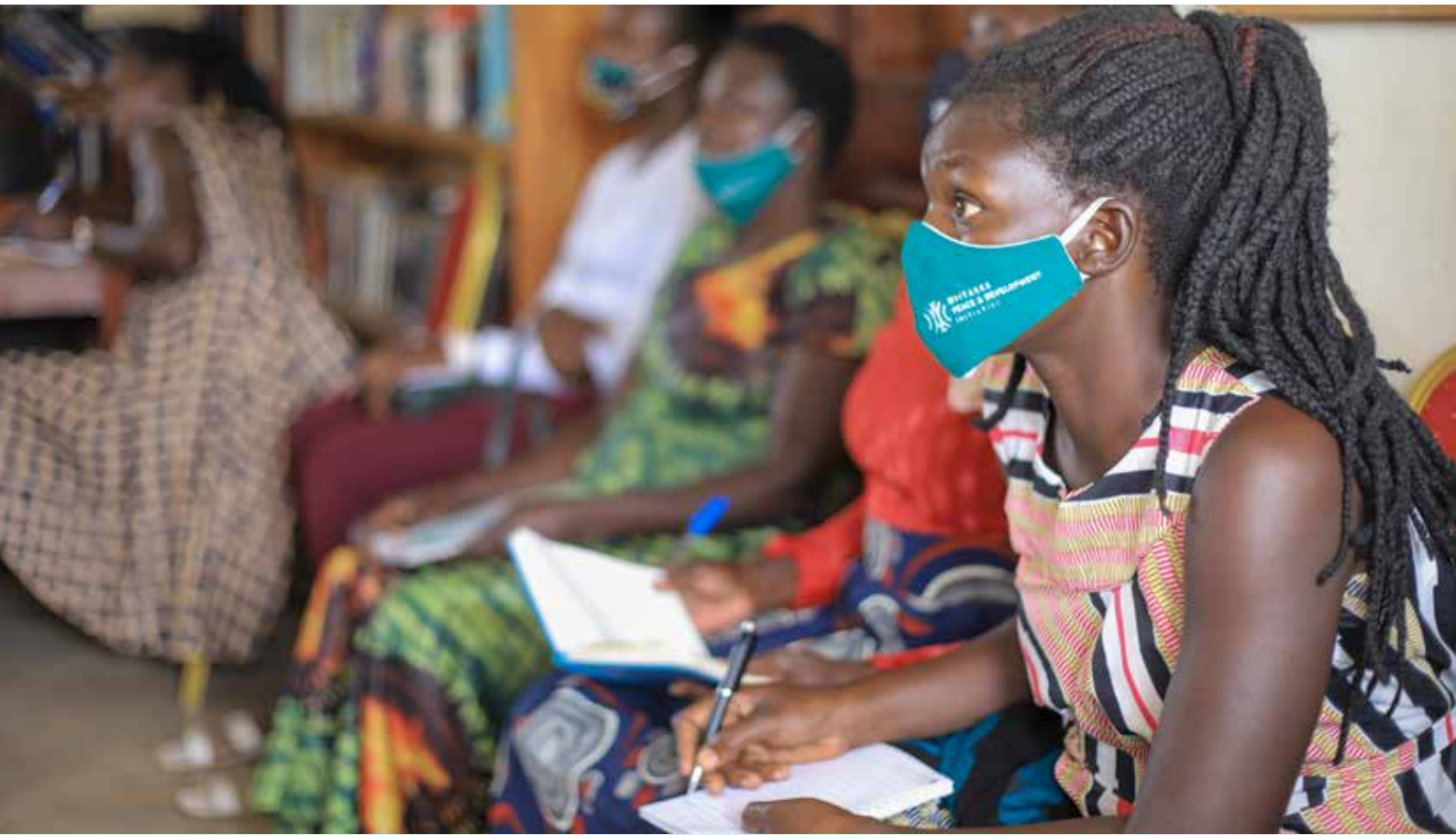




WHITAKER
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



ACHOLI SUB-REGION

UGANDA



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, a second year under tight COVID-19 constraints, WPDI managed to maintain a strong impact on the ground in the Acholi Sub-Region, with **14,000 beneficiaries directly reached**. Activities significantly impacted by the pandemic include programs based in schools, which were closed for most of the reporting period.

