



WHITAKER
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



WPDI UGANDA

Karamoja Sub-Region

2025 Annual Report

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Introduction

Located in the heart of Northeastern Uganda, the Karamoja Sub-Region is a vast, semi-arid expanse home to 1.6 million people. Historically, the region's narrative has been defined by a combination of conflict over cattle, pasture, and water, instabilities further exacerbated by cross-border incursions and a legacy of marginalization dating back to the colonial era. Yet, the true substance of Karamoja lies not in its challenges, but in its latent potential. While the region possesses untapped natural resources and a climate favorable for livestock and resilient agriculture, its most vibrant asset is undoubtedly its youth. In a world where international funding is increasingly constrained and global challenges more complex, the survival of such a region depends on shifting from reactive aid to the cultivation of human capital.

In 2025, communities of Karamoja witnessed a tangible shift toward relative peace, a progress intertwined, according to local leadership, with the presence of WPDI and its staff and volunteers. Through a model specifically adapted to the region's unique fragility, WPDI has facilitated peace dialogues and strengthened community structures, leading to a demonstrable decline in cattle raids and violent fatalities. By empowering local leaders, students, and youth with conflict resolution skills, we could help communities move beyond temporary truces toward a more stable culture of peace and nonviolence. This is complemented by a robust focus on trauma healing and vocational skilling in ICT, tailoring, and arts, that is interventions that serve as the economic bedrock for a population that has, for the first time in generations, begun to replace the instruments of violence with the tools of industry.

With nearly 14,000 new beneficiaries reached this year, we have been able to consolidate the results achieved by our interventions over the past years. Continuity in action is key, since our work is grounded in the principle that peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of dignity, calling for long term action on the ground. Since establishing our footprint in Uganda in 2012 and expanding into Karamoja in 2020, we have reached over 80,000 beneficiaries across the past five years.

What is critical behind these numbers is that every individual acts as a relay for change; each beneficiary is, in essence, a partner in the peace process. In 2025, this "multiplier effect" was most evident in our peacebuilding pillar, where 80% of graduates moved beyond the classroom to mediate conflicts within their own homes, and over 93% actively taught these mediation skills to others. The transformation is equally visible in the prisons and schools of Karamoja, where trauma healing has turned figures like Peter, once a victim of profound emotional distress, into a peer counselor for fellow inmates, and where students now champion advocacy campaigns that have tangibly reduced school-based violence. This impact is further reinforced by the 220 businesses we currently support, which have fostered a culture of self-reliance, with 29% of our graduates already establishing their own enterprises. With a 99% recommendation rate from the community, WPDI is no longer viewed as an external service provider but as a vital regional asset, a catalyst that strengthens local economies while cultivating a collective ownership of peace.



Our Mission

WPDI is a non-governmental organization with an international scope and reach, founded by artist, social activist, and UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace, Forest Whitaker, in 2012. We develop and implement programs promoting lasting peace and sustainable development in places affected by conflict, poverty, and exclusion. Women and youth are the groups we serve in priority, and our programs are open to anyone willing to be a changemaker. Our approach ensures that our programs have a leverage impact at the grassroots, which has translated into solid growth over the years.

Our Strategic Framework



Key Achievements



PEACEBUILDING: 9,479 participants

503

Community Learning Center (CLC) visitors

205

Youth Peacemakers

6,004

individuals reached by Youth Peacemakers

Peacebuilding at the Community Learning Center

378

Conflict Resolution Education trainees

51

prison inmates reached for rehabilitation

92

participants in Cinema for Peace

2,246

advocacy campaign participants

2,767

total participants in peacebuilding activities at the CLC

Peacebuilding in the Community

9

Community Dialogues held

2,308

participants in Community Dialogues

151

local leaders trained

2,459

total participants in community-level peacebuilding

Peacebuilding in Schools

10

schools hosting WPDI programs

1,035

learners trained in Conflict Resolution Education

80

teachers and school administrative staff trained

2,355

advocacy campaign participants

75

scholarship recipients

3,545

total participants in school-based peacebuilding



LIVELIHOOD: 2,450 participants

Capacity-Building

257

Information and Communication Technologies trainees

200

Business and Entrepreneurship trainees

70

Vulnerable Women trained in business

187

Arts and Crafts trainees

257

Financial Literacy trainees

971

total trainees in vocational courses

Businesses

27

businesses created in 2025

220

businesses supported by WPDI in total

959

jobs created

520

indirect beneficiaries of businesses (families)

