



# WPDI SOUTH SUDAN

## 2024 Annual Report

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# Introduction

During 2024, despite the numerous challenges South Sudan faced with regard to security, refugees, internal displacement, floods, famine, and climate-related issues, WPDI, through its flagship Youth Peacemaker Network (YPN) Program, focused on the efficient delivery of its work through the four pillars of intervention: Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution, Economic Development, Sports, and Social and Emotional Learning.

With the goal of advancing community stability through interventions aimed at building community resilience and implementing long-term sustainability plans that harness local resources, such as human capital, and reinforcing local methods and approaches to peacebuilding and livelihoods, WPDI's YPN work covers the three states of the Equatoria region in South Sudan: Eastern Equatoria State (EES), Central Equatoria State (CES), and Western Equatoria State (WES), engaging in almost all of the 28 counties of the region.

WPDI's work in South Sudan became even more crucial in 2024 in the face of intense sub-national violence, a large influx of returnees and refugees, and a severe economic crisis. This crisis worsened due to the war in Sudan, which caused the closure of the oil pipeline that exports crude oil from South Sudan—the country's primary revenue source. As a result, critical services such as education and support to refugees, returnees, IDPs, and locals became more difficult for the country to sustain. In response, our work in community dialogues, reconciliation, peacebuilding outreaches, Conflict Resolution Education in schools and Community Learning Centers (CLCs), Business and Entrepreneurship training (leading to grants to support community income-generating projects or IGPs), and social cohesion programs, such as Cinema for Peace and Peace through Sports, became instrumental. These programs serve as models of how community resilience can work effectively in the face of multiple, complex emergencies.



Therefore, to contribute to its overall objectives, during this reporting period, WPDI's YPN Program made tremendous progress across its four pillars. Under the Peacebuilding pillar, efforts aimed at reducing violence included high-level political and religious engagements, civil-military and civilian-to-civilian dialogues, peacebuilding outreach and reconciliation initiatives, and the coordination of conflict resolution work with county peace committees, particularly in Kajo-Keji and Yei counties. These initiatives all contribute to fostering peaceful coexistence by addressing intercommunal tensions, which have arisen in some intervention areas. Activities such as Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) training and trauma healing education complemented the multi-level peacebuilding work, focusing on equipping communities with the tools needed to manage conflicts and facilitate social cohesion. Initiatives like "Cinema for Peace" and our "Peace Through Sports" program, including the 2024 Whitaker Peace Tournament, were instrumental in promoting non-violent community engagement.

Under the Livelihood pillar, the focus was on human capital development and livelihoods support. Activities such as agricultural training, Business and Entrepreneurship training, and vocational education are imparted to recipients, contributing to sustainable livelihoods for returnees, internally displaced populations (IDPs), and host communities. Efforts to raise awareness on climate change and rehabilitate infrastructure, like our network of CLCs, are also aimed at improving socio-economic conditions. Several IGPs were rolled out, with

encouraging results that have benefited both the recipients and the wider communities where the initiatives were implemented. The program activities under this pillar are on track, and these efforts are expected to support long-term peace and resilience across WPDI's intervention areas.

Under the Health and Well-being pillar, the YPN program scaled up several efforts in 2024 to strengthen community outreach initiatives focused on mental health awareness and trauma healing. Sexual and reproductive health awareness engagements were rolled out in the CLCs in Yambio, WES. Engagement with women and youth through the CLCs, Community Social Spots, and schools was fully initiated with great success. These activities are intended to lay the groundwork for stronger relationships between citizens and improve their mental wellbeing.

Finally, 2024 was the first year WPDI was able to scale the Sports pillar and successfully harnessed the unifying power of sports to bridge cultural, religious, and national divides. By engaging young people in values-infused athletics, the program instills attitudes of teamwork, mutual respect, and fair play while providing a constructive outlet for trauma recovery. A key aspect of the program also lies in its capacity for reaching out to large audiences on the occasion of games and competitions. Teams established and supported under this program practice regularly and also engage in workshops that focus on values like peace and tolerance, as well as awareness sessions on trauma healing.





# Key Figures

**152,654** TOTAL PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH WPDI ACTIVITIES IN 2024

**35,730**

WES

**80,595**

CES

**36,329**

EES

## VECTORS OF CHANGE

**8,709**

CLC visitors

**53**

Lead Youth  
Peacemakers

**345**

Local Youth  
Peacemakers

**398**

Total Youth  
Peacemakers

**91,789**

Individuals  
Reached by Lead  
Peacemakers

## PEACEBUILDING

### Capacity-Building

**1,314**

Conflict Resolution  
Education trainees

**7,113**

Participants in  
Cinema for Peace

**8,393**

Participants in CLC  
Advocacy campaigns

**16,820**

Total  
Beneficiaries

### Peacebuilding in Schools

**117**

Schools Hosting  
WPDI Programs

**13,759**

Learners Trained  
in CRE

**558**

Parents, Admin, and  
Teachers Trained

**36,332**

People Reached  
Through Advocacy  
Campaigns

**50,091**

Total Participants  
in School-Based  
Peacebuilding

### Peacebuilding in the Community

**21**

Community  
Dialogues Held

**1,775**

Participants in Community  
Dialogues

**1,171**

Local Leaders  
Trained

**2,946**

Total Participants  
in Community-Level  
Peacebuilding

## LIVELIHOOD

### Trainees in Vocational Courses

**2,011**

ICT  
Trainees

**2,113**

Entrepreneurship Trainees

**114**

Vulnerable Women Trained  
in Business

**4,238**

Total Trainees in Vocational  
Courses

### SMEs Beneficiaries

**160**

SMEs Created  
in 2024

**326**

SMEs Supported by  
WPDI in Total

**1,080**

Jobs  
Created

**3,293**

Indirect Beneficiaries of  
Businesses (families)

**4,373**

Beneficiaries  
of All SMEs

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**453**

Sexual & Reproductive Health  
Individual Beneficiaries

**498**

Trauma Healing Individual  
Beneficiaries

**470**

Trauma Healing Event  
Participants

**1,421**

Total Health and Well-being  
Participants

## PEACE THROUGH SPORTS

**72**

Teams Managed  
by WPDI

**1,096**

Regular Training  
Participants

**62,004**

Participants in Competition  
Events

**63,100**

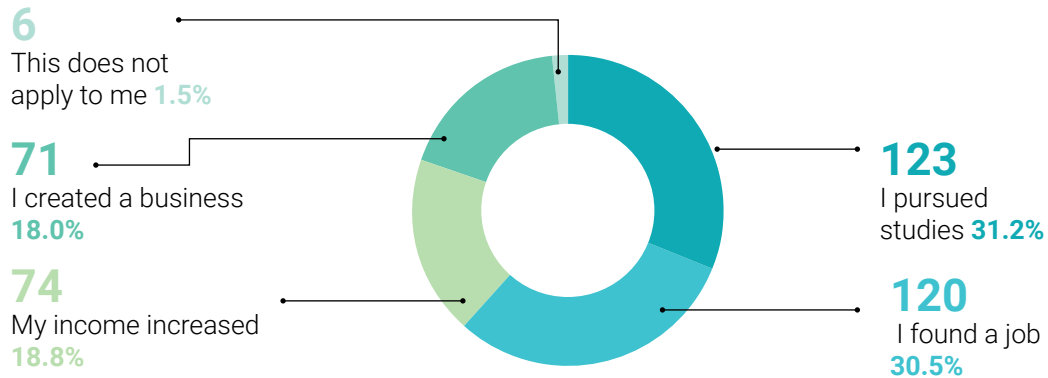
Participants in All  
sportive activities



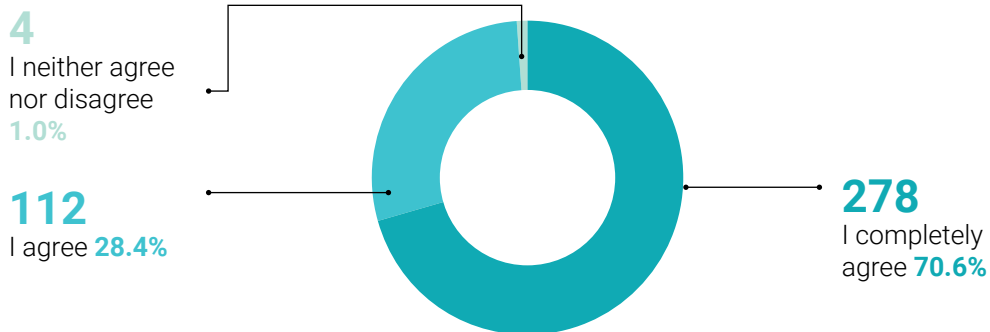
# Survey Results

Every year, we deliver post-training questionnaires to graduate trainees to assess the impact of our vocational training. This year, 394 respondents provided feedback.

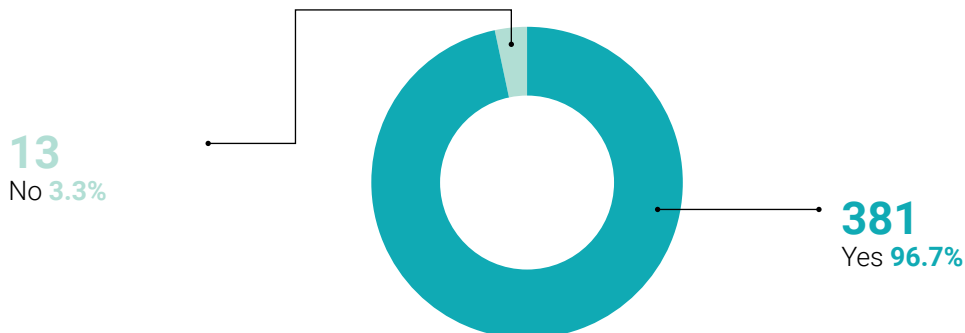
## In what ways has the program improved your career prospects?



## To what extent do you agree that you have been able to apply the knowledge and skills learned from WPDl in your personal or professional life?



## Have you ever recommended the WPDl program to other people?





# Feedback from Local & National Stakeholders

"I am thankful to WPDl for empowering us with knowledge and skills in the areas of conflict resolution and peacebuilding. We are very satisfied with the training program, and I believe that lawmakers will be effective in their work and ensure the state attains the required peace. The conflict analysis tools, especially the conflict tree tool, are what we are going to use to analyze the numerous conflict issues and pass bills that will safeguard security and peace in the state."

