



WHITAKER
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



KARAMOJA SUB-REGION Uganda



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Even as our deployment in Karamoja started in earnest only by mid-2020 in the context of the COVID crisis, the results we achieved in 2021, with **7,608 beneficiaries, 47% of them women**, represent a significant progress against our original expectation. Very noticeably, the group of **36 Youth Peacemakers** that we had managed to train within a condensed period of six month has already demonstrated its added value for the sub-region. Right after completing their training of trainers, they were able to **recruit and train 180 local youths** in conflict resolution and entrepreneurship, transmitting the skills we had taught them.

This means that the communities of Karamoja can, from now on, rely on the immense potential of this **216-strong force for transformative change**. This was amply demonstrated in the work that the 36 young leaders conducted to **inform populations on COVID-19**, notably in remote areas, where they could readily participate in the effort of the Ugandan government to curb the spread of the epidemic. Going directly into districts and counties, they distributed more than 5,000 facemasks, signaling themselves as a key resource for the welfare of the communities. Taking into account our long-term objectives in the sub-region, we can therefore consider that, by **gaining trust from local stakeholders**, we have achieved one of the most important results of our mandate in Karamoja. This trust was expressed in particular in the fact that the young leaders could set up **28 community dialogues, which gathered more than 4,000 participants**, which helped to address local tensions and conflict. It must be added that the young leaders also trained **294 local leaders in conflict resolution**, ensuring that the results achieved through the dialogue can take root and become sustainable.

Such a durable impact is also the result that we expect from the various programs that we offer at **our Community Learning Center (CLC) in Moroto, which attracted nearly 2,700 people**, including 1,817 through trainings and 874 through trauma healing services. The CLC also hosted our **first Business Plan Competition in the region**, which generated a strong interest among local stakeholders, notably local leaders, who measured the potential of our program for the sustainable development of Karamoja. **Three businesses projects were awarded** grant funding for the launch of ventures in the Moroto area. We also helped our **36 youth leaders launch ten businesses** across the counties of the sub-region. In line with our priority on women's empowerment, **75 women** from vulnerable backgrounds also received customized training in Business skills and Arts & Crafts, then **gathered into five groups and received grants** and support to kickstart their entrepreneurial projects.

As with the other activities covered in this report, this first series of businesses that we have started to support in the Karamoja Sub-Region are seeds for resilience and sustainability that must be appreciated against our long-term objectives: **2021 can indeed be considered a successful year** as we managed to complete the deployment of all our major programs, creating a strong basis for action and empowerment that will expectedly generate increased benefits for the communities of Karamoja over the next years.