1,479

beneficiaries of all businesses



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: 1,711 participants

442

Sexual and Reproductive Health individual beneficiaries and event participants in schools

626

Trauma Healing individual beneficiaries

860

Trauma Healing event participants

225

students trained in Sexual and Reproductive Health



SPORTS: 304 participants

8

female teams managed by WPDI

8

male teams managed by WPDI

304

regular training participants

13,944

Grand total of people reached through WPDI's activities in the region, both directly and indirectly, in 2025



Survey Results

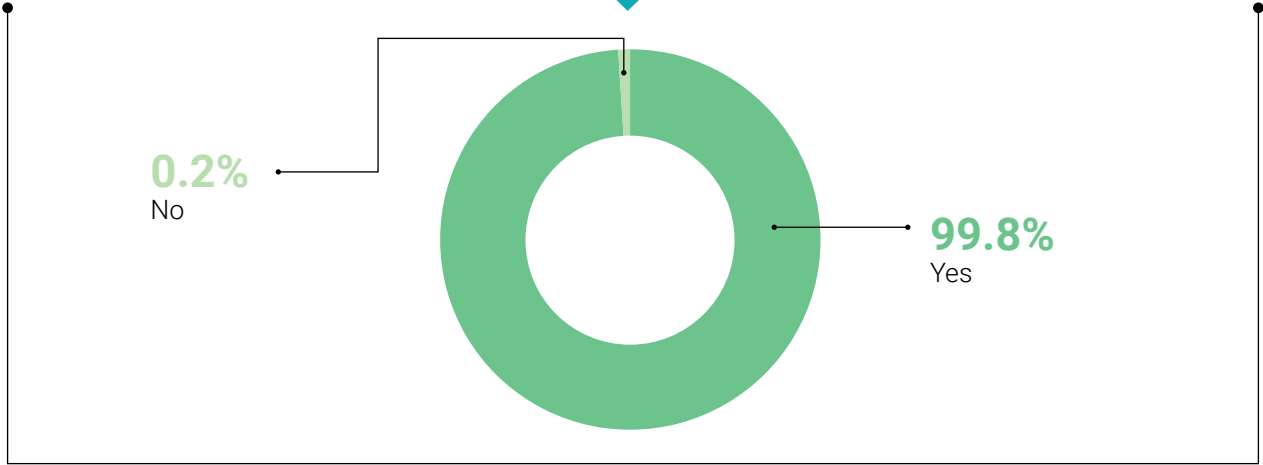
Every year, WPDI conducts surveys in an effort to better understand the impact of our activities. This year, 1,285 individuals surveyed provided insight into the effectiveness of WPDI activities. In addition to the following responses, the report includes survey results specific to each pillar of actions under each appropriate section.

The survey results from the 2025 WPDI Karamoja questionnaire demonstrate significant success in both program outcomes and community impact:

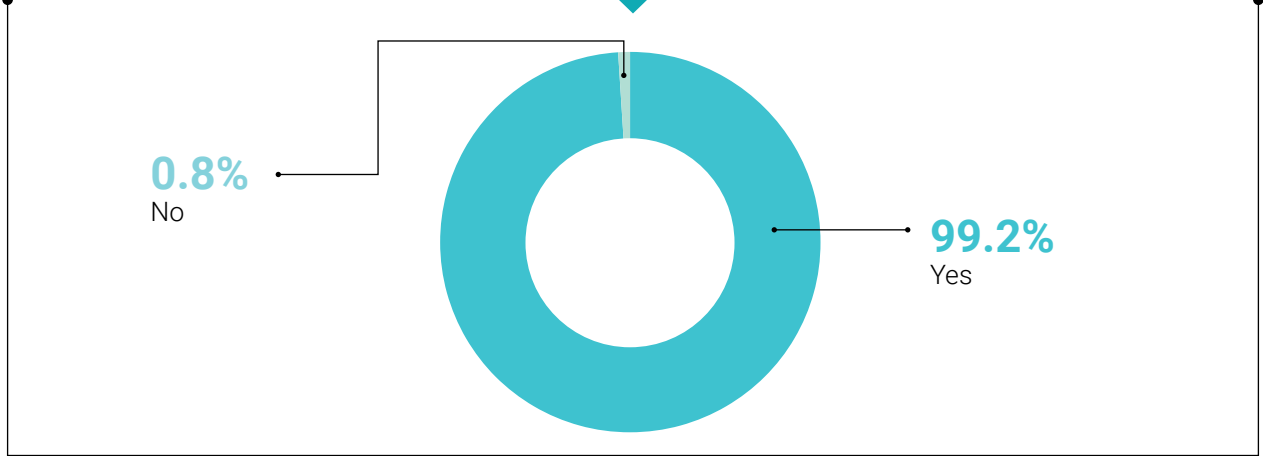
- **Transformative Outcomes:** With 100% of respondents reporting they can apply WPDI skills in their lives and 99 % noting increased self-confidence, the programs are effectively translating training into personal empowerment.
- **Economic opportunity:** The data highlights a strong shift toward financial independence, with nearly 29% of capacity building graduates creating their own businesses and 24% reporting increased income, directly addressing regional unemployment.
- **Strategic Peacebuilding:** The strategic reach extends beyond the classroom, as 80% of peacebuilding graduates have mediated conflicts at home and over 93% have taught their mediation skills to others, creating a multiplier effect for community stability.
- **High Institutional Trust:** The surveys reveal a 99% recommendation rate, signifying deep community trust and satisfaction: WPDI is viewed as a vital regional asset rather than just a service provider.
- **Holistic Empowerment:** Programs like “Peace Through Sports” and health training are driving social change, with 94% of participants agreeing that collective activities reduce conflict.



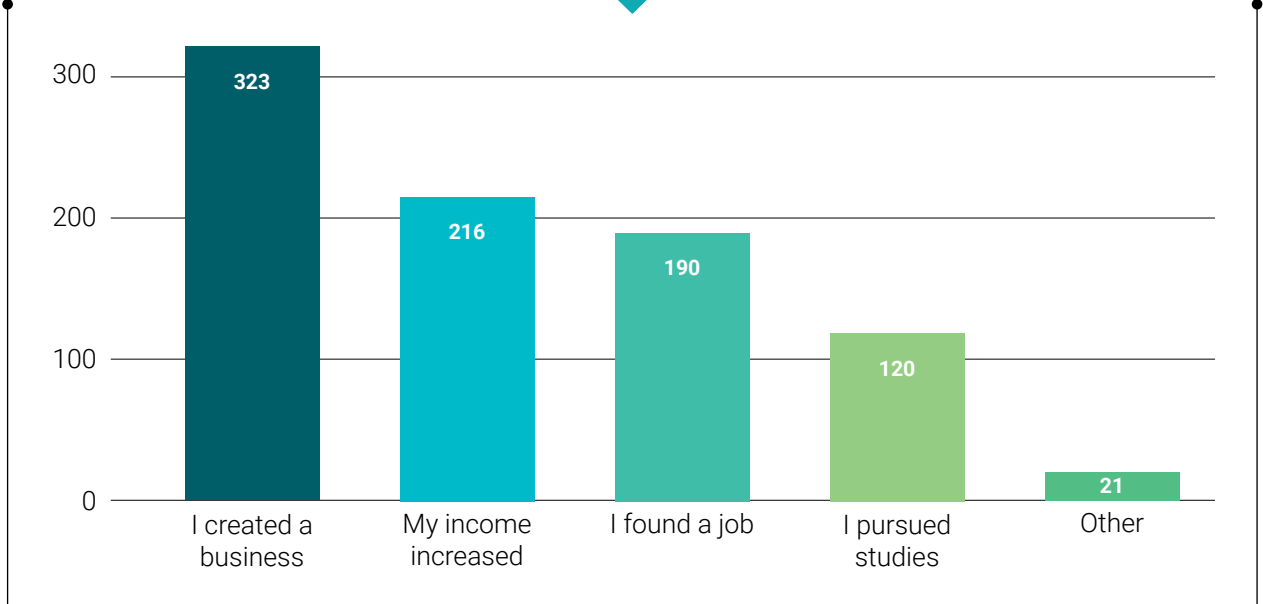
Have you been able to apply the knowledge and skills learned from WPDI in your personal or professional life? (1,285 responses)