**Honorable Lorna,**  
Member of Parliament, Central Equatoria State



"WPDl stands out as one of the foremost organizations supporting the Ministry of Peacebuilding and the people of South Sudan. We recognize and appreciate the significant contributions WPDl has made through impactful Community Dialogues and peace conferences. These initiatives have empowered our communities and fostered a climate of relative peace. We are grateful for their unwavering commitment to our shared goals."

**Honorable Gerald Francis,**  
Minister of Peacebuilding, South Sudan





# Vectors of Change

## 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

CLC Visitors			
4,458 WES	1,457 CES	2,794 EES	8,709 TOTAL
Lead Youth Peacemakers			
10 WES	31 CES	12 EES	53 TOTAL
Local Youth Peacemakers			
13 WES	320 CES	12 EES	345 TOTAL
Total Youth Peacemakers			
23 WES	351 CES	24 EES	398 TOTAL
Individuals Reached by Lead Peacemakers			
27,110 WES	38,758 CES	25,921 EES	91,789 TOTAL



# Empowering Lead Peacemakers to Create Lasting Change

During this reporting period, WPDl engaged a total of 53 Lead Youth Peacemakers, supported by 345 local youths as part of its workforce across the three states.

These youths are instrumental in WPDl's goal of achieving program outcomes at all levels of our project interactions with the communities and stakeholders. The youth leaders are our "boundary partners," with whom the YPN program interacts directly and with whom WPDl anticipates opportunities to influence positive behavioral change in order to achieve the objectives of our pillars of intervention. It is important to note that this year, the Lead Youth Peacemakers focused on implementing peace education in schools, carrying out advocacy campaigns, and promoting peace through community dialogues. In schools, they established Peace Clubs, delivered Conflict Resolution Education to students, and organized advocacy campaigns to raise awareness of various issues affecting the communities in which they live and work. They also supported training initiatives at the CLCs and contributed to film screenings and sporting activities.

In 2024, Lead and Local Youth Peacemakers made significant progress in addressing community challenges and promoting peace. In Torit, Eastern Equatoria State (EES), their advocacy efforts united parents, education officials, and Water, Sanitation,

and Hygiene (WASH) partners to improve student access to water and sanitation facilities. They organized community dialogues that facilitated meaningful discussions between youth, community leaders, and political figures. Additionally, they trained local leaders in peacebuilding, human rights, conflict resolution, and leadership, demonstrating a commitment to sustainable change. In Western Equatoria State (WES), they conducted peacebuilding training for teachers, equipping educators to foster a culture of peace in schools and communities. In Juba County, training for 12 Lead Youth Peacemakers focused on trauma healing, enabling them to reach over 700 students, 100 community members, and 30 youth at the Community Learning Center in Kugi, Juba, Central Equatoria State (CES). Furthermore, during the Whitaker Peace Tournament from November to December 2024, they shared trauma healing messages with 300 football players in Juba.

The reception in the communities has always been overwhelmingly positive. WPDl has consistently been asked to continue with the activities or expand to other areas. This is typically exemplified by the testimonials community members provide and through post-activity surveys conducted to measure the impact and perception of the targeted groups and communities.





“Before joining WPD, my future felt uncertain amid the turmoil of civil war. In 2018, everything changed when I had the opportunity to train as a peacemaker through WPD’s YPN program. With dedication, I completed the extensive training and began facilitating conflict resolution education, community dialogues, and advocacy campaigns. My work has impacted countless lives, promoting peace and security while improving my own livelihood. WPD’s support has enabled me to provide for my family and even travel abroad—opportunities I never imagined possible. I am deeply grateful for the transformation WPD has brought to my life.”

**Dusuman Joseph,**  
Lead Youth Peacemaker



“I am honored to serve as a Youth Peacemaker with WPD. Over the past five years, I have trained individuals in conflict resolution, equipping them with the skills to address disputes constructively. As a facilitator in the Trauma Healing program, I have led workshops on mediation, negotiation, and dialogue, witnessing firsthand how education empowers communities to foster peace. The resilience and dedication of those we serve continue to inspire me. I am deeply grateful to WPD for this opportunity and remain committed to advancing peace and conflict resolution.”

**Alier Elijah,**  
Youth Peacemaker





# Community Learning Centers (CLCs)

WPDI operates a network of eight Community Learning Centers (CLCs) across its areas of intervention, providing critical education and engagement opportunities for youth, women, and community members. These CLCs are across EES, CES, and WES. The five centers offer courses in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Conflict Resolution Education (CRE), and Business and Entrepreneurship. Awareness events are a major component of WPDI's efforts

conducted across all CLCs. These events include peace engagement days, advocacy campaigns, and sports-based peacebuilding initiatives. Events convene local communities, whether around sports or awareness on a particular issue, and provide a platform for community leaders and participants to discuss pressing concerns and promote messages of forgiveness and reconciliation. Through advocacy campaigns, voices advocating for gender equality and social cohesion have been amplified.







# Peacebuilding

WPDI's Peacebuilding Programs are at the core of our mission, fostering resilience and unity through grassroots initiatives that empower individuals to become active agents of peace. We focus on conflict mediation, advocacy, and conflict resolution training, working closely with local leaders, youth, and educators to bridge divides and build sustainable dialogue. Our programs engage communities through large-scale dialogues, youth empowerment initiatives, and peace education in schools. We advocate for peace through workshops, campaigns, and cultural events that promote nonviolence and human rights. Our impact is reflected in the real-world application of our training, with 98% of former participants actively using their skills to resolve conflicts and strengthen social cohesion.



## 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

### CRE Trainees at CLCs

**660**

WES

**234**

CES

**420**

EES

**1,314**

TOTAL

### Advocacy Campaigns and Cinema for Peace Participants

**5,111**

WES

**4,147**

CES

**6,248**

EES

**15,506**

TOTAL

### Partner Schools

**40**

WES

**49**

CES

**28**

EES

**117**

TOTAL

### Participants in School-based Activities

**18,480**

WES

**13,085**

CES

**18,526**

EES

**50,091**

TOTAL

### Community Dialogues

**5**

WES

**12**

CES

**4**

EES

**21**

TOTAL

### Participants in Dialogues

**-**

WES

**1,481**

CES

**294**

EES

**1,775**

TOTAL

### Community Leaders Trained in CRE

**42**

WES

**1,073**

CES

**56**

EES

**1,171**

TOTAL

### Total Beneficiaries

**24,293**

WES

**20,020**

CES

**25,544**

EES

**69,857**

TOTAL



# External Evaluation of the Activities Carried under the Peacebuilding Pillar

An Africa-based consultancy, QDATAMS, evaluated WPDI's peacebuilding project in South Sudan and Uganda from 2021 to 2024. The evaluation is an important document in that it covered all Peacebuilding pillar activities. The evaluation was highly positive, with local stakeholders advocating for the continuation and expansion of WPDI's efforts.

Key lessons from the QDATAMS report include the importance of empowering local individuals for sustainable peacebuilding and integrating educational initiatives with peacebuilding efforts. This approach highlighted youth as key agents of change, in line with the UN Security Council agenda on Youth Peace and Security. The engagement of all sorts of stakeholders was crucial for the effectiveness, sustainability, and acceptance of the programs. The project addressed the needs of conflict-affected communities by equipping youth with mediation skills and training community members in conflict resolution. WPDI's integration with local actors, such as the police and community leaders, bridged trust gaps and supported local government priorities. The action of WPDI is praised for its efficiency, particularly through the Trainer of Trainer (ToT) model. The transformative impact was evident in improved student behavior, academic

performance, social interactions, strengthened inter-community relations, and economic and social empowerment. The ToT approach and continuous engagement of local leaders ensure the sustainability of the project's achievements.

In sum, the evaluators' report was generally very positive, notably highlighting particular strengths in our implementation:

- **Coherent:** strong coherence on how it enhances efforts of local and national actors
- **Effective:** we were able to fully achieve the objectives of the project
- **Efficient:** remarkable financial and human resources efficiency through carefully designed and executed strategies
- **Impactful:** the project has a transformative impact on targeted communities
- **Sustainable:** the sustainability of the project achievements is supported by several strategic elements, including ToT approach and continuous engagement of local leaders and institutions



## Conflict Resolution Education

Throughout the network of eight CLCs, WPDI conducts comprehensive training in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Covering a wide range of critical topics, including the causes, stages, sources, and types of conflict, the training equips participants with essential skills in conflict analysis,

negotiation, mediation, communication, and human rights. The curriculum is structured into three levels: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced, to ensure that individuals, regardless of their prior knowledge, can engage and grow.



"I am incredibly grateful to the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative for providing such a remarkable opportunity, especially for visually impaired individuals like myself and my three colleagues. Prior to this training, I struggled with managing conflicts within my family. This program has equipped me with essential tools and skills to effectively address conflicts. I have successfully resolved several disputes in my family and community using mediation techniques, which has earned me greater respect as a peacebuilder in my community."

**Robert Lado,**  
trainee, CES



"Today, I am one of the few lucky youth members—graduating in two fields: ICT and CRE. I am grateful to WPDI for availing this rare opportunity. I am now well-positioned to lead the resolution of conflict in my community."

