource.

WPDI did more, though, than merely cope with incoming obstacles. At every turn of the crisis, we sought to innovate and rethink how we work and to improve our long-term capacity to deliver. We are currently engaged in an organization-wide process to better integrate digital tools into our arsenal, which will allow us to reach even more beneficiaries. A significant effort was also undertaken to renew curricula and adapt them to a blended approach whereby learners would benefit both from in-person and online resources. This new strategy led to creating or renewing partnerships with specialized organizations, including United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and departments at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Princeton University, and Stanford University.

In sum, 2020 has, for all its trials and constraints, been a year of active learning and transformation, creating momentum that we plan to sustain in 2021 and beyond.

WPDI-Trained Youths in South Sudan's Equatorias Region Lead a Campaign to Educate the Local Population About COVID-19



Before the outbreak of COVID-19, WPDI's operations in South Sudan spanned the three states of the Equatorias Region. We had just completed the consolidation of our flagship program – the Youth Peacemaker Network – in the region with the training of our last cohort of Youth Peacemakers, bringing the total to over **300** well-trained youths working for peace and sustainable development in their communities. When the COVID-19 pandemic reached Central Africa,

we concluded that we should mobilize our grassroots peace force to inform local people about COVID-19 and what preventative measures they could take to curb the spread of the virus. Aiming to assist them to the best of our capacity, we gathered verified information from sources including the World Health Organization, UNESCO, and UNICEF as well as designed communication materials that our youths could easily adapt and translate for their fellow community members. These activities sought to help contribute to the international and national efforts at curbing the pandemic.

Taking into account strict safety measures, our youths were able to reach more than **200,000** people in the Equatorias in 2020. They have also gone door-to-door in rural areas, painted murals, and participated in radio talk shows to disseminate information about COVID-19. In Eastern Equatoria State, Youth Peacemakers have distributed leaflets and factsheets to households, taught local people how to correctly wash their hands and practice social distancing, and even build handwashing stations to ensure that their communities have a place to adhere to safe sanitary practices. And in Western Equatoria State, our network of Youth Peacemakers have done much of the same by participating in radio talk shows to raise awareness about the virus, providing community members with factsheets with important information about safe practices, directly reaching out to at-risk populations like the elderly, and much more.

By raising awareness and educating local people about preventative measures, our Youth Peacemakers demonstrated the substantial impact they can have on the ground in their communities. As James, a local youth from Luri in Juba County noted, ***"I learned about the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of the door-to-door campaign conducted by WPDI. I have told my family, friends, relatives, and neighbors about this disease as a result."*** Joyce, a young woman from Kugi in Juba County told us similarly that ***"WPDI came to my house with life-saving information. My family was ignoring the dangers of coronavirus because we thought the disease was only for foreigners. But now we know that the virus can infect anyone. We wash our hands frequently and my entire family is now staying home."***



WPDI'S MODEL

Mobilizing Youths and
Empowering Communities
to Foster Peace and
Sustainable Development



YOUTH PEACEMAKER NETWORK

Empowering a New Generation of Young Leaders

Peace is within reach. This is our core belief and the basis of our strategy to promote peace and sustainable development in vulnerable and violence-affected communities around the world. That takes the form of cohorts of young peacemakers that we train and empower to spark transformative change in their communities. Each of them has the power to reach hundreds and thousands of people per year. They are the very agents of our strategy to build peace in places that need it most.

Building a cohort of Youth Peacemakers begins with selecting a group of young men and women - taking into consideration diversity and gender equality - from fragile communities whom we train in collaboration with local stakeholders and institutions. We train them intensively over one year in topics including Conflict Resolution Education, Information & Communications Technology, Business & Entrepreneurship, Human Rights Education, Public Speaking, and Life Skills. In many instances, this process also includes trauma healing sessions to help those who have been through unthinkable experiences regain peace within their hearts and minds.





Once trained, these young leaders return to their home communities where they train groups of local youths and undertake peacebuilding initiatives and community development projects, all with WPDI's support. These peacebuilding initiatives can range from holding trainings for local government leaders on human rights issues to teaching Conflict Resolution Education to students at primary and secondary schools to holding Community Dialogues to discuss and resolve contentious issues. Because we want them to have a deeper social impact and to be self-reliant so they can work without our direct support, the peacemakers are also trained to become entrepreneurs. They design and develop their own businesses. We provide mentorship, support, and backstopping: they are behind the wheel. They are the ones driving change.

Since 2012, WPDI has trained more than **1,400** Youth Peacemakers and they are having an impact each and every day.

WPDI Trains a New Generation of Young Leaders in South Africa

In December, WPDI - in partnership with BNP Paribas and its consumer finance arm RCS - held a graduation ceremony for the **42** young leaders. Having successfully completed one year of intensive training in Conflict Resolution Education, Information & Communications Technology, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Trauma Healing, among others, the **42** newly minted Youth Peacemakers joined a global network of more than **1,400** WPDI agents for transformative change.

Speaking virtually at the graduation ceremony, Forest Whitaker expressed immense pride and joy in welcoming a new generation of young social development ambassadors in South Africa. ***"Today, we are united by a unique ambition to make our communities better, more resilient, more peaceful, and more successful. I am even prouder because you completed a demanding training amid another crisis.***

A major global crisis that nearly brought the whole world to a halt, but did not stop you from striving to learn and grow. I know how hard you have fought to keep the program's momentum going. You have demonstrated that you possess character – which is probably the most important quality of a peacemaker."



Kayla Isaacs, a Youth Peacemaker from Mitchells Plain, told attendees that she is ready to return to her community and work to make it a more peaceful place. ***"From first being accepted into the program to graduating today, the skills we have learned are already proving invaluable. Now, our mission is to continue the work and share these skills with the greater community. This is especially important now, given the widespread challenges facing our communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, the opportunity to be a Youth Peacemaker is all the more appreciated, and is one that I will make the very most of."***



COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS



Communities will have a better chance to create lasting peace and sustainable development if they can access relevant information and knowledge and can communicate among themselves as well as with the world. WPDI's strategy to facilitate vulnerable communities' access to information, knowledge, and the Internet led to the formation of a global network of Community Learning Centers (CLCs) in the communities where we have deployed branches of the Youth Peacemaker Network. At present, we operate centers in South Sudan, Mexico, Uganda, and South Africa.