Have you ever recommended WPDI programs to other people? (1,282 responses)



Has the WPDI program improved your career prospects? (870 responses)

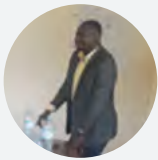


Feedback from Local & National Partners



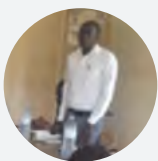
“Our department is responsible for coordinating community initiatives with the government and implementing partners. We recognize that WPDI has made a strong contribution to capacity-building, particularly through group-based training that strengthens human resources. WPDI has also demonstrated significant impact in the area of livelihood, especially through economic empowerment initiatives. Many youth groups, both male and female, in the Abim District have received financial support from WPDI, leading to meaningful improvements in their lives. Efforts to address gender-based violence gained momentum with the introduction of WPDI’s interventions. WPDI has made a valuable contribution to the Abim District, and we are deeply grateful for this support. We encourage WPDI to continue this important work and expand its reach to benefit an even wider community.”

Lokinomoe Joseph,
DCDO Representative, Abim District Local Government



“WPDI has done remarkable work in the Karamoja Sub-Region, and the number of lives transformed through its initiatives is highly commendable. The organization’s strategic involvement in peace dialogues during a period of heightened insecurity played a crucial role in restoring stability across the region. Through these dialogues and effective coordination with key stakeholders, a sense of calm has been achieved, and continued engagement in this area is strongly encouraged. In addition, the skills development programmes and grants provided to youth groups have significantly strengthened self-reliance and economic independence. Beneficiaries have gained valuable knowledge in financial literacy, management, and conflict resolution. There is strong hope for the continuation of similar projects that build on these successes.”

Okori Dennis,
RDC/Office of the President, Amudat District



“During the four years I have worked with the WPDI team, it has been evident that the organization places the needs of the community at the forefront, implementing demand-driven initiatives. Most interventions are carefully tailored to address the specific needs of the people of Karamoja. The organization’s core pillars align closely with the region’s priorities, and continued support from donors is essential to further the development of the community. WPDI is guided by a committed and skilled staff who prioritize the beneficiaries above all else. Being from the region, they have an in-depth understanding of the challenges faced by the people of Karamoja and are well-positioned to offer practical solutions as active members of the community.”

Honorable Nangole Joseph Lobot,
LCV Chairperson, Amudat District





Vectors of Change

At WPDI, we believe that building resilience in fragile environments requires strong vectors of change, that is locally rooted mechanisms that enable communities to transform their own futures. To create a meaningful and lasting impact, WPDI engages with local communities through two vectors of change:

- **The Youth Peacemakers**, a group of young leaders trained by WPDI, who act as a relay in the field through various initiatives and by supporting training efforts.
- **Community Learning Centers (CLCs)**, physical locations that act as a safe space to convene, address local issues, receive free capacity-building training, access resources and take part in activities.

Together, these vectors ensure that change is driven from within communities, making resilience durable, locally owned, and capable of multiplying impact over time.



Mobilizing Youth Leaders to Drive Change at the Grassroots

In the Karamoja Sub-Region, WPDI maintains a cohort of 27 Lead Youth Peacemakers and 178 Local Youth Peacemakers who serve as key drivers of change at the grassroots level. They support the implementation of peacebuilding initiatives, mobilize communities, and provide training in Conflict Resolution Education (CRE), equipping individuals with skills to foster peaceful coexistence within their families and communities. Their efforts have contributed to a significant shift in how conflicts are addressed, with more people applying mediation and dialogue-based approaches to resolve disputes. In effect, the mobilization of these youth accounts for nearly 43% of the total reach of WPDI in the sub-region, with one youth positively impacting an average of 36 individual beneficiaries.



