

GENERAL REPORT 2022

# STRENGTHENING THE POWER OF WOMEN AND YOUTHS FOR LASTING PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN FRAGILE PLACES



WHITAKER  
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVE

**PEACE IS CONTAGIOUS**

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# Foreword by Forest Whitaker

## When do we reach a turning point?

We know we have passed a turning point when important changes are happening that will make a lasting impact. Today, with this report, looking back on WPDI's 2022 achievement, I feel confident that this year will have been a turning point. For many reasons. First of all, 2022 has marked the tenth year since I created WPDI – an adventure that started in the aftermath of exchanges I had with former child soldiers in Uganda. Many things can be started when people talk to each other in earnest – which is what our programs are about when our Peacemakers strive to mediate conflicts, bring long-sworn enemies to sit at the negotiation table and eventually sign a peace agreement. In 2022, they have continued to demonstrate that an exchange can be a turning point in the life of a person or a community.

While we were commemorating the anniversary of WPDI in New York last September, I was reflecting on the path that led me from a discussion in a simple tukul in Uganda to a ceremony highlighting our reaching of **1.5 million people** – a result that could be achieved only because of the many conversations I had with friends and partners as well as staff who agreed to join me and support WPDI one way or another. Their trust has been an irreplaceable engine to fuel our operations – and an inspiration for our programs. Trust is, after all, a key dimension of the relationships we establish with our beneficiaries. Our courses in Conflict Resolution are based on the assumption that trainees will become agents of peace one day. Our business program is also a stark illustration of what can be accomplished when one chooses to trust people's potential and desire for change.

Assuredly, some of the **399 businesses we have helped to launch** over the past years have demonstrated the value of promoting entrepreneurship as a unique path to peace and prosperity. In 2022, we have decided to bolster this approach and, with **163 businesses created over the year**, we have clearly reached a turning point as an organization that empowers underprivileged youths and women from vulnerable, seemingly crippled communities.

As I conclude, I also want to recognize that these and all the other accomplishments recorded in this report are rooted in the work of the staff and the management of WPDI. I thank them for their unwavering efforts over the past ten years. No challenge has ever seemed to daunt them, including, as shown in this report, in 2022 as they ensured, in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis and in a context of global uncertainty, that WPDI becomes a stronger, more resilient and more future-oriented organization. Another turning point.



Forest Whitaker,  
CEO and Founder WPDI

# Why WPD

WPD grew from Forest Whitaker's experiences with young people and women affected by violence as well as the inspiration he drew from such figures as Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mandela, and Desmond Tutu. From these experiences and inspirations emerged a humanist vision of peace as a transformative process powered by everyday people. This vision was expressed in the mission set for WPD at its creation in 2012, namely to empower people living in vulnerable and fragile areas to become our partners in helping their communities transform into more secure, productive and sustainable places.

As a Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organization addressing in priority the needs of women and youths, we help community members become (a) mediators who will address tensions and conflict between and within communities with competence and confidence, (b) community organizers who are equipped to reach out to youth to undertake educational and cultural projects to promote

peace, dialogue and tolerance, (c) entrepreneurs who can create economic opportunities for themselves and for their communities.

Over the past ten years, we have reached around 1.5 million people directly and indirectly, through programs promoting lasting peace and sustainable development in Cameroon, Chad, France, Gabon, Mexico, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda and the United States. Our ambition for the next decade is to reach another 3 million people from fragile areas, pursuing and expanding our strategy based on the principle that conflict and insecurity must be met both by peacebuilding work and by efforts at economic development. In this, our vision is fully aligned with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda in its affirmation that: *"There can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development."*



# The Sustainable Development Goals

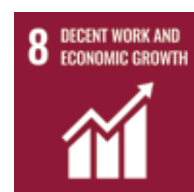


By proclaiming, in 2015, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda, global leaders set the world on a unique and ambitious course to ensure that humanity as a whole can create a better future for every individual. With its 17 goals ranging from poverty or education to gender equality or climate change, this agenda is for everyone in every sense, meaning that everyone is entitled to benefit from its results, and also that everyone can do their part to help transform the world.

This drive behind the SDGs is at the core of the approach to change developed by Forest Whitaker who has been designated as SDG Advocate by the Secretary-General of the UN: by empowering members of vulnerable, fragile and conflict-affected communities, we aim to provide them with resources – skills, grants, etc. – that they can

mobilize directly in their environment to improve peace and sustainability.

Due to this integrated approach whereby we respond to multiple needs of our target communities based on the concerns they express, we currently pursue 12 of the SDGs (see logos below). We strive for all our staff, Youth Peacemakers, volunteers and beneficiaries to become local partners in the implementation of this global agenda. As 2022 marked the mid-point of the 2030 target year, WPMI moved to step up its effort at the SDGs, including by training Peacemakers to lead advocacy campaigns for the SDGs, ensuring that our work to promote the SDGs can be both global, through the interventions of Mr. Whitaker, and local through the grassroots initiatives of our youths.





# Executive Summary



## A hinge year crowning a decade of action on the ground

This annual report features the results of activities undertaken by WPDI from January to December 2022 across Africa, the Americas and, now, Europe, with the latest deployment that we have launched in France. While still at a very initial stage, this new venture testifies to the vitality of WPDI: ten years into our establishment and on the heels of the COVID-19 crisis, our model is increasingly recognized as an effective platform to address seemingly insurmountable challenges faced by vulnerable, fragile or marginalized communities, irrespective of where they live. All in all, 2022 can therefore be considered as a year of rebound and confirmation. It is a year of rebound because, with more than 174,100 beneficiaries reached, we have fully recovered our nominal capacity to deliver.

## A capacity to deliver regained and strengthened

There was a manifest rebound, for instance, in activities that require intensive face-to-face interactions, as was the case for Conflict Resolution Education programs, which - as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic - nearly froze in 2020 and 2021 and that we could expand significantly, reaching some 29,000 students as well as nearly 1,700 teachers and 2,100 local leaders trained at the grassroots.

To these, we must add the 15,600 individuals who took part in mediation processes and awareness events often in very remote places that we can reach thanks to the presence on the ground of our 2,138 Youth Peacemakers whose familiarity with local languages, cultures and problems is decidedly a key asset of our programs. The lifting of COVID-related constraints has also allowed our 15 Community Learning Centers to operate at full capacity, reaching more than 31,600 community members, of which 13,000 took part in the certified trainings which we offered in Conflict Resolution, Entrepreneurship, ICT, and Arts and Crafts. Despite the increase in our online educational services, our model benefits from the centrality of education, with courses designed to be highly interactive and participatory; being able to receive trainees in our centers has been critical since residents of our target communities often lack access to the Internet or a strong command of digital tools, making it essential for them to continue attending in-person courses.

The benefits of the trainings were confirmed by the surveys that we conduct every year among former trainees six months after they have completed a course. We were satisfied, first of all, that 100% of the 2,335 individuals who took the survey declared that our programs had positively impacted their lives – with 99% reporting that they recommended our trainings to other people – which we take as a sign of recognition for the work carried by our trainers and Peacemakers and also as an indication that we should be ready to receive more applications in the coming months and years. Feedback from our beneficiaries was also notable in revealing that 65% of our vocational trainees attributed to us positive career outcomes, with 11% of them finding a job, 20% of them experiencing an income increase and 34% fulfilling their dream of creating a business. To get a concrete sense of the realities expressed in these statistics, testimonials from individual beneficiaries have been integrated into this report, which provide a vivid account of our achievements in 2022.

## Communities transformed: the long-term view

There is more, though, to these uplifting results than individuals gaining from our programs. Behind the numbers are indeed communities that have long been sidelined by conflict and economic adversity. Beyond the detail of results measured for individuals, this report also bears on the wider impact that our programs are having on target communities in their globality. The headmasters



and teachers of the 203 schools that hosted our Conflict Resolution program witnessed transformations across the board as levels of violence diminished and academic performances improved for many students. These are transformations that generate change within the schools themselves and beyond, in their surrounding communities – especially since we were able to initiate in earnest our School Advocacy Campaigns program, through which children and adolescents from our Conflict Resolution program are conducting local campaigns to sensitize their peers or community members on messages pertaining to peace and relevant objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably education and gender equality. By mobilizing these pupils and students, we could reach nearly 25,000 people, enacting a multiplier effect that will expectedly strengthen conditions of peace in the long-term.

Likewise, peacebuilding events conducted at our CLCs and the 131 community dialogues organized throughout the year have brought and will continue to bring positive change much beyond the immediate participants. For instance, a mediation process which we conducted in South Sudan led to re-opening a road closed because of conflict, with highly positive outcomes for isolated com-

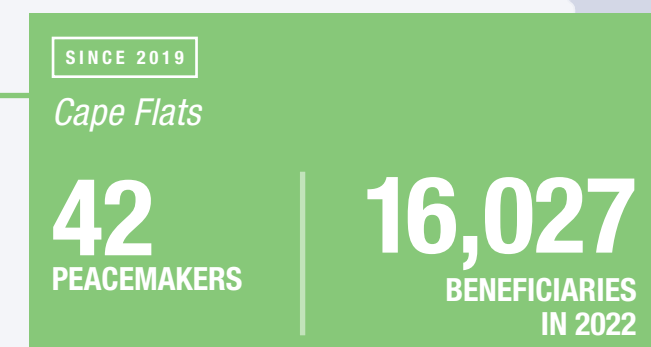
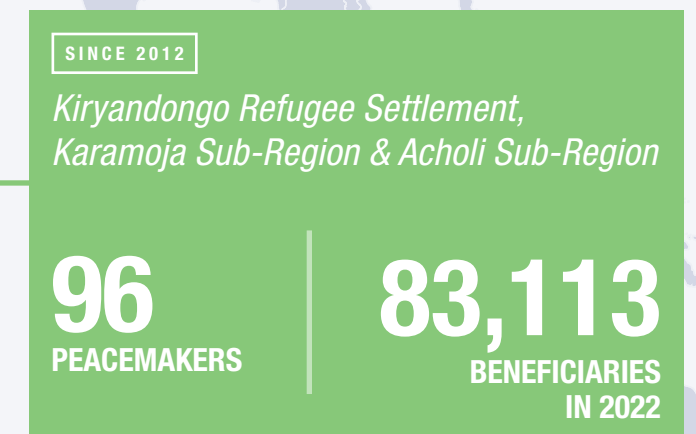
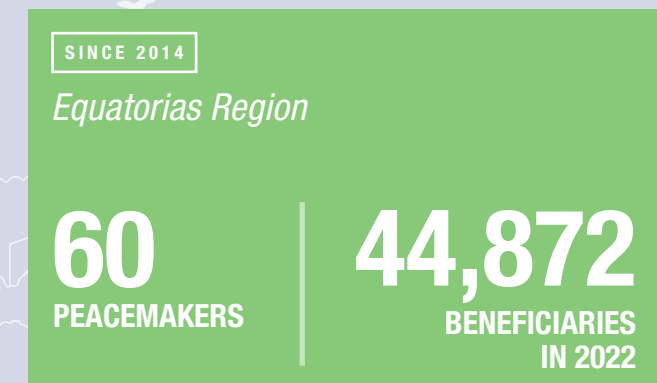
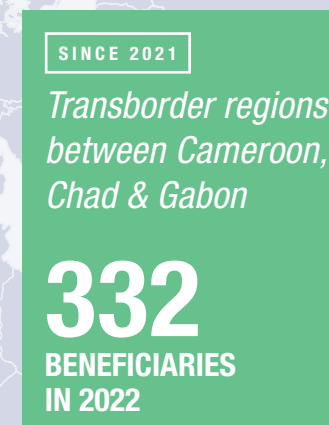
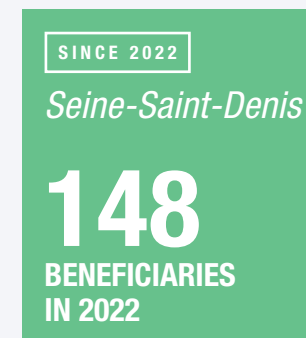
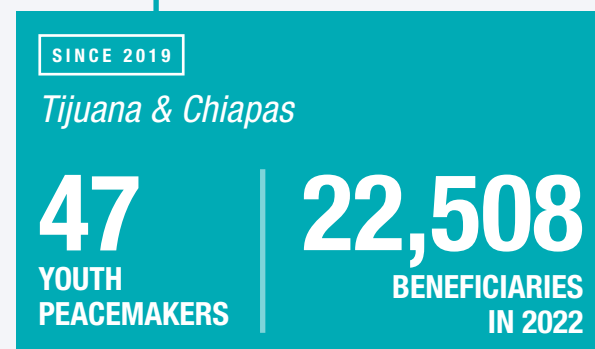
munities, including the return of commerce and NGOs. The wider impact of our programs is strongly felt through our Business Bootcamp program: the 399 businesses that we have supported over the years generate benefits beyond their managers, employees, and their families. They impact the whole community if only because they bring in new, relevant services that had been missing before. In their many roles, our beneficiaries make a difference in their environment.