The centers are educational hubs that materialize WPDI's ambition of imparting knowledge and tangible skills to as many community members as possible in order to broaden our impact on the ground. WPDI provides free certified vocational training courses in topics such as Conflict Resolution Education, Information & Communications Technology, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Arts & Crafts. Under more normal circumstances, the CLCs also host events for the public under our Cinema for Peace and Peace Through Sports programs as well as other cultural activities. CLCs also serve to host the Business Plan Competitions that we organize to support promising small businesses.



Opening a New Community Learning Center in the Karamoja Sub-Region



In October, WPD - with support from our partner, the Islamic Development Bank – opened a new Community Learning Center in Moroto, the main town in Uganda's Karamoja Sub-Region. We now have three such centers active in Uganda, with the other two located in Gulu, in the Acholi Sub-Region, and at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. This new center and its 10-strong staff will support the deployment of

a new branch of our Youth Peacemaker Network in Karamoja, which aims to help bring peace and sustainable development to one of the most impoverished areas of Uganda.

The center has already generated significant interest among stakeholders in the area, as illustrated by the center's opening ceremony, which was attended by many local leaders, including the Resident District Commissioner of Moroto, the Honorable Helen Pulkol. In a few short months, we registered more than **400** people for vocational training courses in Conflict Resolution Education, Information & Communications Technology, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Arts & Crafts.





COMMUNITY DIALOGUES



Peace cannot be achieved when there is no space for dialogue. This is a basic principle of diplomacy that is true at all levels. WPDI's mission is to provide spaces for dialogue in all places, however remote they are or entrenched their conflicts may seem to be. The point in organizing these dialogues is to be in tune with local realities and to take all the time necessary to listen to everyone.

This is why Community Dialogues are mostly conducted by our peacemakers. They are insiders who have intimate knowledge of local situations and can gain the trust of local populations and leaders more easily than external actors. With the skills and tools we provide them, they are therefore uniquely positioned to mediate conflicts and seemingly intractable issues that have plagued relations among communities for years. Besides this work having to do with resolving actual conflict, Community Dialogues also have preventative and educational purposes. In some circumstances, peacemakers have realized that some key human rights issues – such as gender-based violence – must be addressed in a given community and have taken action accordingly.



Our peacemakers work to achieve a multiplier effect. To achieve this, they often ensure that their activities are well attended by local stakeholders, whom they ask to disseminate the results of their work among their constituencies back home. Another key tool to foster peace is local radio. When they set up a Community Dialogue, our peacemakers will often hold talk shows on local channels to introduce their work and present the results they have gained.

WPDI Youth Peacemakers in South Sudan Successfully Organize Peace Forms in Response to Rising Inter-Communal Violence



In 2020, WPDI – in partnership with UNESCO – mobilized its Youth Peacemakers to lead 7 peace forums across 7 states in South Sudan. Undertaken in the context of the high-level peace agreement to end the civil conflict that has affected the country since 2013, the partnership aimed to help foster peace and national integration directly in remote areas at the grassroots level. This effort is indeed indispensable in a country that has suffered decades of conflict and where, consequently, remote areas are often isolated from broader

developments – including when they are positive. Focusing on some of the country's most vulnerable communities, the forums brought together local media, government forces like the police, army, and national security services, civil society organizations, women, youths, chiefs, and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), all stakeholders eager to prepare a future of peace and dialogue for South Sudan.

This series of 7 peace forums were conducted from July to September in Yei (Yei River State), Torit (Central Equatoria State), Yambio (Western Equatoria State), Rumbek (Western Lakes State), Wau (Western Bahr el Ghazal State), Bentiu (Unity State), and Bor (Jonglei State) with the objective of strengthening the capacity of the communities to address tensions and resolve conflicts in nonviolent ways. They also were organized to address issues the media is facing in South Sudan, especially regarding freedom of expression and hate speech. With less than 10 years of existence, South Sudan is still in the process of transforming into a fully integrated country, which also requires strengthening its relatively new and burgeoning media sector. In this perspective, the forums also focused, in line with UNESCO's mandate, on educating community members about the role a free, professionalized media can – and should – play in helping promote non-violence, trust, and national reconciliation.

In total, the initiative brought together nearly **300** community members, notably representatives of local governments, key to ensure that the results of the forums are widely disseminated across remote areas. The Hon. Luis Lobong Lojore, the Governor of Eastern Equatoria State and an attendee, told us that ***"I have come to this forum because it is for peace and we all know that peace is important in our country, South Sudan, and particularly in Eastern Equatoria."*** Another participant, Rebecca, a female chief from Bentiu, mentioned that, after the dialogue there concluded, ***"I now have more knowledge and skills on how to deal with hate speech, resolve conflicts, and build peace in my community. I will share these skills with other women to change the mindset of the people."***