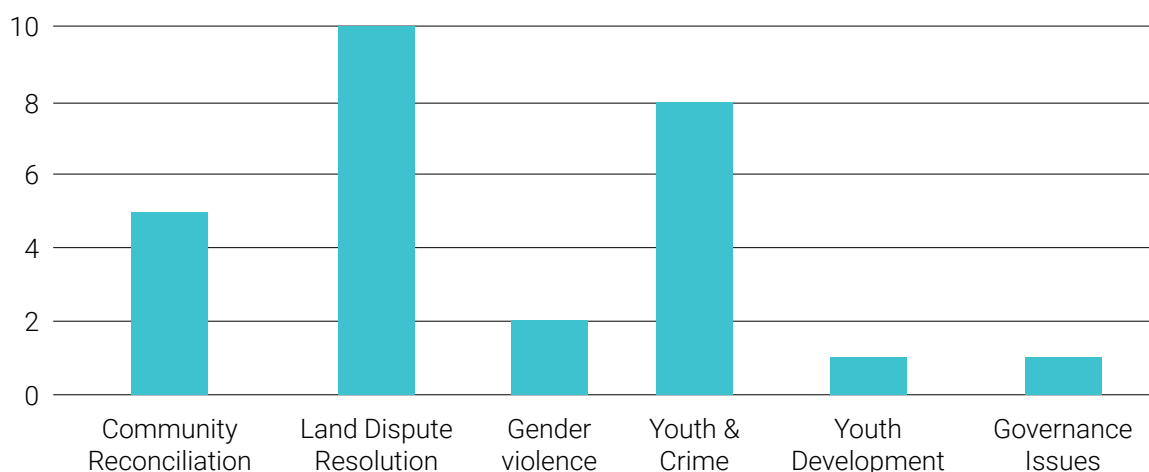
**Sarah Kubana,**  
trainee, EES





# Community Dialogues

Topics covered by Community Dialogues from 2023 to 2024



Community Dialogues bring together diverse communities to address pressing issues and forge pathways to peace and reconciliation. These dialogues, convened by trained youth peacemakers, serve as vital platforms for open discussion on local conflicts and underlying issues such as gender-based violence and human rights violations. By tackling these issues proactively, WPDI's initiatives contribute to reducing conflicts and preventing them from escalating, and promoting a culture of respect and equality. This preventative approach contributes to long-term stability and peace.

The success of community dialogues is therefore based on the participative approach adopted by WPDI, whose staff and youth work with local stakeholders at every stage of the process - the identification of issues, the implementation of the dialogue, and the follow-up. A clear proof of WPDI's success lies in the fact that many of the dialogues are organized at the request of local authorities and organizations who are aware of WPDI's work and trust that it will be an effective partner to help them find solutions of their own to the challenges they face.

In 2024, 21 Community Dialogues were conducted across the YPN Program intervention areas addressing issues such as land disputes, youth violence, governance challenges, and social cohesion.

In Eastern Equatoria, dialogues in Magwi and Lafon counties focused on land encroachments, illegal

sales, and conflicts over ancestral lands, leading to resolutions that emphasized traditional land rights, conflict resolution mechanisms, and community-led governance. In Torit, discussions tackled youth gang violence, with resolutions calling for parental involvement, increased law enforcement, and economic improvements to mitigate crime.

In Central Equatoria, land disputes and youth violence dominated dialogues in Juba and surrounding areas. Efforts in Juba County addressed land grabbing and inadequate governance, resulting in resolutions for stricter enforcement, military withdrawal from civilian land, and improved community awareness. Similarly, initiatives in Rejaf Payam successfully reduced gang violence, leading to reconciliation, the formation of football teams, and vocational training opportunities for former gang members. Additional dialogues in Merikiyo, Lasu, and Yei sought to resolve conflicts between cattle herders and farmers, foster community reconciliation, and improve governance relationships.

In Western Equatoria, discussions in Nzara and Yambio counties centered on youth empowerment and government accountability, with calls for job creation, scholarships, and improved legislative oversight. While many resolutions were passed, sustained impact remains contingent on continued monitoring and funding.



"I want to thank WPD, our partner for Peace, for this peace initiative. The people invited are the right individuals for the dialogue because they play a significant role in schools, homes, and the communities at large when it comes to managing young people and implementing rules and regulations to reduce violence. Finally, these two days have helped us reach resolutions and adopt a mindset that will bring peace and growth to our municipality, especially for our youth."

**Hon Mustafa,**  
Mayor of the Torit Municipality, EES

”

"I would like to express my gratitude for facilitating this community dialogue, which marks a significant first in Nzara County. It is truly commendable to witness the two previously conflicting parties come together to address their differences constructively. This experience reinforces my belief in the power of dialogue as a means of fostering understanding and cooperation. I extend my sincere thanks to WPD and the generous donors for this vital initiative, and I encourage the expansion of such efforts to other payams and counties."

**Suzan Siama,**  
Acting Chairperson, General Women Union

”

## The Lafon County Consultative Community Peace Dialogue

The Lafon County Consultative Community Peace Dialogue took place on April 25–26, 2024, in Lafon, EES, with 79 participants and was led by Youth Peacemaker Ubur Stephen.

The dialogue focused on land issues, with land being used by returnees and other settlers without seeking approval of landlords. The resolutions agreed with community representatives resolving that land shall be surveyed for development under the oversight of traditional authorities and the Payam Land Council, in line with the County Commissioner's mandate. They agreed to establish Payam-level Land Councils across Lafon County, as per Article 48 of the Land Act 2009, with functions outlined in Article 50, Sections (a)-(k).

Additionally, they reaffirmed that land belongs to the communities under traditional authorities (landlords) while allowing the local government to legally acquire land for development and administrative purposes. In case of conflicts, disputes shall be addressed through landlords, Monyomiji (youth leaders), the County Land Committee, the Payam Land Council, and other relevant authorities using legal channels or dialogue.

All agreed resolutions and recommendations shall be implemented in a timely manner by landlords, the County Authority, State government, and other stakeholders.

"I am a landlord, and am very thankful to WPDI for organizing this first-of-its-kind community consultative dialogue. I have fully understood the resolutions of the South Sudan Land Act 2009. As a Landlord, I will stand firm by the resolutions of this dialogue, which affirm that the land belongs to the community. It is our responsibility as landlords to allocate land for investors and for the government for development purposes. We also agreed that the land in Lafon County will be surveyed to facilitate development. In the case of a land conflict, it will be resolved by a committee headed by the Landlord. I request WPDI to conduct a follow-up on these resolutions in 2025. Thank you."

**Lino Umoo Upwoth,**  
Landlord



"As a community member, I am very happy that new development will come to Lafon. When our land is demarcated, the allocation of land for development will be easier, and giving land for schools and markets will be more straightforward. This will allow our children to attend school, and we will also have space to conduct business since the market space will be allocated. I urge our leaders in the community to expedite the survey process and coordinate with the government to ensure it is completed on time. We did not know our land rights until now; our eyes have been opened by this dialogue. I give much thanks to WPDI for facilitating this dialogue."

**Mary Akongo Adulino**



"This has been one of the most successful dialogues I have ever participated in. The resolutions reached in this dialogue were inclusive, with very active participation from the delegates. The resolutions will be followed to ensure their implementation is done on time. I thank WPDI for providing funding for this dialogue. This dialogue has created awareness and understanding within the community on land issues and how the community will collaborate with the local government on land matters. It has also opened up discussions on how to address community conflicts related to land."

**Ubur Stephen,**  
Youth Peacemaker, Lafon





## Community Leaders Training

In 2024, WPDl convened two Community Leaders training in EES, eight in CES, and three in WES. Each training was conducted for five days with the objective of improving the capacity of Community Leaders to address challenges in a peaceful manner. With this training, community leaders can become more effective in administering and delivering services to the people they govern. These Community Leaders training included the training of Members of parliament (MPs) on several of the above topics to be able to address these issues effectively in their constituencies. Additionally, in CES, WPDl convened training for the leaders of the Sudanese Youth Network (SYN) organization in Juba

aimed at supporting them to address Human Rights issues and advocate for peace and ceasefire in their country. The following topics were covered during the training:

- Human Rights and Gender Equality
- Understanding conflict (types, sources, approaches)
- Violence (direct violence, indirect violence, cultural violence, structural violence)
- Mediation and Good Leadership
- Diversity
- The UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030



## Training for 65 Members of the State Assembly of Central Equatoria

South Sudan is a country that continues to be beset by internal security concerns and regional instability with its neighbor country, Sudan, in turmoil. Committing to a culture of peace is therefore a vital path for the world's youngest country. To this effect, WPDl places significant emphasis into training members of local legislative assemblies in conflict resolution in order to avert outbreaks of violence within local communities due to local socio-economic challenges.

A training was organized for members of the Central Equatoria State (CES) Reconstituted Transitional Legislative Assembly (RTLA). The RTLA is a cornerstone of the country's governance and peace process, with its pivotal roles including enacting legislation, facilitating the election process, participating in the drafting of the permanent constitution, implementing the national peace agreement, overseeing the performance of National Government institutions, and ratifying international treaties. Because it has such responsibilities, the transitional assembly is probably one of the most significant entry points within South Sudan for restoring effective governance, delivering long-term reform, and guiding the nation towards lasting peace.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Peacebuilding, the Central Equatoria State Independent Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation Commission, and the CES Reconstituted Transitional Legislative Assembly, WPDl's four-day workshop aimed at enhancing the understanding of conflict resolution, peace, and Human Rights among State Members of Parliament. 65 participants, from the various institutions mentioned above, attended the training. The workshop covered a wide range of topics, including:

- The Concept of Conflict,
- Conflict Analysis,
- The Relationship Between Conflict and Power,

- Early Conflict Warning Signs, and
- The Various Types, Causes, Phases, and Approaches to Conflict.

The Right Honorable Speaker Peter Wani Elia Kulang of the CES Transitional Legislative Assembly opened the workshop, urging all members to exchange in a spirit of cooperation and to share the knowledge and skills gained during the training to resolve issues and promote peace in the state. He emphasized the importance of avoiding violence and making the CES RTLA a model for other state assemblies in South Sudan in executing their legislative, oversight, and representative roles to improve the well-being of the state's people.

The participants all rated the training as excellent, acknowledging that they had acquired new skills and tools to aid in peacebuilding and governance. They requested WPDl to conduct similar training for the remaining fifty members of the Assembly who had been unable to attend.

The success of the workshop, as evidenced by the very positive feedback we received from participants, highlights the critical need for ongoing training in conflict resolution. The WPDl's efforts in South Sudan underscore the transformative power of leadership rooted in a culture of peace. By equipping local leaders with essential conflict resolution skills and fostering a deep understanding of peacebuilding, WPDl ensures that these leaders are well-prepared to carry out their missions effectively. The positive feedback from participants and their request for further training highlight the long-term impact and local appropriation of WPDl's tools and methodologies. This approach not only strengthens the capacity of leaders but also embeds sustainable peace practices within the community, paving the way for lasting stability and development.

"We have attained something very important in CES and that is the training offered to members of parliament. I am the happiest because we as members of parliament are empowered with tools and skills to help us in our mandate of promoting peace through legislation, oversight, and representation roles. There are many issues of land and cattle-related conflicts that create insecurity and conflicts. The session on conflict analysis has helped us to map those conflicts and prescribe solutions to the issues. Thanks to WPDl for organizing this workshop."