However, we were still able to engage with school administrations and we established partnerships with the schools that we had intended to include in our program this year. This signals that, despite adverse circumstances, **we are on track to achieve our long-term goals in Acholi**, which is a testament to the resilience and capacity to adapt of our model. This capacity has been notably demonstrated in the case of activities at the Community Learning Center in Gulu and with regards to the Business Bootcamp.

In these cases, WPDI's staff and youths have managed to carry out their mission in the respect of sanitary procedures, sparing no effort to reach our targets. It must be stressed, in this respect, that **96% of all the former trainees that we could poll on their learning experience with WPDI reported that the courses they had taken with us has generated a change in their lives**, bearing in mind that the skills they acquired will be with them for years, even decades.

Even if the year has been fraught with external difficulties well outside the scope of our control, we can therefore assert without doubt that **WPDI has been able continue strengthening the capacity of local communities to face unexpected challenges**. This is particularly notable in the case of our Community Dialogues and trainings for local leaders which have proved even more relevant since the pandemic has heightened tensions and conflicts in many locations.

KEY FACTS & FIGURES IN 2021

In 2021, WPDI's programs in Acholi Sub-Region reached **14,000** people directly and **46%** were women.

Community Learning Center



455

graduated from our Conflict Resolution Education course.

581

graduated from our Information & Communication Technology training.

210

graduated from our Information & Communication Technology training for children.

197

graduated from our Business & Entrepreneurship course.

351

graduated from our Arts & Crafts course.

96%

of trainees who responded to the survey would recommend the program to other community members

Community Dialogues

27

Community Dialogues to resolve conflicts within the Acholi Sub-Region community gathered **4,526** people.

75

community leaders trained in Conflict Resolution Education

Youth Peacemakers



277

Sub-County youths graduated as Local Youth Peacemakers

27

WPDI radio talk show with an estimated **3.2+** million listeners.

Cinema for Peace



51

film screenings were held in Acholi Sub-Region, attended by **866** people.

Healthcare



28

Youth Peacemakers received training on trauma healing.

512

Trauma cases counseled by WPDI's Youth Peacemakers

KEY FACTS & FIGURES CONTINUE

Business Bootcamp



19

Youth Peacemakers-led businesses supported

6

winning projects of our two-in-one Business Plan Competition

275

vulnerable women trained and **20** new businesses selected and supported

Peace Education in Schools



1,076

Pupils and students from **15** primary and secondary schools trained in peace education

327

Teachers trained in peace education

2,992

people reached through school-based campaigns and events"

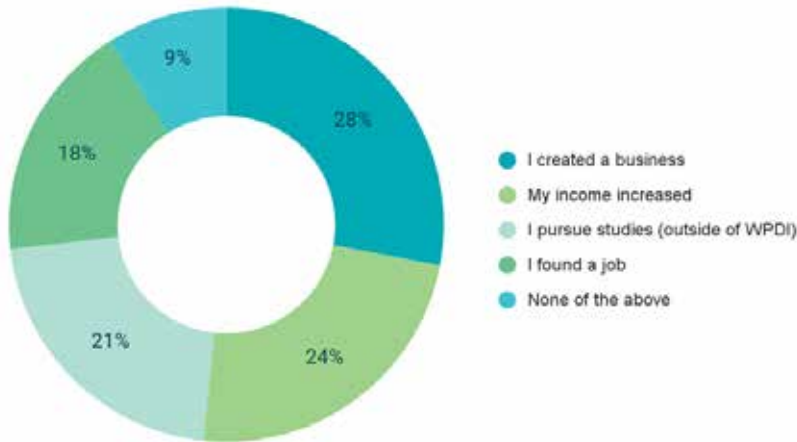


“ I would like to thank WPDI for the content of this training because the information and skills shared were tailored to local needs and we shall be able to put these skills into use. Thank you WPDI for training us.

- Aciro Anna,
Councilor four from Paloga

SURVEY RESULTS

Feedback from former trainees



Throughout the year, WPDI undertook a post-training survey to learn about the impact our vocational training courses have on former trainees, six months after they graduate. Of the **354 former trainees** who responded, **91%** reported that they experienced positive career outcomes as **28%** created a business, **24%** increased their income, **21%** pursued studies outside of WPDI and **18%** found a job. Over **98%** of **510 respondents** said that this experience had either made a “very significant” or “significant” impact on their knowledge and understanding of the topic they studied.