CONFLICT RESOLUTION EDUCATION

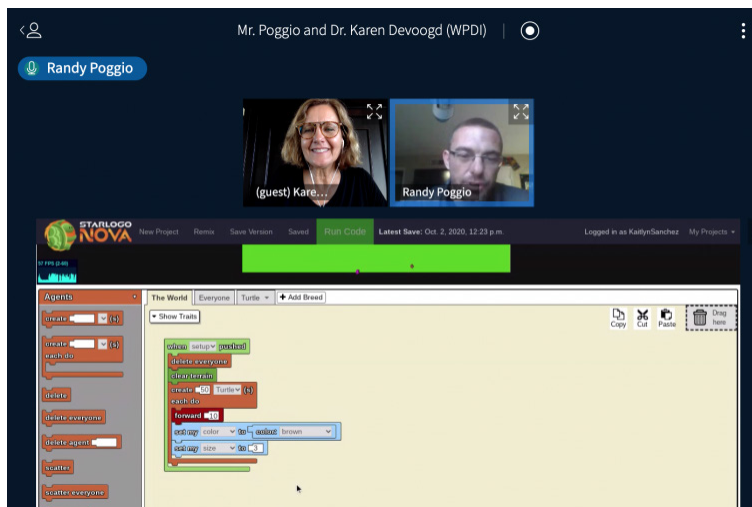


WPDI has designed comprehensive Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) curricula that can be adapted and taught to a wide variety of people in a diverse array of contexts. The young leaders from conflict and violence-affected places that we prepare to mediate conflicts in their communities are also trained to teach our CRE curricula in schools to children and teenagers. We additionally work with adults, training civil servants and local leaders in post-conflict settings or teachers in primary and secondary schools so that they can, in turn, convey values of non-violence and tolerance to their students. No matter whom we train, WPDI places an emphasis on the importance of achieving inner peace in recognition of one's identity; after all, if someone is not at peace with themselves, they cannot foster peace around them.



WPDI's CRE curricula can be implemented in schools across the world – from villages on the slopes of Northern Uganda or the mountains of Chiapas to the capital city of South Sudan or the suburbs of Los Angeles. It is designed to be integrated into core subjects like science, math, and social studies so that educators can teach CRE as an integrated dimension of learning. Over a multi-year process, students are first introduced to basic concepts concerning conflicts and how to identify them. Then, they learn about mediation and resolution techniques. Finally, students learn about advanced topics, such as restorative justice and victim-offender mediation. Overall, the program seeks to give students the ability to recognize sources of conflict as well as the skillset necessary to resolve them, without resorting to violence.

WPDI Teams Up with Ball Jr. High to Help Students Better Understand COVID-19 and its Impact on Their Community



In a school year like no other, WPDI – through the Domestic Harmonizer Program – was able to stand with our partner schools during the pandemic to support teachers and students using online instruction for our Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) curriculum. Teachers have responded with incredible resilience and creativity. An example of a high impact, innovative project this fall was created by Mr. Randy Poggio, a science teacher at Ball Jr. High School in Anaheim, California – one of our partner schools.

Recently, Mr. Poggio involved his 7th grade science classes in project-based learning to understand the reality of COVID-19's infectious spread, using coding to create a simulation of disease transmission through contact. In this project, students were required to research data provided by public health sources, describing a community of their choice. He then challenged students to work with this data to outline the current state of COVID-19 cases if guidelines for reducing spread are followed or not followed. The coding work provided the mathematical model to display the anticipated results. Wishing for students to grasp more complex dimensions of the process, Mr. Poggio invited WPDI to create content to complement his course, specifically focusing on defining human needs. Participating in all the online classes, the DHP team guest taught all online classes and elaborated on the concepts of conflict as unmet needs, with a total of **190** students ultimately completing the project.

"The work that Mr. Poggio has taken on with his students is truly exemplary. By involving students to make meaning out of the current state of living with COVID-19 using science and math standards and then adding complexity of understanding the conflict makes their learning powerfully real," says Karen DeVoogd, Conflict Resolution Education Trainer for WPDI. ***"The narrative that students will carry forward from this learning will stay with them forever. They are now experts in charting out the impact on human experiences from this pandemic."***



BUSINESS BOOTCAMP



The Business Bootcamp is a business incubation platform that serves to promote entrepreneurship in places where opportunities are disproportionately scarce. For lasting peace to happen, communities must have the capacity to rely on endogenous forces and resources. Possessing concrete skills that can lead to a job or a business is empowering in itself; it brings self-confidence and the values necessary for maintaining a livelihood – and fostering peace. Disseminating a culture of entrepreneurship and supporting small businesses designed and managed by young people, women, and local community members at large is a key component of our work.



The Business Bootcamp program starts with a rigorous training in areas that will provide participants with the skills and the knowledge they need to create and develop a thriving business. The trainees who successfully complete the course can move to the next phase and submit a business idea to our committee. For most of them, this opportunity takes the shape of business plan competitions that we hold once or twice per year. These competitions are a process in themselves, the idea being that the candidates present ideas that we help them translate into full-fledged business plans. It is a new, very applied learning phase that is empowering in itself since the candidates whose projects are not selected can take their ideas elsewhere. Then, the selected projects are developed into businesses overseen by local committees composed of representatives from WPDI, WPDI's partners from the private sector, other non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and other local and national stakeholders. The committee's role is to provide our entrepreneurs with both tangible resources, such as grants and/or loans, and intangible resources, such as backstopping support, advice, and reinforced training tailored to the needs of the entrepreneurs and the specific stage of their business development.

Victor, a WPDI Youth Peacemaker in Mexico's Chiapas State Wins a National Award for His Entrepreneurial Work



Early in the year, Victor Santiz Garcia, a WPDI Youth Peacemaker, received Mexico's National Award for Voluntary and Solidarity Action. The award recognizes his work to improve the lives of the disadvantaged in his community in Mexico's Chiapas state through his Production of Healthy and Nutritious Food Initiative. This WPDI-sponsored project has impacted hundreds of indigenous families in one of Mexico's poorest communities.

Victor launched the Production of Healthy and Nutritious Food Initiative with another Youth Peacemaker, Jose, in early 2017 after completing his training with WPDI. They did so based on their observation that many indigenous families in Chiapas – one of Mexico's poorest states – suffer from malnutrition, especially in the state's rural areas where access to food can

be extremely limited. The project began with the establishment of a community garden, at which indigenous families were trained how to produce vegetables, tend to livestock, and learn about nutrition. Since the project's launch, about **300** families have started working on the initiative and another **625** people have purchased its goods. In only two years, the initiative has become self-sustainable and, in addition to being recognized by the Mexican government, it has also received international recognition from the United Nations Development Program for its work to promote food security and the Sustainable Development Goals.