“As a result of WPDI’s support and training, I was able to train seven business groups in Loroo, with six of them currently operational after being funded by the organization. I have also had the opportunity to work as a peace champion and mediator, resolving conflicts and promoting harmony in households amongst people in my community. My experience with WPDI has also opened doors to new opportunities. I was entrusted by the Peace Justice Mission to train two different groups of people, 15 youths in Kalya Peace Village in Kosike and 15 Elders at St. Joseph Cathedral in Amudat Town Council on Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Education. Additionally, I was also part of an internal exposure visit where I learned from other groups and ToTs from Napak and Moroto districts respectively. The stipend I received from WPDI enabled me to invest in my future, buying 20 goats and land. Most notably, the confidence and skills I gained through WPDI empowered me to apply, and secure a position at the district Local Government as a Parish Chief in Amudat District Local Government. I am grateful for the impact WPDI has had on my life, and I am committed to continuing to serve my community with the skills and knowledge I have gained. Thank you, WPDI, for believing in me and empowering me to make a difference.”

Chepoghisyo Janet,
Youth Peacemaker from Loroo Sub-County



Okello Simon's Journey from Loss to Becoming a Youth Leader



Okello Simon is a Youth Peacemaker from Lotuke Sub-County in Abim District. He struggled for many years, facing the loss of a parent, financial difficulties and violence around him, while growing up as the eldest of five siblings in a single-parent household.

Luckily, he managed to turn his life around and become a Youth Peacemaker and receive training in Business and Entrepreneurship. This helped him start his own business and help maintain his family. Now he is enthusiastic to share with others his skills and knowledge.

Okello Shares his Experience with WPDI

"Life was never easy for us, and I faced many challenges growing up. My journey began to change when I joined WPDI, and gradually, life started improving.

The entrepreneurship training transformed my life. Today, I proudly own a grinding mill, a motorcycle, and a goat-rearing project with 13 goats, all thanks to WPDI's mentorship and support. Beyond my personal businesses, WPDI has empowered me to become a self-reliant youth leader, confident in delivering training and guidance to my community and beyond. As a young person, I firmly believe in the power of commitment, teamwork, and hard work, principles reflected in youth unity, innovation, equality, and prosperity. I am deeply grateful to WPDI for the opportunities and support that have shaped my life."



Improving Local Access to Skills, Knowledge and Connectivity

Located in the heart of the Karamoja Sub-Region, the Moroto Community Learning Center (CLC) serves as a vital hub for WPDI's interventions in the region. As the central facility for skills training and community empowerment, the CLC provides accessible education in Information and Communication Technologies, Business and Entrepreneurship, Arts and Crafts, Conflict Resolution Education, and Trauma Healing to individuals from surrounding communities. The center hosts graduation ceremonies for trainees completing their courses and serves as an exhibition space for the Arts and Crafts department during these events. It also supports activities such as advocacy campaigns, the CLC business bootcamps and business plan competitions.



Bridging the Digital Divide in the Karamoja Sub-Region through Satellite Connectivity



Expanding Opportunity through Connectivity in Karamoja

For decades, young people in the Karamoja Sub-Region have faced limited access to digital tools, online education, and global opportunities due to weak infrastructure and isolation. This digital gap has restricted learning, innovation, and economic growth, especially for youth eager to transform their lives and communities.

In 2025, this reality began to change when SES partnered with WPDI to deliver high-speed satellite internet connectivity to Community Learning Centers in Uganda, including those serving vulnerable youth from regions like Karamoja.

Technology as a Catalyst for Youth Empowerment

The satellite-powered connectivity has enabled WPDI to significantly expand its educational and livelihood programs. Youth now access online learning platforms and digital educational resources, virtual exchange programs connecting them to peers and mentors beyond Karamoja, digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and leadership training. This connectivity has strengthened WPDI's existing work in peacebuilding, livelihoods, and youth leadership, ensuring that young people are not left behind in the digital age.