**Hon. Isaac Aloro,**

Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Peace and Security -  
CES Transitional Legislative Assembly



"On behalf of the State Ministry of Peacebuilding, Central Equatoria State (CES), Republic of South Sudan, I extend our sincere appreciation to WPDI for their invaluable contributions to building a culture of peace and promoting sustainable development within our state. WPDI's work in promoting intercultural dialogue, addressing social cohesion, integrating gender equality into governance, and strengthening community security has been instrumental to our efforts. We are particularly pleased with the training program for Members of Parliament, a critical initiative we undertook in partnership with WPDI. The program, designed to enhance the MPs' capacity in conflict analysis, resolution, mediation, and good governance, was a resounding success. Participants engaged in insightful discussions and benefited from a variety of case studies, equipping them with the latest knowledge and skills in the field which helped them to effectively mediate conflict and promote peace and conflict resolution within the state. The State Ministry of Peacebuilding is deeply grateful for this partnership and is committed to continuing this important collaboration."

**James Wani Dumo,**  
Director, State Ministry of Peacebuilding, CES.



"I am happy for WPDI for empowering us with knowledge and skills in areas of conflict resolution and peacebuilding. We are indeed satisfied with the training and I believe that we are going to be effective in our work and ensuring the state attains the required peace. The conflict analysis tools, especially the conflict tree tool, is what we are using to analyze the numerous conflict issues and pass bills that will safeguard security and peace in the state."

**Honorable Lorna,**  
Member of Parliament, CES.





# Conflict Resolution Education in Primary and Secondary Schools

In places plagued by chronic conflict and exclusion, rekindling peace is a long-term process that must take place at the earliest possible ages, most notably in school. To this effect, WPDI has designed and implements a Conflict Resolution Education program specially tailored to teach peace as a skill to children and adolescents directly in their schools. The approach of the program is multifaceted, incorporating both theoretical and practical elements to ensure a well-rounded education. The curriculum includes lessons on communication, empathy, negotiation, and mediation, helping students understand the root causes of conflicts and develop strategies to address them. Interactive activities, such as role-playing and group discussions, are integral to the program, allowing students to practice these skills in a safe and supportive environment. Depending on the requests of individual schools, the program will take the form of extracurricular activities in peace clubs or a peer mediator platform or it will be integrated into some preexisting classes. Irrespective of the form adopted locally, the impact of the program will usually be felt across schools

as participants engage with their peers. As a result, this action of WPDI not only reduces incidents of violence but also promotes a positive and inclusive school climate.

In primary schools, the program aims to build a firm foundation for pupils to begin practicing aspects of peacebuilding, as well as instilling in them a sense of responsibility, good citizenship, and the importance of participating in civic initiatives.

In Secondary Schools, the objective is to convey more elaborate content and to incite them to become active promoters of peace in their schools.

WPDI's work in schools is in line with a ministerial order to establish Peace Clubs in schools, aimed at advancing the teaching of peacebuilding and conflict resolution as extracurricular activities to complement the mainstream curriculum. The schools were selected based on recommendations from the Ministry of Education in the states and as a response to the rising levels of young people's involvement in violent conflicts in the area.





"The training has helped me solve problems at home between my parents. I gathered them together with some community members, and we solved the problem. I was able to bring peace between them without conflict. Another situation occurred in our class between the boys and girls. The issue was about money. We were able to resolve that as well. With this certificate of peace, my work will be to help people understand peace and how problems can be solved, so we can live together as a family. There are many problems in South Sudan that require the knowledge of peace, such as tribal conflicts and divisions. This training also helps me advocate for my rights as a child."

**Julia Imoya Ohide,**  
Student at Dr. John Garang Memorial Secondary School,  
Member of its Peace Club



"Since WPDl introduced peace education in the schools, we have realized that the students can now resolve their own conflicts without needing to involve the teachers. They are now able to address their misunderstandings on their own, which was something unthinkable before. Not only that, but even in the community, they are capable of solving problems if any conflict arises. I have already seen that most of these students will be good leaders in the future who can solve their own problems. My appreciation once again goes to WPDl for this program. Since they started this program, there has been a better understanding of how the rights of each individual should be respected and how conflicts can be resolved both in the community and at school."

**Ageji Joseph Kamilo,**  
Teacher and the Peace Club patron at Fr. Saturlino Ohure Secondary School





## Tali Primary School, Terekeka, CES

At Tali Primary School in Terekeka County, rising cases of indiscipline, disrespect toward teachers, and frequent peer altercations created a challenging learning environment, with traditional disciplinary measures such as suspensions proving ineffective. To address this, WPDI established a Peace Club in 2023 and 2024, enrolling 75 members who received training in Conflict Resolution. These young leaders extended their efforts beyond the classroom by organizing advocacy campaigns and acting as mediators and counselors for their peers. As the Peace Club took root, members actively intervened in disputes, facilitated peer support sessions, and provided emotional guidance, leading to a significant decline in disciplinary cases and fostering a more respectful and cooperative school environment. This initiative not only improved the learning atmosphere but also strengthened unity and peaceful coexistence within the school community.

"Before I joined the Peace Club at Tali Primary School, I was frequently getting into fights. My stubbornness led me to bully my friends, and many of them distanced themselves from me. I struggled to manage my emotions and didn't know how to resolve conflicts. However, since becoming a member of the Peace Club, my life has changed dramatically. I can now smile and share joyful moments with my friends, and I've learned how to control my emotions. With the skills I've gained in mediation and negotiation, I'm able to resolve conflicts peacefully. My friends and family were amazed by the transformation in my behavior. I've repaired broken friendships and learned the importance of saying sorry and forgiving those who may have wronged me. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to WPDI for the positive impact you've made in my life. You've not only taught me the value of peace but also helped me rediscover the joy of friendship."

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**James Arre,**  
Pupil at Tali Primary School



"My appreciation continues for the support I am receiving from WPDI and for considering me as part of the workforce advancing CRE engagements with pupils at Tali Primary School. The knowledge I have acquired from WPDI as a Youth Peacebuilder is being put to great use, as I am fully engaged with the pupils at this school, supporting their journeys into the peacebuilding arena. Once again, thank you, WPDI!"

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**Rebecca Yike,**  
Youth Peacemaker



## Alliance High School, Yambio, WES

At Alliance High School in Yambio, WES, rising tribal sentiment between the Zande and Balanda ethnic groups began affecting students, creating divisions that hindered their educational experience. Historically, these communities had coexisted peacefully, but recent political influences in Tambura County contributed to tensions that spread throughout Western Equatoria State, making it crucial to restore dialogue and unity within the school. Recognizing this challenge, WPDI-trained Youth Peacemakers took action through the school's Peace Club, engaging student leaders in constructive dialogue. This collaborative effort resulted in the unanimous adoption of resolutions promoting a harmonious school environment and successfully implementing restorative justice, ensuring a renewed sense of understanding, coexistence, and a positive learning atmosphere.

"WPDI provided us with valuable training in recognizing conflict-related issues that may impact our communities. We learned the importance of being attentive to early warning signs of potential threats. This awareness has instilled in me a strong sense of responsibility to proactively identify and address potential conflicts, not only in our schools but also within the broader community. When we became aware of some students displaying tribalistic tendencies, we approached the situation thoughtfully, emphasizing the importance of unity and inclusivity. We believe that embracing diversity will strengthen our community and promote shared progress."

**Odrande Tako,**  
Youth Peacemaker





# Conflict Resolution Education for Teachers

To ensure the sustainability of the CRE program in schools, teachers from schools hosting the program receive training in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The objective of training the teachers is to increase the impact of the program in the schools, as teachers are able to incorporate conflict resolution sessions into their classes. The teachers are drawn from all the benefiting secondary and primary schools. Each training is conducted over 5 days, with a focus on peace, conflict management, and human rights.

The training of teachers through the CRE in Schools program is having a transformative impact on both

educators and students, as it fosters an environment of harmony and emotional management. Through the program, educators are benefiting personally by learning strategies to manage their emotions and improve relationships at home, at school, and with colleagues, leading to healthier and more harmonious all-round living dynamics. As a result, instances of indiscipline, gang involvement, and other negative behaviors among students have diminished, illustrating the profound effect of peace education on the school community and beyond.



“The implementation of the peace education program by WPDI has significantly transformed our school environment. Students who have participated in the conflict resolution training are now empowered to handle disputes independently, freeing teachers to focus on lesson preparation. This shift has led to a remarkable decrease in fighting among students, contributing to a more harmonious atmosphere. The positive impact of WPDI’s program resonates not only within our school but also throughout the wider community, enhancing the lives of our learners in profound ways.”

**Nelson Ocen,**  
Teacher, Green Hill Nursery and Primary School, Juba



"I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to WPDl for the invaluable opportunity to participate in this training on conflict resolution and peacebuilding. This has been an aspiration of mine for some time. As a religious leader, I frequently find individuals approaching me for assistance in resolving their differences, yet I have often felt underprepared to effectively address their concerns. Fortunately, this training has equipped me with the necessary skills and knowledge to tackle these challenges with greater confidence, both in academic settings and within the community. I am truly thankful for this significant opportunity."

**Rev. Sr. Paschalina Sagaani,**

Teacher, St. Daniel Comboni Secondary School, Nzara County



"I am a teacher at Torit Day Secondary School and the patron of the Peace Club. The program has changed the mindset of the students. Before the Peace Education in Schools program was initiated, we had many cases of indiscipline. However, once this program was introduced, issues like fighting, abuse, insults, and quarrelling among students became rarely reported. This initiative has trained the students to love one another and to recognize that we are one community here in the school. You can see that the students have become more respectful, peaceful, and polite when interacting with the teachers. They take the right messages delivered to them in school and pass them on to their parents in the right way. For those who had gathered into groups of gangs, many have already changed with the help of this training, realizing that peace is far more important than fighting or engaging in other harmful behaviors. WPDl has trained many of them, and some have already gone out, while others are now joining universities. Tomorrow, these individuals will be great leaders in the community. They will be able to resolve their own conflicts in all corners of South Sudan."