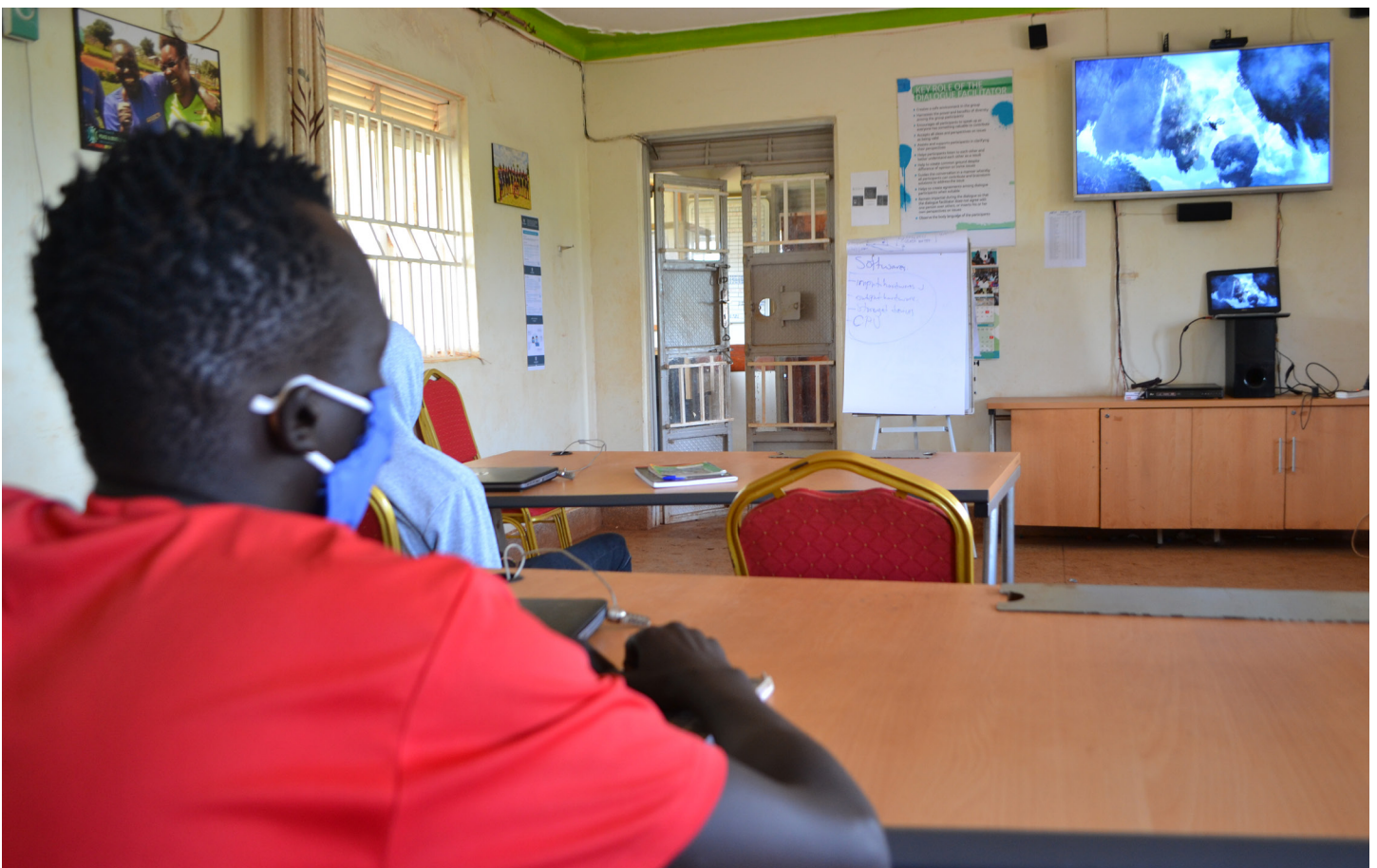
These achievements have greatly impacted his community and Victor continues to serve as an exemplary WPDI Youth Peacemaker. In his own words at the award ceremony in Mexico City, ***"Being a young leader represents an opportunity to serve as an agent of change and contributes to transform the reality on the ground to help us all exercise our rights as individuals. Leadership means continuing to inspire more people and empower the future generations. For me, WPDI has been a fundamental component of my career and it has provided me with skills, capabilities, and aptitudes that I will continue to use in my future work with young people."*** In Victor, young people can find a role model whose action and dedication to others should be emulated everywhere. He also provides an example that we hope governments, development partners, and peace promoters will look to as an example of youth-based solutions that can spark a global movement for transformative change all over the world.



CINEMA FOR PEACE



In communities impacted by conflict, the minds of many people may be closed to ideas concerning reconciliation, tolerance, and forgiveness, among others. Cinema, however, is a medium that helps people deal with the complexities of their experiences and envision a new, brighter, more peaceful future. In this way, cinema has a remarkable ability to engage and present us with characters and stories in a way that can transform how we conceive of people and events as well as our past, present, and future.



WPDI's Cinema for Peace program was first created at the UN's Protection-of-Civilians site in Juba, South Sudan, for this very purpose. It was designed provide cultural and emotional enrichment as well as psychosocial support to residents while also disseminating values conducive to peace, reconciliation, and inclusion. The program has been so successful that we quickly decided to implement it outside of the UN compound in the other countries within which WPDI operates, making it a much-appreciated component of our peace-building activities.



PEACE THROUGH SPORTS



Sports have a fundamental human appeal. They can connect across cultures, religions, nationalities, and other divides. They also serve a key educational purpose: when people participate in sporting events, they learn to respect the dignity of their opponents, the values of teamwork and tolerance, and the importance of rules and regulations.



WPDI's Peace Through Sports program aims to combine sports with peacebuilding activities. Teams established and supported by WPDI practice regularly and also engage in workshops, which focus on values like peace and tolerance or activities such as trauma healing or sexual and reproductive health. Further, through Peace Engagement Days – events that double as sporting competitions and opportunities for disseminating values conducive to peacebuilding to attending audiences – communities come together to view matches while also engaging in the fostering of peace. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, on some occasions, more than **10,000** people have attended such events.