KEY FACTS & FIGURES

7,608 beneficiaries directly reached

47% of our beneficiaries are women

Community Learning Center

525

graduates in
Business &
Entrepreneurship

459

adults and
145
children
graduates in ICT

349

graduates in
Arts & Crafts

339

graduates in Conflict
Resolution Education

100% of our trainees would recommend the program to other community members

Community Dialogues

28

community dialogues conducted with
4,055 participants

294

community leaders trained in Conflict
Resolution Education

One WPDJ radio talk show with an
estimated **2,000** listeners

Youth Peacemakers

36

active Youth Peacemakers

180

sub-county youths trained as Local Youth
Peacemakers

5,429

facemasks distributed to vulnerable
communities

Peace Education in Schools

57

educators from

8 primary and secondary schools
trained in peace education

Trauma Healing Sessions

874

trauma cases counseled by
WPDJ's expert

Business Bootcamp

3

winners of our inaugural
Business Plan Competition

10

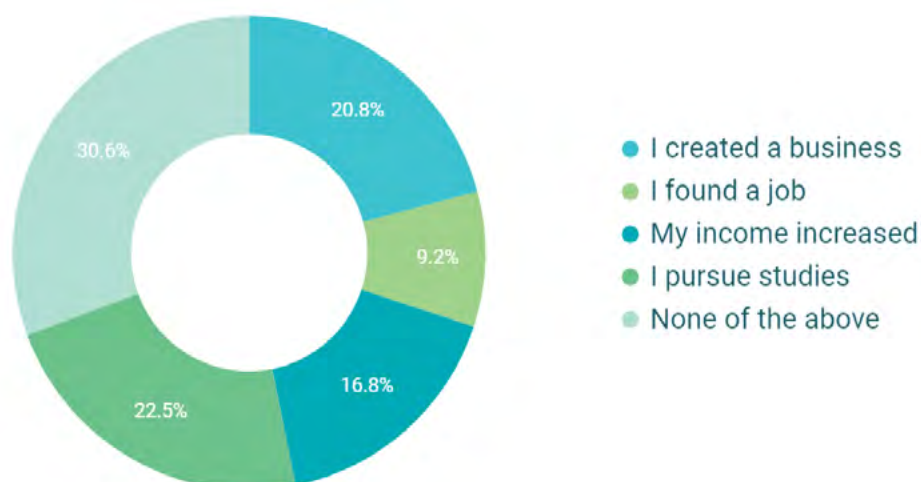
Youth Peacemakers-led
businesses supported

75

vulnerable women trained
who created **5** businesses

SURVEY RESULTS

Feedback from Former Trainees



Throughout the year, WPDl undertook a post-training survey to learn about the impact our vocational training courses have on former trainees, six months after they graduate. **Of the 173 former trainees who responded, 69% reported that they experienced positive career outcomes** as 9% found a job, 17% increased their income, 21% created a business and 23% pursued studies outside of WPDl. Over 99% of respondents said that this experience had either made a “very significant” or “significant” impact on their knowledge and understanding of the topic they studied.

Feedback from Local & National Stakeholders

We also share a survey with key stakeholders and partners we work with to deliver our programs. These include, but are not limited to, national and local government officials, schools, civil society organizations, and the private sector. **94% of respondents (36) had a “very positive” impression of WPDl.** Some shared testimonies following their experience working with us:

“ I strongly believe that the approaches being used by WPDl will bring change in our region as far as peace is concerned.

- Napak District Local Government

“ The Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative has demonstrated transparency among partners working in the Amudat district; I would like other NGOs to emulate this. Today, I have confirmed and witnessed the masks that our community members will get from WPDl. Not everyone got masks in the previous distribution and I am happy that WPDl will close this gap by distributing masks to vulnerable communities.”

- Bwalatum Michael, Okiring-Resident District Commissioner Amudat District

YOUTH PEACEMAKER NETWORK

The inaugural cohort of Youth Peacemaker Network in the Karamoja Sub-Region



In 2020, we began working in the Karamoja Sub-Region, recruiting and training talented young women and men, who constitute a force for peace and transformation at the local level. For several months, we trained this cohort in areas such as Conflict Resolution Education, Business & Entrepreneurship, Information & Communications Technology, as well as Training Skills and Life Skills, among others.

Upon completing their training, these 36 Youth Peacemakers graduated in early 2021. To amplify their impact in their home communities, they set out – with WPDI’s support – to recruit and train youths in their communities. Disseminating knowledge and skills at the grassroots level is a foundational dimension of the Youth Peacemakers Network, as it creates a multiplier effect across large areas while ensuring that local populations are fully involved in the process.

Meet Korobe Hellen, WPDl Youth Peacemaker in Karamoja, Uganda

“ First and foremost, before joining WPDl as a Trainer of Trainees, I was only having knowledge and skills in social science thanks to my studies, and that narrowed and affected me when seeking for a job outside my career. I had no idea that one time I would learn many things outside my course though I had passion to learn. My great thanks goes to WPDl for the best initiative in implementing the program where I was introduced to many different courses.