The community-wide impact of our work is recognized by many stakeholders, including local officials, managers of grassroots organizations, representatives of international organizations, whose feedback can be found in this report, as a testament to our efforts towards strengthening the resilience capacity of our target communities. This is to say that, as we celebrated in 2022 our tenth anniversary, this year has confirmed the relevance of our approach to empower individuals at the grassroots as mediators, social innovators, entrepreneurs and, in the broadest sense possible, as peacemakers.



AT A GLANCE

# Where We Work



AT A GLANCE

# Key Figures 2022





**203**  
**SCHOOLS**  
host our Peace Education program

**30,837**  
**LEARNERS**  
were trained  
in Conflict Resolution



**131** **COMMUNITY DIALOGUES**  
were held by our  
youth peacemakers  
with over  
**15,613**  
**PARTICIPANTS**

**2,077**  
**COMMUNITY LEADERS**  
were trained in Conflict Resolution

**1,407**  
**BENEFICIARIES**  
of our Sexual and  
Reproductive Health Services



**3,537**  
**BENEFICIARIES**  
of our Trauma Healing Services

**399**  
**BUSINESSES**  
are currently supported, including:



**163** **NEW BUSINESSES**  
supported since 2022

**12,999** **TRAINEES**  
at our CLCs, of which over 60% are women

**31,684** **PARTICIPANTS**  
in peace building events at our 15 CLCs



**174,138**  
**BENEFICIARIES**  
including direct beneficiaries and  
participants in our peacebuilding events

**50%**   
of our beneficiaries are  
**WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**32+** **MILLION PEOPLE**  
sensitized to peace messages through various  
media platforms which featured our work

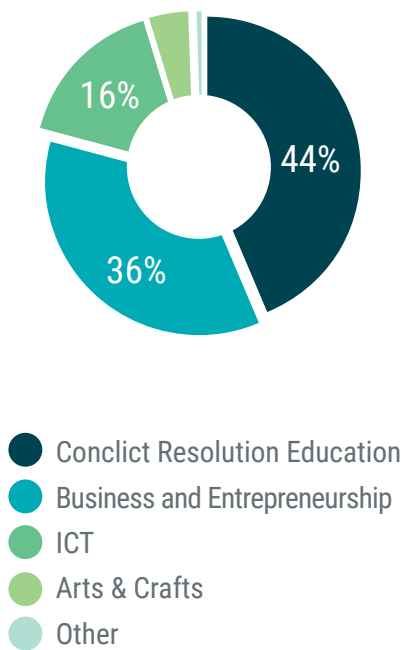
**12** **UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
are pursued by wpdi programs



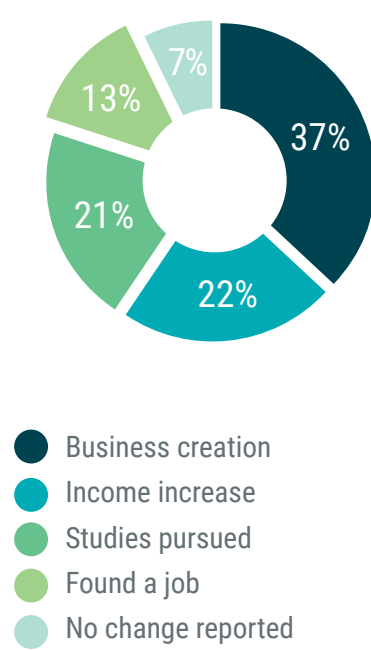
# Post-Training Survey

Throughout the year, our field offices share a survey with former trainees six months after their graduation. In 2022, we received 2,335 individual responses from Mexico, South Africa, South Sudan, and Uganda. **100% of the respondents declared that our training courses had made a difference in their lives** and **99% of them recommended WPD's program to other people.**

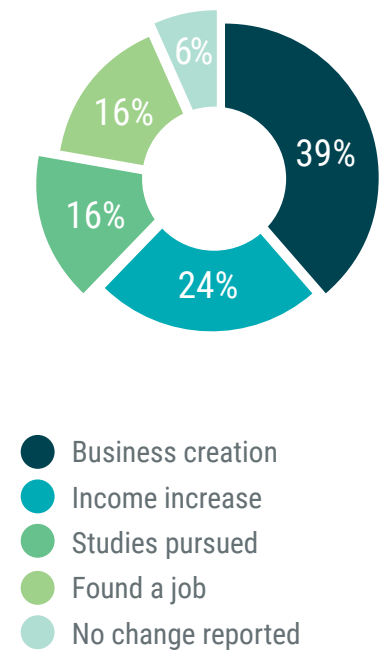
Trainings attended by the respondents of the questionnaire



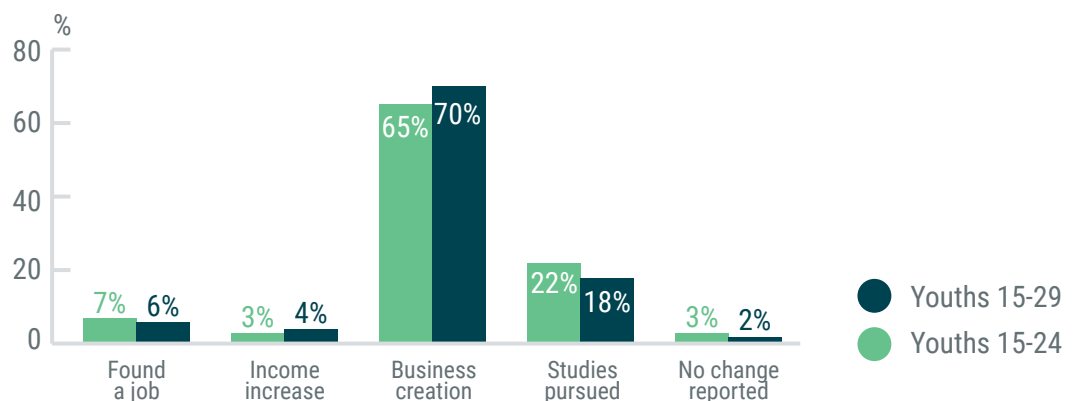
2022 outcomes of WPD's vocational trainings reported by all respondents (Africa and North America)



2022 outcomes of vocational trainings for women



2022 outcomes of vocational trainings for youths





# Our Local Partners Share Their Feedback

## SOUTH AFRICA

“ The impact of this program is very positive. It has helped us to cultivate inner strength. I myself have grown from it and I have seen the positive effect it has had on the participants. I am overjoyed to see and hear great testimonials from our youth. Most of them were part of gang groups and had given up on life. This program has given them hope and I know it has not only changed their lives but their friends and families too. Thank you WPDI! May you continue to work and guide our youth in the years to come. ”

**Nonceba Msutwana**, *Social Development and Early Childhood Development Community Services and Health, City of Cape Town*

## CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

“ We are excited about our partnership with the Domestic Harmonizer Program and its training in restorative practices, that address the social-emotional needs of our students and staff. The staff training has brought significant insight into how we present ourselves to students and each other in the areas of communication and empathy. Our students are very excited about the peer mediation program and the opportunity to really make a difference on our campus as peacekeepers. ”

**Dr. Linda Jones**, *Superintendent, DNA Prep Academy*

## TIJUANA, MEXICO

“ The ICT training has helped me in my work. Indeed, before WPDI there were no facilities or available computers. WPDI is a very productive association that serves to help anyone who needs it. ”

**Micaela Solis Herrera**, *Secretary for the Secretaría de Bienestar Gobierno Federal*

## KIRYANDONGO REFUGEE SETTLEMENT, UGANDA

“ I thank WPDI for their intervention targeting the vulnerable refugee community. It is very evident that the camp residents have experienced a transformed life, conflicts reduced and re-hoped! The refugees are enjoying peace that has been brought about through WPDI taking lead in empowering the grass root peacebuilders with knowledge and skills necessary for causing positive change. Their popular strategy for empowering the young people, women and leaders while carefully delivering activities in every clusters and surrounding villages to oversee and provide backstopping efforts hugely contributed to the peaceful coexistence especially among the most conflicting tribes who are presently living in the settlement. ”

**Agotre Joseph**, *Assistant Commandant, Office of the Prime Minister*

## WESTERN EQUATORIA, SOUTH SUDAN

“ I would like to assure WPDI and its partners that efforts to address issues in my County 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 youth, not only within South Sudan, but globally. ”

**Hon. Margaret Fozia Emmanuel**, *Commissioner, Mundri East County*





# Our Approach

**Bottom-up Peace  
& Sustainable Development**

# Youth Peacemaker Network

Based on our established model, the first tier of the network is composed of young women and men that WPDI selects based on their **high level of commitment to social causes** and an academic background that will allow them **to engage in an intensive one-year training** on the core fields of our curriculum, namely Conflict Resolution Education (CRE), Entrepreneurship and ICT.

Once trained, these Youth Peacemakers return to their communities to train other youths and community members, local leaders, or pupils and students in schools. **They also organize Community Dialogues to mediate conflicts** (often at the request of local authorities) **and raise awareness of local populations on key issues, including human rights, gender equality** (gender-based violence, early marriages, etc.) **or the right to education.**



**245** YOUTH  
PEACEMAKERS  
active in 2022



**+1,893**  
LOCAL YOUTHS  
trained as Local  
Youth Peacemakers



**96**  
in Uganda



**60**  
in South Sudan



**42**  
in South Africa



**47**  
in Mexico



## Refresher Trainings for Youth Peacemakers in South Sudan and in Uganda

In order to ensure the highest quality training and delivery of activities across all regions and communities under our mandate, it is important to continually build the skills of our network of Youth Peacemakers and ensure they master the knowledge and skills necessary to bring peace in their communities. With the support of our partner Education Above All, we were able to build their skills in Advocacy and Human Rights, Business and Entrepreneurship, Trauma Healing and provide an update on the handbook that supports conflict resolution training.





## Khadija Mayman Promoting Peace Internationally

Khadija Mayman lives in Bonteheuwel, a community within Cape Flats, where there are high rates of school dropouts, youth unemployment, and a high level of gang violence. She joined WPDI in 2019 to help bring transformative change to Bonteheuwel. She is now a Conflict Resolution trainer for WPDI.

On November 3rd, Forest Whitaker was honored by the UN Foundation with the 2022 SDG Vanguard Award in recognition of his pioneering leadership on peace and justice. Khadija traveled to the United States and received the award on his behalf from the hands of Hans Vestberg, CEO of Verizon and long-time Board member of WPDI.

Also in November, Khadija was invited as a featured speaker to the livestream event "The Road to 2030: Getting Global Goals Back on Track", organized by GZERO Media and Microsoft. She explained how gang violence affects the lives of community members, even when they work hard to create opportunities for themselves.

“ I hope that the SDG Vanguard Award will help more people around the world to learn from Mr. Whitaker’s work and also to learn from it, so they will give young people a chance to make change happen. ”

**Khadija Mayman**, Conflict Resolution trainer  
for WPDI in Cape Town, South Africa

# Youth Peacemaker Network

Our intervention model, aimed at empowering local youth and women, as well as children and adults at large, builds on **a strong presence on the ground**, embodied in groups of young leaders and Community Learning Centers (CLCs), **that allow us to design and deploy our specific programs at the closest of communities' needs**. This approach derives from our theory of change that transformative change can happen in fragile areas only if vulnerable people, notably women and youths, **are empowered to drive the changes that they want to see happen in their immediate environment**.

## YOUTH PEACEMAKERS

We train and support cohorts of young people to deliver peacebuilding and entrepreneurship projects in their community. Such projects will consist in mediation processes, trainings in Conflict Resolution or Business and Entrepreneurship and the development of small businesses for themselves and others.

We establish these groups in collaboration with local governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The selected youth are taken through a one-year training of trainers covering areas such as Conflict Resolution, ICT, Business and Trauma Awareness and subsequently support them as they undertake initiatives in their home communities.

## COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

A key mission of our Youth Peacemakers is to conduct mediation and peace processes among groups in conflict or conduct sensitization campaigns on issues of relevance for the community, including human rights and gender equality. These dialogues are often organized at the direct request of local leaders or national and international organizations. In addition, Youth Peacemakers provide trainings in conflict resolution and mediation to local leaders, including civil servants, police personnel and religious representatives.

## COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

Community Learning Centers (CLCs) are hubs for local residents to access computers, connectivity, library services and trainings, for free. We establish these centers in partnership with local authorities and other stakeholders.

Trainings include core courses in Conflict Resolution, ICT, and Business and Entrepreneurship. Depending on local context, the CLCs also provides training in literacy, Arts and Crafts, and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH).

In these centers, we also promote values of peace through campaigns, sports events, and cinema sessions. They are meant as community hub where young people and local citizens will find a safe space for personal and professional development.

## BUSINESS BOOTCAMP

Through this program, we provide participants with vocational trainings and opportunities for developing cooperative businesses and SMEs. The courses help participants increase their career prospects.

Successful graduates can also participate in business plan competitions that we organize in collaboration with local partners to select promising business ideas for incubation. Selected businesses are monitored and visited to ensure that they can become profitable and sustainable.

## CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN SCHOOLS

If peace and nonviolence are to become an everyday feature of daily culture in our target areas, it is important to instill in the minds of children and adolescents, values and skill providing them with a capacity to react positively to tensions and conflict that arise in their environments. To disseminate such a culture of peace and nonviolence, our youth are trained to provide trainings in conflict resolution and nonviolent communication to students as well as teachers, which contributes to improving both interpersonal relations across schools and academic outcomes.

## OUR TOUCHPOINTS



**YOUTH  
PEACEMAKERS**



**COMMUNITY  
LEARNING CENTERS**

## COMPONENTS OF OUR PROGRAMS

### PEACEBUILDING



CONFLICT RESOLUTION  
EDUCATION (CRE)

CRE IN SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

COMMUNITY LEADERS  
TRAINING

TRAUMA HEALING

### LIVELIHOOD



BUSINESS BOOTCAMP

ICT

ARTS AND CRAFTS

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH



PEACE THROUGH SPORTS

CINEMA FOR PEACE

PEACE ENGAGEMENT DAYS

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

# Community Learning Centers

The Community Learning Center (CLC) allows local residents to **access training, computers and library services for free, to build their skills**. Courses at the CLCs include core training in **Conflict Resolution Education (CRE), Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Business and Entrepreneurship, Arts and Crafts or Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)**.



**49,627**  
**BENEFICIARIES**  
in 2022



**15 COMMUNITY  
LEARNING CENTERS**

Uganda, South Sudan,  
South Africa, Mexico  
and France



## New Playground for Children in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

In the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, the latest feature added to the CLC is a playground that we have created to offer children a place for fun activities and also to offer their parents - mostly mothers - a safe space where to drop them when participating in WPD activities, which can prove instrumental to foster gender equality in the most concrete manner.

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

Indeed, we had observed for some time that many women with young children faced difficulties participating in our programs due to the lack of childcare solutions. We have also noticed that more women can or feel entitled to attend training and entrepreneurship programs if they can leave their children in a safe space where they can entertain themselves. The playground will therefore provide a solution to gender-related challenges and also encourage the children to participate in tailored activities, such as "Kids' interface day" that we plan to hold twice a year.

So far, 800 children have already participated at the kids' interface day that was organized at the playground. They engaged in different activities and performances which, amongst others, included: music, dance and drama, face painting, molding blocks, ropes skipping, slides, and swings.



## A New Community Learning Center in France

It is in the Villette-Quatre Chemins district, at the crossroads of the towns of Aubervilliers, Pantin and La Courneuve, that the first WPDl France Community Learning Center will open early in 2023. Six staff members will be mobilized to provide services to the local population. Through this center, WPDl intends to provide training programs to young people and women in vulnerable situations.

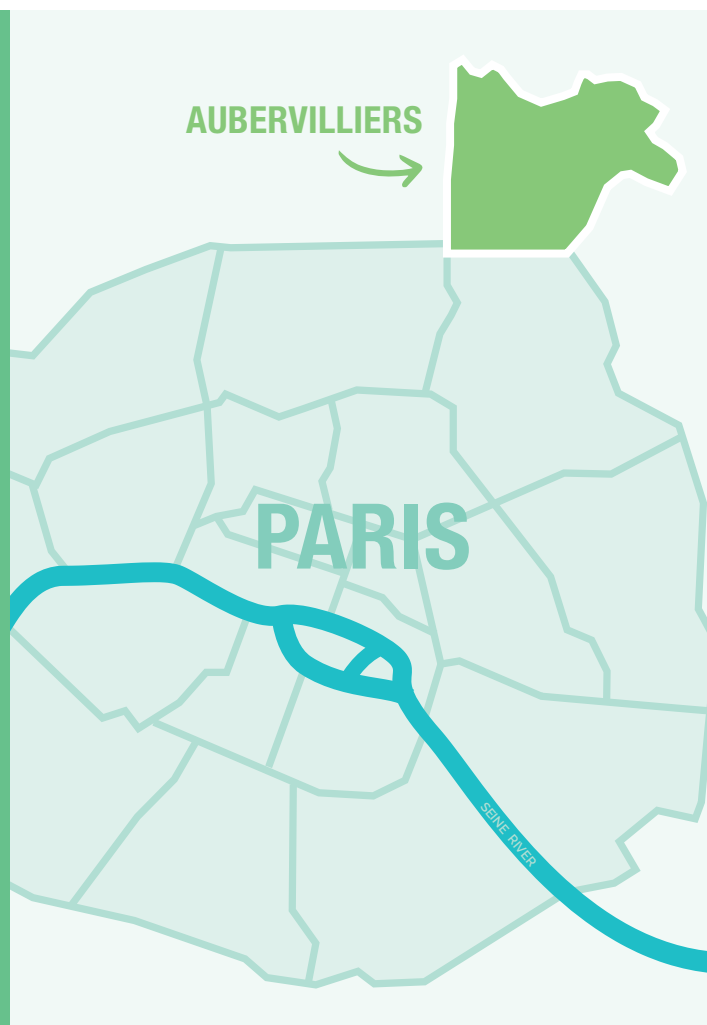
The establishment of the center is essential for the realization of Forest Whitaker's commitment to serving a vision of peace and prosperity that relies on the capacity of individuals to inspire positive change, even in the most difficult environments.

For the past months, we have started to build our presence in Aubervilliers. We have already started to deliver activities including in the eight districts of the territory and we regularly take part in meetings organized by the city and other local organizations.

WPDl aims to have a strong local and territorial anchoring, and our team works directly with local actors of the territory to better identify issues that trigger conflict in order to determine collective solutions.

For our implementation in France, we have greatly benefited from the support of the City of Aubervilliers and from our partnership with OMJA.

Thanks to our partner, BNP Paribas, we benefit from a completely renovated 120sqm center, including two training rooms, spacious office space for the team and a reception area open to visitors. The center is in the heart of the city, in the Quatre Chemins district. We are located at a very busy crossroads in Seine-Saint-Denis. It is welcoming, warm and very accessible by public transportation. It will be formally inaugurated in early 2023.







# Peacebuilding

Fostering a Culture of Peace,  
Nonviolence and Dialogue

www.wpdi.org  
"Promoting Peace And Peaceful  
Co-existence"



# Community Dialogues

An important part of peacebuilding work is to **gather local community members to either mediate existing conflicts** or to promote values and behaviors conducive to a culture of peace and non-violence. To this effect, the theory of change of WPDJ emphasizes the role that locally organized community dialogues can have to **foster peace and long-term resilience for our target communities**. This year, through the **131 dialogues** that we convened, over **15,613 people** participated in addressing issues related to land conflict, tribe disputes, gender-based violence and many others.



**131 COMMUNITY DIALOGUES HELD IN 2022**

focusing on topics such as gender-based violence, land disputes, or conflicts started by rebel groups.



**92**  
in Uganda



**21**  
in South Sudan



**10**  
in South Africa



**8**  
in Mexico



“ The challenge of disunity among the local chiefs who should be the advisors and harmonizers in the community is traumatizing. The disunity among them brings conflict among the community members due to greed and personal interest. There is a need to mobilize the community and discuss issues that's affecting them through this dialogue. We have learned a lot and as leaders we pledge to unite and foster peace in the community. Thank you WPDJ for the great work and I must commend WPDJ. ”

**Ochen Stephen Acdo,**  
*Acholi Sub-Region, Uganda*



## 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, within Terekeka County. Despite speaking the same language and sharing similar cultures, clans within the tribe have been in conflict between

each other. They fight for power over the Mundari Tribe. As a result, youths raid cattles 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 girl 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

As our overarching objective is to **help communities become more peaceful** and resilient in the long-term, it is critical that our work is recognized by local leaders, consolidated and built upon to be sustainable beyond our intervention. **It is why we provide community leaders training in conflict mediation.** This year, they were trained on **identifying the different types of conflict** and empowered to be in a position to identify its sources, to disrupt its violent patterns and collectively resolve conflicts.



**2,077**

**COMMUNITY LEADERS**

trained in Conflict Resolution Education in 2022



**1,075**

in Uganda



**453**

in South Sudan



**549**

in South Africa

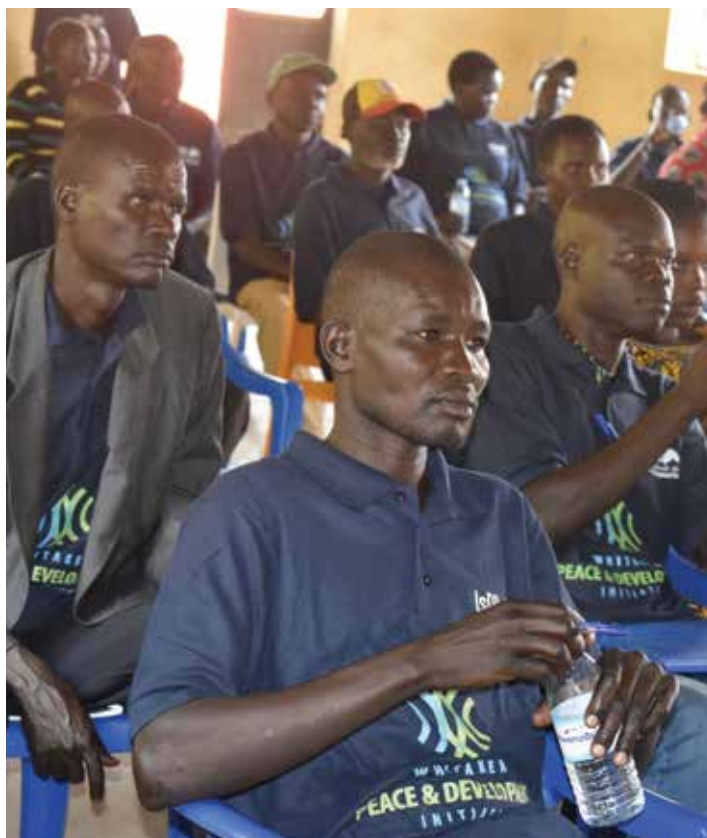


“ I have often been called to mediate violent incidents, but I am now confident that I can adequately analyze and mediate conflict. Thanks WPDI for this empowering and life-changing training. As leaders we will now go back to our community and share this knowledge hoping it will have the same impact it has had on us. ”

**Maria Mouton,**

Community Leader in Manenberg,  
Cape Town, South Africa





## Training Former Warriors in Karamoja

In the Karamoja Sub-Region, Uganda, WPDY Youth Peacemakers trained 121 reformed warriors in Conflict Resolution Education for a four-day residential training. These were youth from three districts of Moroto, Napak and Nabilatuk that handed over their firearms voluntarily during the ongoing disarmament. Therefore WPDY identified these groups through District Councilors to acquire knowledge on peace, violence, conflict stages and management, negotiation, and mediation among others. Additionally, WPDY conducted a counseling session for these youth to take them through the healing process. These youth had great enthusiasm to learn and revealed how the knowledge acquired is relevant towards peaceful coexistence in communities.

“

I have been going for cattle raids in many different districts. The last time I went to Amudat district we had a gun fire exchange and five of my friends lost their lives. I was shot near the eye and became unconscious. I stayed in the wilderness for one week as my friends who survived fled off and left me.

When I finally returned home I learned that people thought that I had died during the raid.

My wife took me to the hospital and I was treated and became well though I have lost sight with one eye.