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



In communities that have been impacted by conflict or are otherwise vulnerable, youth empowerment can often be hampered by sexual attitudes and behaviors that negatively impact women and girls. With this in mind, WPDI disseminates information about Sexual & Reproductive Health, including information about diseases and epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, to target populations. These programs, conducted in partnership with organizations like UNESCO, AMREF Health Africa, and UN Women, are popular among both men and women.



TRAUMA HEALING

As WPDI operates in places long affected by conflict, many of the youths and community members we work with suffer from varying degrees of trauma. Yet, peace among people and communities is possible only when people and communities are at peace with themselves.

Addressing trauma is often a key stepping stone to building peace and sustainable development in conflict and violence-affected places. This is why WPDI has created a number of psychosocial programs, including trauma-healing trainings. These seek to give young people and other community members a productive outlet for their energies, to emphasize cooperation and teamwork, and support those impacted by the traumatic experiences of war and displacement.

WPDI Strengthens the Trauma Healing Component of its Trainings for Youth Peacemakers and Beneficiaries



COVID-19 has impacted not only our health but also our daily lives, the economy, education, and more. It has also generated unprecedented levels of trauma within communities generally and youths in particular, often exacerbating underlying situations or conditions. At WPDI, we have developed psychosocial programs based on our observation that, be it in South Africa, Mexico, Uganda, South Sudan, or the United States, unaddressed trauma in vulnerable individuals and communities is both a

source of suffering and a roadblock on their path to resilience. COVID-19 compelled us to step up our efforts in this space, working to strengthen the trauma healing component of our programs, notably those involving our Youth Peacemakers.

To provide but one example of this, in November, we partnered with Professor Ndagwa Noyoo, a social worker and expert in addressing interpersonal trauma, and William Magenya, a human rights and conflict mediation expert, to provide specialized training to our cohort of 35 Youth Peacemakers in Cape Flats. The cohort had just graduated but we deemed it critical for them to have relevant tools at hand as they prepared to start working in their communities at a time when we knew they would have to work in the aftermath of COVID-19. Through the sessions, they learned to develop greater self-awareness to conduct successful person-to-person interactions, specifically in traumatic situations. They also deepened their command of conflict mediation techniques, conflict styles, and behavioral dimensions to conflict.

Meanwhile, a hemisphere away in Mexico's Chiapas state, our team on the ground bolstered the trauma healing component of their programs as well. During 2020, they designed and launched a virtual workshop aimed to help community members who have lost loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic cope with their losses, process next steps, and become more resilient.

These two activities are pilots that we intend to further explore to provide our peacemakers and beneficiaries at large with tools they need to help their communities move forward on their path towards peace and resilience.



Our Actions on the Ground



Promoting Resiliency in Vulnerable Communities in Uganda

Uganda – Acholi Sub-Region,
Karamoja Sub-Region,
and the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

In Uganda, WPDI's programs in the Acholi Sub-Region and in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement are supported by the Swedish Postcode Foundation, Western Union Foundation, UNESCO, and the United States African Development Foundation. In the Karamoja Sub-Region, they are supported by the Islamic Development Bank. These partnerships allowed for the mobilization of thousands of Youth Peacemakers in response to COVID-19. These youths took part in an informational campaign that reached hundreds of thousands, saving lives and showing the positive impact empowered young people can have in their communities. Meanwhile, in the Karamoja Sub-Region, WPDI has recruited **46** youths to join the existing network of **76** Youth Peacemakers we work with in Uganda; they have been trained in areas including Conflict Resolution Education, Information & Communications Technology, and Business & Entrepreneurship. WPDI and its partners are also supporting **120** youth-led small businesses in the Acholi Sub-Region and in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.



UGANDA PROGRAMS - ACHIEVEMENTS

172,417

people were directly reached by
WPDI's programs in 2020

Youth Peacemakers



- **106** WPDI Youth Peacemakers are active
- **645** local youths have been trained by WPDI's Youth Peacemakers

Community Learning Center



- **2,212** people utilized WPDI's network of Community Learning Centers in the Equatorias Region
- **1,909** people completed vocational training courses at WPDI's network of Community Learning Centers
 - › **288** in CRE
 - › **575** in ICT
 - › **534** in Business & Entrepreneurship
 - › **512** in Arts & Crafts

Business Bootcamp



- **120** small businesses are being supported by WPDI in the region

Community Dialogues



- **2,806** people took part in **34** Youth Peacemaker-led community dialogues in 2020

Health



- **116,379** people were reached by WPDI's youth-led COVID-19 informational campaign in the sub-region
- **7,020** people were reached by WPDI's Trauma Healing and Sexual & Reproductive Health programs

Peace Through Sports



- **23,143** people took part in WPDI-sponsored football matches and other Peace Through Sports activities in 2020

Cinema for Peace



- **9,442** people participated in film screenings conducted at WPDI's three Community Learning Centers in Uganda



Youths Impacting Their Communities

South Sudan – Equatorias Region

In South Sudan, partnerships with UNESCO, USADF, the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, the IKEA Foundation, Gemini Enterprises Africa, Swedish Postcode Foundation, and the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation helped us mobilize our cohorts of Youth Peacemakers to help their communities learn and implement safety measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to reaching tens of thousands of people with their educational campaign, they also helped train more local youths in peacebuilding and entrepreneurship, support dozens of youth-led small businesses, and conduct activities conducive to building peace and fostering sustainable development in the country's Equatorias Region.



