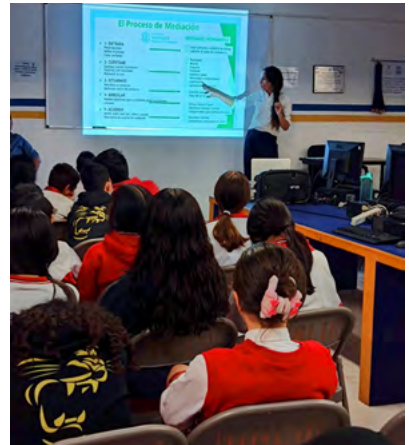




WHITAKER
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



WPDI MEXICO

2024 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Introduction	03
Key Achievements	04
Survey Results	05
Feedback from Local & National Stakeholders	05
CHIAPAS	06
Introduction	07
Vectors for Change	08
Youth Peacemakers	09
Community Learning Center	09
Peacebuilding	10
Peace Education in Schools	10
Conflict Resolution Education for Students	10
Conflict Resolution Education for Teachers and Parents	11
Cinema for Peace	12
Peacebuilding Events	13
XIX World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Monterrey	14
Livelihood	15
Capacity-Building Courses	15
Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)	15
Business and Entrepreneurship	17
Supporting Income-Generating Projects	19
Arts and Crafts	21
WPDI Chiapas Conclusion	22
Challenges	22
Notable Successes	22
TIJUANA	23
Introduction	24
Vectors of Change	25
Youth Peacemakers	25
Community Learning Center	25
Peacebuilding	26
Peace Among Community Members	26
Community Dialogues	26
Community Leaders Training	27
Training Youth in Detention Centers	29
Conflict Resolution Education Training	30
Peace Education in Schools	31
Livelihood	34
Capacity-Building Courses	34
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	34
ICT for Children	35
Supporting Income-Generating Projects	36
Arts and Crafts	38
Community Outreach	39
Radio Talk Shows	39
Peacebuilding Events	39
WPDI Tijuana Conclusion	40
General Conclusion	41
Partners	42

Introduction

Navigating Challenges: WPDl's Commitment to Peace and Development in Mexico

In 2024, WPDl continued its mission to foster peace and sustainable development in Mexico, focusing on the regions of Chiapas and Tijuana. Both areas faced significant challenges, including high levels of violence, political instability, and socio-economic disparities. Chiapas, marked by socio-political tensions and organized crime, saw increased violent conflicts and forced displacements. Tijuana, one of the most violent cities globally, grappled with political violence and the complexities of being a major transit point for migrants. In addition, at the national level, the context of presidential and legislative elections incurred a climate of heightened uncertainty and anxiety that was felt all over the country, including in WPDl's locations.

Operating in this relatively degraded context, our teams nevertheless manage to remain fully dedicated to their mission, addressing these challenges through a comprehensive approach that included conflict resolution education, vocational training, and community engagement. In Chiapas, we were able to enroll a new cohort of Youth Peacemakers

who will constitute a force for their communities as they engage in projects for positive transformation at the grassroots. Likewise, our continued support to underprivileged women, many of them from indigenous groups, is bound to generate services and revenues that will eventually benefit the community as a whole. In Tijuana, we worked to adapt the delivery of our training courses to the uncertain context of 2024.

From a general perspective, we have been very satisfied by the fact that, in the very different contexts of Chiapas and Tijuana, we have received similarly positive responses from the community, as evidenced in the increased participation and the active involvement of local leaders, parents, and teachers. As one participant from Chiapas noted, "The work WPDl is doing is of immense value. The projects we have developed together have not only been successful but have also sparked deep reflection – both within our team and among the communities we've engaged with."



Key Achievements

7,743 TOTAL beneficiaries in Mexico

3,179

Tijuana

4,564

Chiapas

VECTORS OF CHANGE

1,100

Community learning
Center visitors

73

Lead Youth
Peacemakers

271

Local Youth
Peacemakers

344

Total Youth
Peacemakers

1,455

Individuals Reached
by Peacemakers

PEACEBUILDING AT THE COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

344

Conflict Resolution
Education Trainees

255

Participants in Cinema for
Peace

472

Participants in Community-
based Advocacy Campaigns

1,071

Total
Beneficiaries

PEACEBUILDING IN SCHOOLS

6

Schools Hosting
WPDI Programs

354

Learners Trained
in CRE

407

Parents,
Administrative
Staff, and
Teachers
Trained

280

People Reached
Through
Advocacy
Campaigns in
Schools

300

University
Students trained
in CRE

1,341

Total
Participants in
School-Based
Peacebuilding

PEACEBUILDING IN THE COMMUNITY

2

Community
Dialogues Held

120

Participants in Community
Dialogues

30

Local
Leaders Trained

150

Total Participants
in Community-Level
Peacebuilding

LIVELIHOOD

735

ICT
trainees

164

Entrepreneurship
Trainees

35

Vulnerable Women
Trained in Business

98

Arts and
Crafts Trainees

1,032

Total Trainees in
Vocational Courses

63

SMEs
Supported by WPDI

463

Jobs
Created

2,829

Indirect Beneficiaries
of Businesses
(Families)

3,292

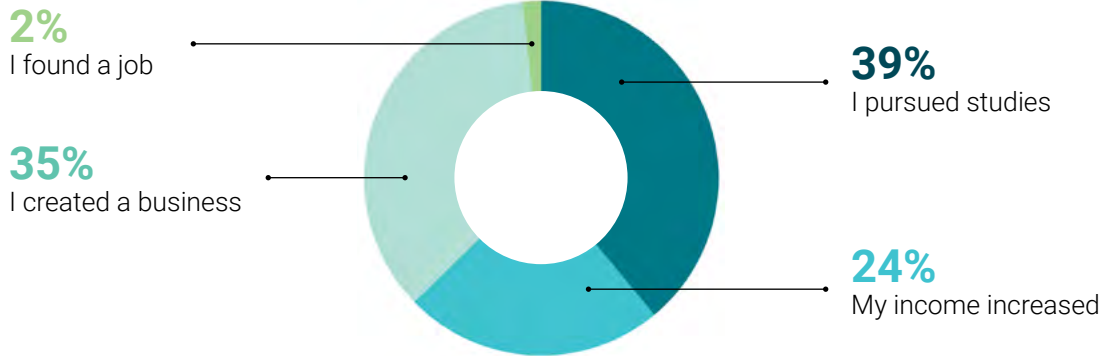
Beneficiaries
of All SMEs



Survey Results

Has the program improved your career prospects? (78 responses)

68% of respondents replied "Yes" and detailed the outcomes as follows:



Feedback from Local & National Stakeholders

"WPDI is an organization whose work has played a critical role in rebuilding the social fabric in communities affected by conflict and marginalization. One of its most notable contributions lies in the empowerment of youth, recognizing them as active agents of positive change within their own territories. WPDI's programs reach populations in historically underserved areas, where access to resources and educational opportunities is often limited. WPDI's participatory methodologies effectively contribute to both individual capacity-building and the development of key personal and social competencies. These include self-awareness, identity, critical thinking, teamwork, collaboration, a strong sense of community, and a deep respect for human rights. We have observed that WPDI's staff carry out their work with a high level of passion, professionalism, and ethical commitment. For these reasons, we remain firmly committed to continued collaboration in the territories where our efforts converge, and in initiatives that we know contribute meaningfully to the prevention of violence and the construction of lasting peace."

Oscar Arturo Bautista Ruiz,
Training Coordinator, Médicos del Mundo Switzerland
Mexico Mission



"With the Conflict Resolution program conducted by WPDI for Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC), students were able to learn about resilience, tolerance to frustration, emotional handling, and mediation tools, which are very important at this stage of their lives when they have so much uncertainty about their future and are still developing as future professionals. WPDI has already worked for many years to pacify our vulnerable population, and UABC, being the highest educational institution in the state, could not be left behind. We also want peace, and it is part of the UABC institutional development plan."

Carlos Reyna,
Professor at Universidad Autónoma de Baja California



CHIAPAS



Introduction

The socio-political tensions in Chiapas, exacerbated since the 2021 legislative elections, have led to a surge in violent conflicts, increased organized crime activity, and the forced displacement of hundreds of people. Violence has become a means of survival for many communities, particularly affecting San Cristóbal de Las Casas, where roadblocks, armed confrontations, and kidnappings have become commonplace. Youth are often stigmatized as the main perpetrators, deepening societal divides and limiting their opportunities for participation in decision-making. Women and girls face even greater challenges, experiencing the most profound and silent effects of violence, which further restrict their involvement in local development and impact their emotional well-being.