Feedback from Local and National Stakeholders

“ I would like to thank WPDI for inviting me to launch and close this training and for the interaction with the leaders. I am confident that the skills shall be put in use and my office will no longer get occupied with people who will come from the community to seek my involvement in land conflict resolution because the leaders will have handled that at the community level. I trust WPDI and their impact within our community because I have been following their key work within my district and I applaud the management for the great work.

-Mr. Onyuk Andrew Resident District Commissioner Agago District.



YOUTH PEACEMAKERS IMPACTING THEIR COMMUNITIES



Throughout 2021, our network of 28 Youth Peacemakers have continued to show leadership and flexibility in the face of several challenges. In the fight against COVID-19, they took it upon themselves to sensitize their communities about the importance of getting vaccinated. They did so as the national vaccination rates were lower than anticipated because of fear generated by certain media and social media. Youth Peacemakers from Acholi Sub-Region have also carried their advocacy campaign to local radio stations and talk shows, reaching 1.6 million listeners through 12 radio shows on COVID-19 and vaccines.

“ I would like to thank WPDJ for sponsoring radio talk shows. As a result, community members are more aware about COVID-19 and conflicts that have risen as a result of the pandemic and we shall always work together to ensure our community is safe and free.”

- Ochan Stephen

Their work to limit the spread of COVID-19 in their respective communities was done in addition to their efforts to train local youths to enlarge their grassroots, youth-led force working to foster peace throughout the sub-region.

The mainstay of their efforts was to train 277 sub-county youths in Business & Entrepreneurship and Peacebuilding, all of whom graduated from trainings to become Local Youth Peacemakers.

Our **28** Youth Peacemakers trained **277** sub-county youths as Local Youth Peacemakers.

YOUTH PEACEMAKER SPOTLIGHT: Meet Joyce, a Newly Elected District Councilor

“ My name is Joyce Sunday and I am a WPDI Youth Peacemaker and newly elected District Councilor in the Agago District.

Before I joined WPDI in 2017 and trained to become a Youth Peacemaker, I thought that peacebuilding and conflict mediation were issues only the government could solve. But I was also always interested in opportunities to become a peacemaker in my community. During my training, I gained skills and knowledge that allowed for openness, diversity, and the sharing of experiences. It inspired me to think that peace is an achievable reality.

Once I completed my training with WPDI, I worked hard to promote peace in my community. Working with other youths, I conducted Community Dialogues, trained other leaders in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, and advocated for issues impacting my community. I was even able to mediate a conflict over a land boundary between the Lapono and Adilang and persuade them to halt hostilities and live together in peace. In the past months, I have worked to educate others about COVID-19 and preventative safety measures, using information provided by groups like the World Health Organization.

Recently, my WPDI training and community work inspired me with the confidence to compete in a local election for a District Councilor position in the Agago District. I ran for the office against two men, both older than me. Despite having less



financial support than them, I managed to win by a landslide, because the people know the impact I have had in my community as a peacemaker. I attribute this success to my work and training with WPDI.

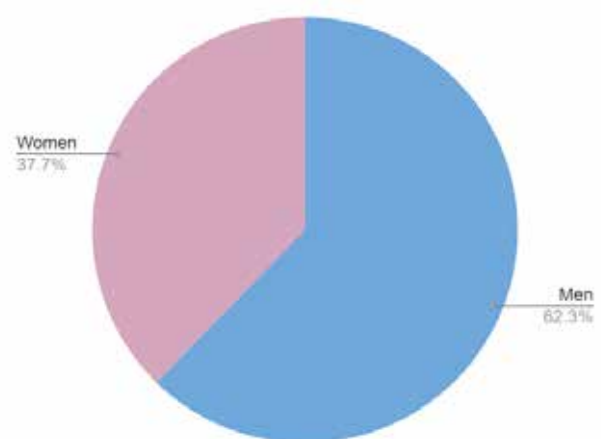
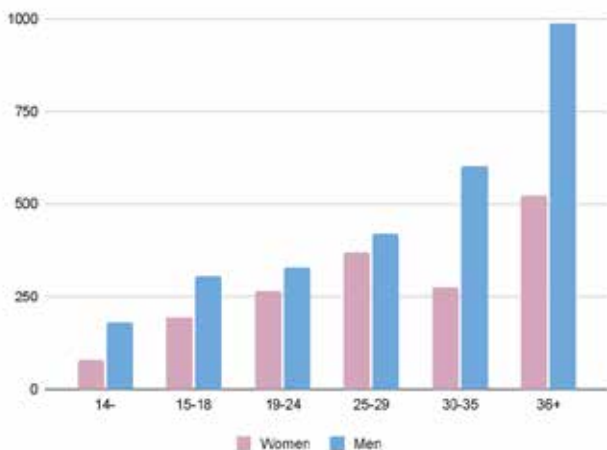
As a newly elected District Councilor, I am responsible for advocating for and monitoring the delivery of social services. I intend to focus on health and education and work to ensure that women and their rights are respected. Together, with everyone's participation, we can promote peaceful coexistence and social and economic empowerment.