SOUTH SUDAN – EQUATORIAS REGION ACHIEVEMENTS

228,540

people were directly reached by
WPDI's programs in 2020

Youth Peacemakers



- **68** WPDI Youth Peacemakers are active in the Equatorias Region
- **576** local youths trained by WPDI's Youth Peacemakers took part in six additional training workshops in 2020

Community Learning Center



- **16,156** people utilized WPDI's network of Community Learning Centers in the Equatorias Region
- **760** people completed vocational training courses at WPDI's network of Community Learning Centers
 - › **256** in CRE
 - › **355** in ICT
 - › **139** in Business & Entrepreneurship
 - › **10** in Arts & Crafts

Conflict Resolution Education in Schools



- **345** primary and secondary school students were trained in CRE across three schools

Business Bootcamp



- **30** small businesses are being supported by WPDI in the region

Community Dialogues



- **512** people took part in **12** Youth Peacemaker-led community dialogues in 2020

Cinema for Peace



- **2,243** people participated in WPDI-sponsored film screenings at our network of Community Learning Centers in the Equatorias Region

Health



- **200,136** people were reached by WPDI's youth-led COVID-19 informational campaign in the sub-region
- **6,327** people were reached by WPDI's Trauma Healing and Sexual & Reproductive Health programs



Young People Taking The Lead to Address Community Challenges

South Africa – Cape Town

In South Africa, WPDl's partnerships with BNP Paribas, RCS Group, and the Government of Western Cape helped us complete the training of our first cohort of **42** Youth Peacemakers there. In addition to that, we also offered vocational training courses to hundreds of people, conducted Community Dialogues, and helped thousands learn about and safely deal with the COVID-19 pandemic in Cape Flats. We further held our first Business Plan Competition in Cape Flats, which resulted in **8** winners, which WPDl and its partners will support.



BNP PARIBAS



RCS

BNP PARIBAS GROUP



**Western Cape
Government**

SOUTH AFRICA ACHIEVEMENTS

42 youths graduated from one year of intensive training with WPDI to become fully-fledged youth peacemakers.



8 youth-led businesses won WPDI's inaugural Business Plan Competition and will continue to be supported in the coming year.



570 students and **100** educators from **4** primary and secondary schools have been trained in Conflict Resolution Education.



WPDI youth peacemakers created and distributed **5,000** reusable cloth masks in their communities.



SOUTH AFRICA ACHIEVEMENTS



200 community leaders from Cape Flats have been fully trained in Peacebuilding and Conflict Mediation.



8 Community Dialogues were conducted in townships throughout Cape Flats to discuss conflict-related issues that are deeply affecting communities there, including gender-based violence.



410 community members completed WPDI's certified courses in Conflict Resolution Education, Information & Communications Technology, or Business & Entrepreneurship.



Using the Internet to Promote Peace During a Pandemic

Mexico – Tijuana & Chiapas

In Mexico, the Telmex-Telcel Foundation, Western Union Foundation, and Ericsson supported WPDI's efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by launching virtual versions of its vocational training programs for members of the public. Over the course of the year, more than **1,700** people from five states in Mexico participated in these free trainings, showing the scope of interest and reach of the program, and with new partnerships - including one to train **60** incarcerated youths in prison in Tijuana - our activities are continuing to grow.

With two fully trained networks of Youth Peacemakers in both the city of Tijuana and Chiapas state, WPDI is ready to reengage in in-person activities once it is safe to do so.



MEXICO - ACHIEVEMENTS

WPDI's work to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Mexico's Chiapas state and the city of Tijuana has reached more than **85,000** people.



WPDI conducted online Conflict Resolution Education and Information & Communications Technology trainings for more than **700** educators at primary and secondary schools in Chiapas and Tijuana.



Over **1,700** people registered and attended free vocational courses – both online and in-person – over the course of the year.



WPDI trained **25** members of the Baja California State Human Rights Commission in Conflict Resolution Education.



More than **750** people were direct beneficiaries of the three youth-led businesses supported by WPDI in Mexico's Chiapas state.



WPDI is training **60** currently incarcerated youths in Conflict Resolution Education at two juvenile centers in Tijuana as part of their rehabilitation program.





Fostering Peace in Schools in Southern California

United States – Los Angeles

In the United States, the Verizon Foundation, Bank of the West, and the University of Southern California helped us expand the Domestic Harmonizer Program to three additional schools total, with more to be added to the program next year. Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the program's school-based model, WPDJ was able to adapt by taking the Domestic Harmonizer Program online. Through doing so, WPDJ trained hundreds of teachers and students in Conflict Resolution Education-focused curricula. The program was noted as having a substantial positive impact by an independent evaluator.

In 2021, WPDJ plans to launch a mobile app and virtual peace center to further scale the impact of the program. Further, a new partnership with the University of Southern California will bolster the program's conflict mediation and resolution component.



BANK OF THE WEST
BNP PARIBAS



UNITED STATES ACHIEVEMENTS



- **90** educators, counselors, and administrators trained in the DHP curriculum across two campuses.



- **75** peer mediators trained across three campuses.



- **2,750** students received CRE training both in-person and virtually.



- **80** hours of online classes centered on the DHP delivered across 10 different academic subject areas.



OUR PLANS FOR 2021

While 2021 will undoubtedly remain a year of uncertainty, our achievements in 2020 have demonstrated that we could remain effective in our ambition to help vulnerable communities on their path to strengthening their capacity to build resilience.

Our first priority will consist in maintaining our ability to serve these communities despite the challenges that the pandemic will certainly create. This means, for instance, that we will intensify our efforts at shifting our educational programs to a blended approach combining quality online and in-person tools. Considering the social challenges that COVID-19 has revealed and often heightened, we will also expand a number of programs, including ones focusing on Trauma Healing, Discrimination, and the promotion of Gender Equality and Female Empowerment. Our ambition is also to reinforce our actions in the two areas of peace education – for which we plan to work in more than **250** schools across Africa and the Americas in the coming years – and entrepreneurship – through which we aim to support the development of more than **300** businesses in the coming period.

These areas of action have become critical with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): another lesson from the pandemic is that humanity desperately needs such a common framework if we are to overcome global threats in any area, from climate change to viruses. Connecting global agendas with local priorities has been the core of our work since the creation of WPDI. In 2021 we will also, in this respect, start preparing for our ten-year anniversary. It will be an opportunity not only to showcase accomplishments by our youths and our teams, but also to reflect upon the dynamics that has inspired our past action and we hope to pursue creatively over the next years.