In response to this crisis, WPDI has continued offering Conflict Resolution, ICT and Entrepreneurship training at the local Community Learning Center (CLC) and other locations, which has encouraged community engagement and youth participation. In such a context, it is paramount to strengthen the forces, which led us to initiate the formation of a new cohort of Peacemakers to be empowered and supported as community-builders and drivers of positive change. The number

of applications we received is proof that, while threats to peace are all too real, it is clear that the prospects of peace are very real too. Our trust is therefore fully with the 42 promising young women and men whom we enrolled from some of the most violence-affected municipalities of Chiapas.

Another group with great potential is the cohort of women from our gender-specific economic development program, the Women's Livelihood Program, through which we reach vulnerable territories where indigenous women have historically had limited access to education and development opportunities. These areas, recently also affected by high levels of violence and crime, have faced additional vulnerabilities, leading to the forced displacement of women and children.

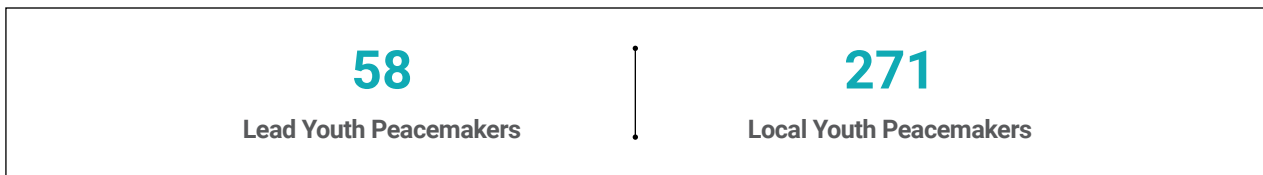
Additionally, WPDI's partnerships with national and international organizations such as the Permanent Secretariat of the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, Jornada de Derechos Humanos, and the Plataforma por la Paz en México, have expanded its impact beyond Chiapas, fostering opportunities for young people to connect with broader peacebuilding initiatives and contributing to the potential establishment of a National Network of Youth Peacemakers.



Vectors of Change

At WPDI, “vectors of change,” are locally-established platforms designed to deliver essential resources at the grassroots level. These include two core initiatives: cohorts of Youth Peacemakers, who are equipped to lead transformational efforts within their communities, and Community Learning Centers (CLCs), which offer safe spaces for learning, collaboration, and personal growth.

Youth Peacemakers



WPDI, with the support of the Inter-American Foundation, has expanded its Youth Peacemaker Network (YPN) establishing a new cohort of young leaders in Chiapas, a region of Mexico known for both cultural richness and challenges related to conflict. This initiative is part of WPDI’s broader mission to equip young people in fragile areas with skills in conflict resolution, dialogue facilitation, and community development.

Following a call for applications published in June 2024, 160 young people from various municipalities expressed interest in joining the program. After a thorough selection process, 42 individuals from 11 municipalities were chosen to become Youth Peacemakers. Their training began in September 2024 in San Cristóbal de las Casas, where they discovered our Community Learning Center (CLC), which will be a second home for them in the coming years.

Following WPDI’s established methodology, the training covered key areas, including:

- Learning Community – Encouraging collaboration and shared growth.
- Education for the People – Applying a people-centered approach to learning.
- Positive Resolutions to Conflict – Developing skills to mediate and resolve disputes peacefully.

This new cohort represents a significant step in WPDI’s efforts to foster sustainable peace in Chiapas. By equipping young leaders with essential skills and knowledge, the program is creating agents of change who will contribute to long-term community resilience.

Newly trained peacemakers share their feedback

As they progress in knowledge and skill, feedback from the participants reveals that they are already experiencing the program’s transformative impact.

“I’ve always been interested in humanitarian issues, which is why I was drawn to this program. What I liked most about the workshop was the dynamic approach based on constructivist education, with a focus on community and human values. It is helping me to better understand myself and build stronger connections, while also preparing me for a career in humanitarian organizations.”

Rodrigo Alejandro Corzo Hernández,
a 24-year-old from San Cristóbal de las Casas

“Working with vulnerable populations has been intense, and I developed vicarious trauma, which caused a physical limitation in my right arm. This workshop has impacted me by helping me recognize my limitations and motivating me to transform them. I want to continue learning and eventually facilitate this process for others.”

Guadalupe del Carmen Cruz Díaz,
a 27-year-old law graduate

Community Learning Center

256 CLC Visitors

Chiapas is home to two Community Learning Centers (CLCs), each serving as a vital hub for education and connection. One is located in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, staffed by a dedicated team of five, while the second is in Chalam, Mitontic. Remarkably, the Mitontic CLC was built by a young peacemaker as part of his entrepreneurial project, and today, he leads it alongside three staff members, with strong support from the local community and high school teachers.

Together, these CLCs provide a welcoming space for community members to develop new skills, foster connections, and participate in cultural events. In

2024, they also became key meeting points for local allies, expanding learning opportunities. Regular sessions and evaluations to help youth and adults obtain their basic education certificates are held at the CLCs. Meanwhile, Mundo de Talentos hosted events promoting vocational training for children and teens. Additionally, entrepreneurs trained by WPDI led summer workshops for children, further enriching the learning environment.

Both CLCs have proven to be safe, dynamic spaces where young people can gather, learn, and access high-quality education programs, fostering growth and empowerment within their communities.



"We hope WPDI continues its work and continues to yield positive results. We are also grateful that they can keep supporting our students."

Juvenal Morales Alegría,
Director of Telesecundaria Amado Nervo



"I would like to proudly share the progress our students have made. The improvements we have seen not only reflect the students' efforts but also the ongoing support of those who have guided them throughout this project. Thanks to you, we have been able to provide them with tools that not only showcase their technological skills but also prepare them for a future full of opportunities. We are deeply grateful to WPDI for its dedication to providing opportunities and resources to our young students. Your commitment demonstrates that, with support and vision, it is possible to open doors to knowledge and development. Thank you for all the support, especially since we are in a low-resource area where students do not have access to computers."

Martha Patricia Robles Santos,
Director of Telesecundaria MI Patria es Primero



Peacebuilding

Peace Education in Schools

101 Total Participants in School-Based Peacebuilding

3

Schools Hosting WPDI Programs

35

Learners Trained in CRE

66

Parents, Administrative Staff, and Teachers Trained

Conflict Resolution Education for Students

WPDI works with elementary, secondary and high schools in the region to provide Conflict Resolution Training. Through these courses, learners are taught mediation techniques and provided with the necessary resources to address issues that arise in a peaceful manner. This year, one of the more innovative approaches of WPDI's work in schools of the Chiapas region, has been to provide young peacebuilders with a training of trainers module, whereby youth are equipped with tools to educate

and empower others to mediate conflicts. Following the completion of their education and practical experience, these trainees, residing in municipalities characterized by elevated levels of conflict and violence, establish agreements with local schools to deliver basic Conflict Resolution courses. This year, a four-session course was delivered to 35 students of secondary level at Escuela Pequeño Sol, due to recent violent incidents.



"Thanks to CRE, I learned that feelings and emotions, whether we have been the ones hurt or the ones causing harm, are very similar. This makes me realize that the pain I feel when someone hurts me is the same pain others feel when I have hurt them. Forgiveness is a process, and it is something positive, but it becomes very difficult when the hurt runs deep."

*Anonymous secondary school student,
Escuela Pequeño Sol*



"We were taught that during our activities, we should avoid insulting or using offensive language. No one is above anyone else, so let's respect each other's work and not try to disrupt our activities. By fostering mutual respect, we will get along better, and what happened in the past will remain in the past."

*Anonymous secondary school student,
Escuela Pequeño Sol*



Restoring Peace at Escuela Pequeño Sol

A Violent School Environment

In 2024, Escuela Pequeño Sol, a predominantly white school in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, faced an alarming surge in violence. The city's growing organized crime activity had begun to seep into school life, creating tension and insecurity among students. These challenges were further compounded by administrative changes, including the appointment of a new principal and shifts in teachers' responsibilities. Adding to the concern, a history of bullying and harassment among secondary-level students made the school environment even more fragile.