While at the hospital, I had thoughts that I should quit raiding because I would have lost my life and left my children and wife as orphans and a widow. Having attended this training, I have learned that raiding is a crime and deprives others of their property and additionally, the counseling touched me because I survived death yet many of my friends perished. The knowledge gained today has changed my way of thinking and I will use it to go and talk to other youth who are still involved in raids. I will use my story and that of my friends who died to disseminate peace messages to other community members, thank you for opening my mind.”

**Lolem Mariko**, Nakobekobe village, Nabilatuk district

“

Last month, my friends and I went to raid Amudat district but it was unsuccessful, later we went to Napak district and we succeeded in raiding animals in the night. However, the army intercepted us along the way driving the animals towards our home district Nabilatuk, and during the gunfire exchange, my cousin was killed and many of my agemates died on the spot. I escaped and returned home and whenever I see the wives and children left behind by my cousin and friends, it reminds me of that incident. With these trainings that we have completed today, I have seen clearly that you are helping us to protect our lives. I now want to go and talk to other agemates of mine to leave raids and protect their lives and save the animals they have because they can be raided any time.”

**Longok Peter**, Nataparengan village, Nabilatuk district

# Conflict Resolution in Schools

Working with children and adolescents directly in their school environment has proved to be one of **the most effective ways to disseminate a culture of peace and nonviolence** in our target communities. The program is critical because **it prepares future adults to adopt peace-conducive attitudes**. The program helps **to transform schools** into safer places where the relationships of students among themselves and with teachers are improved, benefiting academic results. This explains why the program is very much appreciated by the school staff, notably the teachers who also receive training **to strengthen the effectiveness and coherence of the program for maximum impact**.

In 2022:

**29,163**  
STUDENTS  
TRAINED

**1,674**  
TEACHERS  
TRAINED

**203**  
PARTNER  
SCHOOLS

**150**  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED

 **9,829**  
in Uganda

 **7,169**  
in South Sudan

 **8,220**  
in South Africa

 **3,283**  
in USA

 **662**  
in Mexico



## Promoting Education for Girls

Ensuring lasting peace and sustainable development in fragile communities requires that all the members have access to opportunities, equally.

**52% of the pupils and students we trained were girls and young women.** Moreover, through our scholarship program, 150 young girls from the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement were able to stay in school.

“ I am glad because the peace education program has created a positive change in my behaviors 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 are bad but this peace education program has helped me to love people from all ethnicities. ”

**Suzana P.**, 20-year-old student from Yei Day Secondary Schools, Central Equatoria State, South Sudan



## Advocacy Campaigns in Schools

Achieving peace and stability is impossible without building on education as a driver of change. Education has the power to empower, the power to transform the underprivileged and the marginalized into drivers of transformative development in their communities, and the power to open up economic opportunities, thereby improving livelihoods. This involves advocating, in particular, for female autonomy and emancipation through education, in regions where young girls have traditionally been excluded from the education system by their families. That is why we work with schools to mobilize their student bodies to advocate for the necessary changes to make peace a reality.

**52,067**  
**STUDENTS REACHED**  
**THROUGH CAMPAIGNS**

“ I am determined to be a peace ambassador in my community because I have seen young boys dying due to cattle raids, it is a bad practice. I will use the holiday break to speak to my peers about the dangers of cattle raiding. ”

**Achia Paska,**  
17-year-old student, CRE trainee,  
Moroto high school, Uganda

“ WPD I you have brought a positive change in our school. These students used to disrespect us 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 gang members but this peace education is a miracle. A tremendous change that we didn't expect at first. The cases of fighting rarely have significantly decreased. The students respect us now and they are the ones who are acting as peer mediators bringing a big relief to us teachers. All these positive changes are attributed to the work of peace education by WPD I and I want to say thank you. Please continue with this spirit. ”

**School Officer,**  
Juba Girls Secondary school, South Sudan



# Teaching Conflict Resolution Skills to Parents in the United States

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Since the launch of the Domestic Harmonizer Program (DHP) in 2016, WPDI has concentrated on promoting peace education in schools among students and teachers. Through the years, educators have used the DHP curriculum to infuse peace education content with their regular academic subjects, and this has produced a number of innovative projects on school campuses as well as an overall cultural shift in how conflict at school is addressed. Over these years, the DHP has also graduated hundreds of students as peer mediators and leaders of various backgrounds and interests all interested and ready to help bring peace to their school campuses after completing our training course. Despite all of these innovative and fruitful endeavors, it was clear that in order to bring about a more enduring positive impact on the school ecosystem, we had to also include resources for parents. After all, students spend the majority of their time at home with their parents and guardians. It is therefore imperative that parents, no matter their resources or backgrounds, have tools to help understand and empower their children. For these reasons, the DHP recently launched a 3-part parenting series called “Parenting to Meet our Children’s Needs.”

Over the past year, WPDI launched this 3-part series three times to parents of children attending middle and high schools in the Greater Los Angeles Area. The first component of the program focuses on the understanding of the self. This is led by Mr. Stedman Graham, educator, business advisor, and author of numerous best-selling books. His session on Identity Leadership™ for Parents follows his 9 Step Success Process® and encourages parents to know themselves first because they cannot lead their children until they can do that for themselves. The second session in the series is taught by Ms. Karen DeVoogd, Conflict Resolution Education Trainer for WPDI, who is a seasoned educator, having taught K-12 students and also a highly sought-after professor. She is also a mother and grandmother, and provides practical and actionable tips to parents on how to communicate with their children to understand and meet their needs. The third part of the series is hosted by Mr. Anand Chulani, Founder of the Absolute Champion Methodology, a Trusted Leadership Advisor & 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

parents and children to realize that success never leads to lasting happiness, but that happiness with ourselves can lead to lasting success. Chulani teaches parents a new path to success where their children can achieve more but with less stress and more joy. Where they can fearlessly create their dreams without the fear of failure and become secure, confident and resilient leaders in all areas of life.

To date, nearly 400 parents have attended at least one of the sessions held by these speakers. The workshops are held virtually in order to accommodate the busy and demanding schedules that most parents have to navigate every day. At the conclusion of each session, participants are asked to voluntarily complete an exit survey to provide their anonymous feedback, which gets submitted to the DHP’s independent evaluator, a professor at the University of Southern California. The survey remarks left by parent participants include statements such as: *“I have to practice the tools and learnings myself to be able to impart and teach it to my son,”* and *“This workshop does not only teach us how to make our children champions. It also teaches us “teachers and mentors” of our children to become one.”* Many participants reflected that the sessions were “very informative” and that the facilitators were very knowledgeable and provided many real-life examples.

Given the impact of the program, WPDI is planning on expanding this program in partnership with our experts to more schools in the Greater Los Angeles Area and beyond. We plan on marketing this resource to other schools by developing a new section on the Domestic Harmonizer Virtual Center called the “Parents Hub” to showcase and share the incredible resources developed by Mr. Stedman Graham, Ms. Karen DeVoogd, and Mr. Anand Chulani. This portion of the Virtual Center will support parents in learning how to lead themselves and their children, interact better with their children, and look at their children’s happiness as the greatest barometer of their success. We are excited to roll out this added feature of the Virtual Center in the Spring of 2023 so that parents can benefit from these important leadership, communication, and mindset tools.





# Conflict Resolution Education at the Community Learning Centers

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

Conflict Resolution Education and special Human Rights training **has promoted peaceful coexistence among community members.** Feedback from beneficiaries indicates that their knowledge to manage and successfully mediate conflicts is strengthened. **Of the 2,847 trainees, 2,184 graduated.**



**2,184 PEOPLE**

graduated in Conflict  
Resolution Education in 2022



**1,064**

in Uganda



**508**

in South Africa



**528**

in South Sudan



**84**

in Mexico



Of which

**52%  
ARE WOMEN**



“ This training has already made a difference in my life. Yesterday when leaving the training we had a conflict amongst the team and we managed to resolve it in a constructive way and ensure that we understood the needs of all team members. This shows how important this training has been and the impact it is starting to have in our lives. I'm grateful that I had the opportunity to be here and empower myself. ”

**Meagan Williams,**  
Lavender Hill,  
Cape Town, South Africa





## Conflict Resolution Education in Detention Centers

Tijuana, Mexico, being one of the most violent cities in the world, it comes as no surprise that thousands of its youths, engulfed in drug wars and gang violence, will end up in detention centers where their ill fortune will be sealed for decades if they are not presented with opportunities to learn skills and to prepare for a normal life upon their release. As an organization striving to empower underprivileged youths from violence-affected areas, WPDI has made its mission to work with such detained youths and created a program designed to work directly within the centers to ensure that detainee participants can create a new future for themselves. This ambition was formalized in 2020 through a partnership that we established with the Penitentiary System Commission of Baja California to strengthen its efforts at rehabilitating youth detainees. In 2022, the program focused on young female detainees.

The first result of the 3-month training program in Conflict Resolution is that it generated interest among the young inmates. Having been able to engage with them, our trainers managed to take the young women a step further, raising their awareness of the benefits of mediation, meditation and active listening. In the survey that we circulated at the end of the training period, most of the participants declared that they had achieved a measure of internal peace demonstrating that they could initiate a personal journey of change that, we hope, they will be able to later transform into concrete solutions. To this effect, and to ensure that this program is genuinely impactful, participants who are about to complete their detention term are actively encouraged to join in training activities that we offer at our Community Learning Center in Tijuana.

“ It is very interesting to get to know the types of conflicts that exist and how to resolve them. The best part of this training in particular was when we spoke about meditation and mediation. This program was excellent because it helped me be at peace with myself. ”

Flor Ines P.

“ I really liked each topic of this program, especially the topic of conflict resolution and mediation. This tool was very important and brand new to me. ”

Dulce R.

“ I really enjoyed this program. I understood what meditation and mediation are, and I am working hard at incorporating them into my life as they both help resolve conflicts. ”

Nancy G.

# Trauma Healing and Sexual Reproductive Health programs

Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) contributes to **fostering gender equality and women's empowerment** (men are actively encouraged to participate in this activity). Trauma-Healing is of high relevance for our beneficiaries, those having survived conflicts in particular, considering how many of them suffered from the violence of war and the hardships of displacement.

**There is great demand for our health support** that matches the great needs. **We currently implement these programs in Uganda and South Sudan.**

**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 13<sup>th</sup> in the world). But there is a lack in funding and a lack of data which makes it difficult to gather precise measurement of the phenomenon.

While some NGOs like WPDJ provide psychosocial support, **there are only three South Sudanese psychiatrists in the whole country for some 12 million inhabitants.** (*'Le Monde', October 2022*)