ABOUT OUR FOUNDER

Forest Whitaker believes that, in order to attain peace and prosperity, communities and nations must heed the voices of their diverse and vibrant youth. He is the founder and CEO of the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative (WPDI). Through WPDI, he has developed the Youth Peacemaker Network, a global peacebuilding social network with hubs in South Sudan, South Africa, Uganda, United States and Mexico. He and WPDI are committed to providing educational tools and economic opportunities to young women and men in regions affected by violence and armed conflict. Whitaker is also co-founder and chair of the International Institute for Peace, UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation, and a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy Group. Whitaker is dedicated to cultivating youths' artistic talents. As a member of President Obama's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, he worked closely with elementary school students to demonstrate the limitless power of the arts to express their voices and creative energies.

In addition to his social activism, Whitaker is one of Hollywood's most accomplished and versatile figures. Through his production company, Significant Productions, he aims to support young, talented filmmakers. He believes that film can enlighten people across the globe and can start meaningful dialogues about important subjects. He has produced several award-winning documentaries that touch on a wide range of social issues. He has also received many distinctions for his acting, including the 2007 Academy Award for Best Actor for his portrayal of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in *The Last King of Scotland*, a performance for which he also received a BAFTA Award, SAG Award, and Golden Globe. In addition, Whitaker received the Best Actor Award for *Bird* at the 1988 Cannes Film Festival.

Forest Whitaker's artistic and humanitarian contributions have been widely recognized at home and abroad. In 2007, he received the Cinema for Peace Award for his ongoing advocacy for child soldiers and his work with inner-city youth. He was awarded the Humanitas Prize in 2001. In 2008, he was appointed to President Obama's Urban Policy Committee. In 2013, Boston University's Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center appointed him a Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellow. That same year, he was made a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government in recognition of his work serving those affected by conflicts and violence. Over the past few years, he has also received awards honoring his humanitarian work from the Los Angeles Press Club, the Broadcast Film Critics Association, the NAACP, Refugees International, the MLK Health Foundation, the World Childhood Foundation, the Southern California Mediation Association and more. In recognition of his role as artist and activist, he has been honored with the Crystal Award at the 2017 edition of the Davos World Economic Forum.

Forest Whitaker's commitment to peace and social justice has led him to work ever more closely with the United Nations and its various constituents. He has addressed such bodies as the Security Council, in 2014, and the Human Rights Council, in 2019. In 2011, he started an association with UNESCO as Goodwill Ambassador for Peace and Reconciliation, which was strengthened three years later, when he was appointed as UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation. In this role, he works toward global peace and community building through non-violence education, research, and training. In 2012, in recognition of his contributions to the values embodied by the UN, he received the United Nations Correspondents Association's Advocate of the Year Award. In 2014, he started collaborating with the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict as an Advocate for Children Affected by War.

In 2016, he was appointed to the Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy Group by the UN Secretary-General who renewed his membership in this group in 2019. Above all, Whitaker believes that ordinary people can and must come together to change the world. In his own words, ***"Even a seemingly small action can cause ripples that make an enormous impact."***

WPDI BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Valerie Amos is a long time campaigner and advocate on human rights, social justice, and equality issues. She is currently Master of University College, Oxford. She is a former Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator at the United Nations. From 2003-2007, she was a member of the British Cabinet as Secretary of State for International Development and then as Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council. She is involved in a number of charitable and other organisations including the UN Foundation, Mastercard Foundation, Institute for Government and Amos Bursary.



Brandon Chapnick is partner of Chapnick Smukler & Chapnick, has been practicing business management for over 10 years, and has over 20 years in the entertainment business. Brandon's father, Jerry, founded the firm in 2002 with Keith Smukler. Upon graduating from the California State University at Northridge with a degree in finance, Brandon began his career in the entertainment industry working from the ground up as an agent trainee at a top Los Angeles agency. While this job was not Brandon's calling, it allowed him a much broader understanding of the entertainment industry which has ultimately benefited his business management clients in extraordinary ways.

As a result, he has a deeper and more hands-on knowledge of all aspects of the business. Brandon's client list includes 15 - 20 entertainers, producers, and executives scattered throughout all disciplines of the entertainment business. These clients have a combined net worth in excess of \$150,000,000.00. Brandon is hands-on in overseeing his client's investments ranging from stocks and bonds; multi-family and commercial real estate; closely held corporations; and more. Brandon joined his father's firm in 2003. His understanding of the business management industry came incredibly naturally to him, as his father learned in the practice; Brandon was promoted to partner in 2009. In addition to his position with the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative, Brandon is a former board member of The Fulfillment Fund, a Los Angeles-based charity that provides college access to underprivileged students. Brandon lives in Encino, CA, with his wife and two children.



Dana Frix is a lawyer, business advisor and investor, CEO of Frix Advisory Group, and a Managing Director of Utilicom Advisors. Dana has advised WPDI and been on its board since its founding. Dana is also on the boards of RideTV, the premier cable channel for equestrian sports and lifestyle, and Savi Technology, a provider of sensor technology and predictive analytics for complex supply chain needs to the U.S. Department of Defense and commercial customers. Dana is a founding advisor to the World Champions Rodeo Alliance, the premier for-profit U.S. rodeo organization. Until forming the Advisory Group in 2016, Dana was Managing Partner of the Washington, D.C. office of Chadbourne & Parke, a premier U.S.

law firm. For several decades, Dana was a partner in Chadbourne's corporate practice and chair of its telecom, media, and technology practice. Before that he was a partner with the law firm of O'Melveny and Myers.