After joining WPDl as a Trainer of Trainees, **I was taken through a package of trainings in peace education, conflict resolution education, business and entrepreneurship, trauma healing and rehabilitation, and information and communication technology.** I remember telling one of the business trainer that “I do not want to get shame, instead I am planning to quit the job” because I hated learning anything business related; but she advised me to develop passion for the business courses since it’s part of life and this made me to start learning to love business hence acquiring a lot of knowledge and skills in the course and also helped to change my perception on business related courses.

In addition, after finishing the trainings from WPDl, **we were required to deliver trainings to the sub county youth.** Before that, we were taken for class practice in Moroto high secondary school where I learnt a lot of skills in facilitation, for instance facilitating the space, class control, early preparation before conducting a training, adequate knowledge on the content and these encouraged me to prepare for the forthcoming sub county youth trainings. After finishing class practice, we were told to go and prepare for the sub county youth training and any time I remember about the training, my heart could tickle with a lot of fear to stand in front of the trainees. That gave me courage to read hard on the content and I went ahead to consult some people to help in translating some topics in the local language. Knowing the type of trainees I was going to train with the knowledge I acquired from the training, **I was able to gain courage and confidence when conducting sub county youth training.**

In nutshell, the training became a learning tool to me, in that I learnt a big lesson: early preparation and having knowledge on the content is the key if one wants to be a good facilitator. I hope to learn more to improve on my facilitation skills.

- Korobe Hellen, Youth Peacemaker
in Namalu Sub County, Nakapiipirit District,
Karamoja Sub-Region



Developing A Youth-Led Grassroots Force for Peace

From May 31 to September 3, our **36 Youth Peacemakers brought together 180 local youths** from nine districts in the sub-region. They delivered one-month training workshops on Conflict Resolution Education and Business & Entrepreneurship, which provide an understanding of tools and skills that trainees can use to increase their potential as changemakers in their respective communities.

“ I quarreled with other people in my community for a long time, but thanks to the Conflict Resolution training, I am a changed person and I pledge to use my new skills and knowledge to help promote peace in my community.

- Regina, a local youth from Lodiko sub-county

Our **36** newly graduated Youth Peacemakers recruited and trained **180** Local Youths, of which **150** graduated and are now ready to become agents of change to foster peace in their communities

Youth Peacemakers Respond to COVID-19 in Their Communities

During the year, as the second lockdown was announced, WPDI's Youth Peacemakers in Karamoja distributed **5,429 facemasks to vulnerable community members** and encouraged them to observe safety measures. Community members and district leaders thanked the Youth Peacemakers and WPDI for delivering masks to their households.

“ I am happy that I received a mask; I couldn't go to the market as I didn't have one. I thank your organization for reaching out to me, at my home, and providing information about COVID-19.

- Lokwang John,
Kawalakol sub-county, Karenga district

“ I want to thank WPDI for bringing masks to our villages and sensitizing us on how COVID-19 is transmitted and the existing preventive measures. It is the first time I put a mask on as I thought it was for people who were sick. Moving forward, I will diligently put my mask on and wash my hands frequently.

- Nalem Veronica,
Lopeei sub-county, Napak district

WPDI Youth Peacemakers distributed **5,429** facemasks to vulnerable community members and encouraged them to observe safety measures

COMMUNITY DIALOGUES TO PROMOTE PEACE AND RECONCILIATION



Peace cannot be achieved when there is no space for dialogue. Following this principle, Youth Peacemakers and staff conducted **28 Community Dialogues** in Karamoja. In 2021, Karamoja saw **an increase in cattle raids** and many people lost their cattle. In the worst reported cases, some people even lost their lives. The **dialogues we organized to address these raids** and related issues were led by local Youth Peacemakers, with some requested by community leaders. In total, **4,055 people participated in these events**.

WPDI conducted **peace meetings with leaders** of different ethnic groups to help them address leadership gaps, develop their ability to unify and build consensus across Karamoja. In our experience, having these leaders meet prior to dialogues helps build confidence among community-members and increases the chances of long-lasting reconciliation between the different ethnic groups.