**Ustaz Arkangelo Haworu,**

Teacher, Torit Day Secondary School, Patron of the Peace Club





# Advocacy Campaigns

## Advocacy campaigns at our Community Learning Centers

The advocacy campaigns at the Community Learning Centers focus on promoting peace, human rights, including girl child education, and other pertinent issues affecting communities. In each advocacy campaign, community leaders, students, pupils, and teachers are invited, and peacebuilders raise key issues through poems, dance, drama, and Q&A sessions. The advocacy campaigns at the CLCs serve to provide a platform for community

members to engage with and appreciate diverse cultures and traditions, fostering essential values of respect, forgiveness, and tolerance. As participants collaborate and share their experiences, the campaign effectively unites people from various backgrounds, reinforcing social cohesion and creating a sense of belonging. By nurturing these principles, the advocacy campaigns lay the groundwork for a stronger, more peaceful society.



"The advocacy campaign, particularly the Intercultural Dialogue activities at the Juba Community Learning Center, has provided us with invaluable opportunities to delve into diverse cultures and traditions. It has been instrumental in promoting essential peace values such as respect, forgiveness, and tolerance. This initiative not only brings people together but also enhances social cohesion, paving the way for a stronger, more harmonious society."

**Moses Lino,**  
CES



"The first advocacy campaign that was conducted at the Yambio CLC last year has been instrumental in shaping the lives of our children. I am hopeful that today's discussion on the negative impact of drug abuse on our children will also be fruitful and lead to positive change. As parents, we are very grateful to WPDI. I stand here today, proud to testify that my son, who had chosen to get married early, has now decided to stay in school after attending the first advocacy campaigns last year. Keep up the good work, WPDI!"

**Mary Peter,**  
WES





## Advocacy Campaigns in Schools

The Advocacy Campaign program in schools empowers students and pupils to raise issues that affect their learning by organizing advocacy meetings that involve school stakeholders such as parents, teachers, the State Ministry of Education, and civil society organizations. These meetings are usually organized after issues have been identified and the need to resolve them is deemed necessary. The presence of local government officials in these advocacy campaigns has led to changes in policies and improvements in creating safe and conducive environments for learning. The advocacy issues

discussed range from child and early marriages, peer influence, the dangers of drug abuse, improvements in learning spaces, environmental issues, maintaining discipline in schools, parent-child relationships, sexually transmitted diseases, mentorship, and career guidance.

WPDl's innovative approach with the advocacy campaigns in schools not only raises awareness but also fosters respect, understanding, and empowerment among the youth, making a lasting impact in their communities.



"The advocacy campaigns in our school have profoundly reshaped my perspective on respect and equality. Through the debates, I learned about the immense effort and dedication that women put into their work, often without recognition. This revelation has inspired me to actively share responsibilities with the women in my life, reinforcing my belief that such collaboration only enhances my identity as a man. I am incredibly grateful to WPDl for organizing this transformative activity."

**Joseph Ajak,**  
Student at Brilliant Secondary School, Juba



"The advocacy has inspired us, as parents, to be proactive in advocating for the enrollment of children in schools, ensuring that each parent plays a role in advocating for the rights of the children. There are many children on the streets, and as parents, we must work hard to make sure these children are in school to become better leaders for this country. The program has educated us parents on not being violent toward our children and understanding their rights."

**Odwa Robert Solomon,**  
PTA member, James Nursery and Primary School



## International Red Hand Day: Uniting to Eliminate the Use of Child Soldiers

On Red Hand Day, WPDI joined forces with Human Rights and Children's Rights organizations of South Sudan, actively participating in advocacy efforts across South Sudan. In Central Equatoria State, WPDI teams engaged in radio talk shows to educate communities on the issue and promote solutions. At the Yambio Community Learning Center, a campaign against the use of child soldiers gathered over 50 participants, including representatives from the Ministry of Local Government, Law Enforcement, State Ministry of Child, Gender, and Social Welfare, and DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration). The event encouraged attendees to spread awareness within their own communities. School-based advocacy campaigns were also held in Central, Eastern, and Western Equatoria States, where children painted red hands and shared heartfelt messages such as "I want to go to school," "Stop child soldiers worldwide," and "Children should carry books, not guns."

For WPDI, Red Hand Day reinforces its mission to empower communities, foster peace, and protect the most vulnerable. By continuing to advocate for the eradication of child soldier recruitment and supporting sustainable reintegration efforts, WPDI remains committed to creating a future where every child is free from violence and given the opportunity to thrive.





# Cinema for Peace

This is a program to build social cohesion, as well as to promote critical debate, and build the skills of participants to address the issues they are confronted with. It also provides an avenue to support the psychosocial and mental well-being of the participants. The screening of films featuring peace and security issues promotes themes of reconciliation, forgiveness, and equality. Over 30 film screenings were held and attended by 2,058 people. The Cinema for Peace program provides an educational platform where, after the screening, Group Discussions are conducted

with a selected group of participants to discuss and debate the main themes of the film. This allows them to decipher issues in the films that resonate with their own situations.

The films screened explore themes of leadership, resilience, social justice, advocacy, cultural identity, and personal growth. They highlight historical events, inspiring figures, and fictional stories that emphasize perseverance, equality, community-building, and the impact of individual and collective action in shaping societies.



"The film has profoundly inspired me. It taught me the importance of forgiveness, allowing me to let go of past grievances. After watching the film, I became an advocate for reconciliation within my community and school."

**Suzan John,**  
participant

”

"The films screened by WPDI are both educational and uplifting, especially one that tells the incredible story of Nelson Mandela. His fight transcended race, emphasizing the quest for equality for all. I found it particularly impactful that, following his release from prison, Mandela chose not to seek revenge, even when urged by his party. This powerful message reinforces the idea that forgiveness is far more valuable than vengeance."

**Godfrey Mori,**  
participant

”







# Livelihood



## 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

Total Trainees in Vocational Courses			
1,194	1,784	1,260	4,238
WES	CES	EES	TOTAL
SMEs Created in 2024			
3	145	12	160
WES	CES	EES	TOTAL
Beneficiaries of All SMEs			
625	2,626	1,122	4,373
WES	CES	EES	TOTAL

WPDI's Livelihood Programs empower individuals in fragile communities by breaking the cycle of poverty and violence through vocational training, startup grants, and business incubation. Our comprehensive training in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Business and Entrepreneurship, and Arts and Crafts enhances employability, fosters self-confidence, and promotes economic

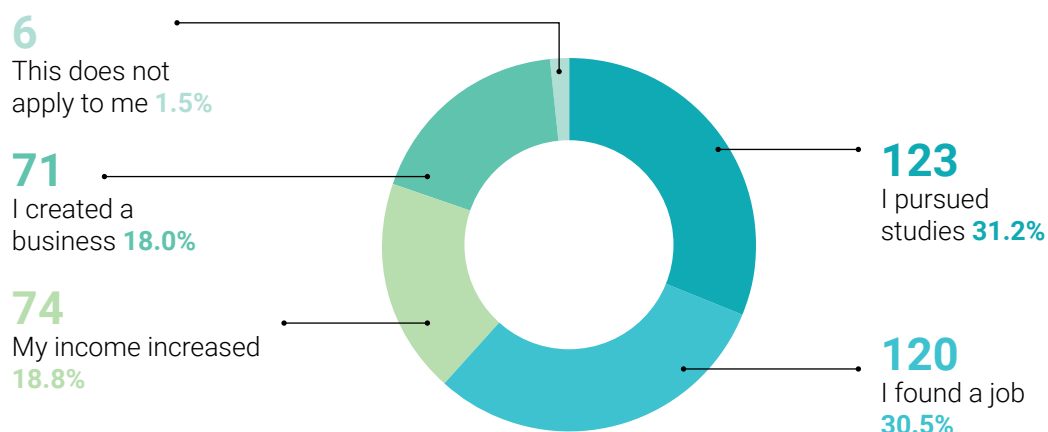
independence. Since 2017, WPDI has supported many small businesses in the countries where we operate, creating nearly 11,000 jobs and positively impacting thousands of families. By equipping individuals with practical skills and ongoing support, we drive sustainable economic growth, strengthen community resilience, and create long-term opportunities that uplift entire communities.



# Capacity-Building Courses

LIVELIHOOD				
ICT Trainees				
698	436	877	2,011	
WES	CES	EES	TOTAL	
Entrepreneurship Trainees				
496	1,234	383	2,113	
WES	CES	EES	TOTAL	
Vulnerable Women Trained in Business				
-	114	-	114	
WES	CES	EES	TOTAL	
Total Trainees in Vocational Courses				
1,194	1,784	1,260	4,238	
WES	CES	EES	TOTAL	

## In what ways has the program improved your career prospects?





## Information and Communication Technologies

The three-month Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) training program is a core component designed to equip participants with essential ICT skills through Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced levels. It covers computer fundamentals, operating systems, and applications, progressing to internet usage, email, document creation, and data management. The Advanced level focuses

on internet safety, computer maintenance, and collaboration tools like Google Drive. Participants expressed gratitude for gaining skills that enhance their academic work and improve job prospects, enabling them to support their families. By addressing ICT education barriers, the program empowers youth in remote areas with digital literacy, preparing them for today's job market.



"Thanks to WPD, I have gained essential computer skills that have enhanced my academic journey and secured me a position with the South Sudan Examination Council, where I type, sort, and analyze exam papers. This opportunity has allowed me to pay for university and support my family. While ICT training at commercial centers is costly, WPD provides quality education for free, making a huge impact. I encourage WPD to expand training to more counties, introduce specialized courses like Photoshop and graphic design, and shift from Linux to Windows for better job market readiness. Thank you, WPD, for transforming my life!"

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**Paulino Piol Garang,**  
ICT Graduate, Juba

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"After completing my senior four exams, I joined the Torit CLC, where I gained skills in typing, budgeting with spreadsheets, and internet usage. Thanks to my training, I secured a job as a data collector and entry clerk with Ark for Humanity. These skills have transformed my life, helping me become more independent and paving the way for further education. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and only wish I had joined the course earlier!"

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**Lily Sunday Joseph,**  
ICT Graduate, Torit

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"WPD's ICT training has transformed my academic experience, saving me the cost of hiring others to type my research work. I can now confidently type my own papers and even assist fellow students who lack ICT skills, making my studies more efficient and independent."

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**Jane,**  
University Student

”



## Business and Entrepreneurship

The Business and Entrepreneurship course is a key part of WPDl's empowerment initiatives under the YPN Program. It provides specialized training for Youth Leaders and local youth and is integrated into the curriculum at Community Learning Centers. The course runs in three-month cycles across Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced levels. It covers fundamental business topics such as customer analysis, vision and mission development, business structures, production processes, marketing strategies, financial planning, risk management, and environmental protection.