Joyce Sunday
WPDI YOUTH PEACEMAKER
AGAGO DISTRICT

YOUTH-LED COMMUNITY DIALOGUES TO PROMOTE PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Even under COVID-19-related constraints, WPDI Peacemakers managed to organize Community Dialogues, which was important because the pandemic heightened tensions in many places. It is noteworthy in this regard that 90% of the dialogues consisted in mediation processes, testifying to the need of having peacemakers available in vulnerable and fragile communities. Also, 40% of the 4,526 participants were women, a figure we hope to improve in the coming years, but which nevertheless denotes the capacity of WPDI to mobilize people at the grassroots, illustrated by the fact that local NGOs participated in more than 50% of the events. The fact that local authorities participated in all the dialogues also testifies to the relevance of the activity, since, often, they are the ones calling upon WPDI to undertake dialogues, and since, also, their endorsement is critical to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved by WPDI and the Youth Peacemakers.

Issues raised in Community Dialogues included ones related to land disputes, child neglect issues, human rights issues, and land boundary disagreements.





In **2021**, there were **4,526** participants in our **27** Community Dialogues

A good example of the work done towards fostering sustainable peace through mediation was in early August 2021. Youth Peacemakers from the Pader and Kitgum districts conducted two community dialogues. One was a conflict on land between two clans in the Corner Kilak Pader sub-county. 679 people participated and the feedback was very positive. The mediation yielded actionable results and compensation agreements and the issue was then considered cleared. Other community dialogues involve ongoing discussions and this long-term support is provided by our teams on the

ground. The clan leadership conflict between the Pubech Clan and Okol Clan in Mucwini Kitgum District is a result of national policies from the 1960s that meddled with local clan leadership. The dialogue in August 2021 ended with agreement to hold elections that would be organized by community leader executives. These executives will also vet the aspiring candidates to ensure they understand local issues. The participants agreed to a follow-up meeting after the elections scheduled in January 2022.



“ I am so proud of WPDI for taking active roles in promoting peace through dialogue in this area and I applaud the leadership for this step.”
- Ojok Samule



“ I would like to thank WPDI for coming up to this community to be able to help us find a way to resolve this problem of land conflict that has affected many people within this community.”
- Okelo James.

Training Community Leaders in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Education

Over a three-month period, our Youth Peacemakers trained community leaders in Conflict Resolution Education. 75 community leaders were introduced to this training through community dialogues, and received a formal training.

Others spontaneously requested this training in their community after having heard great results from a similar training we delivered at our Community Learning Center. These additional 85 community leaders do not count in the official yearly total as they only received informal training from our youth peacemakers in their respective counties, but it is an interesting point that highlights the indirect impact and positive reception of our CRE training within communities.



Youth Peacemakers from Omoro Otto John Bosco and Kia Linda training leaders.

In 2021, our Youth Peacemakers trained 75 Community Leaders in Conflict Resolution Education.

Building Sustainable Peace Beyond Dialogues



In line with WPDI's mandate on Women, Peace and Security issues, sub-county youths from Pader have mobilized the community to do road maintenance and clearing. The road was becoming a source of conflict, because a lot of young girls would get assaulted (cases of sexual assault and verbal harassment) on the road to the market.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

As part of our mission to encourage peaceful conflict resolution among students and teachers and instill in them the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will help them become more resilient when faced with conflict, our Youth Peacemakers have stepped up efforts to increase the outreach of our conflict education program in the Acholi Sub-Region.