WPDI Works with the School Towards Peace

Amidst this crisis, the principal and teachers reached out to WPDI, urgently seeking support after two highly concerning incidents of violence among students. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, WPDI swiftly developed and delivered short courses for students, teachers, and parents. These sessions aimed to equip the school community with essential conflict resolution skills and strategies to foster a safer environment. Additionally, WPDI worked closely with the administration to update the school's anti-violence protocols, ensuring a more structured and proactive approach to preventing future incidents.

Testimonial from a Local Teacher

The impact of our intervention was deeply felt by the school staff, who saw a renewed sense of hope in their students' ability to navigate conflicts constructively. As one secondary school teacher shared: "It's a pleasure to see the WPDI team at our school and to know that they are working with secondary school students in the same way they did with us, the teachers. It gives us hope to know that students will have more tools to resolve conflicts among peers as well as conflicts with teachers and school administrators. Thank you."

Through collaboration, training, and a commitment to peace, Escuela Pequeño Sol is on a path toward healing and transformation, proving that even in the face of adversity, positive change is possible.

Conflict Resolution Education for Teachers and Parents

In parallel, and probably in relation to, the rise of crime rates, forced evacuations, and disappearances, directors and teachers from both public and private schools have sought assistance from WPDI to address and mitigate conflict and violence within their respective educational communities. Being critical members of the educational community,

teachers play a determining role in building safe spaces free of violence in schools and other learning environments. A four-session course was delivered to 66 teachers.

"I enrolled in the Conflict Resolution course out of curiosity about what we, as mothers, could learn. I feel amazed, moved, and grateful for the tools shared during the training, as they have been incredibly useful—not only in helping me view conflicts with my children from a new perspective but also in addressing other conflicts that arise in my personal life."

**Mother of a Secondary Level Student,
Escuela Pequeño Sol**



Cinema for Peace

255 Participants in Cinema for Peace

Cinema for Peace is one of the most attended activities in WPDI's program in Chiapas, offering children an engaging and impactful way to reflect on important issues related to peacebuilding. Through carefully selected film screenings followed by participative debates, the program encourages students to explore sensitive topics in an accessible and relatable way. Over the past year, we held four screenings in public secondary schools in the

municipality of San Cristóbal. Given the tense context of violence and fear that children in the city often face, the chosen films were aimed at helping them recognize, understand, and manage their emotions. After each screening, discussions are held to deepen the children's understanding of the themes, allowing them to reflect on how they could apply these lessons in their own lives.



"I learned that it's always good to express our feelings and share what we feel. I greatly enjoy when WPDI comes to show us movies, I always have a great time and learn something."

Carlos de Jesús



"I learned that emotions are good when necessary. I like seeing everyone's emotions in action. The movie teaches us that emotions are useful because, without them, we are nothing."

Meredith Sarai Hernández



Peacebuilding Events

22 Participants in Peacebuilding Events

Events and campaigns contribute to improved relationships within communities, addressing both individual and group dynamics. During this period, several key events were organized and attended to enhance youth involvement in peacebuilding initiatives. In collaboration with its national partner, Jornada de Derechos Humanos, WPDI conducted

short workshops and talks on Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding for students from ten universities in Mérida, Yucatán. Additionally, WPDI organized and participated as jury members in the evaluation of Youth Community Projects under the Learning English Program of the U.S. Embassy/Meeting Points in Nachij, Zinacantán, with 32 young participants.

“At Kip Tik, both our team and I personally are very pleased to collaborate with WPDI. We deeply value the strategies they are implementing in education, training, and peacebuilding, as we believe these are essential for new generations to have strong and meaningful representations of what these concepts truly mean within the complex social context of Chiapas and its communities. The work WPDI is doing is of immense value. The projects we have developed together have not only been successful but have also sparked deep reflection — both within our team and among the communities we’ve engaged with. In this sense, we strongly believe that WPDI’s focus on peace education is indispensable for the times we live in, and for building a more just and hopeful future.”

Guillermo Macías,
Co-founder of Kip Tik an organization that works with women



XIX World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Monterrey

WPDI's engagement in international forums was also significant. One of our Peacemakers, Miguel Ángel Pérez Gómez presented a collective project at the XIX World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Monterrey, Nuevo León, while Víctor Germán Sántiz

García represented WPDI at the High-Level Summit of the Pact for the Future in New York City, USA. Additionally, WPDI's Program Manager delivered a talk on Peacebuilding at the "Youth Speak of Peace" Forum, organized by its local partner, CORECO.

"During the 19th Nobel Peace Prize Summit in Monterrey, I had the opportunity to connect with young people from across the country who share both great ideas and common challenges. WPDI's guidance helped me expand my perspective beyond my local reality, allowing me to understand national and global issues. This experience strengthened my identity as a young Indigenous Maya Tzeltal speaker and reinforced my belief that I can transform my community. The inspiration I gained from workshops with Nobel Peace Prize winners, along with WPDI's support in developing social projects and strengthening community initiatives, has motivated me to do more for my community. I am especially grateful that my work in urban art is reaching children and young people, empowering them to seek positive influences. I deeply appreciate the WPDI family for believing in me, loving me, treating me with respect, and supporting my commitment to peace and self-respect for all."

Miguel Ángel Pérez Gómez (Sebsor),
XIX World Summit of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates participant



Livelihood

Capacity-Building Courses

WPDI provides capacity-building courses in ICT, Business and Entrepreneurship and Arts and Crafts. Trainees attend these courses for free and for periods of three months. Depending on the specific needs of

the cohorts, additional training in algebra and literacy are made available. With regular attendance and after passing final examinations, they are awarded certificates.

Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)

558 ICT Trainees at the CLCs and in Schools

In Chiapas, where access to technology and the internet remains the lowest in the country, the demand for free, high-quality digital education continues to grow. To bridge this gap, a series of ICT training courses were offered at basic, intermediate, and advanced levels, covering essential topics such as hardware components, word processing, spreadsheets, video editing tools, internet use, and cloud services. A total of 492 students, 256 young women and 236 young men, participated in the program, gaining fundamental digital skills. Through

this training, students learned to navigate computers, complete assignments using word processors, perform calculations in spreadsheets, and create PowerPoint presentations. They also developed essential internet skills, such as email access and web searches, on both computers and mobile devices. By equipping marginalized students with these crucial technological tools, the program empowers them to improve their academic performance and expand their opportunities for higher education.



“During Professor Omar’s courses, I learned how to use a computer, draw, insert images into texts, use watermarks, and many other things. This course has helped me improve my computer skills and learn new things. I really liked that I learned how to open an email account and write application letters.”

Elvis Javier Pérez,
Secondary School Student ICT Trainee



“What motivated me to study computing is that it is essential in our daily lives. It has been very helpful in my online studies and learning the required programs. Thanks to this training I have been able to explore new software and I have completed my online school education. This opens doors for me to find a job.”

Josefa del Carmen,
ICT Trainee



ICT Training for Children in Schools

Public secondary schools, whose curricula do not include ICT training, have seen the highest demand for such courses. Parents are increasingly concerned that without basic computer skills, their children may struggle to access secondary-level services. To address the need for free, high-quality education in digital skills, a short course was offered that focused on foundational topics like word processing and paint software. A total of 66 students participated

in the program. The ICT training was designed to be engaging and accessible, covering the basics of word processors, such as adjusting font style, size, and color, setting margins, and inserting images. The course also introduced fun and simple tools for creating drawings and images, allowing students to develop a range of digital skills that will support their academic journey and future opportunities.



“I have been learning basic skills that will serve as tools in my life. I have learned things I never imagined I could do on a computer, which have helped to complete my assignments more quickly and easily.”

Alessandra,
student



“I enrolled in this course because I sometimes struggle with using the computer and wanted to learn to use it better. Since I have a computing class at school, this course helped me a lot because I was never able to understand when other teachers taught me, while now I do.”