As a result of the peace dialogues, **community leaders reported reduced cattle raids in the region**, particularly in South Karamoja. Some significant achievements from intra and inter district peace dialogue meetings include:

47

cattle were recovered and handed over to a tribe from Napak district by another tribe from Kotido district after a dialogue meeting between the two tribes.

153

cattle raided by an Amudat district tribe were recovered and handed over to a Moroto district tribe after the community peace dialogue between the two tribes.

A radio spot peace message

was aired in local radio stations. This was developed during a regional peace meeting held by WPDI with all Karamoja District Chairpersons.

One radio talk show

was held with three District Chairpersons of Karenga, Kaabong, and Kotido to give a joint message denouncing the current spell of cattle raids between the Jie (Kotido) and Dodoth (Kaabong).

“ I am happy to mention that since we held a dialogue at Lokapel Junction between the two tribes (Pokot - Amudat) and Pian - Nabilatuk), there have been less cases of cattle raids and killings. I am happy that your efforts are bearing their fruits here in Karamoja.

- Hon. Lokol Paul,
District Chairperson-Nabilatuk

“ In my opinion, this dialogue was long overdue. Thanks to the WPDl Peacemakers, we were able to reach out to community members and resolve insecurity in the sub-region. So many people have lost animals, property, and even family members due to this conflict, but now the conflict has been resolved.

- Luka,
Moroto District local official

4,055 people participated in 28 Community Dialogues to address cattle raids issues in 2021

Community Leaders Trained in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Education



Building the capacity of community leaders to contribute to sustainable peacebuilding is a necessary aspect of our work as these men and women are critical in **mediating conflicts in their communities**, especially when they have the skills to address violent conflicts. WPDl's staff and Youth Peacemakers trained 294 leaders (69 females, 225 males) in Conflict Resolution. The training lasted 27 days, from July 29 to August 29 - three days per district. The training provided leaders with knowledge and skills to handle and mediate conflicts in the communities. This was crucial as knowledge gaps had been identified during community dialogues.

The participants included Resident District Commissioners (RDCs), District Chairpersons, Members of the Army, District Internal Security Officers, Peace committees, District Councilors', District Executive Committee members, Elders, and Religious leaders to name a few.

WPDl received positive feedback from leaders on how relevant the peacebuilding training was. Based on that, WPDl will reach out to additional leaders in 2022 to build their capacity with the same knowledge and skills.

“ My appreciation goes to WPDl for the training. I personally have learned and benefited a lot from the content about conflict resolution. It is very practical in my line of duty. Indeed, every week conflicts are reported to my office as a district councilor. I have tried to handle some cases while others keep reoccurring. I have realized my approach could be improved to ensure peaceful co-existence in my community. Moving forward, I am going to share the knowledge I gained about conflict resolution with other leaders within my community of Alerek sub-county.

- Acheng Grace Okengo,
District woman Councilor, Abim District

“ Thank you WPDl for the wonderful training opportunity to us, the leaders. As a youth leader, my mind has opened especially regarding how to handle conflict. Before, I thought telling and ordering fellow youths who are in a conflict to stop conflict and that using my authority was the solution. But, I have realized it is not the case and, rather, that undertaking a good negotiation and mediation process is the answer to the positive and fruitful problem solving of conflict. With the wisdom gained I am going to extend to my peers as youth leaders.

- Pulkol Godfrey,
District Youth Chairperson,
Kaabong District

**294 Community Leaders (69 females and 225 males)
were trained in Conflict Resolution Education**



DISSEMINATING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

When the second lockdown was announced in June 2021, our Community Learning Center in Moroto had to close. We were able to re-open our CLC in September 2021, and resume trainings for our vocational courses in Conflict Resolution Education (CRE), Information & Communications Technology (ICT), Business & Entrepreneurship and Arts & Crafts.