Schools were closed from March 2021, so we were not able to train as many students as expected. We did manage to deliver our training in 15 schools, to over 1,000 students and pupils. We also trained 327 teachers, even when schools were closed. They are interested in this training to learn necessary skills to avoid and mediate conflict in schools. We started training teachers in 2019 as they were learning from the courses delivered to their students and pupils and manifested interest in benefitting from a similar course. We choose the schools in which we deliver this program with the support and guidance of local stakeholders. Indeed, in each district there is a District Education Officer (DEO). The content of our training has been approved by the DEOs who help us identify schools in need. We target schools that have cases of strikes and other violent situations.

Our local team trained 1,076 students and pupils and 327 teachers from 15 schools in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution.

During the short period of time when schools were open (second quarter), we were proactive in mobilizing 2,992 students and pupils through events building their awareness in Peace and Conflict Resolution. During this period, we followed-up with as many of them as possible to assess the impact of our outreach. Many shared that they had been able to resolve conflict within their community (school, family...).



YOUTH PEACEMAKER SPOTLIGHT:

Meet Irene, a WPDI Youth Peacemaker Working to Train Youth in Peacebuilding & Civic Education

"My name is Irene Akongo and I am a WPDI Youth Peacemaker in Gulu, the largest city in the Acholi Sub-Region. I completed my training with WPDI in 2017 and have since then worked to conduct peacebuilding activities, including training other youths, teaching children in primary and secondary schools about conflict resolution, and mediating disputes in my community.

The recent dialogue I took part in was very aligned with my work as a peacemaker. Its topic was "The Role of Youths in Promoting Civic Education" and, over two hours, I was able to talk with other young people, as well as experts like the Chairperson of the National Council for Civic Education or the United Nations Resident Coordinator, about our experiences and ideas. I feel very strongly about this because I work with youths every day. When I train or work with them, I realize how young people can be advocates for the rights of the underprivileged, how they can undertake projects that will benefit the community. We believe that we can change mindsets and that we can build opportunities for future generations.

Youths can help shape the future. This is what I advocated for. I happened to participate in a youth parliament activity in 2019 and I had the opportunity to meet and interact with young people from across the country. That helped me realize that many of us face similar challenges, like unemployment, intolerance, or neglect. But by promoting civic education,



I know that we can build peace, promote reconciliation, and empower youths.

This is what I do when I teach other young people about business and entrepreneurship or how to mediate conflicts that they encounter in their daily lives. Thanks to WPDI, I have the tools and skills as well as the confidence to help develop civic education in my community and opportunities to speak to others about how they, too, can have an impact on their communities."

DISSEMINATING KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER



As schools closed during most of the 2021 school year, students saw our Community Learning Center (CLC) as a place to continue to learn. Connectivity and a wide selection of events and trainings available for free attracted many students in addition to our 'usual' attendees. The flexibility of our trainers and their innovative spirit made more trainings possible to adjust to the increased number of interested trainees and adherence to COVID-19 regulations.

Community members who do not take part in our long-term training to become peacemakers are nevertheless interested in receiving training and courses on individual topics such as Information and Communications Technology, Peacebuilding, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Arts & Crafts. To accommodate high demand for learning opportunities in the fields where we have established programs, WPDI provides standalone certified courses to local community members, including youths, children, and women. The provision of these courses depends on expressed demands and, in the case of training provided by partners, on the availability of such partners.

Conflict Resolution Education Training

This training lasts for three months - 28 hours per week. There is an examination at the end and successful candidates obtain a certificate. This is true for all our training courses at the CLC. This year counted 380 graduates who now have additional skills to help them promote peaceful coexistence and demonstrated knowledge gained to resolve conflicts in their respective communities.

WPDI trained and graduated **380** community members in Conflict Resolution Education this year.



“ The CRE training has been very remarkable in my life. Topics like perception, emotions and peace have changed the way I think, behave and react towards a situation. With the knowledge gained, I will be able to share with others.”

- Akaruet Lilian



“ With the training I received at WPDI, as a leader in my community I have been able to help in a number of conflicts. In a particular case I mediated a land conflict.”

- Rubangakene Patrick



Business & Entrepreneurship

197 trainees followed and graduated from the Business & Entrepreneurship course in 2021. They were divided into small groups of maximum 22 people to be able to meet the required number of trainees within the standard operating procedures of COVID-19. The training sessions added up to 21 hours per week for one month in February and August at the basic level training. The intermediate level consisted of 59 hours per week for three months, from May to July and September to November. The business team aimed to equip the trainees with knowledge and skills to initiate and expand pre-existing businesses, in order to run profitable income generating activities for self-reliance.