Ximena Abigail,
student



Business and Entrepreneurship

164

Entrepreneurship Trainees

35

Vulnerable Women Trained in Business

Entrepreneurship and business training has become one of the most in-demand programs at the Chiapas Community Learning Center, given the region's significant lag in industrial and business development. This demand has been especially high in the past year, as economic activity has been severely impacted by high levels of conflict and violence. The region's transportation routes, essential for the distribution of goods and services, remain unsafe and are often blocked, further hindering local economies. The business training provided at the CLC empowers participants with the skills and

knowledge to start their own businesses, overcome regional challenges, and contribute to the local economy, helping to create sustainable livelihoods and a brighter future for many families. A total of 175 trainees registered for the courses, which offered a comprehensive curriculum covering basic, intermediate, and advanced business training topics. Each year, the curriculum is updated to ensure it meets the evolving needs of the participants. In total, 164 trainees graduated from the program, including 35 who participated in courses specifically designed for women.



“With WPDI’s support, we have been able to purchase stainless steel worktables that improve hygiene in food preparation. We also bought 12 baking trays and cookie cutters with nine circular slots, which have streamlined our production process. With these new resources, we launched a new type of cookie for children, began producing multigrain sandwich bread, and started making ‘pan de muerto,’ a traditional seasonal bread. As a result, we now have four new sales points in Tuxtla Gutiérrez.”

Erik Amauri,
Secondary School Student ICT Trainee



“Something I really enjoyed about the social entrepreneurship course with WPDI was the way the instructor presented each topic. She made each one very dynamic, which kept me engaged and eager to learn more. The impact this course has had on my life is in how I perceive things—being able to look at a product and recognize opportunities for innovation is something I find fascinating. I also appreciated learning how various factors come into play when trying to sell a product. In the future, I would love to take a course with WPDI on digital marketing. Thank you.”

Regina Aguilar,
Business and Entrepreneurship Trainee



Women Livelihood Program

Every year, women of all backgrounds enroll in the Women Livelihood Program. This certified training course is delivered by WPDI using a proven curriculum designed to equip participants with practical skills applicable across various professional fields, thereby improving their overall employability. Additionally, the training serves as a foundation for beneficiaries who will take part in the next phase of the project: the Business Bootcamp and Business

Plan Competition. The local office reaches out to women from vulnerable backgrounds to ensure that the program reaches those most in need. These women receive training and subsequent support to contribute to relevant projects, with recognized outcomes including improved self-confidence and enhanced capacity for engagement. This year, a total of 35 women graduated from this training program.



“I am originally from Zinacantán and I am a textile artisan, creating unique designs and handcrafted products within my community. I joined this workshop because I wanted to grow my small textile craft business, which I had to pause due to financial issues. Through this training, I have gained valuable knowledge to expand my business and improve its visibility. I learned how to create a logo and slogan to promote my brand and have applied these skills to develop new strategies for marketing and presenting my products in a way that attracts customers. This course has been essential for me, as I previously lacked the confidence and tools to effectively showcase my work. Thanks to what I have learned, I have been able to advertise my products more effectively and attract new clients.”

Catalina Sánchez Pérez,
Women Livelihood Program Trainee

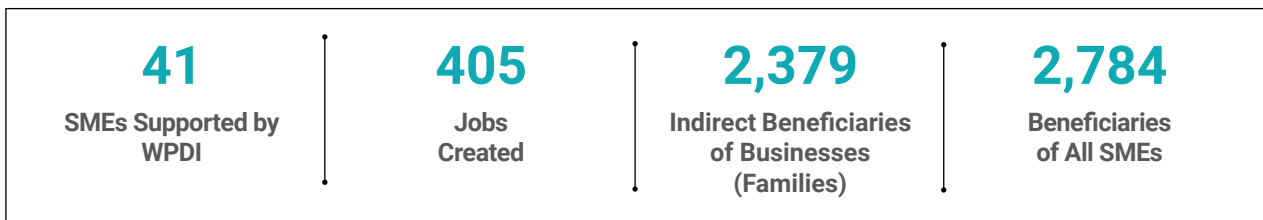


"I am originally from Palenque, Chiapas, but I am currently studying for a degree in Sustainable Management of Territory in Moxviquil. Much of my time is dedicated to attending classes, and in my free moments, I work on growing my handmade deodorant business. I feel proud and excited about everything I have learned in this workshop and have gradually applied these insights to my venture. The training has also motivated me, as it has helped me identify areas for improvement and change in my business through the various examples we have analyzed. I particularly appreciated the diverse and essential topics covered for entrepreneurship, the collaboration with other trainees, and the continuous exchange of feedback in each session. This experience has allowed me to implement classroom concepts in my business and has encouraged me to seek new opportunities for growth. Overall, this has been an enriching experience that has provided clarity and direction for my business. I now feel more prepared and committed."

Elma Magaly Gómez,
Women Livelihood Program Trainee



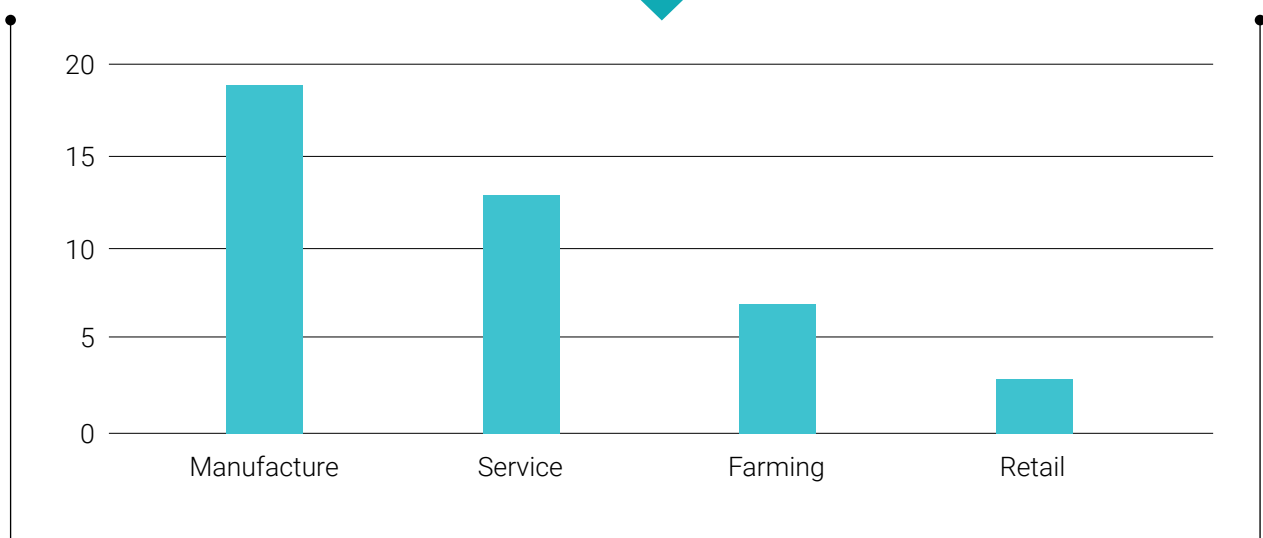
Supporting Income-Generating Projects



WPD continued its impactful support for businesses in San Cristóbal and Mitontic. This year's effort was mainly on backstopping existing businesses by providing mentorship and networking opportunities to the business holders, many of whom hail from indigenous communities. This initiative is therefore

especially relevant given that Chiapas State is home to one of Mexico's largest indigenous populations, comprising 35% of the state's inhabitants. 41 Small and Medium Businesses (SMEs) continue to be supported, including the 16 that had been launched in 2023.

Types of the 41 active businesses supported by WPD in the Chiapas region



Papelería Jchanvun: Empowering Education in a Remote Community

The Community Needs School Supplies

In 2022, Reyna Gómez Ruiz, a 40-year-old single mother from a small town in Chiapas, saw a growing need within her community, access to basic school supplies. Families had to travel three hours to the nearest city just to buy notebooks, pencils, paper, and other essential materials for their children to attend school.

A Business is Born

Recognizing the burden this placed on families, Reyna started saving money to make the long trip herself, buying supplies in bulk to sell at retail prices in her town. Her small business quickly gained traction as local families were relieved to be able to buy school supplies without incurring the extra cost and time of travel. Soon, customers began asking for additional items, and Reyna realized that her modest venture had the potential to grow while addressing a significant issue: school dropouts due to a lack of resources.

Reyna Joins WPDI's Business and Entrepreneurship Program

Reyna learned about the WPDI's business development program during a talk delivered by a business trainer at Universidad del Bienestar Benito Juárez in Teopisca. Motivated to grow her business and meet the increasing demand for school supplies, she eagerly joined the program. Reyna was determined to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to expand her business and support the educational needs of her community.