Additionally, due to the high demand for our courses, WPDJ scaled up trainings in Business and CRE. They were directly facilitated by WPDJ Youth Peacemakers. We trained and graduated a substantial number of trainees (1,817), including children and youths who were unable to attend schools as they remained closed due to COVID-19.

In 2021, **1,817 community members** completed WPDJ vocational training courses at our Community Learning Center and within sub-counties



Conflict Resolution Education



WPDI's comprehensive Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) course has been designed to remain accessible to a variety of people who live in areas affected by conflict and violence. The course equips learners with **practical skills to mediate conflicts in their communities and additionally convey values of non-violence and tolerance** to others. During the year, we scaled up our training sessions and delivered them to communities directly in order to respond to the demand.

In 2021, **339** community members graduated from WPDI's Conflict Resolution Education course. A survey among **40** former trainees revealed that **88%** of them gained meaningful knowledge while **65%** reported change in their lives thanks to our course

Taking opportunity of the school closures, **57 teachers from eight different primary and secondary schools** applied to our training and learned skills that will help them improve their practice.

“ Before enrolling as a trainee, I felt bitterness, pain, and hatred for my neighbors with whom we have been in a conflict for a while. I did not know what to do! But attending this training taught me how to achieve inner peace and how to handle conflict. This has empowered me to positively engage my neighbors. This is something I could not do before. Thank you for enabling me to learn various peacebuilding strategies which I will extend to my students.

- Patrick,
a teacher from Moroto Core
Primary Teachers College



Information & Communications Technology

In our increasingly interconnected world, Information & Communications Technology (ICT) skills have become a basic necessity for everyone. However, in the Karamoja Sub-Region, people often lack access to those skills. WPDI's course offered at the Moroto Community Learning Center **helps community members gain such skills that can significantly increase their employability.**

In order to accommodate the overwhelming demand for this course in the context of COVID-incurred constraints, WPDI had to allocate five afternoons to trainees undertaking the courses. These included teachers, members of the local government, sub-county staff, children and other community members.

604 Trainees (459 adults and 145 children) completed the ICT course. A post-training survey completed by **90** of them revealed that, six months after graduating, **13%** found jobs, **10%** increased their incomes, **8%** created their businesses and, overall, **62%** reported change in their lives thanks to our course



“ On 15th March 2021 after graduation in February at WPDI CLC, Global Health Initiative appointed me as ICT Communication Specialist in St. Matany Hospital for a period of 45 days and my role involves type setting, cloud messaging and storage on the cloud link and sharing with other platforms. I am also an ICT Instructor in the same organization for youths between 10-28 years. I am grateful to WPDI for certificates of three months' training in ICT and proud to have enrolled for the course.

- Lomilo Michael,
ICT Trainee

“ Before enrolling for this course, I did not know how to turn on and shut down the computer, but now I can reboot the computer both on Windows and Linux systems. I can now write letters, bold, change font colors of text, and also save on a desktop. I have also known how to use the internet using Google, I have also known how to change characters from small to big using the caps lock button on the keyboard. I want to become a secretary when I grow up.

- Abura Sarah Joy,
a 17-year-old ICT trainee

Business & Entrepreneurship



Acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to manage a business is one of the most empowering experiences a person can have. WPD's Business & Entrepreneurship course is another popular course at the Community Learning Center, especially as completing the Intermediate level course is a prerequisite for entering into our Business Plan Competitions. In addition to the in-class sessions, trainees undertake a market assessment to gain hands-on experience. They also have a chance to interact with entrepreneurs within Moroto town to learn from lived experiences.