“ The training in group dynamics helped me to gain knowledge on Leadership skills, Problem solving and decision, Planning, management and Effective team. With this knowledge, I can now work fully with my group. At a personal level, I know I can manage people well, my business will strive and I will apply this knowledge gained within my community and group members.”

- Akello Brenda

“ The course has helped me to learn better who I am in the business sector, what I can do, how to establish a business, how I can use the available business skills learnt already, how I can improve and come out of poverty. I am most grateful for being in this program and I am willing to complete the training and be able to create an impact in the lives of young people around me. Thank you very much.”

- Ebiachu Pius



197 trainees graduated from our Business & Entrepreneurship training in 2021.

Information & Communications Technology



Information & Communications Technology (ICT) sessions were conducted at the CLC at both the basic and intermediate levels, with strict adherence to government-set standard operating procedures.

This year in particular, we were able to bring ICT training to Secondary School Teachers. Lockdown measures and related school shutdowns were an opportunity for teachers to increase their ICT knowledge.



“ The WPDI ICT lessons have offered me the opportunity to remain connected to my friends and indulge in learning. I will be able to pass my national examinations, all thanks to WPDI.

Also, at home I can now help my siblings and parents to operate a computer, something I am so proud of. I would like to recommend all youths to join the WPDI sessions to enhance their skills on using technology and the internet.

Munira Shakira,
ICT trainee

Arts & Crafts

Arts & Crafts play a major role in self-expression, cultural diversity, and development. Each involves a different way of thinking and is often an opportunity for self-reliance. A total of 351 trainees successfully passed their assessment upon completion of the training.

The following were the topics covered during the course of the training:

- Tailoring and garment cutting
- Liquid detergents
- Colors and drawing techniques
- Craft bags
- Craft shoes
- Tie and dye
- Jewelry making

Tailoring and garment cutting has been very popular among trainees. Based on the statistics from registration, training, and inquiries, we have determined that a lot of the community members, mostly vulnerable young girls and mothers, feel that it's an ideal skill to gain for employability. Based on a post-training survey we collected six months after they graduated, a number of our former trainees have been able to apply these skills to boost their income. During the pandemic, liquid detergents were in high demand. As a result, 20 trainees went on to make and supply liquid detergents. From the first cohort of trainees, one was employed as a trainer and 10 others started their own businesses.

A total of **351** trainees successfully passed their assessment upon completion of the Arts & Crafts training.





“ After trying out numerous places to attain knowledge and skills on tailoring and garment cutting, I finally found a second home with a very conducive and welcoming staff to train on tailoring and garment cutting. I am so glad.

- Ayaa Angle, Arts and Crafts trainee

“ I am so happy. A few months ago I joined the arts and craft class. I have acquired knowledge and skills in Tailoring and garment cutting and this has greatly changed my life. I can make and repair clothes and this has improved my earnings. This the knowledge and skills, I hope to change my community by being a role model and influence change in the life of others. Thank you so much WPDJ.

-Acen Lilly Blessing.

“ Joining the tailoring and garment cutting class has been a blessing and eye opener for me. I have learned to work with people and share ideas, created friendships, and, most of all, I gained the skills and knowledge. Now I can earn a little money and I hope in the future when I get my own sewing machine, I will be fully independent and support my family. Thank you WPDJ.

-Apiyo Jackline, Arts and Crafts trainee



Cultural Awareness Days

International Women's Day

Every year, the Gulu district local government with its development partners (WPDI), celebrates International Women's Day to recognize the efforts of women in economic, social and political engagement. A number of activities are celebrated including, radio talk shows, community dialogues, women's wellness clinic, training local girls and women in making reusable pads, and others. WPDI supported and led the girls training on making reusable pads. The need was identified during research on sexual and reproductive health of teenage girls. Disposable pads were not affordable to young girls. This activity is also a highlight of the 16 days of gender activism.



16 Days of Gender Activism

Every year, 16 days of Gender Activism is celebrated from November 25th, and runs through December. It is an opportunity to implement activities to advocate on issues affecting women. This year's focus was on Gender-Based violence, and the campaign was entitled: "Orange the world: End violence against women now!". Two girls from Community Rising Girls Network (CRGN) conducted a training on the matter.