Support to Overcome Challenges

With the support of WPDI, Reyna received critical business training that enabled her to better manage her operations, inventory, and purchasing strategies. She learned how to buy in bulk rather than small quantities, which helped her reduce costs and increase her supply range. Additionally, with the funds provided by WPDI, Reyna was able to invest in equipment and expand her inventory, including a tabletop copier/printer to offer photocopying services—a much-needed addition for her customers.

Reyna's Testimonial

Reyna shared her gratitude for the program, saying: "Thanks to WPDI, which has supported us in purchasing a tabletop copier/printer, we can now offer photocopying services and provide more of the materials that customers request and need. The shelving has also helped us display more school supplies. I am very grateful to WPDI, to the people who make these projects possible, and to Tere for the training sessions that taught me how to start, manage, and grow a business. Sometimes, we have a business idea, but it is difficult to carry it out due to a lack of resources. Although we faced challenges in finding the right printer or copier since we are not experts in models or specifications, we were ultimately able to purchase a printer that also makes copies. This was essential because electricity in our community is unreliable, and our large machine no longer functions in the afternoons."



Arts and Crafts

60 Arts and Crafts Trainees

This program builds the capacity of trainees in local craftsmanship. It is a multilayered activity that can increase employability, and build self-confidence. It is a tradition since the CLC's opening, and has become an essential resource for children, helping them navigate the challenges they face while fostering creativity and self-expression. In the summer, an outreach campaign was conducted via Facebook and within the local community to invite children to participate in the summer workshops at the CLC in San Cristóbal.

A total of 60 children registered for the workshops, where they engaged in a variety of creative and

educational activities. Supported local businesses delivered short workshops on diverse topics, including "Little Artisans" (tree care and crafts), "Art and Wood Recycling," "Elaborating Sweets and Candy," and "The Hidden Worth of Trash." Additionally, dance collectives Tsunun from San Cristóbal and Xochiquetzal from Atlixco, Puebla, held a dance workshop, introducing children to different art forms and creative expression. No exams were required for the workshops, allowing children to focus on hands-on learning rather than assessments. At the end of the summer workshops, all 60 participants graduated, having gained valuable new skills and experiences.



"I like to come to these kinds of activities. I enjoy talking to other children and learning new things. What I like the most is that we get to have lunch together."

Yareski Lesciur,
Arts and Crafts Trainee



"I really enjoy coming to WPDI because I get to spend time with my friends and learn different things. It's also a good way to change my daily routine."

Juan Martín,
Arts and Crafts Trainee



WPDI Chiapas Conclusion

Challenges

The primary challenge faced during this period has been the escalating violence, which continues to pose significant obstacles to peacebuilding efforts. Establishing connections and alliances with authorities, community leaders, and local stakeholders has become increasingly difficult due to the infiltration of organized crime into political and social structures. Additionally, the high levels of violence and insecurity on the roads have made travel throughout the state challenging, not only for staff members but also for peacemakers and CLC beneficiaries who come from various regions to participate in training and courses.

Despite these obstacles, WPDI has successfully adapted its work plan to the constantly changing context and the evolving needs of its beneficiaries. Throughout these trying times, the support and ongoing feedback from local allies have been crucial. WPDI operates with greater security and confidence, knowing that its allies are steadfast in their commitment. Even in these difficult circumstances, the organization has successfully engaged young women and men, inspiring them to pursue creative and peaceful approaches to transforming conflict resolution.

Notable Successes

The activities this year have contributed to consolidate the work of WPDI, especially with the establishment of a new cohort of Youth Peacebuilders, who will expectedly undertake initiatives with us in the coming years. Engagements with NGOs, networks, and journalists allowed WPDI to continually adapt its projects to the rapidly changing environment. Meanwhile, summer courses and Cinema for Peace sessions helped strengthen connections with local communities, fostering an atmosphere of trust and solidarity built in previous periods. Furthermore, the continuation of activities in both urban and rural schools has reinforced partnerships with educational institutions, which are increasingly recognized as safe spaces for children, youth, WPDI staff, and partners.

Training activities in ICTs and Social Entrepreneurship have also contributed to raising awareness of WPDI's educational programs in various communities,

encouraging youth participation in the project. WPDI's collaboration with both international and national allies, including the Permanent Secretariat of the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, Jornada de Derechos Humanos, and the Plataforma por la Paz en México, has expanded the reach, methodology, and impact of its work into other states, such as Yucatán, Nuevo León, and Oaxaca.

The positive outcomes of these partnerships are evident in the conflict resolution training provided to university students in Yucatán and the participation of a Youth Peacebuilder at the XIX World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Nuevo León. These exchange opportunities allow young leaders from Chiapas to gain valuable insights from other contexts, strengthen their skills, and contribute to the development of a National Network of Youth Peacebuilders.



TIJUANA



Introduction

In 2024, Tijuana remained one of the most violent cities globally, driven by intense cartel rivalries and organized crime. The newly elected president, inaugurated in October 2024, launched a new security strategy targeting Mexico's most violent cities, including Tijuana. Her plan emphasized intelligence-led policing, enhanced coordination with law enforcement, and judicial reforms, aiming to reduce homicides and curb cartel influence. Despite these efforts, violence persisted. Its status as a border city with the United States makes Tijuana an obligatory

passage for people in a context of mobility, both documented and undocumented. In this context of insecurity and violence, one of the most important challenges was to generate trust to promote and deliver our training, which is why we have chosen to go to the communities themselves to offer the training. WPDI has built a network of stakeholders which include local NGOs and public sector entities. It is through them that WPDI Tijuana is able to reach migrant women and youth from the most vulnerable communities.



Vectors of Change

VECTORS OF CHANGE

844

CLC
visitors

15

Lead Youth
Peacemakers

1,178

Individuals reached by Lead
Peacemakers

Youth Peacemakers

The ability of individuals to effectively respond to shocks and crises is key to ensure that they are resilient and can address the challenges faced by their communities. However, prolonged exposure to armed conflict, pervasive violence, economic hardship, and social or geographic marginalization can erode the strengths that individuals need to foster dialogue, promote peace, or spearhead initiatives for collective growth. By WPDI's observation, the lack of such internal capacities is often a characteristic of communities affected by fragility and vulnerability.

The Youth Peacemaker Network (YPN) addresses this gap by empowering young men and women from these communities. Through an intensive multi-month Training of Trainer covering Conflict Resolution Education and vocational skills, these youth leaders are equipped to drive positive transformation and lasting peace within their communities.

These 15 youths that have been in the network of WPDI for years continue to be an asset for the community and for WPDI, since they will be mobilized to lead projects on the grassroots on our behalf.

Community Learning Center

As the embodiment of our strategy to work from the grassroots in our target locations, the Tijuana Community Learning Center serves the community of La Mesa. Strategically located between one of the wealthiest and seemingly more "secure" areas of the city (Colonia Hipódromo) and, in stark contrast, one of Tijuana's most violent and unsafe neighborhoods (Camino Verde), which also happens to be the main gateway to the entire eastern part of the city, the Community Learning Center is easily accessible to the population that relies on public transportation.

In addition to trainees, 844 visitors came to benefit from the "reading corner", the access to connectivity and one-to-one support on specific ICT inquiries. This also contributes to the vibrance of the space seen as a resource for those most vulnerable in the city.



Peacebuilding

Peace Among Community Members



Community Dialogues

Community dialogues are central to our organization’s mission, providing platforms that foster understanding, collaboration, and actionable solutions within communities. These structured engagements unite diverse stakeholders to address pertinent issues and develop concrete plans for sustainable change.

In 2024, we conducted two community dialogues with students in Tijuana, responding to the city’s evolving political and social landscape. Tijuana’s high levels of violence, particularly affecting youth, underscored

the necessity of these discussions. From the initial implementation request, we gather feedback to tailor each dialogue to specific community conflicts and needs.

The community dialogues were held at the Autonomous University of Coahuila and at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California. The discussion focused on the challenges of mediation efforts in complex environments like Tijuana. Participants reflected on ways students could engage in community leadership.