The program equips participants to address community challenges such as unemployment, food

security, and lack of services. It also prepares them for career advancements, further studies in business administration, and entrepreneurship. Through the formulation of business startups or the improvement of existing enterprises, participants gain practical knowledge to create sustainable initiatives.

Upon completing each training cycle and passing final examinations, participants earn a certificate. Graduates can apply for the Business Boot Camp, an intensive ideation program leading to a Business Plan Competition, where selected projects receive grants to launch their initiatives. WPDl continues to provide support to help winners implement and sustain their projects.



"The business course has been instrumental in helping me generate innovative business ideas, which is crucial as I aspire to launch my own venture. I've come to realize that, before diving into the world of business, it is essential to thoroughly assess my strengths and weaknesses. By leveraging my strengths, I can enhance my business performance while actively working to address my weaknesses, paving the way for sustainable growth and success."

**Emmanuela Poni,**  
Trainee at Juba CLC



"I am grateful to my friend for introducing me to WPDl's business and entrepreneurship training, which transformed my approach to financial management, savings, and business operations. Through this program, I gained essential skills in business creativity, record-keeping, customer care, and financial literacy, including cost-benefit analysis to track profit and reinvest wisely. Thanks to WPDl's financial grant, my monthly returns grew from 100,000 SSP to 800,000 SSP, significantly improving my standard of living—allowing me to support my family, pay school fees, and contribute to my community. I encourage WPDl to continue empowering women with these invaluable opportunities. God bless you all!"

**Amira Anna,**  
Trainee at the Juba and Torit CLCs



## Mary's Business Receives Support

At 28 years old, Woduapai Mary faced significant challenges after losing her father, which forced her to abandon her education and take on the responsibility of providing for her siblings. Determined to improve her livelihood, she sought opportunities for growth. A friend who had previously attended WPDI's entrepreneurship training and benefited from it introduced her to the program, explaining its impact. Encouraged by this, Mary enrolled in the training, where she gained valuable skills and received seed funding to start her business. With WPDI's support, she has successfully established her business, enabling her to provide for her family and pay for her siblings' education—a transformation that has significantly improved their lives.

"Before my involvement with WPDI, I operated a modest home-based business that offered a selection of five items, including dry cells, chicken stock, tea leaves, local rice, and biscuits. Enrolling in the training program provided me with invaluable knowledge and skills in smart agricultural practices and effective business strategies. When I learned about the competition, I eagerly submitted my application and was honored to receive the third-place award. The support I received through this initiative enabled me to establish a stall in the main market of Yambio. Additionally, it allowed me to acquire essential assets and assist my siblings with their educational expenses. I am profoundly grateful to WPDI for the lasting impact it has had on my life and the opportunities it has created for me. Thank you for your generous support."

**Ms Woduapai Mary**





# Supporting Income-Generating Projects

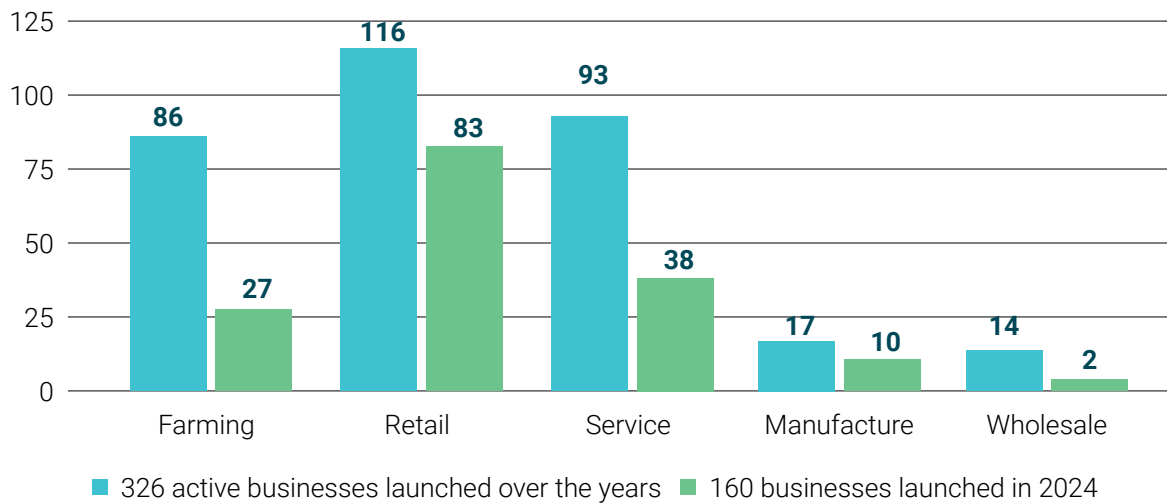
LIVELIHOOD			
SMEs Created in 2024			
3 WES	145 CES	12 EES	160 TOTAL
SMEs Supported by WPDJ in Total			
19 WES	271 CES	36 EES	326 TOTAL
Jobs Created			
125 WES	672 CES	283 EES	1,080 TOTAL
Indirect Beneficiaries of Businesses (Families)			
500 WES	1,954 CES	839 EES	3,293 TOTAL
All Beneficiaries of SMEs			
625 WES	2,626 CES	1,122 EES	4,373 TOTAL

WPDJ's Business Plan Competitions (BPC) provide aspiring entrepreneurs with the opportunity to develop and launch community-driven businesses that foster social and economic growth. The selection process is rigorous, ensuring that only the most viable and impactful business proposals receive support. Candidates undergo a thorough screening that evaluates their business plans, personal profiles, and reputations, alongside recommendations from local stakeholders and community leaders. A key criterion is whether the proposed business addresses genuine community needs and qualifies as a social enterprise. This ensures that the selected businesses contribute to local development while promoting sustainability and social impact.

During this reporting year, WPDJ conducted three Business Plan Competitions—two in Eastern

Equatoria State (EES) and one in Western Equatoria State (WES), specifically in the counties of Lafon, Torit, and Yambio. A total of 42 candidates participated, with 27 in EES and 15 in WES. The competition's pitching phase varies in duration, typically lasting between three to five days, depending on the number of selected candidates. Through these competitions, WPDJ continues to identify and support innovative entrepreneurs, equipping them with the resources and mentorship needed to successfully establish businesses that drive economic resilience in their communities. Upon winning the competition, the successful participants receive grants in accordance with the rules of the Business Plan Competition (BPC). The grant amounts awarded to each winner are determined based on their ranking in the competition. These grants serve as startup capital to help them launch the business ideas they presented.

### Types of businesses supported by WPDI in South Sudan



### LK BEAUTY SOLUTION: A Journey of Empowerment



LK Beauty Solution is a salon business established in Lainya town, Central Equatoria State, through the support of WPDI. With skills training and financial assistance in the form of a grant, the business was founded as a means to empower its owner, a 24-year-old entrepreneur, to achieve self-reliance and economic stability. Before joining the program, she faced immense hardships, struggling to afford even basic needs after completing high school. With limited opportunities, she had to rely on strenuous labor to earn a small income, leaving her future uncertain.

Having actively followed WPDI's programs, including youth empowerment initiatives and peace clubs, she was eager to join the business training program after witnessing the transformation of previous beneficiaries. Inspired by their success, she seized the opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills and launch her salon

business. Today, she proudly runs LK Beauty Solution, generating income that not only sustains her but also supports her siblings. Grateful for the life-changing impact of WPDI, she shares, "I was truly frustrated and hopeless, coming from a poor background. This financial assistance has alleviated my struggles, enabling me to manage my business and prioritize my needs. Without this support, I cannot imagine where my life would be. I sincerely hope WPDI continues to extend such assistance to many struggling youths, especially girls."

With her business now thriving, she envisions further growth, expanding services, and creating employment opportunities for other young women in her community. Her story stands as a testament to the power of empowerment, financial inclusion, and resilience in the face of adversity.





# Women's Livelihood Program

In July 2023, WPDI entered into a significant partnership with the SkinnyDipped Foundation, subsequently launching a project to support vulnerable women of South Sudan, specifically in the counties of Terekeka and Juba in Central Equatoria State (CES) and foster their resilience capacity in a complex yet growing economic environment.

Thanks to WPDI's experience and standing with local partners, the local team was able to quickly initiate the project, allowing to celebrate the graduation of a first cohort of 114 beneficiaries within one year. These women successfully completed a transformative three-month business and entrepreneurship skills course designed to empower them with the knowledge and tools to develop and scale their business initiatives, thereby fostering positive change in their lives, families, and communities.

As follow-up, the two groups of participants received financial support, distributed as revolving funds to support their entrepreneurial endeavors and they were assisted in the creation of Village Savings and Loan

Associations (VSLAs), a model designed to empower communities through collective saving and borrowing. The VSLAs, which usually consist of 10-15 members, allow women to save money by purchasing shares and borrowing from the collective savings. This financial model helps create a sustainable fund for small, low-interest loans, giving the women a structured way to manage their finances and develop their businesses. The program also emphasizes transparency and accountability, with passbooks used to record each transaction and a management committee elected to oversee the group's activities.

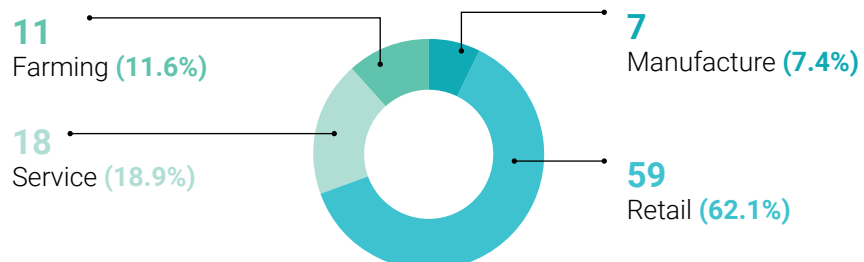
Organized into 11 such VSLA groups, the participant women are now equipped with newfound skills and financial support to overcome barriers to economic participation, expand their businesses, and uplift their households.

This initiative not only highlights the crucial role of women in economic growth but also underscores a shared commitment to fostering gender equality and resilience in South Sudan.



The 11 VSLA women-groups include 114 members. Already, 95 businesses have been created by VSLA members within just under one year.