Elaine Weidman-Grunewald is a global sustainability and development expert and has worked in the private sector for over two decades as a corporate executive, an investor, and a tech founder. She is also an adviser to numerous start-ups, companies, and CEOs. Formerly, she was SVP and Chief Sustainability and Public Affairs Officer at Ericsson, and a member of the Executive Team, where among other things she headed the company's humanitarian and disaster response program. She pioneered the concept of Technology for Good and created some of the most impactful partnerships in this field. She is on the Boards of the European Sustainable Growth Acquisition Corp., and Sweco AB. She has

been actively engaged in the World Economic Forum, the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and the Business and Sustainable Development Commission, and is a board member of the International Women's Forum in Sweden. She is also the co-author of the book "Sustainability Leadership: A Swedish Approach to Transforming Your Company, Your Industry and the World" (Palgrave MacMillan 2020). She holds a double Master's degree from Boston University's Center for Energy and Environmental Studies.



Erik Hersman is an entrepreneur and technologist focused on advancing the use of technology in Africa. He is the CEO of BRCK which creates software and hardware solutions for connectivity in frontier markets. In 2010 he founded the iHub, Nairobi's innovation hub for the technology community, bringing together entrepreneurs, hackers, designers, and the investment community. He is also a co-founder of Ushahidi, the free and open source software for crowdsourcing crisis information. Erik is also a general partner in the Savannah Fund, and sits on the boards of Gearbox, Akirachix, the Kijabe Forest Trust, and the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative.

WPDJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Hans Vestberg is Chief Executive Officer of Verizon Communications, a leading provider and innovator of world-class technology networks and platforms. Under his leadership, Verizon is focused on delivering seamless experiences for consumers and businesses over the country's leading 4G LTE network and biggest residential fiber network, the world's first commercial 5G home service, and largest 5G test-bed. In addition, the company's media group serves trusted premium content through brands like Yahoo!, TechCrunch, and HuffPost while creating trusted ways for advertisers and partners to connect. Vestberg joined Verizon in 2017 as chief technology officer. Previously, he served for six years as President and CEO of Ericsson. He is a board member of the UN Foundation, the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative, and Childhood US (part of the Queen of Sweden's World Childhood Foundation). Born in Hudiksvall, Sweden, he is married with two children and is fluent in Swedish, English, Spanish, and Portuguese.



Niclas Kjellström-Matseke is a Swedish-South African business leader with a two-decade career as a marketing-oriented CEO and international investor in Europe and Africa. He has a special focus on sustainable business, engaged in UN's pioneering work with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a Board Member of the SDSN (Sustainable Development Solutions Network). Niclas was the CEO of Novamedia Nordics from 2005-2015. Novamedia/The Postcode Lottery has under Niclas' 10 years as CEO showed tremendous growth and became the industry's most profitable company. Niclas has also over a decade of experience investing for social impact, since Novamedia/The Postcode Lottery became the world's third largest private donor, after the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The Wellcome Trust, distributing approximately \$11 billion. In 2016, Niclas relocated to South Africa to build a portfolio of investments in the real estate, environmental engineering, and finance industries. In 2013, Niclas received the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights – The Ripple of Hope Award for his “dynamic and creative leadership” bringing together the business, political, and civic communities. He was born in 1970 in Sweden and holds an MBA from the Stockholm School of Economics and Babson College, USA. He also holds a degree in Economics and Social Science from Uppsala University.



Frank Cooper III Senior Managing Director, is the Global Chief Marketing Officer of BlackRock. He is a member of the Global Executive Committee and Global Operating Committee. As Global CMO, Mr. Cooper is responsible for shaping BlackRock's global brand and marketing strategy for institutional and retail clients, including overseeing all digital marketing, branding, and research and insights functions at the firm. Mr. Cooper previously served as Chief Marketing and Creative Officer at BuzzFeed, the leading social content publisher. Prior to this, he served as Chief Marketing Officer of Global Consumer Engagement for PepsiCo's Global Beverage Group.

Mr. Cooper started his career as an entertainment lawyer and later served as a senior executive at two of the most iconic music labels: Motown and Def Jam.

Mr. Cooper's work spans television, digital, short-form video, feature film, sports, and music. Mr. Cooper has been acknowledged by Fast Company magazine as one of the "100 Most Creative People in Business," was a four time recipient of Billboard magazine's "Power 100", and recipient of AdColor's coveted "Legend" award. Mr. Cooper earned a J.D. from Harvard Law School, where he served as the Supreme Court Editor of The Harvard Law Review, and a B.S. degree in business administration from the University of California at Berkeley.



Elizabeth Roscoe is Executive Director of the Western Union Foundation, a global non-profit that has donated \$119 million to support education and disaster relief as pathways to a better future. With 25 years of experience as a marketer and non-profit leader, Elizabeth has focused the power of the Western Union brand behind connecting migrants and refugees to the global economy through workforce development. Elizabeth has been a driving force behind increasing the scope and reputation of the foundation through partnerships, advocacy programs, and donor stewardship. Elizabeth was previously the head of Global Marketing for Western Union Payments which moves money for non-profits, governments,

small businesses, and educational institutions. Prior to this, Elizabeth oversaw marketing efforts for American Express, PepsiCo, and Nestle among other well-known brands. Born in Wales, Elizabeth has lived in the UK, Netherlands, Austria, and the USA. She has a BA and MSc from Manchester University and an international diploma from Erasmus University. She has completed the High Potentials Leadership Program through Harvard Business School Executive Education.

OUR PARTNERS




OUR PARTNERS

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BECOME A PARTNER

Partnerships ensure WPDI's ability to develop and continue its critical work. That might involve training cohorts of future peacemakers in South Sudan, supporting youth-led social businesses in Northern Uganda, helping develop self-sustaining entrepreneurial ventures in Mexico's rural Chiapas state, or teaching conflict resolution in schools in the United States. Your commitment – large or small – will make a meaningful impact for thousands of young men and women around the world.

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ACT FOR PEACE

WPDI is an established 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Your donation – no matter its size – will ensure our ability to promote youth-led peacebuilding projects and small businesses around the world that will impact thousands of young men and women.



You have the power to act for peace whether you donate, you convince, you tell a friend, you share our initiative. Make peace grow everywhere we can.

– Forest Whitaker



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