“I had heard of nonprofit organizations promoting peace, but I didn’t realize an international organization was active in my country. I’m familiar with Forest Whitaker’s work and appreciate the fact that he takes an interest in our challenges. As an activist and a participant in my neighborhood watch program, this inspires me—I know I’m not alone in caring about others.”

Sara Morales,
Student



“Human rights, dignity, and respect are fundamental. We must not take them for granted. These are essential skills for becoming leaders in our community.”

Cecilia,
Student



“Transformative leadership seeks sustainable change, and I’ve learned that in my peace-seeking journey. Positive leadership is essential.”

Mayren,
Student



Make Peace Happen

Context and Dialogue Summary

In March 2024, WPDI facilitated a virtual community dialogue with students from Universidad de Coahuila, focusing on Making Peace Happen. The session introduced participants to conflict resolution strategies and emphasized the role of mediation in fostering peace. Students shared their experience and the challenges in being a force for mediation. A notable point was on the importance of starting small. Even small actions could contribute to larger peacebuilding efforts, particularly in communities affected by violence.

Stakeholder Perspectives

"Before this program, I never realized the deep connection between peace and conflict resolution. As an economics student, I had never engaged with these topics, but this experience changed my perspective. Through WPDI's 'Make Peace Happen' program, I gained essential mediation skills and discovered my passion for peacebuilding. Sarah, our trainer, has been a great inspiration. Now, I want to integrate conflict resolution into my professional future and contribute to peace efforts, even in communities like Tijuana and Coahuila, where youth are often exposed to violence due to their geographical location." Jairo Morales Rodríguez, participant

Community Leaders Training

In addition to hosting community dialogues, WPDI is committed to delivering Conflict Resolution Education training to empower community leaders, providing them with an array of tools to address tensions and conflicts arising in their communities in a peaceful manner. Recognizing the pivotal position these leaders have for fostering sustainable peace, the trainings are strategically conducted following community dialogues to ensure that the momentum towards peace is maintained in the long-term.

After a three-week long process, a group of 30 activists attended the training in hopes to build skills to have a bigger impact through the various causes they advocate for. Some trainees also worked at the Human Rights Commission, so some of the exercises could be applied to their everyday work.

The topics covered by the trainer were:

- What is peace?
- Types of conflict
- Positions, interests and needs
- Emotions
- Identity
- Conflict as opportunity or conflict as harm
- Human rights
- Conflict
- Approaches
- Transforming the conflict
- Mediation
- Overview and reflection of the course





“What struck me the most is that if there is an organization that is doing things well and with form and substance, my education is in business, so I pay a lot of attention to structures, systems, correlations, etc. It also opened my vision to know that there is a vast and extensive literature on the subject of Peace, formal, what changed my vision of seeing the things of building peace was the process of associative mediation and its wide applications, which to date I use as part of my tools.”

Jonathan Jorge Ramirez,
Independent social activist



“It is a very good course that will help us to understand the present facts and support us to build peace with other people. I found the content very complete and the presentations very well explained.”

Ulises Alonso,
Human Rights Commission



Training Youth in Detention Centers

9 Youths in Prison Reached for Rehabilitation

This year, WPDJ continued its efforts to address the root causes of conflict by providing training in detention centers for youth. Recognizing the heightened vulnerability of young individuals who engage in criminal activity due to a multitude of unmet needs and limited opportunities, we conducted a series of training sessions at the request of these facilities for the third consecutive year. The objective of our training program within these detention centers is to enhance communication channels and knowledge dissemination, and to

provide timely information and tools for deepening peacebuilding efforts and conflict resolution skills. Additionally, our program aims to support staff performance improvement and prevent human rights violations within these facilities. Through these initiatives, we are committed to empowering young individuals in detention centers with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate conflict situations constructively, ultimately contributing to a safer and more peaceful environment for all involved.



Conflict Resolution Education Training

344 Conflict Resolution Education Trainees

WPDI remains committed to promoting peaceful and inclusive communities, empowering youth with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate challenges and contribute positively to society. The Conflict Resolution Education training builds the capacity of trainees to mediate and understand conflict as well as understanding how to better

approach challenges in their community to promote peaceful coexistence. The courses are divided into three levels: basic, intermediate and advanced. WPDI had groups both online and in person at a center. The program also focused on new topics to be worked on through exercises such as “how anxiety affects our community.”



“Living close to the center, I always wondered why that office always seemed so full during the weekends. Seeing my neighbor prompted me to inquire about what they did and I ended up signing up to the CRE training. I learned how to breathe properly, how to choose my words carefully and how big of an impact I can have as a mother on my children and family. The knowledge I learned is priceless and I am happy with going back to “school” even at this age.”

Alba,
CRE trainee

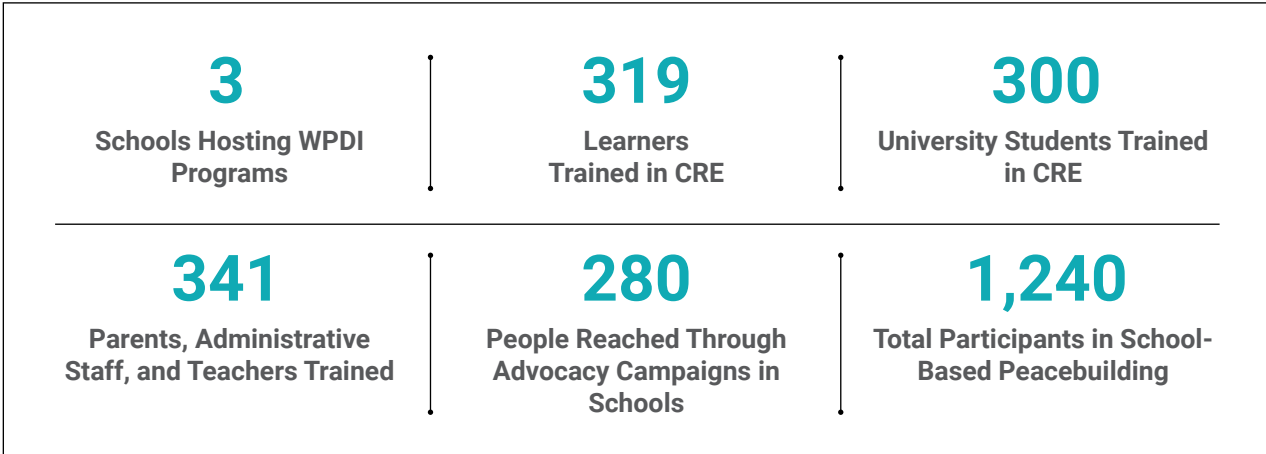


“I learned about this opportunity through social media and was surprised about it being free of cost. I am happy to be a part of such a diverse group and very glad the trainer is so flexible as the trainer provided the training entirely online. I could rewatch videos and take notes to do my exercises. I am happy to be back later on”

Yolanda,
51, trainee



Peace Education in Schools



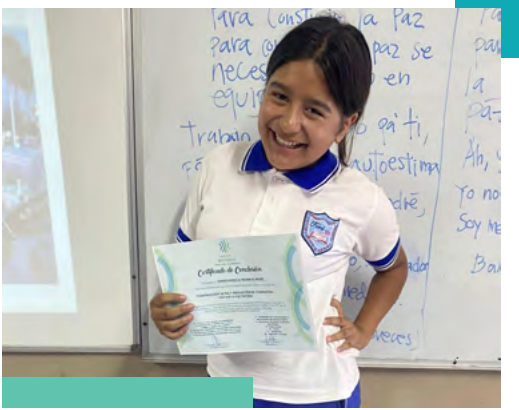
Despite ongoing challenges such as academic disruptions in schools, we successfully implemented our training program, thanks in part to collaborations with local stakeholders and to alliances forged in previous years with the Ministry of Education at both the state and municipal levels. These partnerships enabled us to effectively serve the areas of Tijuana identified as “most vulnerable” by municipal authorities. In line with the core of our approach, namely that “peace is a skill”, we provided Conflict Resolution Education at schools, for students, parents and teachers.

These two schools were selected originally due to their high levels of teenage pregnancy and poor literacy rates among youth.

In addition, WPDI delivered its peacebuilding training to students in one secondary school and one high school. Indeed, the program had a special impact for participants since the exercises were designed to promote better communication between adults and youth which could ultimately accomplish more respectful environments and clear boundaries.