**3,537**

**TRAUMA HEALING  
BENEFICIARIES**



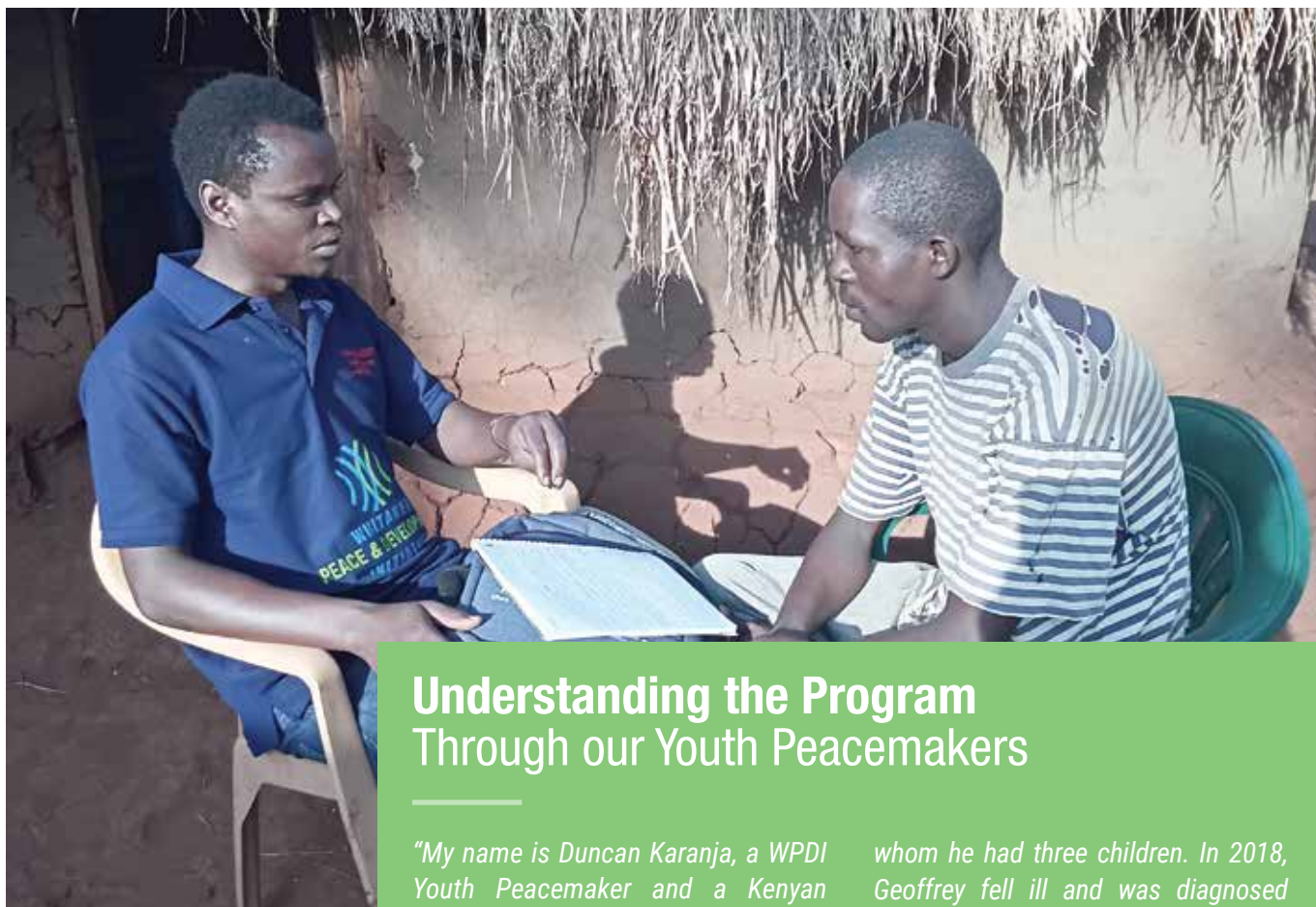
**1,407**

**SEXUAL AND  
REPRODUCTIVE  
HEALTH BENEFICIARIES**



“ I developed symptoms of mental illness in April 2020 at the peak of Covid 19 when I was 26 years old after being diagnosed with COVID-19. I was isolated, started having emotional problems for the first time and was hospitalized for one month. My darkest moment was when I was discharged from the hospital, I started having a lot of fear and feeling angry about life. Not getting along with family and friends was causing problems. But after the WPDJ team visited me during their routine follow-up and home visits, I was able to reconnect with my family members without stigma. Thank you WPDJ for giving me hope. ”

**Sharon, from Lukole,**  
*Acholi Sub-Region, Uganda*



## Understanding the Program Through our Youth Peacemakers



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

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

### **A notable case you worked on:**

*"My commendable case is a survivor, Geoffrey. He was almost killed in Kenya and sustained a lot of injuries (arrow marks on the arms). He crossed the border to seek refuge in Uganda during the post-election violence in 2010.*

*While in Uganda at the refugee settlement, Geoffrey met a woman with*

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

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

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





# The Business Bootcamp

Business to the Profit of Peace

# The Business Bootcamp

At WPDJ, we consider lasting peace and sustainable development as interdependent and equally important. **Fragile communities suffer from a web of interrelated problems; insecurity hampers economic development and poverty nurtures conflict.** The Business Bootcamp **fosters entrepreneurship** in our targeted areas. As an integrated platform, the Business Bootcamp combines a series of vocational training in Entrepreneurship, ICT and Arts and Crafts, with an incubation facility providing aspiring entrepreneurs **with opportunities to fulfill their dream of creating a business.**

**163**  
**BUSINESSES**

created in 2022 by WPDJ Youth Peacemakers, Business Plan Competition winners or vulnerable women and youth in their communities



this brings the total of businesses we support to

**399**  
**BUSINESSES**



## Impact story from Chiapas, Mexico

WPDJ's Business Bootcamp initiative covers two areas in Mexico, Tijuana, which is considered one of the most violent cities in the world due to drug traffics and gang wars that disproportionately impact youths, and Chiapas, one of the poorest States of the federation, which is host to many underprivileged indigenous communities. In Tijuana, we support six businesses that help increase the livelihood of vulnerable women and migrants. In Chiapas, where we support 15 businesses, this incubation program is geared towards reaching young people.

**Perfume de Madera** is a small business of wood furniture and craftsmanship. The owner, Mónica Cruz Gómez, was born in San Cristóbal de Las Casas from parents who migrated from an indigenous community. She lives in a highly marginalized part of the city where most of the violent incidents take place. She dropped

out of school, which limited her employment prospects. However, she found her passion in woodwork and carpentry. She used to be an apprentice at a local carpentry workshop. Now, with WPDJ's support, she and a small team will be able to open their own small business.

She dropped out of school which limited her employment prospects. She started learning carpentry, which is a male-dominated field. She already had carpentry skills but didn't know how to start her business. The small team includes men and she will be leading the business.

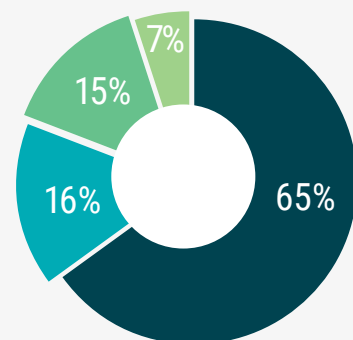
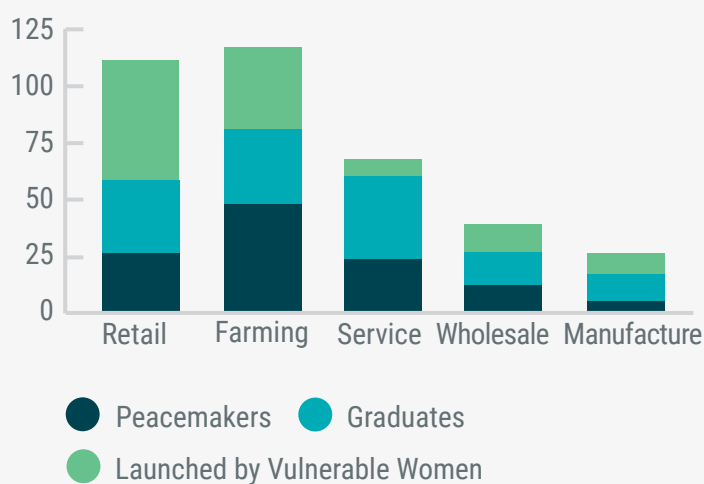
**How WPDJ helps** - Through the local office and a partnership with Sueniños, as well as with her mentor, she enrolled and graduated from the Business and Entrepreneurship training course. Then participated in the Bootcamp Competition and won.

“ I am a 21 year-old carpenter and I live in San Cristóbal. My main motivation to join this training course was my desire to start a business. My favorite part was learning to make a living from what I like the most, which is carpentry. The course motivated me to innovate as I learned about the operation of companies, market segments and post-sales services. The course is very interesting and complete, it changed my vision and helped me re-evaluate my work. ”

**Mónica Cruz Gómez**, Business Plan Competition winner



### Breakdown of the 399 businesses WPMI supports



### Breakdown of the 163 businesses WPMI helped launch in 2022

**97**  
in Uganda

**48**  
in South Africa

**3**  
in South Sudan

**15**  
in Mexico



## The Women Livelihood Program in Cape Town, South Africa

A key contribution to our work towards achieving gender equality and empowering women, the WPD I & L’Oreal Women Livelihood Program was introduced across the municipality of Cape Town just after the lift of the lockdown in South Africa. Considering the immense needs of underprivileged women from the city, we had received numerous and pressing requests from an array of local stakeholders, including Ward Councilors, NGOs, and Community Organizations, who had approached us on behalf of their community members. As proof of its relevance, the program attracted 1,991 applications from women of Cape Town. Our outreach efforts were supported by such local partners of WPD I as the City of Cape Town, the Departments for Social Development and for Youth, the Women for Change Program, as well as Community and Religious Organizations.

From the 1,991 applications received, we selected 948 women between February and September, and trained them in the Basic and Intermediate Levels of our certified Business and Entrepreneurship training course. 750 women (aged between 18 and 60) graduated, a rate that we deemed highly satisfactory considering the novelty of the program and the challenges that many of these trainees are known to experiment in their personal lives. Of the 750 graduates who received basic-level training certificates, 444 also passed the intermediate-level. All the intermediate-level graduates had the opportunity to attend the Business Plan Competition that we held in each of the 14 districts corresponding to the Cape Flats of Cape Town, where our program was centered. 42 business projects were selected that will be developed with our support and backstopping over the next months, creating opportunities for the project bearer, their families and their communities at large, through the generation of additional revenues and the offering of new services.



### Graduation Ceremony of the Women’s Livelihood Program

The ceremony celebrating the success of our new women graduates took place at the Muizenberg Civic Center in Cape Town. It was attended by leaders from different horizons. Caroline Descombris, the Executive Director for WPD I came from France to attend the ceremony and support these women-graduates.

Local authorities, who had always supported the project, were represented by the Deputy Mayor Alderman Eddie Andrews, Counselor Joan Woodman and Brian Ford, Area Manager for City of Cape Town. The L’Oréal Fund for Women, which directly supported the training program, was represented by its Director, Sylviane Balustre-d’Erneville.

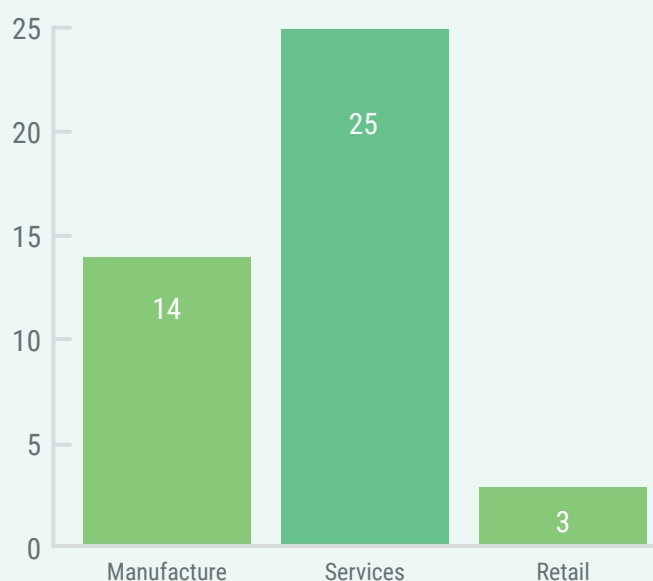
Kieran Fahy, Head of Territory for BNP Paribas South Africa, and Balraj Dev, Deputy CEO of RCS, were also in attendance, standing for our long-time partnership with their respective companies in Cape Town.

The event started with inspiring speeches from two trainee representatives, Busi Mathe and Adelaide Moore. They highlighted how empowering this training program was for them, and how much hope it gave them. Many women from the poorest communities of Cape Town feel like they lack opportunities, whether in business or in leadership in general, especially for older members of the community.

## Underprivileged Women Launch 42 Businesses to Transform Their Communities

Representing a highly promising result of the Women Livelihood Program, 42 grants, will be disbursed in 2023 to help the ambitious and talented winners of the 14 Business Plan Competitions that we had organized in the aftermath of the training courses offered in 2022. The disbursement will be gradual and conditioned on the capacity of grantees to report appropriately on their progress and their financials. This backstopping, which lasts for at least one year, is instrumental to ensure that the business plans we have selected can effectively deliver on their promises. Aligned with key objectives of the SDGs concerning poverty reduction, gender equality and economic opportunities, we are confident that this woman-aimed initiative within our Business Bootcamp program will contribute to generate positive transformative changes in the Cape Flats even beyond our direct intervention.

Industries of the 42 New Women-led Businesses







CHEQUE

YOUR NAME

GLOBAL COOPERATIVE GROUP

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

W.P.D.I

DOLLARS

1,407

DATE

18-03-22

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

*[Signature]*

NUMBER





## Supporting Five Vulnerable Women Groups in Karamoja to Become Entrepreneurs

In 2022 in the Karamoja Sub-Region, Uganda the businesses of five vulnerable women groups were selected to be awarded grants and will continue to receive backstopping support. Prior to their selection, these five groups were part of the 75 vulnerable women that were trained in their respective communities across the Karamoja Sub-Region. They were selected with the support from community development officers who are in charge of all community activities. The training was delivered by WPDI Youth Peacemakers, in local languages. The courses covered Basic and Intermediate Business and Entrepreneurship curriculums and exams were done orally. From October, five Business Plan Competitions were organized across the different counties in which this program was delivered. Youth Peacemakers helped each group to design robust business plans and prepare their pitches. The groups then presented their ideas to committees, composed of six members, including local government officials and WPDI staff. Ultimately five businesses were selected as winners.