In 2021, **525 community members** graduated from WPD's Business & Entrepreneurship course. A survey among 174 former trainees revealed that **6%** found jobs, **21%** increased their incomes, **48%** created their businesses and **64%** reported change in their lives thanks to our course

“ Before I joined the course, I would spend all my profits and had no savings. The course has opened my mind: I had to evaluate myself and identify my strengths and weaknesses. I realized that my greatest weakness was spending my profits and not saving any - that was a wakeup call for me. I have learnt how to spend less and save more. In the month of March alone, I managed to save UGX 600,000 as profits from my business, but this is just the beginning. I am always connected with my trainers from WPD who keep on guiding and advising me to make sure that my business grows big.

- Jane,
Business trainee



Arts & Crafts



To enhance the capacity of young men and women with practical knowledge and skills that can enable them to set up small businesses and also increase their employability, WPDJ offers Arts & Crafts training to community members at the Community Learning Center and at the community level. Based on the feedback from our trainees, we rolled out the course to communities to inculcate Arts & Crafts skills to many community members to tap the rich Karamojong culture. So far, WPDJ graduates have formed an Arts & Crafts club at the Community Learning Center and they made face masks distributed in the community to curb the spread of COVID-19.

In 2021, **349 community members** graduated from WPDJ's Arts & Crafts course. A survey among **50** former trainees revealed that **4%** found jobs, **26%** increased their incomes, **21%** created their business, and **68%** reported change in their lives thanks to our course

“ Arts & Crafts is enjoyable because it teaches hands-on skills which are not theoretical. Until now, I couldn't have imagined making liquid soap then selling it within Moroto. I used to see people doing it and admired them but I lacked the necessary skills. This is a breakthrough in my life. Next year, my plan is to expand my business and supply hotels and schools. Thank you for empowering me.

- Agathe,
Arts & Crafts trainee

“ I was particularly inspired by the tie and dye fabrics and tailoring during the class though other topics were also interesting. I learned how to make face masks and as of now, I have made over 1,000 of them at the Community Learning Center. I get paid for this labour. I have mastered it now. Next year I want to buy a personal tailoring machine and open up a shop.

- Florence Amunyo,
Arts & Crafts trainee

Promoting Inner Peace through Trauma Healing

WPDI's Trauma Healing program restores hope to victims of all forms of violence by providing psychological support and medical care. In addition, we organize check-in visits in order to ensure long-term rehabilitation. In 2021, WPDI supported an increasing number of cases through psychosocial counseling. WPDI's counselors identified and treated 874 clients in the region. Most cases involved **loss** due to cattle raids (and its psychosocial impact on victims as, for them, loss of cattle is tantamount to loss of status), **HIV/AIDs, domestic violence, drug addiction and alcoholism, physical disability due to witchcraft practices, defilement, and abandoned children**. Additionally, 25 of them referred to hospitals for medication, 15 to police for legal services and 200 followed up.

“

My partner is physically abusive, which has taken a toll on my mental health. I had suicidal thoughts. Thanks to WPDI's timely counseling and support, I have the will to find a healthy way out of this situation. If my life ended, my children wouldn't have anyone to protect them, I have to live.

- Angella Lucy from Nadori,
Katikékile sub-county

874 clients received psychosocial support from
WPDI's trained counselors in 2021

The story of Sagal Lucia: a burnt who had lost the will to live

Sagal Lucia is from the Namalu sub-county. She suffered from mental illness and addiction. Her husband and children had left her. When she got badly burnt on most of her lower body as a result of a domestic accident, she did not seek medical attention. She was distressed and in a fragile mental state. She was alone in her house, unable to move or do anything on her own. Through one of our Youth Peacemakers, the Trauma Healing Officer came to visit her. They discussed her issues and the great value her life had. Sagal Lucia understood that she needed to seek medical attention and picked herself back up and underwent treatment. One month later her wounds had healed and her mental state was showing signs of improvement. She became proactive in improving her life. During a follow-up meeting with our Trauma Healing Officer, she said: *“I loved the encouragement and what I learned with WPDI, it has helped me stop the negative thoughts and unnecessary worries that I used to have. Right now my heart has cooled down and I am very peaceful.”*

Cultural Awareness Days



On March 8, for International Women's Day 2021, female trainees who recently completed our Arts & Crafts vocational course were invited to showcase their products at a local event for International Women's Day. At the event, the 80 women displayed not only their creations but the skills and tools that they gained during their training with us over the course of a few short months.