## Type of businesses launched by VSLA-group members



## Queen Esther Women Business Group: Overcoming Barriers Through WPDJ Support

The Queen Esther Women Business Group is a collective of five resilient women from the Munuki area of Juba City Council. Each member has faced the harsh realities of poverty, striving to provide for their families while lacking the resources, training, and capital needed to build sustainable businesses. Their daily struggles include the inability to pay school fees for their children, as well as the pressure of securing basic necessities such as food and medical care.

The women discovered WPDJ's entrepreneurship training through WPDJ Business Trainers, in collaboration with the State Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare, and the Munuki Block Council. Motivated by the opportunity to gain business skills and financial guidance, they joined the program.

WPDJ provided comprehensive business and entrepreneurship training, Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) support, conflict resolution strategies, and leadership development to equip them with the skills needed to thrive. With additional financial assistance from SkinnyDipped, WPDJ helped the women expand existing businesses or launch new ventures, ensuring they had access to the capital needed for growth. Through ongoing technical support and monitoring, WPDJ continues to support the group.

The women have engaged in various entrepreneurial activities that have significantly transformed their lives. They specialize in selling traditional beads, attire, perfumes, and ornaments, generating essential income that helps them cover critical expenses such as medication, school fees, and clothing for their families. Additionally, they have tapped into the lucrative trade fair market by selling food to exhibitors, further expanding their economic opportunities. Overall, these women have harnessed their skills and knowledge to create sustainable businesses that play a vital role in their families' well-being and community engagement.

"I generated nearly 650,000 SSP (around \$150) during the two-week East African Community (EAC) Trade Fair in Juba, and I owe it all to the support from WPDJ and their partner, SkinnyDipped. Through their training programs, I learned valuable business and entrepreneurial skills, and I accessed group revolving funds to help expand my business. I specialize in selling traditional beads, perfumes, and other beautiful ornaments, and the profits I make have been a lifeline for my family. I'm now able to cover essential expenses like medication, school fees, and clothing. I'm also excited to say that I'm preparing for the next EAC Trade Fair, which will take place next year in the Democratic Republic of Congo."

**Kushburu Mayik,**  
Munuki Center Women's Group member



"I am incredibly grateful to WPDJ for empowering me with the entrepreneurial skills and knowledge I needed to succeed. The start-up capital I accessed through our group's revolving fund allowed me to diversify my business. During the EAC Trade Fair, I sold food to exhibitors, and I'm proud to say that I generated nearly 1,000,000 SSP (about \$224) in profits. This income has made a real difference in my life, helping me pay for school fees, medication, and transportation. Thank you, WPDJ, for providing me with this opportunity to thrive."

**Siki John**







# Health and Well-being



## 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

### Sexual and Reproductive Health Beneficiaries

**453**

WES

### Trauma Healing Beneficiaries

**498**

CES

### Trauma Healing Event Participants

**470**

CES

### Total Health and Well-being Participants

**453**

WES

**968**

CES

**1,421**

TOTAL

Recognizing the gap in mental health services in South Sudan, we provide trauma-informed therapy to break cycles of pain and foster healing. An additional issue that must be factored in is that, in South Sudan, stigma often prevents individuals from seeking help. This is the reason why we have built our response on an approach that encourages open discussions on mental health, creating safe spaces where individuals can feel free to share their personal experiences. Additionally, our sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education equips individuals with essential knowledge to make informed decisions about their well-being, particularly in areas with limited healthcare access. By reducing misinformation and promoting understanding, we strengthen community cohesion and resilience.

Through these integrated services, WPDl empowers individuals—especially women—with the resources and knowledge to improve their health and independence. Our programs are implemented in refugee camps, post-conflict regions, and schools adjusting to the aftermath of crises like COVID-19. Ultimately, our trauma-informed care approach nurtures empathy, supports healing, and builds a foundation for resilient communities and future generations.





# Trauma Healing Support

South Sudan, with a legacy of decades of war, has a majority of its population suffering from several trauma and mental health issues due to the invisible and largely untreated psychological scars of war. With WPDI already engaged for a decade in the country, the work on trauma healing has naturally become a key component in our ongoing interventions.

To that end, WPDI, in partnership with the People's Postcode Lottery Foundation, initiated a trauma healing project covering CES during this reporting year. The initiative has made significant strides in trauma healing across the targeted localities. The implementation of the trauma healing project adopted a comprehensive program designed to bolster the resilience of communities impacted by armed conflict, poverty, and social exclusion.

As CES hosts one of the highest concentrations of the country's population, especially around the greater Juba area, many people there, particularly the youth, are facing significant social pressures, compounded by deep-rooted trauma carried over from the legacy of the wars. The Trauma Healing program, therefore, focuses on creating pathways to mental and psycho-social well-being through targeted activities such as trauma healing sessions for students and community members, extensive training, and psycho-social support with referral services.



"The trauma healing training has profoundly transformed my life. I realized I was carrying a heavy burden of stress and unresolved trauma. This training has not only helped me heal and reconcile with myself, but it has also empowered me to stand strong and support others on their journey to recovery. I am now committed to helping others find their own healing."

**Viola Lverage,**  
Payam Youth, Terekeka County



"I want to express my gratitude to the WPD I Youth Peacemakers for their invaluable teachings about trauma. Witnessing the tragic death of my parents due to a family conflict left me orphaned and struggling for survival. I face many hardships living with my uncle, but I know that with the support of the trauma healing program, I can overcome these challenges. Today, I feel a renewed sense of hope for our school and our future. I am truly thankful for this day and the guidance we are receiving."

**Jacob Alafi,**  
19 years old, Lighthouse International School



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News

## Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative Partners with Central Equatoria State to Launch Trauma Healing Program in South Sudan

News Editor June 23, 2024



In a collaborative effort between Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative (WPDI) and Central Equatoria state, a trauma healing program has been launched in response to the widespread cases of distress and disorder, particularly mental illness, affecting the people of South Sudan.

Director General of the National Ministry of Peacebuilding, Anthony Angu, highlighted the importance of raising awareness about trauma healing, noting that many young individuals turn to alcohol and drugs as coping mechanisms, a behavior that ultimately leads to devastating consequences.

Conflict Resolution Expert for WPDI, William Ongoro Peter, emphasized the organization's commitment to supporting communities in conflict resolution and empowering youth and women to drive long-term positive change.

Provincial Secretary for the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, Peter Garang, acknowledged the prevalence of trauma in the country, attributing it to the lasting effects of past conflicts that have impacted countless lives and displaced many within and outside the country.

Central Equatoria State's Director General for Peacebuilding, James Wani, underscored the significance of the trauma healing initiative, expressing the state government's dedication to raising awareness and advocating for the mental well-being of its citizens, particularly those grappling with economic hardships exacerbating their trauma.

The launch of the trauma healing program signifies a crucial step towards addressing the mental health challenges facing individuals in South Sudan, promoting healing, peace, and resilience within the community.



# Sexual and Reproductive Health Support

In partnership with UNESCO, WPD I implemented a project dedicated to enhancing the skills and knowledge of teachers in Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in schools in Maridi County where it is engaged with the CRE in Schools program. The CSE program helps teachers to gain crucial knowledge that they can integrate into their routine lessons with pupils and students. When incorporated into routine lessons, alongside the ongoing Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) program, CSE is expected to enrich the curriculum and foster a more supportive learning environment, notably for female students. Through

this program, WPD I trained 453 teachers across all 8 payams in Maridi County, utilizing established partnerships with schools and relevant education departments, including the State Ministry of General Education and Instruction. Thus far, around 500 teachers and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) members have received training in Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Maridi.

It is our firm belief that the success of any educational program hinges on the active involvement of teachers, who play a crucial role in this endeavor.



"I am truly grateful for the partnership between WPD I and UNESCO, which recognizes the essential contribution of teachers in fostering positive change within our communities. The training on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) is an invaluable opportunity that has equipped us with the necessary tools to make a meaningful impact on the lives of our children and youth. By disseminating this knowledge, we will empower them to make informed decisions about their sexual health, ultimately promoting their well-being."

**Mark Taban,**  
trainee







# Sports

## 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

### Teams Managed by WPDI

**24**  
WES

**24**  
CES

**24**  
EES

**72**  
TOTAL

### Regular Training Participants

**244**  
WES

**408**  
CES

**444**  
EES

**1,096**  
TOTAL

### Participants in Competition Events

**4,104**  
WES

**52,900**  
CES

**5,000**  
EES

**62,004**  
TOTAL

### Participants in All Sports Activities

**4,348**  
WES

**53,308**  
CES

**5,444**  
EES

**63,100**  
TOTAL

# Peace Through Sports

WPDI's Peace Through Sports program harnesses the unifying power of sports to bridge cultural, religious, and national divides. By engaging young people in values-infused athletics, the program instills attitudes of teamwork, mutual respect, and fair play while providing a constructive outlet for trauma recovery. A key aspect of the program also lies in its capacity for reaching out to large audiences on the occasion of games and competitions. Teams established and supported under this program practice regularly and also engage in workshops that focus on values like peace and tolerance, as well as awareness sessions on trauma healing.

Recognizing sports as a powerful tool for peacebuilding, WPDI works in close collaboration with its partners, including sportive organizations and local authorities, to ensure that opportunities can be created both for sports development and the dissemination of a culture of peace in South Sudan.

WPDI implemented the 'Peace Through Sports' project in collaboration with the Swedish Postcode Foundation and the South Sudan Football Association—a partnership that embodied a remarkable effort to use sports as a catalyst for bringing about peace and community cohesion.

Communities previously plagued by violence have seen a tangible shift in dynamics due to the program. In Lologo, where crime and gang violence were once rampant, local leaders have praised WPDI's efforts. Juma, the Team Captain of Al Salaam FC, shared, "Since WPDI's intervention with the sports program, we are witnessing many youths being engaged and a more peaceful environment because of the dialogue and the sporting activities." This sentiment was also echoed by Coach Emmanuel Garang of the same team, who noted, "Lologo is more peaceful today, and this is largely due to their commitment and support."



## Feedback from participants of the Peace Through Sports program

The following percentage results from a pilot survey shared with players, coaches, and event attendees from 2024. 394 responses have been recorded in South Sudan. Not all respondents respond to each question - some are specific to each beneficiary type (player, coach, attendee)

- 99% of the participants report a positive experience of the sports training and the peacebuilding activities
- 100% of surveyed community stakeholders, including from local governments and civil society, report that WPDI's sports activities are valuable in fostering good attitudes in people and good relations among communities
- 75% of survey respondents report that they think the program is helping girls to shine



# Capacity-Building Training

A key component of the Peace Through Sports program is training. Under this project, selected youths and sports enthusiasts from the participating communities are trained as coaches, referees, and sports administrators to help with the management and officiating of sporting engagements. These trainings are typically conducted by experts from our partner, the South Sudan Football Association (SSFA).