Name of business	Number of employees	Type of business
Ribcing En Teko Ladies Restaurant	5	Local restaurant (service)
Ligot Youth Group	4	Produce buying and selling
Kalogwel Women's Millers	5	Grinding mill
Nakitoit South Millers	6	Grinding mill
<b>Kikeunai Produce Dealers</b>	4	Produce buying and selling

Members of this group are from Namalu sub-county, Nakapiripirit district. They all suffered from different forms of trauma (due to domestic abuse, loss, etc.) and were supported by WPDI's Trauma Healing and Rehabilitation Officer. These women regained hope by attending regular counseling sessions. They then began attending the Business and Entrepreneurship courses delivered by Youth Peacemakers in their communities.

“ We completed and finally graduated with certificates in the presence of our community leaders. We came first among five competing projects. We won a grant of 7,000,000 UGX. With the produce business we chose, we believe we shall better our lives and show an example to several distressed people out there who are about to give up on life. ”

**Kikeunai Produce Dealers**, Namalu sub-county, Nakapiripirit district, Uganda

# Information and Communications Technology

As an organization active in often remote and underserved areas, a key dimension of our work is to strengthen the capacity of our beneficiaries **to access ICTs as a means to communicate with the world and create opportunities for themselves**, notably for their career development. Our courses are tailored to the situations of our target communities, the needs of which are different whether they are located in a developing country or a marginalized community in an industrialized country. **To ensure that our trainees can effectively learn and practice ICT skills, our Community Learning Centers (CLCs) provide them access to Internet-capable computers and online trainings.** We have, in the past years, strengthened this ICT offer with a virtual center and, in the Refugee Settlement of Kiryandongo, an IT Lab, all of which allows us to engage more users and create more possibilities for them. Throughout the year, we received a high number of registrations from community members, including school teachers and community leaders, who were eager to attend our ICT-certified short courses offered at the CLCs. **As with the past years, we have seen how these skills have become necessary tools for improving access to knowledge and boost the employability of our beneficiaries.**



**2,431**  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

and



**722** CHILDREN TRAINED  
in ICT in 2022



**1,523**  
in Uganda



**556**  
in South Sudan



**153**  
in South Africa



**199**  
in Mexico



I am currently taking the ICT training at WPDI. This training is very useful. I belong to the 1950's generation and during that time, access to computers was scarce. For a very long time I had difficulty carrying out my work. Especially nowadays as work requires the use of computers. Now I have learned the basic use of a computer and I feel more confident in myself, in my social interactions and at work. This meaningful training has made adapt to modern times. I thank WPDI for the free opportunity to learn with them, and also, to my great and patient trainer.”

**Juan Corral Bautista,**  
trainee from Tijuana, Mexico



I am excited about the free computer course at WPDI. When I started, I knew nothing about computers or how to do the work. But our trainer, Steff, is doing an amazing job. Now I can copy documents from the internet and paste them where I want them to be. I know how to do research. I am so grateful for this opportunity. It will make a difference in my life as it will now enable me to type my own CV and look for a job so I can earn money. I would definitely share this in my community and change someone's life. Instead of people committing crime they must take this opportunity and WPDI offers so many more courses and activities.”

**Esethu,** trainee from Nyanga, Cape Town, South Africa

# Bolstering our Training Capacity Through the WPDI IT Lab

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

WPDI worked with MIT ReACT (Refugee Action Hub) and the R2 digital agency to create an e-learning platform, the first of its kind at a WPDI CLC, funded by the Western Union Foundation. The platform is accessible at [itlab-uganda.wpdi.org](http://itlab-uganda.wpdi.org), where trainees can register for free and access a wide range of courses and resources in Conflict Resolution Education, Business & Entrepreneurship or Information & Communications Technology, all available at three levels:

Basic, Intermediate or Advanced. Educational materials are provided in video and PDF format, and trainees are invited to partake in short quizzes to test their knowledge on each module, before undertaking a final test to obtain their certificate.



## A Robust Curriculum Tailor-Made for our Platform

MIT also contributed by sharing its course content that can be accessed through the platform, such as advanced courses on Data Science and Entrepreneurship. Lana Cook, Assistant Director, Strategic Initiatives at MIT, said about the partnership: "We are proud to be part of this collaboration with WPDI and Western Union, as part of MIT ReACT's mission is to open up education and employment pathways for re-

fugee communities through digital learning. Co-designing with local educators was a valuable professional experience for our MIT ReACT interns who served as instructional designers on the project. Efforts like these are creating a next generation of digital learning designers and educators, who are leveraging the power of these technologies to open up flexible, high quality education opportunities for all."



# Arts and Crafts

A key aspect of WPDI's work being to empower beneficiaries and provide them with skills that they can use to improve their livelihoods, **we offer, at some Community Learning Centers (CLCs), courses in Arts and Crafts** that have both a vocational dimension and a cultural dimension, helping participants to reconnect with their cultures and learn to design and produce crafts that echo the history and traditions of their communities, like garments or soaps. **Our Arts and Crafts program is particularly popular among women, who use their skills to create a source of income for themselves and their families.**



In 2022, WPDI trained

**909** COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS  
in Arts and Crafts



**591**  
Graduates  
in Uganda



**57**  
Graduates  
in South Sudan



**261**  
Graduates  
Mexico



“ Before I joined the course of tailoring and garment cutting, I did not know how to cut or draft the clothes patterns. After three months, I can now draft and make clothes like dresses, shirts, shorts, African shirts and uniforms. This is good for me because I have started saving money to buy my own tailoring machine and start a workshop of designing Garments at Moroto Central Market. ”

**Nanyama Eunice**, Arts and Crafts trainee from the Karamoja Sub-Region, Uganda

## Youths in Chiapas Promote Peace with Art

The regions of Aldama and Chenalhó have been in conflict for over 40 years. The original land-related conflict has escalated and now involves diverse armed organizations. Violence reactivated in 2020 and since then, confrontations and shootings have been happening almost every week. The military and National Guard couldn't enter this territory, but we were able to via our allies. This was therefore an opportunity for the youth in Aldama and Chenalhó to bridge the divide through art. Even though none of them were able to cross the "border" between the communities, we had them exchange the sketches of both murals, so the mural planned by Chenalhó was painted in Aldama and the other way around. **The exchange of sketches and murals was a great opportunity to use art as a way of establishing communication between the new generations that are not prone to violence as a way to manage conflict.** Our intervention is a small window for youth to learn new communication skills and find dialogue opportunities through art, without compromising their security/safety.

A few weeks later, the mural in Chenalhó was covered by political propaganda. Members of the community were very upset since many youth and children had participated in this peace effort. The event had a great impact on social media and became national news and the political propaganda was erased. WPDI has been invited to paint a new mural as a way of stating that peace comes before politics in this region.



**Date:** October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Location:** Aldama/Chenalhó, Chiapas, Mexico

**Number of participants:** 269

**Resolutions agreed on:** Respect for artistic expressions during violent crisis.

“ Along with WPDI and other organizations we have been working to promote peace in the Chenalhó region, as well as to listen to the needs of the local youth. We have been looking for opportunities for dialogue and to strengthen the youth's skills to foster peace. Joining efforts has had very good results, young men and women now feel seen and heard. Thank you WPDI for accepting the invitation to continue collaborating in this region and for bringing this peace message to the youth, especially during these moments when conflict has started to affect the relations between youth groups. We will keep working together to support the youth of this region. ”

**Manuel Heredia López**, *Chieltik staff*

“ I was outraged to hear that the mural painted by the youth and children of Chenalhó with WPDI was covered with political propaganda. For us, this was a very positive process: to have the youth and children paint this artwork with elements of the indigenous identity of our community. We don't have a problem with politics, but the mural was painted in a public place and the whole process was beautiful. It was just what we needed in this region where conflicts are very sensitive. It was also a very positive action, we need more actions like this one to reach peace. Now we face the challenge: to turn our outrage into new actions that won't fuel conflict, but will promote peace. ”

**María Sojob**, *Community member and local cultural promoter*



# Business and Entrepreneurship

This is a central vocational training in the Business Bootcamp. **Indeed, the Entrepreneurship component aims to equip participants with an array of skills that they can use to create a business or excel in their current activity.**



In 2022, WPDI trained

**2,809**

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

in Business and Entrepreneurship



**1,014**

in Uganda



**465**

in South Sudan



**1,233**

in South Africa



**97**

in Mexico



“ I thank the office of WPDI, I am now a businessman because of the knowledge acquired from the trainings I completed at Nadunget sub-county. I got inspired to start a business. I am optimistic that I will generate profits as the demand is high and I will expand the business with adding more stock. I used the knowledge of business idea generation and screening to come up with this business which I didn't know before. ”

**Longok Aile** from Arechek village, Nadunget sub-county, Uganda





## The Weavers of Peace Project in Gabon, Cameroon and Chad

The “Weavers of Peace” project, launched in partnership with UNESCO in 2021, aims to create a network of 1,800 young leaders for peace and development in the cross-border regions of the three countries. These fragile regions suffer from various conflicts and illicit trafficking, which are themselves rooted in entrenched forms of poverty and violence, as well as a lack of socioeconomic opportunities. In this context, many young people, a group particularly affected by unemployment and marginalization, will find a desperate escape from their situations by engaging in illicit and dangerous activities, jeopardizing the present and the future both for themselves and their communities.

Among the 1,800 Weavers of Peace, 750 were specifically enrolled in a program for social entrepreneurship led and implemented by WPDI, espousing our Business Bootcamp program.

In 2022, 332 youths have been trained across 7 areas, 52% of them women.



In 2022,  
WPDI trained

**332 YOUTH  
IN BUSINESS**

of which 52% are women



**136**

in Cameroon



**196**

in Chad



After following the business training, I have a clear idea of what social entrepreneurship is. I learned a lot about the concept of social entrepreneurship and especially how to set up a good social project.



**A youth trainee from Ambam,  
Cameroon**



The social entrepreneur that I am today is now able to identify the business opportunities hidden in the needs of populations.

The brainstorming technique allowed me to know how to collect several project ideas in a short time.



**A youth trainee from Abang-Minko,  
Cameroon**





# Community Outreach

**Sport and Cinema  
The Soft Power of Peace**



# Peace Through Sports

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

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

**These events bring together many teams from different conflicting tribes, backgrounds and nationalities to mingle and play together in a team.**