This year, WPDI started working with two elementary schools. Both institutions are located in highly vulnerable and underprivileged areas of our city.





“I was very excited to learn other things aside from grammar, geography and math. I am happy to learn about how I am important, how I can create peace in my school and at home. It is not only a grown up’s job, everyone can do it. We are all important and we all should learn how to meditate in order to feel happier. I will share what I learned with my mom, she is very happy with my training.”

Noami Zarate,
11 years old, Ford 101 elementary school



“I loved to meditate and do exercises with breathing. I have learned that problems are not really all bad, they are things we have to face to learn more about ourselves. I will continue to breathe so I don’t get angry or sad, I will be happy despite bad things that can happen to me, and I will also try to make others happy.”

Sofia Krystel Valencia,
11 years old:



Pablo L. Martínez Elementary School

Pablo L. Martínez Elementary School is situated in the Obrera neighborhood, a highly vulnerable area close to migrant shelters. Children attending this school live in an unsafe environment, and there is a notable lack of parental involvement in their schooling. WPDI introduced a conflict resolution program at this school to help improve the school environment and increase social cohesion. Over time, and despite initial skepticism from both students and parents, the program began to show remarkable results. The students exhibited noticeable improvements in their behavior and understanding of conflict resolution. This evolution did not go unnoticed by their parents, who started expressing positive opinions about WPDI’s work. As the program progressed, parents were invited to the graduation ceremony to interact with the WPDI team. This event marked a turning point, as parents grew to appreciate the program’s impact on their children.

“Before, I thought they were going to deliver talks about what is good and bad, but it was very different. They presented talks about peace, emotions and it was very fun.”

Katherine Leonor



“I used to think that fighting was going to help me in life, but now that I know the program, I know it is bad.”

Ivan



Signing of Collaboration Agreement with Universidad Autónoma de Baja California

300 university students were trained in Conflict Resolution Education from June to September 2024, following the formalization of a specific agreement with Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC). Although a general collaboration agreement was already in place, this specific agreement

outlined the course details, including the use of the MOOC platform and evaluation methods conducted by WPDI trainers. This signing occurred immediately following our Community Dialogue with UABC students on September 24, 2024, in celebration of International Peace Day.



Livelihood

Capacity-Building Courses

215 Total trainees in vocational courses

177

ICT
trainees

38

Arts and
Crafts trainees

Our program encompasses vocational training, cooperative business development, and SME-funding and support opportunities, enabling participants to enhance their career prospects and

realize their entrepreneurial dreams. Moreover, successful graduates gain access to business plan competitions, where promising ideas are selected for further incubation.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

122

ICT Adult Trainees

12

ICT Online Trainees

43

ICT Children Trainees

Our ICT training remained highly sought-after in Tijuana, reflecting the significant local demand for computer literacy skills. WPDI has established itself as a leading institution in this field. Our training remains cost-free and accessible for everyone. The trainer conducts an online registration process through posts on social media platforms, while also accommodating individuals who visit our CLC and express specific training needs. Participants, depending on their prior knowledge, can attend

Basic, Intermediate or Advanced training courses. Advanced learners benefited from specialized sessions such as Online Advanced Excel and Canva Design Training. Intermediate-level ICT skills were imparted through in-person classes, while foundational Excel skills were available both online and in person. Additionally, the center organized Spring and Summer Camps designed to engage children with educational activities during school breaks.



"Participating in the beginner and intermediate ICT training sessions has boosted my confidence at work by allowing me to apply what I learned at WPDI. Realizing the potential for further improvement, I plan to continue attending courses to enhance my skills. Despite not having prior computer knowledge, I'm pleased to report that I can now navigate my ICT needs effectively. As an older individual, this achievement is significant, and I've found a welcoming community at WPDI. I'm grateful for the altruistic work of actor Forest Whitaker, whom we admire greatly. Thank you."

Jorge Alberto Félix Ruiz



"I am an active participant in ICT courses. I have completed the Basic Level, Basic Excel, and recently the Intermediate Excel course. Previously employed professionally, I now face mobility challenges with one leg and am nearly 60 years old. Leveraging my newly acquired ICT skills, I started a business selling gifts and prints. I assist with passport appointments, download official documents, make copies, prints, and sell gifts and accessories. Grateful to WPDI Tijuana, I have referred over six individuals to your courses and remain an essential, active member of our community."

María Victoria Peralta Falcón



ICT for Children

WPDI offers ICT training to underprivileged children in Tijuana to equip them with essential digital skills and thrive in today's interconnected world. Given the popularity of the program, we have increased our offering of ICT courses for children and delivered three intensive courses during the holiday breaks.

The parents registered their children and stayed at the CLC during these sessions. Over one to two weeks, we engage participants in technology-focused activities, including robotics, electronics, 3D modeling and printing, character creation, video game design, and programming.



"This is my second year coming here. I love machines and learning about how they work. I had fun, played with new friends, and enjoyed my snacks. I am happy to be here."

Lucio Velazquez, 12



"My mom used to come to this school, so I feel at home, safe, and happy here with WPDI. I look forward to my next training."

Rebecca, 9



Supporting Income-Generating Projects

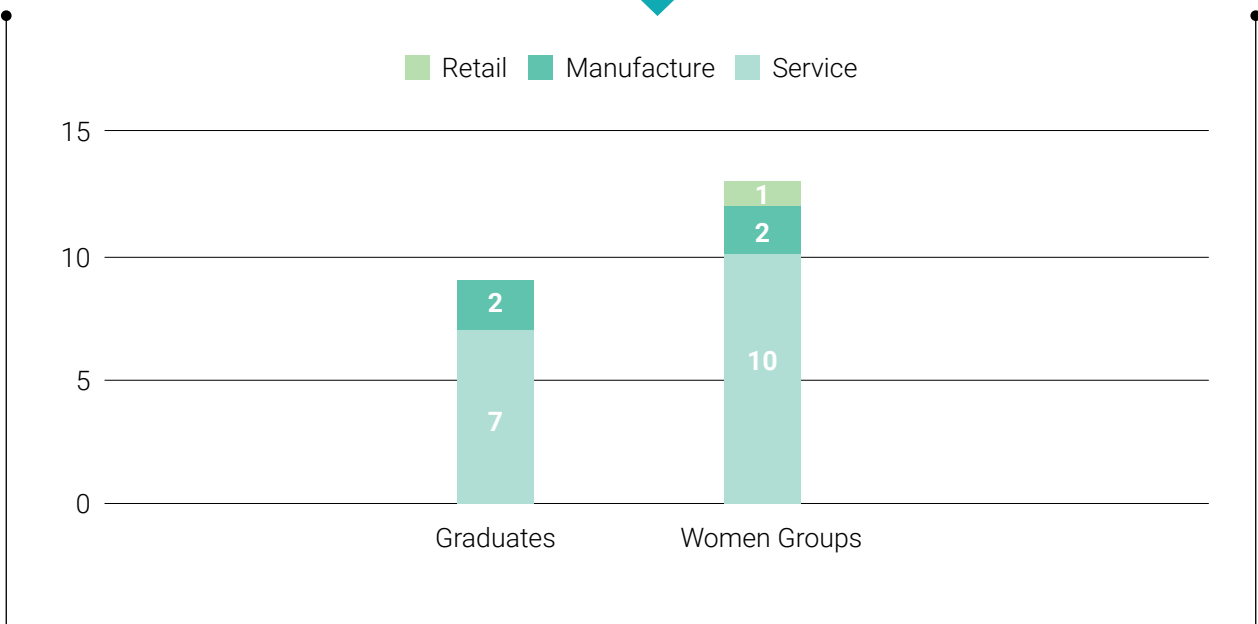
The Business and Entrepreneurship program, conducted at our Community Learning Center, fosters economic empowerment and opportunity. With sessions typically spanning three months and offered free of charge, our program attracts participants from diverse backgrounds and ages across the city. Through an open registration process facilitated by Google Forms, we ensure inclusivity and accessibility, tailoring training schedules to meet the preferences of our trainees.

Graduates of our program report tangible outcomes, including increased income, career advancement, pursuit of further education, and successful business launches. Additionally, they have the opportunity to

participate in our business bootcamp, where they receive guidance in developing robust business plans and compete for funding and support. Beyond the skills acquired during the course, the in-person training fosters a strong support network among trainees. We also provide assistance to migrant trainees seeking guidance on paperwork, translation, and job placement.