BUSINESS BOOTCAMP

WPDI's Business Bootcamp initiative is a business incubation platform that promotes entrepreneurship in economically challenged environments, helping local people create opportunities for themselves. To ensure that participants have the necessary skills to operate a business, we select projects designed by trainees who have successfully completed at least the intermediate level of the Business & Entrepreneurship courses that we offer at our Community Learning Center.

Selected projects are developed into businesses, a process that is overseen by a committee composed of representatives from WPDI, WPDI's partners, other non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and local and national stakeholders. The committee's role is to provide our entrepreneurs with both tangible resources, including grants and/or loans, and intangible resources, such as support, advice, and specialized training tailored to the needs of entrepreneurs and their businesses. Beyond supporting the launch of the businesses, WPDI's role is to ensure the monitoring of the projects over at least one year, a process which includes reviewing financial records as well as conducting on-site visits.



Business Plan Competition

In 2021, WPDI launched its first ever Business Bootcamp in Karamoja thanks to the support of our partner, the Islamic Development Bank. Six groups of WPDI's business course graduates developed business plans and underwent rigorous training to strengthen their elevator pitches, review their business plans, and prepare for the competition. **Of the six candidate groups, three were eventually selected.** This process was done under technical guidance of the Business Review Committee Members which included a District Community Development Officer, a District Commercial Officer, a Representative from NGOs implementing youth programs, and the WPDI Business team.

We look forward to supporting these groups in managing their projects as they already have received grants and are in the process of doing procurement for necessary items.

Business Plan Competition Winners

NO.	NAME OF ENTERPRISE	BUSINESS IDEA	NUMBER OF MEMBERS
1	Marble City Beauty Parlor	Ladies beauty salon	4
2	Moroto Mini-sports center	Selling of sports items	3
3	EMUJA enterprise	Selling of produce	3

“ I really appreciate the people at the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative for the business bootcamp. This prepares and ensures sustainability of the selected enterprises. I am glad to be part of this process as it is my role to give advice to groups intending to undertake an enterprise and get to realize if it's viable or not.

- Mr. Achia Lawrence,
District Commercial Officer-Moroto,
member of the review committee

“ Winning this grant means a lot to us. We are now self-employed, and we have the opportunity to boost our incomes which is important as most of our group-members have families. Most importantly, our skills will hopefully benefit youth in our communities as we share our knowledge and expand our business, we will eventually employ people from our communities. We are grateful that WPDI is implemented in Karamoja.

- Marble City Beauty Parlor business group,
winner of the competition

The first business plan competition was held this year and three businesses were selected and are being supported by WPDI

Businesses Developed by Youth Peacemakers



Ten groups of Youth Peacemakers and local youths in North Karamoja were able to generate business ideas with support from WPDJ staff. This first set of groups registered with the local government and opened bank accounts for their business. Therefore, to help them realize their dream of economic empowerment, **WPDJ supported these groups with grants to build their income-generating projects.** Additionally, WPDJ will mentor these groups next year.

Businesses Created by WPDJ Youth Peacemakers

NO.	GROUP	BUSINESS TYPE
1	Jarogs Sub-County Youth Stationery	Stationery Items
2	Kojane Youth Group	Retail General Merchandise Shop
3	Alerek Youth Peacemakers Vsla	Whole Produce Selling
4	Nyakwae Youth Peacemakers	Retail General Merchandise Shop
5	Ekinyoma Ekisil Millers	Grinding Mill For Produce
6	Nakapelimoru Youth Group	Retail General Merchandise Shop
7	Green Belt Youth Group	Grinding Mill For Produce
8	Rengen Peace Ambassadors General Merchandise	Retail General Merchandise Shop
9	Elochokinos Youth Peacemakers Group	Grinding Mill For Produce
10	Loyoro Ekisil Ka Abaru	Retail General Merchandise Shop

Businesses Developed by Vulnerable Women Groups



In an effort to expand the Business Bootcamp program in the Karamoja Sub-Region, WPDl launched a **livelihood program to benefit vulnerable women, most of them widows, single mothers, or women with disabilities**. With customized training, we aim to give them tangible skills that will help them create new businesses, not only support themselves and their families, but foster development and change within their communities.