In Uganda and in South Sudan, we supported

**88** EVENTS

**52** TEAMS

28 male teams  
and 24 female teams



For a total of

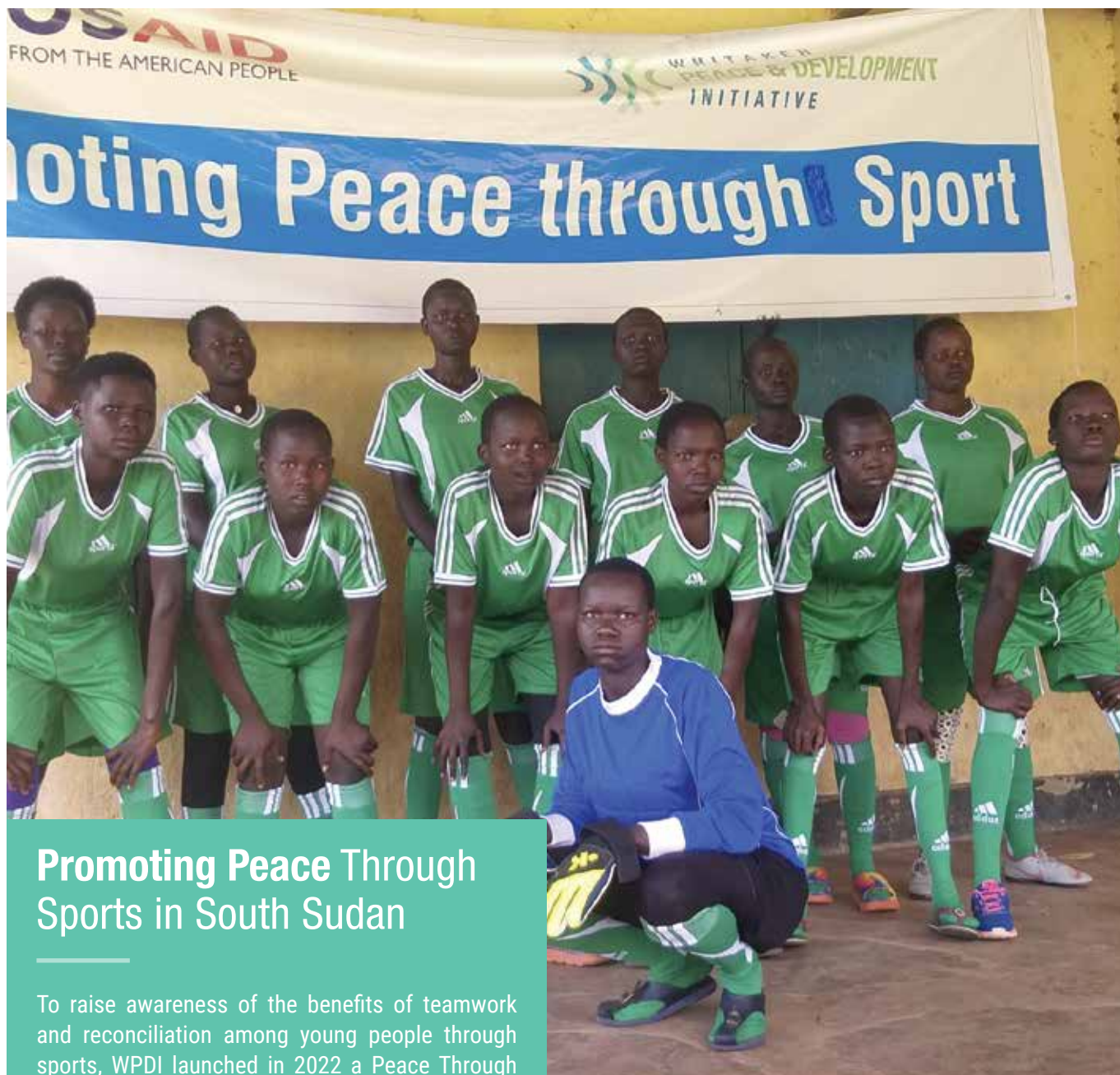
**6,374** PLAYERS



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

**Acen Rosemary**, 12-year-old soccer player in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda





## Promoting Peace Through Sports in South Sudan

To raise awareness of the benefits of teamwork and reconciliation among young people through sports, WPDI launched in 2022 a Peace Through Sports program in Budi, in Eastern Equatoria State. We created 16 teams (8 male teams and 8 female teams) in four counties and organized an inter-payam tournament and a premier league competition. The team members were from :

Homiri Payam, Lotugei Payam, Nagrich Payam and Kikilia Payam.

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 soccer game. This activity was a unique mix of sports and training on peacebuilding, conflict mediation, and human rights. WPDI also organized practice sessions regularly and systematically engaged the teams in workshops that focused on values of peace and tolerance.

### Notable success:

WPDI managed to engage the community by ensuring that people interacted fully with one another at the games. The project successfully forged unity and social cohesion and also encouraged conversations among the youths on the field and among the attending spectators.

Community leaders have since feedback that the violent attitudes of youths involved in this project have drastically changed for the better as the tensions between the payam youth involved disappeared.

# Cinema for Peace

The WPDI 'Cinema for Peace' program entails screening movies that cover themes related to peace. Once the screening is done, participants engage in dialogues to reflect on the lessons learned and how this might apply to their own circumstances. We deliver this program to children, youths and the general community with the aim of **promoting peaceful co-existence, transformation and improving life skills**. Participants are also given assessment forms to fill in which helps to monitor their engagement and achievements.

The values shared by the movies we screened focused on **forgiveness, friendship, kindness, bravery, tolerance, love, family, hope and resilience, among others**.



In 2022, we reached

**19,854**  
PARTICIPANTS



**15,614**  
in Uganda



**2,407**  
in South Sudan



**1,440**  
in South Africa



**393**  
in Mexico

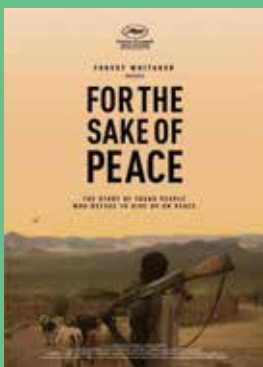
“ The cinema for peace program has helped me to change my perception toward other tribes. I used to hate other tribes because I was told that they were the ones who killed my people but in the film I have seen hope when a Dinka and Nuer reconciled. I can also reconcile with people who did me wrong so that I will have peace of mind. ”

Participant from Central Equatoria State,  
South Sudan

“ In my opinion, bringing the Cinema here was a very good idea. Children and youth have many chores and homework, and sometimes we just want to relax but we don't have many places to go. This was a good way to relax and I am very happy that the screening is free because many of us can't afford to go to the movies. I enjoyed the movie very much and it made me think about many aspects of my life. I had a wonderful evening thanks to you. ”

Dana Sofía García, participant from Chiapas, Mexico

## WPDI's Documentary on South Sudan Featured at Cannes



In 2022, WPDI's community had the honor to be showcased at the 75th Cannes Film Festival in France, through the world premiere screening of "For the Sake of Peace", a documentary film directed by Christophe Castagne and Thomas Sametin and produced by WPDI, Significant Productions and R2 Production. The film tells us how two youths, a young mother, Nandege, and a football coach at a camp for displaced persons, Gatjang, chose to fight for peace in their respective communities in two different places in South Sudan, a country ravaged by war. It must be stressed that the film was many years in the making, due in large part to the rampant insecurity incurred by the civil war which was then at its height. Nevertheless, we had decided to stay the course, if only because our youths were showing us an example of courage and determination for peace that deserved to be publicized.

# Community Engagement Days

Peace Engagement Days are social and cultural events organized to celebrate peace among different groups within a community. It aims at fostering unity and peace. In 2022, we successfully conducted two Peace Engagement Day celebrations, reaching 31,684 people. The celebrations highlighted the topics of human rights and responsibility, peace and peaceful co-existence, mediation, mutual understanding, tolerance and reconciliation. The various awareness events we organize increase knowledge of human rights.

## International Day of Peace

International Day of Peace was proclaimed to celebrate and promote peace across the planet; a day to remember that living free of fear and violence is a universal right; a day for the world to be mindful of the millions of people who are currently deprived of their right to peace. WPDI field offices find the way best suited for their respective communities to celebrate this day. At WPDI, the theme for 2022 was 'End Racism, Build Peace'.

### Uganda

WPDI celebrated the International Day of Peace in Uganda across all three Sub-Regions. In Lamwo District, in the Acholi Sub-Region, WPDI celebrated the event in Padibe playground where the Chairman LC5 and Residence District Commissioner were among the chief invited guests to grace the occasion. This was an opportunity to raise awareness of the ways to tackle racism through our activities advocating for peace. Asayo Martha, a Youth Peacemaker from Lamwo coordinated the activity.

### South Africa

The issue of racism is present in South Africa, and in the Cape Flats in particular. It is present in schools and translates through acts of violence in all spheres of society. For the International Day of Peace, the aim is for all humanity to commit to peace above all differences - and to contribute to building a culture of peace and tolerance. For WPDI South Africa, it was an opportunity to host discussions on this issue in our Community Learning Center. Our Cohort of Youth Peacemakers was invited to present their achievements and how this contributed to peace in their communities. Community members in attendance sang songs and drama groups performed to celebrate this international day.



### Mexico

For the "Dia internacional de la Paz", WPDI delivered a Cinema for Peace session in a primary school, Gustavo Aubanel Vallejo, north/east of the city of Tijuana, Mexico. After the screening, pupils were guided in their reflection on peace and how to promote peace at school, at home, and in the community. This day was a double celebration for WPDI in Tijuana. It was a celebration of peace and a way to kickstart our in-person activities after two years impacted by lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### South Sudan

Hundreds of youth, students, pupils and government officials gathered in the shades of Yei Day Mango Trees to celebrate the International Day of Peace and strongly advocate for peace, forgiveness and reconciliation. The marvelous event which was organized in partnership with Education Above All was made colorful with peace songs, peace messages, and drawings of peace symbols, dances, games, peace quiz and other entertainment activities.

### USA

In 2022, WPDI California had a great celebration in honor of the International Day of Peace at Stephen White Middle School and the STEAM Magnet. We sponsored the school's International Day of Peace event by getting the school interactive games and art activities. The entire school participated in the celebration. They created signs saying peace in different languages, played music, and the games that we set up for them.



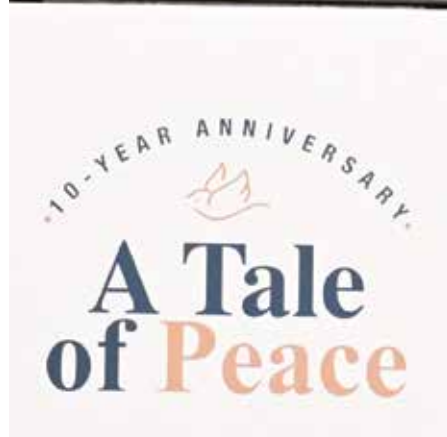
# 10-Year Anniversary Gala

On September 20, 2022 in New York City, Forest Whitaker held “A Tale of Peace”, a gala dinner and auction aimed to mark the tenth anniversary of WPDI and renew the tradition of organizing high-profile events in support of WPDI in the context of the UN Week.

Mirroring the diversity of Forest Whitaker’s careers, the guests gathered at the Gala represented a variety of universes, including the arts – notably from the cast of “Godfather of Harlem”, the United Nations, the public and private sectors at large, as well as civil society, including sports. The rich program of the evening featured interventions by leaders in the peace and development world, artistic performances by artists – Ondara and Dionne Warwick – as well as sessions featuring young women and men from WPDI, who are the core of its action.

Opening the event as the host, Gayle King, journalist for CBS Mornings and Oprah Daily, praised the work and achievements of Forest Whitaker and his teams for peace, highlighting the approach of WPDI: “When we invest in these young people, they can become some of the world’s most effective peacebuilders.” After the projection of a short movie on the programs of WPDI, she moved to the first chapter of “A Tale of Peace”, an interview with Forest Whitaker, shedding light on the first ten years of WPDI and the coming decade.

Their exchange covered the origins of WPDI in Forest’s personal journey as a young man and an artist as well as his vision for the future of WPDI, for which he expressed very high expectations in terms of outreach to more beneficiaries and expansion into new countries.



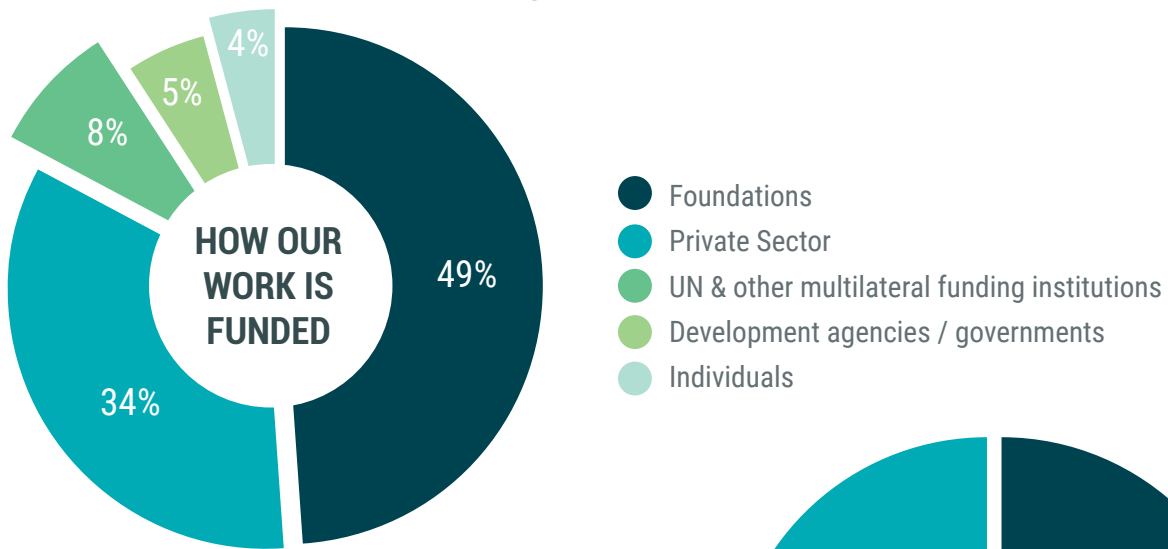
As one of the highlights of the evening, the third chapter featured an interactive session between Forest Whitaker and four young leaders from WPDI's programs: Khadija Mayman from Cape Town, South Africa, Victor Santiz from Chiapas, Mexico, Ajwok Mary Valentino a South Sudanese refugee living in Uganda, and James Yata Ambrose from South Sudan.