The youths being trained in these three areas are selected from the local teams that WPDl established

in Budi and Torit CLCs in EES, Maridi CLC in WES, and Juba CLC and the camp of the Protection of Civilians (POC) hosting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in CES. The courses in the three areas typically run for 12 days at each level, covering 80 hours of both theoretical and practical training. The training concludes with written and practical examinations. Those who pass their examinations are awarded certificates called the "D License" by SSFA.



# Tournaments

The Peace Through Sports engagements usually culminate in tournament events every six-month cycle of various activities. To achieve the project objectives of increasing mutually beneficial interactions between youths and communities, WPDI organized four tournaments in Budi and Torit Counties in EES, four tournaments in Juba in CES, and two tournaments in Maridi in WES. The tournament competitions gathered a total of 64 teams (32 male and 32 female teams). These tournaments allowed teams to play against each other while messages of peace and fair play were communicated to the players and spectators during and after each football match. Throughout the implementation period, more than 192 games were played, with 1,178 youths participating.

The football games have helped girls stay focused on their dreams. One of the female participants, Miss Hellen Achien, 19 years old, was quoted as saying: "Playing football has helped me a lot. Because of

the positive engagements and advice I get from our regular training, I was able to remain in school. I have made good friends from other payams who only talk about positive things, like how to become international football players. All in all, the games have motivated me to stay in school, reduced stress, and allowed my community to enjoy leisure every evening here in my village, Lotugei."

The tournament activities are usually followed by two hours of group discussions and life skills sessions. Topics covered in these sessions include group conversations on how to disseminate a culture of peace, fair play, team building, as well as discussions on forgiveness, reconciliation, and how a community can overcome challenges and live in peace and self-reliance. Trauma healing information is also shared. Some players also enroll in ICT, Conflict Resolution, and Business and Entrepreneurship classes.

## Whitaker Peace Tournament 2024

The *Whitaker Peace Tournament 2024*, launched on November 2, 2024, in Juba by WPDI in collaboration with the Swedish Postcode Foundation and the South Sudan Football Association, leveraged football to promote peace and social cohesion among conflict-affected communities. With 24 teams—12 boys' and 12 girls—the month-long event engaged over 500 youth directly and impacted more than 15,000 people. Matches took place in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and local communities, providing participants with an opportunity to develop football skills while fostering teamwork, confidence, and discipline. Supported by key partners, including the Ministry of Youth and Sport, the tournament aimed to empower at-risk youth, including former gang members, by offering a structured and positive outlet for engagement.

Participants and local leaders praised the initiative for strengthening unity, breaking down tribal barriers, and challenging gender stereotypes in sports. Testimonials from players and community leaders highlight how the tournament fostered friendships, provided essential resources, and encouraged families to support young women in sports.

WPDI's efforts in peacebuilding through sports have contributed to a more peaceful environment, demonstrating the tournament's transformative impact. By continuing to invest in youth engagement and gender inclusivity, WPDI hopes to inspire lasting social change and a more harmonious South Sudan.





## Peace Engagement Days

The Peace Engagement Days, organized under the Peace Through Sports Program, bring together diverse community members to promote peace, unity, and reconciliation through sports and dialogue. These events feature sporting activities, traditional dances, prize presentations, and discussions on key social issues such as gender-based violence and conflict resolution. In Eastern Equatoria State (EES), two Peace Engagement Days were held in Torit and Budi Counties, combining all-day sports-based peacebuilding activities with community dialogues and educational workshops. These gatherings provide a platform for youths, elders, and leaders to discuss shared challenges while reinforcing values like teamwork, fair play, and peaceful coexistence.

Similarly, in Central Equatoria State (CES), the program successfully conducted Peace Engagement Days

and conflict resolution training sessions for young football players in Juba. Facilitated by experienced trainers, these sessions employed interactive methods like role plays, group discussions, and presentations to deepen participants' understanding of conflict dynamics, resolution strategies, and the distinction between positive and negative peace. Through collaboration and reflection, attendees gained essential skills for managing disputes constructively, fostering both personal growth and a stronger, more peaceful sports community. Held between July 28th and 31st, 2024, these events engaged 300 players across multiple sessions, covering themes such as Peaceful Co-Existence, Youth for a Peaceful South Sudan, and Sports for Skills Development.



"The Peace Through Sports project, especially the Peace Engagement Days, has brought our community in PoC 3 together during a time when conflicts were prevalent. Violence among the youth has significantly decreased thanks to these peace initiatives, including tournaments and Creative Resilience Enhancement (CRE) sessions. I strongly encourage the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative to continue supporting sports as a vital means of fostering harmony and peace in our society."

**Sadam,**  
Male footballer from the POC camp

”

"Sports have bridged the gap between diverse communities, allowing me to forge many friendships through the peace tournaments and engagement activities organized by the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative and its partner, the Swedish Postcode Foundation."

**Ayen John,**  
Female footballer in Juba CLC

”

"These sports activities have had an immediate impact. Young people come on their own to participate in these activities without the need for mobilization. Sports, being such a powerful tool, quickly brings people together to act for peace. The local community and local authorities expressed joy in seeing young people from different ethnic communities interact and play matches together, something that never used to happen in the history of Budi County. I am excited to see young people playing and talking together. These activities have reduced alcoholism, idleness, and the crime rate in my county."

**Mr. Lino,**  
Local chief, Budi County

”





## Breaking Barriers Through Football: A Young Woman's Journey with WPD

At 23 years old, Mary Sanawa, who comes from a traditionally male-dominated background, has faced significant biases against women in her pursuit of opportunities. Determined to break the cycle and uplift her family from poverty, she has set her sights on becoming a football star, not just within her community but across South Sudan. However, a major challenge has been the lack of community acceptance and support for her aspirations.

She first learned about WPD through a neighbor enrolled in ICT training, which introduced her to opportunities for youth. Through WPD's training, she gained a deeper understanding of football rules and professional play, equipping her with the skills needed to advance in the sport. One of the most impactful lessons she learned was the importance of teamwork, as football requires players to set aside differences and unite toward a common goal, fostering an environment of cooperation and peaceful coexistence.

Beyond improving her skills, the program has helped her build friendships across tribal and community divides. She has connected with individuals from diverse backgrounds, forming strong and lasting relationships—people she now considers family. Without WPD's program, she acknowledges that these bonds, personal growth, and a newfound sense of unity would not have been possible.

"I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to WPD for providing young girls with the invaluable opportunity to explore their potential in sports. Coming from a background that traditionally views football as a male sport, I have come to strongly believe that, as the saying goes, what a man can do, a woman can do even better. The training, experiences, and camaraderie I have encountered over the past few weeks have enriched my understanding and appreciation of people from diverse backgrounds, fostering harmonious coexistence. Additionally, football offers significant rewards, especially when we are well-versed in its rules and play with professionalism. I aspire to become one of the leading football stars in my country and beyond."

**Mary Sanawa,**  
Team Captain



# Female Empowerment Through Sports

The sporting activities under the Peace through Sports program, including the tournaments and Peace Engagement Days, have carved out a critical space for women in sports, breaking the traditional barriers and challenges girls face in their communities.



"Participating in this tournament has kept us focused on our goals. I call on everyone to support girls' sports in South Sudan."

**Mary Aniek,**  
From Agent Stars



"The training has taught me that a football coach's work combines technical expertise, leadership, strategy, and personnel management to guide a team toward success both on and off the field. The skills I acquired from the training will enable me to improve my team's performance and also help me foster a positive environment for each individual player. Most importantly, I also learned that a coach's role is not only to build a sense of unity, teamwork, and foster relationships among the players, but also to resolve any issues or conflicts that may arise between them. It was not easy to participate in the sports activity as a woman because my culture does not allow women to play football. However, with the awareness-raising, training, and my excellent performance, my parents were able to allow me to play. The sports program has empowered me, and I am now popular and receive a lot of support from the community. I thank WPDl for supporting this course, and also the SSFA instructors for this wonderful training, as it is the first of its kind in my life."

**Dusman Ihisa Ladu,**  
A trainee coach







# Conclusion



In 2024, the WPDl Country Office in South Sudan made significant progress in the YPN Program across all three states of its intervention in the Equatoria region—EES, CES, and WES. This progress is characterized by many accomplishments, most notably the creation of 160 businesses under the RSRTF, SDC, and SkinnyDipped projects, strengthening the standing of WPDl's Livelihood strategic pillar. 21 community dialogues were conducted, addressing several pertinent conflict issues, ranging from land disputes to the often deadly conflicts between cattle herders and farmers, representing significant strides in the Peacebuilding pillar.

For the first time, a sustained trauma healing program was rolled out across several locations where such services were unheard of. WPDl, in partnership with UNESCO, also rolled out a sustained engagement on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), leading to major achievements in the Health and Well-being pillar.

In implementing school-based interventions and sports events, our action has also contributed to laying the ground for the long-term dissemination of a culture of peace that the participating children and youths will have the capacity to nurture in their communities for the coming years, if not the coming decades.

Overall, WPDl continued to promote key dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals in all the twenty counties where its teams operate, empowering women and youths as drivers of positive change at the grassroots. The combination of these efforts enabled us to reach 152,654 beneficiaries, with 26,340 being direct beneficiaries. We achieved these results despite several challenges, including insecurity and poor roads. Despite these obstacles, we maintained our unwavering commitment to the communities we serve.

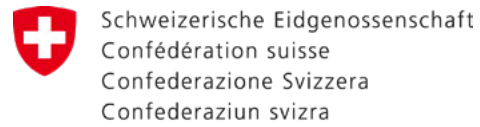
As we carried out our programs, we also learned valuable lessons that we will incorporate into our actions in the coming years, drawing notably on the feedback we received from stakeholders, which underscores the relevance of involving the community, its officials, and its nongovernmental organizations to ensure that the change we propose is genuinely appropriated - which is an absolute condition of its sustainability.

Looking ahead to 2025, WPDl will continue to improve and consolidate its interventions and, where possible, expand further, especially in more hard-to-access areas, ensuring that we deliver impactful services to those in need.





# Our Partners



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