In April 2021, we undertook the selection and recruitment process which took place in the five districts of South Karamoja. 130 applications were received and after conducting interviews, 75 women were selected.

They received a one-month hands-on training in Arts & Crafts and Business & Entrepreneurship. They acquired skills in tie and dye, craft shoe making, liquid soap making, weaving and knitting, tailoring, jewelry making, and they also learned about business idea generation, business identification and selection, basic financial management, financial records, and how to conduct a market survey.

We are proud that **all 75 women graduated**. They then formed five groups of 15 women and began to develop their income-generating project, brainstorming new ideas and drafting their business plans.

The businesses developed by each group registered with the districts and opened bank accounts. **WPDl supported these businesses with grants to kick start their projects and will continue to provide backstopping support.**

Businesses Developed by Vulnerable Women Groups

No.	DISTRICT	SUB-COUNTY	GROUP NAME	ENTERPRISE
1	Napak	Lopee	Epikosi Akuliako Arts & Crafts Women	Sale of Arts & Crafts Items
2	Nabilatuk	Nabilatuk Town Council	Oyiautu Oyara Women Group	Sale of Arts & Crafts Items
3	Nakapiripirit	Kakomongole	Arehek Arts & Crafts Women's Group	Sale of Arts & Crafts Items
4	Moroto	Nadunget	Eyok Napenit Women Group	Sale of Arts & Crafts Items
5	Amudat	Amudat Town Council	Amudat Arts & Crafts Women Group	Sale of Arts & Crafts Items

“ I am a mother of five and I have been surviving from charcoal burning. I am happy to have been selected for the business training. I have learned a lot, notably tie and dye, which was my favorite. Interestingly, in tailoring at first, I feared using the machine, but after three days I was able to stitch a cloth. This gave me confidence to continue stitching zigzag and straight lines. I am glad to say that now I can stitch clothes with a tailoring machine.

- Lucia Lotukei,
a single mother, Napak district

“ I have been running my hairdressing salon within Amudat town council for a while but I kept struggling. During the ten-day training, I was able to do a self-assessment and realized timeliness, customer care and savings are key skills in business management. Through guidance from our facilitator and contextualizing training using our very own businesses as examples, I was able to realize what I needed to do to reorganize my business.

- Kakwo Sabina,
member of the women's group,
Amudat district

In 2021, WPDl trained and graduated **75 vulnerable women** in Business & Entrepreneurship and Arts & Crafts, and will support the **5 businesses** they created

CONCLUSION

Beyond all the specific results – and successes – covered in this report, we can assert that our programs in Karamoja are in a very positive dynamic. **Having exceeded our targets** even under the COVID-induced constraints, we must recognize of course the energy of our youth and staff; but we must also observe that such success of our initial steps in the sub-region is also explained by the immense needs and challenges that the populations of Karamoja face, calling for added efforts in the years to come.

Nevertheless, we are encouraged by the **excellent feedback we received from local stakeholders** around Karamoja. 97% of the 36 individuals we surveyed, 66% of them local officials, told us that they had a very positive opinion of WPDJ. The main recommendation to emerge from these consultations is that we maintain and even step up our efforts on the ground. This is to say that **we have a mandate from them**. In seeking to implement it, we are confident that our action will be strengthened by the capacities and commitment of our beneficiaries who are always also our partners on the ground.



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