"This training will reduce the level of stress for parents and for girls themselves because most parents don't educate girls on sexual and reproductive health. I hope this training will also be delivered in schools as they re-open. Menstrual hygiene training and learning how to make reusable pads are necessary elements of empowerment and health for young girls."
- Ms Florence. Community Development Officer Unyama Sub County

BUSINESS BOOTCAMP

The main assumption of WPDI is that sustainability is the bottom-up process in drawing on the initiative undertaken by individuals to improve their lives and the availability of products and services in their communities. To this effect, we have established a flagship program, the Business Bootcamp, a business incubator through which we provide an array of services that help aspiring entrepreneurs build skills and create opportunities for themselves.

In addition to the businesses that were created in previous years, we are supporting new businesses that emerged from our programs in 2021. Among the new businesses, six were created through the two business plan competitions that we could organize at the CLC, based on the projects submitted by graduates of our CLC courses. The other new businesses covered 5 businesses created by

vulnerable women groups and 15 launched by women from the diverse counties of Acholi. Supporting vulnerable women groups indeed constitutes a highly relevant approach to help increase the livelihoods of a segment of the population that remains disproportionately marginalized. This is therefore a program that is expected to grow in size and visibility in the coming years since its development signals to local authorities and stakeholders at large that these vulnerable women have a unique potential that can deliver long term positive results not just for themselves and their families but for their communities in general.

WPDI started supporting 26 new businesses in the Acholi Sub-Region in 2021.

Business Plan Competition

Business Plan Competitions are a core component of WPDI's Business Bootcamp process which aims to identify strong business plans, the best of which will be developed with the financial support and the guidance of WPDI. The Competitions are all the more important in our work to promote entrepreneurship that they do not consist only in a selection process: they also serve to help participants, who are exclusively drawn from our cohorts of graduates, learn how to design plans for viable businesses. This means that, in the end, the process does not benefit solely to the winners, but to all the candidates, even those who do not win, since they finish the

competition with valid business plans that they can present to other stakeholders. Their chances are heightened in this regard since the competition is supervised by an Oversight committee sat by local stakeholders, whose presence in the process ensures that proposals are in tune with local market needs.



Six businesses won the Business Plan Competition in 2021, out of the nine candidate projects

Business Plan Competition winners at Gulu CLC

Name of Business	Location	Business Type	Nature of Activity
Select Garment	Laroo Pece, Gulu City	Retail	Garment Cutting & Clothing
Happy Rabbit Hub-Gulu	Gulu City	Farming	Rearing Rabbits
Arrumado Compound Services	Gulu City	Service	Compound Service
Tic Ber Vegetable Growers	Labora, Omoro District	Farming	Vegetable growing
Classic Designers C&D	Gulu City	Retail	Boutique
Bee For Life Farming	Omoro District	Farming	Beekeeping



Businesses Developed by our Youth Peacemakers & Local Youth

WPDI continues to support - through mentoring, monitoring, and evaluation - 19 businesses developed by Youth Peacemakers and local youths.



Businesses Developed by Vulnerable Groups

In Gulu, WPDI improves career opportunities for vulnerable women of the area by deploying a three-phased Business Bootcamp process at the CLC.

In partnership with a local organization, we trained 50 women in entrepreneurship and literacy courses. Once these women had completed their training, they submitted business projects to our oversight committee. **Five businesses were selected**, they will receive funding and backstopping support.

To expand the outreach capacity of our business program in the Acholi Sub-Region, we also mobilized our 28 Youth Peacemakers to train 225 vulnerable women from the 15 different counties of the Acholi Sub-Region, directly in their county of residence. The training included a business design workshop that enabled vulnerable women to develop business plans. During the training, they were given time to present their business ideas in a competitive process to the Oversight Committee established by WPDI to select and support business projects in the Acholi Sub-Region. They had conducted market research during the training to inform the relevance of their projects. 15 proposals were later funded by WPDI to kickstart their income generating activities as piggery production, goats rearing, produce buying and selling among others. They also received backstopping support from our team.