After introducing themselves and explaining how WPDI had influenced their lives, they engaged in a conversation with Forest, discussing their personal stories with conflict, their commitment to peace and their dreams for the future. The four youths made a strong impression on the audience, demonstrating exemplary resilience and courage in the face of their childhood experiences – ranging from civil war for James and Mary to poverty and marginalization for Khadija and Victor. It was also striking that, for the differences that could be found among their personal stories, they all agreed that WPDI had provided them with resources and opportunities to carry out dreams they had entertained sometimes from their childhoods. Accordingly, Forest Whitaker concluded this very inspiring chapter by telling them “You all give me hope for the world we can create.”

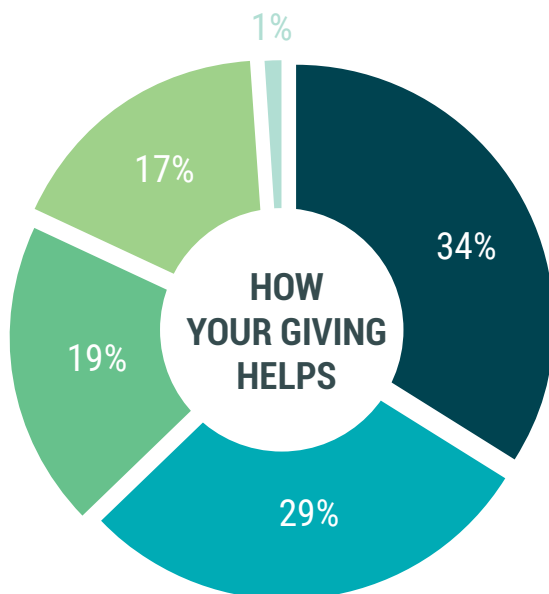
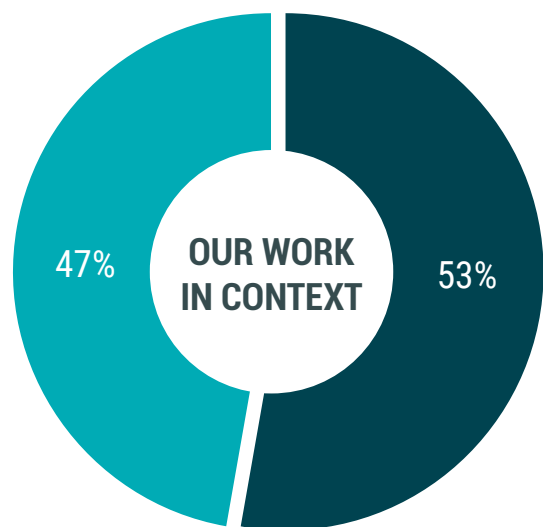


# Financials

Total budget for 2022: \$6.6 million

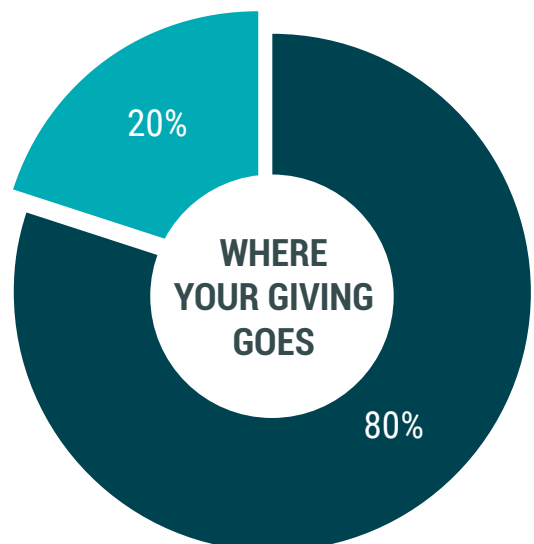


Development ●  
Peacebuilding ●



Business & livelihood ●  
Peace education ●  
Employability skills ●  
Community building ●  
Sports ●

Programs ●  
General management ●





# Conclusion



Even as 2022 remained a year when our programs were affected by external forces, including the aftermath of COVID, it has assuredly been a year of confirmation that our approach and our programs are fit for purpose. In 2022 as in the past decade, we have demonstrated that empowering youths and women at the grassroots, helping them become our partners of change on the ground is an effective way to pursue lasting peace and sustainable development. The present report featured the ways in which some of the 174,100 beneficiaries of our programs in 2022 already had an impact on their communities: students have improved their school environment, local leaders have mobilized their newly acquired skills to improve their mediation skills, graduates have found jobs or increased their revenues for the benefit of their families, entrepreneurs have created or strengthened their businesses.

What we know is that, over the next years, the seed we planted in 2022 will continue to grow and bear fruit. In

2023, we will nurture these existing seeds and spread new ones, if only because we have received such requests from many local leaders and stakeholders – as illustrated in some of the testimonials inserted in this report. Generating such endorsement of our programs in fragile and conflict-affected places, where the feeling is often that they have been abandoned by the rest of the world, is of strategic importance. It goes to the heart of our mandate which is to help communities on their path to resilience and self-sustenance. This, of course, cannot be accomplished overnight. The successes featured in this report must be read as steps on a longer voyage to peace and normalcy. This is a long-term effort, which would be impossible without the support of our partners across the world. They are to be wholeheartedly thanked for committing to our vision and investing in the change that we want to see happen.

# Our Board Members



**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 coordinator 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 organizations including the UN Foundation, Mastercard Foundation, Institute for Government and Amos Bursary. *Crédit photo : John Cairns*



**Elaine 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. Her consistent advocacy for the private sector's role in solving sustainability challenges has played out in multinational as well as startup environments. She is 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. Her public board roles have included the European Sustainable Growth Acquisition Corp., Azelio AB and Sweco AB, and she is an advisor to the Rockton Sustainable Aviation Fund. In 2018 she co-founded the AI Sustainability Center. She has been actively engaged in the World Economic Forum, the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, the Boards Impact Forum, and the International Women's Forum. She co-authored 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.



**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 on the board of 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 and Common Energy, a U.S. clean energy service and technology provider. 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 corporate partner with the law firm of O'Melveny and Myers.

# Our Board Members



**Nandita Bakhshi** is currently a Special Advisor at BMO Financial Group and the former President and CEO of Bank of the West. She is also a member of BMO Financial Corp's Board of Directors. In her more than 30-year career in banking, Nandita's leadership has been consistently recognized and she has been named on Barron's list of 100 most Influential Women in U.S. finance, Forbes' 50 over 50 list, and American Banker's Most Powerful Women in Banking. She makes an impact by partnering with like-minded organizations that are focused on a more equitable future through sustainability and diversity.



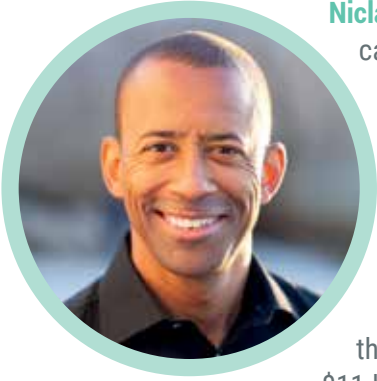
**Brandon Chapnick** is partner of Chapnick Smukler & Chapnick, has been practicing business management for over 10 years, and has over 20 years in the entertainment business. Brandon's client list includes 20 - 30 entertainers, producers, and executives scattered throughout all disciplines of the entertainment business. These clients have a combined net worth in excess of \$225,000,000.00. 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. In addition to his position with the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative, Brandon is a founder and board member of the Scott Lieberman Camp Scholarship Foundation and 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.



**Hans Vestberg** is chairman and chief executive officer of Verizon, the world's largest wireless, fiber-optic and global information networks and services company. In 2017, Hans served as Verizon's chief technology officer and president of Global Networks, responsible for developing the architecture for Verizon's fiber-centric networks. He was appointed CEO in August 2018 and Chairman of Verizon's Board of Directors in March 2019. Hans is a founding member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Broadband Commission for Digital Development, where he has led climate-change and digital-health initiatives. He is a board member of BlackRock, the UN Foundation, the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative, and is Co-Chair of the New Jersey CEO Council, a coalition of leaders from the state's largest companies. Hans chairs The World Economic Forum's EDISON Alliance for digital inclusion, which aims to impact 1 billion lives with affordable and accessible digital solutions by 2025. He is past chairman of the Swedish Olympic Committee and a current member of the Leadership Council of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Solutions Network, where he helped author the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.



# Our Board Members



**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** serves as Global Chief Marketing Officer at Visa. In this vital role, Mr. Cooper leads a global team focused on amplifying the company's purpose and advancing Visa's business strategy in the global marketplace. Mr. Cooper's career spans multiple industries, where he has consistently distinguished himself as a business leader driving change and industry-wide transformation through a deep understanding of business, culture and technology. Previously, Mr. Cooper held previous roles as Global CMO at BlackRock, Chief Marketing and Creative Officer at BuzzFeed and CMO of Global Consumer Engagement at PepsiCo. He began his career as an entertainment lawyer and served as a senior executive at two of the world's most iconic music labels: Motown and Def Jam. 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 a global marketing and sustainability executive with decades of expertise transforming the scope and reputation of corporate foundations through partnerships, advocacy programs, and donor stewardship. She was formerly the head of the Western Union Foundation, a global non-profit that has donated \$140 million connecting migrants and refugees to the global economy through workforce development. Prior to this Elizabeth was the head of marketing for Western Union business solutions, a payments engine moving money for non-profits, governments, small businesses, and educational institutions. Previously, Elizabeth oversaw marketing efforts for American Express, PepsiCo, and Nestle among other well-known brands. She holds a Master's degree from Manchester University.







# Forest Whitaker

Forest Whitaker is the founder and CEO of the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative (WPDI), through which he provides skills and opportunities to youths and women in regions affected by violence and armed conflict in Mexico, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda, the United States as well as Cameroon, Chad and Gabon. Forest 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. Renowned for his dedication to cultivating children's and youths' artistic talents, he had been a member of President Obama's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, working closely with elementary schools to demonstrate the limitless power of the arts to unlock the creative potential of pupils and students.

In addition to his social activism, Forest 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. He also received the Palme d'Or for Best Actor 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. In 2013, Boston University's Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center appointed him a Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellow. 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 an artist and activist, he has been honored with the Crystal Award at the 2017 edition of the Davos World Economic Forum. In recognition of his work serving those affected by conflicts and violence, the French Government appointed him in the Order of Arts and Letters in 2013 as Knight and in 2021 as Commander. In 2022, he was awarded the International Peace Honors for his philanthropy and humanitarian service.

Forest Whitaker's commitment to peace and social justice has led him to work ever more closely with the United Nations and its diverse agencies. He has addressed such bodies as the Security Council, in 2014 and 2021, and the Human Rights Council, in 2019. His dual career as an artist and activist led him to closely associate with UNESCO, the UN branch for education, science and culture, through which he strives, as UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation, to champion values of tolerance, openness and mutual understanding. His commitment to empower former child soldiers has also led him to actively collaborate, since 2014, with the UN office for Children and Armed Conflict including in the role as an Advocate for Children Affected by War. Forest Whitaker is also a member of the Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy Group since its creation by the UN Secretary-General. Membership in this unique platform allows him to disseminate ideals of peace both on the global scene and at the grassroots, in line with his belief that: *"Even a seemingly small action can cause ripples that make an enormous impact."*



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Partnerships ensure WPDI's ability to develop and continue its critical work. That might involve training cohorts of future peacemakers in South Sudan, empowering vulnerable communities in South Africa's Cape Flats, 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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## Contact us

### **Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative**

17777 Center Court Drive N. Suite 600.  
Cerritos, CA 90703

[info@wpdi.org](mailto:info@wpdi.org)  
[www.wpdi.org](http://www.wpdi.org)





# 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.

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“ 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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PEACE & DEVELOPMENT  
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17777 Center Court Drive N. Suite 600.  
Cerritos, CA 90703

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[www.wpdi.org](http://www.wpdi.org)