Throughout 2024, we provided monitoring and incubation services to the 22 businesses supported through our business platform. Through continued mentorship, advisory services, and networking opportunities, we ensured that these entrepreneurs could sustain and grow their businesses.

Types of active businesses launched by women groups and graduate trainees in Tijuana



Tamales Vi Ve Va

Background

Rosa Esmeralda never imagined she could own her own business. Just a year and a half ago, she made her first batch of tamales and participated in an event organized by the Municipal Institute for Women. They sold out completely. Encouraged by this success, she decided to continue selling her tamales at local flea markets, where she has since built a thriving business.

Discovering the WPDI Program

Through the WPDI Bootcamp program, she gained skills in budgeting and marketing—knowledge that would help her take her business to the next level.

WPDI provided essential training at both basic and intermediate levels, equipping Rosa Esmeralda with the skills she needed to manage her business effectively. The program also helped her develop public speaking skills, boosting her confidence as an entrepreneur. WPDI awarded her funding and backstopping support to scale her business.

Reflecting on her experience, Rosa Esmeralda shared

“Thanks to WPDI, I realized that I too could achieve my goals and fulfill my dreams. Winning this grant was something I never imagined possible! About a year and a half ago, I sold my tamales for the first time, and now it has become my family’s primary source of income. It’s a family business, and I can share all the knowledge I’ve gained with my team. I am also exploring additional funding opportunities and networking with other small business owners. Thanks to WPDI, I feel like I am part of a supportive community.”

More about Tamales Vi Ve Va

Tamales Vi Ve Va is a small business specializing in handmade tamales sold at local flea markets throughout Tijuana. The business operates five days a week, from 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with a strong presence in the East Side and Downtown areas.

Rosa Esmeralda is supported by her husband and son, who assist with product handling, social media management, and sales, while she focuses on preparation and quality control. Together, they have turned a simple passion into a thriving family business with a bright future.



38 Arts and Crafts Trainees

In 2024, WPDI Tijuana introduced its first Arts and Crafts workshop at the Community Learning Center, creating a dedicated space for artistic expression and therapeutic healing. Led by painter and art therapist Leticia Abegail, the five-week Art Therapy Workshop provided vulnerable women with a safe environment to explore creativity as a means of emotional

resilience and empowerment. Through guided discussions and expressive painting exercises, participants—many of whom were survivors of violence—found support, self-awareness, and a renewed sense of confidence. The program fostered deep connections among the women, culminating in a powerful and transformative experience.



Irene Macías tells her story

One of the program's graduates, Irene Macías, is a 30-year-old entrepreneur and single mother. A survivor of domestic violence, she has dedicated herself to promoting self-confidence and self-love among women navigating separation or abusive relationships. She runs a successful beauty business specializing in eyebrow shaping and is now the Representative for Young Women Entrepreneurs at

CANACO, Tijuana's National Commerce Chamber. Having followed Leticia Abegail's work for years, Irene saw the workshop as an opportunity to connect with other women and explore art therapy for the first time. Initially hesitant about networking as a young female entrepreneur, she found strength and inspiration in the supportive environment WPDI provided.



"I first learned about WPDI through Lety Abegail's social media. Meeting other women who have also struggled to get to where they are was incredibly inspiring. I also discovered WPDI's other programs, like ICT—I couldn't believe such a dedicated effort was happening in my own city!" — Irene Macías

Community Outreach

Radio Talk Shows

Throughout the year, WPDI actively engages in media interventions to raise awareness on critical issues, promote peace, and inform the public about our ongoing work. Participating in radio programs allows us to reach diverse audiences, fostering community engagement and dialogue.

Radio Talk Show with the Municipal Institute for Women

WPDI was featured in an interview on a local radio show hosted by the Municipal Institute for Women and broadcasted via their social media platforms. The program reached approximately 1000 listeners. Among the key topics discussed, WPDI emphasized the importance of mental health and crisis management.

Radio Show Appearance on “Words in Orbit”

WPDI appeared on Words in Orbit, a radio show hosted by Monica Peraza on Conexión Radio. The discussion

focused on the mission and impact of WPDI, with a particular emphasis on our work in Mexico. This regional broadcast reached approximately 1,000 listeners, providing an opportunity to share insights into our initiatives and engage with a broader audience.

Through these media engagements, WPDI continues to foster awareness, encourage community involvement, and promote peacebuilding efforts within the region.

“My long-time collaboration with WPDI Tijuana has shown me the power of community. It is always inspiring to see individuals who go above and beyond to share valuable information and support our citizens—not out of obligation, but because they genuinely care. I want to thank this incredible nonprofit organization for their work and for today’s session. We will continue promoting their business training programs and now, the mental health resources they provide.” Salma Robledo, interviewer

Peacebuilding Events

450 Participants in Community-based Events

Fostering a culture of peace in regions long affected by conflict, violence, and fragility necessitates promoting essential values, attitudes, and behaviors at the grassroots level. To this end, WPDI’s advocacy campaigns strive to inspire, enable, and empower women and youth as champions for peace and human rights. Whether conducted in schools or within communities surrounding our Community Learning Centers, these initiatives aim to amplify voices on issues impacting peace, health, and productivity, equipping advocates with the tools to navigate appropriate channels for change. Ultimately, the goal is to cultivate an environment conducive to sustainable, community-driven transformation.

Participation in Peace Through Forgiveness Foundation Event

On June 23, 2024, WPDI attended the Partner Brainstorm Meeting organized by the Peace Through Forgiveness Foundation, led by Mr. Azim Khamisa. The event convened over 30 organizations dedicated to promoting peace and forgiveness, facilitating collaborative discussions and idea-sharing among like-minded entities. Through these strategic collaborations and community engagements, WPDI continues to advance its mission of empowering individuals and fostering sustainable peace within communities.



WPDI Tijuana Conclusion

Despite the numerous security challenges and limitations faced throughout 2024, WPDI has remained steadfast in its mission to promote lasting peace and sustainable development in Tijuana. Our continued presence in the community has been a beacon of resilience, demonstrating that even in the most difficult circumstances, positive change is possible.

The trust we have built with local communities, civil society organizations, and educational institutions has been instrumental for our ability to deliver impactful programs in times of heightened uncertainty. This network of allies has not only supported our efforts but has also actively requested our training, recognizing the positive changes brought

about by our initiatives, highlighting the relevance and reputation of our programs. Throughout the year, the engagement of parents, teachers, and local leaders in our programs has created a synergy favorable to peace and conflict resolution, further strengthening the community's capacity for stability and resilience.

As we look forward to the coming year, the lessons learned from our experiences in 2024 will be key in helping communities regain their capacity for stability and resilience. As we move forward, WPDI remains committed to fostering an environment where peace and sustainable development can flourish, ensuring that the communities we serve are equipped to face the future with confidence and strength.



General Conclusion

Throughout 2024, WPDI faced numerous implementation challenges, including escalating violence, political instability, and logistical difficulties in both Chiapas and Tijuana. Establishing connections and alliances with local stakeholders was particularly challenging due to the highly degraded security context, making it difficult to establish trust with new partners. Despite these obstacles, WPDI successfully adapted its work plan to the constantly changing context and the evolving needs of its beneficiaries.

Notable successes in program management include the consolidation of new cohorts of Youth Peacebuilders, the strengthening of partnerships with educational institutions, and the expansion of our impact through collaborations with national and

international organizations. These achievements have reinforced WPDI's reputation and effectiveness in promoting peace and sustainable development.

Looking forward, WPDI remains committed to empowering communities with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate challenges and promote peaceful coexistence. The lessons learned from our experiences in 2024 will be key in helping communities regain their capacity for stability and resilience. By continuing to deliver training and support directly within communities, WPDI aims to lay the foundation for a brighter, more hopeful future, ensuring that the communities we serve are equipped to face the future with confidence and strength.



Our Partners



PERMANENT
SECRETARIAT





WHITAKER
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE

WPDI Tijuana
Calle Cananea
14095 Fraccionamiento Sonoita
Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico

WPDI Chiapas
Calle Hermanos Dominguez #25B
Barrio de San Antonio
San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico

Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative
17777 Center Court Drive N. Suite 600.
Cerritos, CA 90703, USA

info@wpdi.org
www.wpdi.org