Projects launched by vulnerable women in the 15 counties of the Acholi Sub-Region:

S/No	Project Name	Business Type	County
1	Watwero beans & Groundnuts production	Agri-business in beans & Groundnuts farming	Gulu City Council
2	Genwa Youth Piggery project	Agri-business in commercial pigs farming	Aswa County
3	Pabbo YPN Farmers Group	Agri-business in beans and rice production	Kilak North
4	Mewa Goat Rearing Project	Agri- Business in goats' production	Kilak South
5	Amplified Youth Group	Agri-business in Poultry Production	Nwoya
6	United Farmers Association	Agri-Business in groundnuts and beans production	Tochi
7	Lalogi County Youth Goat Production	Agri-Business in goats production	Omor
8	Rippe Ber Youth Peace Piggery Network	Rippe Ber Youth Peace Piggery Network	Rippe Ber Youth Peace Piggery Network
9	Bed Ki Gen Groundnuts Growers	Bed Ki Gen Groundnuts Growers	Aruu North
10	Ngekidi Youth Produce Dealers	Produce Buying and Selling (Retail and Wholesale)	Agago
11	Omiya Pacwa Young Farmers Association	Agri-business in sunflower and soybeans production	Agago North
12	Agri-business in goats Production	Agri-business in goats Production	Chua West
13	Mucwini Youth Piggery Project	Agri-Business in goats Production	Chua East
14	YPN Rwot Omiya Piggery Project	Agri-Business in pigs production	KMC
15	Abakadyak United Youth Group	Produce buying and Selling	Lamwo

Among the **26** businesses we started supporting in 2021, **20** were launched by groups of vulnerable women.

Testimonies on Business Plan Design Workshop for County Youths



“ I am from Payuta, Paduny Village in Awach Town Council. Before I got engaged in this training, I had no idea how it feels like doing business. I had not known my areas of strength and weakness; I knew few people and I was not social. But thanks to the training which has given me a lot of impact. Most of the changes I have undergone are positive for example, I am able to recognize my weaknesses and strengths. I am now capable of selecting a business of which I can manage. In fact, I have learned great things about business.”

- Lakot Mirriam Olivia

“ I am one of the members of Aswa Youth Peace Makers Network Goats Production. As an individual, I had three before joining WPD. With the support of USADF to Aswa YPN Group, each member received five goats. Currently I do have eight goats some of which are pregnant, and I will have more than five goats when they deliver. I appreciate the support to help me towards the construction of my goats shed which marked the beginning of small-scaled goats farming in my life.

- Opoka Wilfred,
residing in Palaro Sub-County in Gulu District.



PROMOTING INNER PEACE THROUGH TRAUMA HEALING

Our 28 Youth Peacemakers were trained on Trauma counseling from Gulu CLC and Kitgum. After completing their training, they returned to their communities and provided essential trauma healing support to 512 community members in Acholi. These people were counseled and the Youth Peacemakers are continuing to follow up with them on a regular basis.

512 community members received Trauma Healing support



CINEMA FOR PEACE

A popular form of media, cinema can portray positive values that connect people, no matter their ethnicity, nationality, or background. WPDI's Cinema for Peace program provides cultural and emotional enrichment, as well as psychosocial support, to participants while also engaging them in wide-ranging discussions that reflect upon peace and how to achieve it.

A total of 51 sessions under the Cinema for Peace program have taken place in 2021. 866 people attended the sessions, which include a post-film discussion about topics such as peacebuilding, teamwork, and coexistence, among others.



866 beneficiaries participated in our Cinema for Peace program for which we delivered 51 sessions

“ For me I like playing with other children and learning computers. I also like drawing and painting. I know that since we are not going to school, WPDI is helping to keep us occupied with learning/reading material. I enjoy the computer lessons because when I grow up, I want to be a computer engineer.

- Rebecca, community youth

“ I like coming to WPDI to watch movies and practice drawing and painting. These activities have helped me together with my friends to be productive. At home we have nothing much to do today since there is no school at the moment, so WPDI is the place that has got us busy. I know that in the future I will use the drawing skills to make money, I can become the best artist in my country.

- Lisa Ruth, student

CONCLUSION

Of the notable achievements of 2021, the proactive engagement of our network of Youth Peacemakers and Local Youth Peacemakers is a promising highlight. As we see, they are able to innovate and find lasting solutions in dramatically different situations, from promoting mediation among people in communities affected by conflict, to COVID-19 awareness and vaccination promotion.

This versatility allows us to engage in seemingly very different projects from supporting local businesses to teaching ICT in schools but the goal is the same: it is to empower youths and women as changemakers. We do so with the continuous support of local stakeholders from the public and private sectors. We create a network that provides opportunities to those often disadvantaged by their circumstances.





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Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative (WPDI)

1000 North Alameda Street | Suite 104

Los Angeles, California 90012

United States of America