Recognition of Transformative Impact

In recognition of this work, WPDI and SES were awarded the Changing Lives Award at the 2025 Africa Tech Festival. The award honors initiatives that use technology to improve lives across Africa and acknowledges the partnership's success in connecting thousands of young people in conflict-affected regions of Uganda and South Sudan to digital education.





Peacebuilding

WPDI's peacebuilding efforts focus on grassroots empowerment, recognizing that sustainable peace starts within communities. By engaging local leaders, youth, and educators, WPDI fosters a culture of dialogue, conflict mediation, and cooperation.

Peacebuilding at the Community Learning Center

378 Conflict Resolution Education trainees	51 prison inmates reached for rehabilitation	92 participants in Cinema for Peace	2,246 advocacy campaign participants	2,767 total participants in peacebuilding activities at the CLC
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Peacebuilding in the Community

9 Community Dialogues held	2,308 participants in Community Dialogues	151 local leaders trained	2,459 total participants in community-level peacebuilding
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Peacebuilding in Schools

10 schools hosting WPDI programs	1,035 learners trained in Conflict Resolution Education	80 teachers and school administrative staff trained	2,355 advocacy campaign participants	75 scholarship recipients	3,545 total participants in school-based peacebuilding
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PEACEBUILDING: 9,479 participants

Conflict Resolution Skills for Everyone in the Community

In a world often marked by conflict and instability, the pursuit of peace can appear to be an elusive ideal. However, at WPDJ, we hold a steadfast belief in the inherent capacity of every individual to become a peacemaker when provided with the appropriate skills and tools. When individuals commit to peace, this dedication can create a ripple effect positively influencing relationships, communities, and even entire nations. WPDJ provides free Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) training programs which are specifically designed to meet the needs of local residents, with content created by WPDJ and adapted by trained local teams to ensure that it is relatable and easy to understand for participants.

Peacebuilding at the Community Learning Center

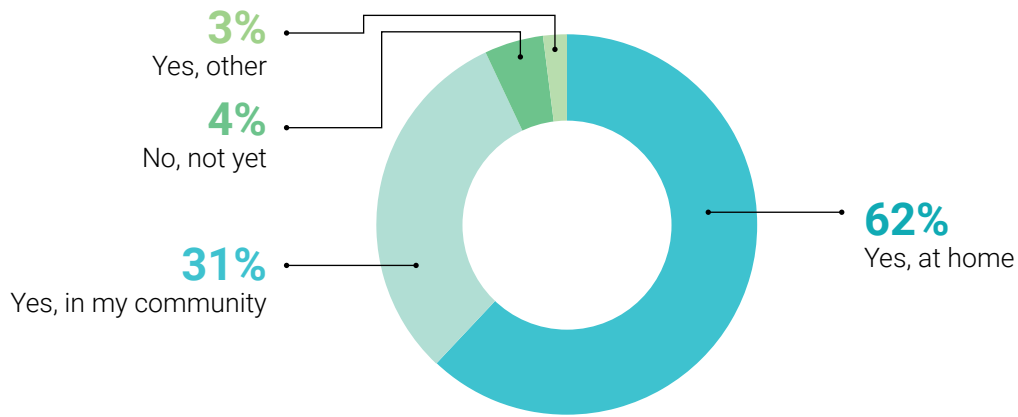
378 Conflict Resolution Education trainees	51 prison inmates reached for rehabilitation	92 Cinema for Peace participants	2,246 participants in Advocacy Campaigns	2,767 total participants in peacebuilding activities at the CLC
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Conflict Resolution Education at the Community Learning Center

In 2025, WPDJ continued to empower communities on conflict resolution through a series of training done both at the CLC and in the community. Led by Youth Peacemakers and Trainers, the sessions further examined issues of identity and human rights, and strengthened communication skills through an emphasis on active listening. Overall, this year 378 community members underwent and completed CRE both at the CLC and at the community level.



"I have mediated a conflict since graduating" (213 responses)



"The CRE training was highly engaging and informative. I learned about the different phases of conflict, from pre-conflict to post-conflict, and how skipping any stage can escalate situations into violence. The knowledge I gained was substantial and has transformed the way I understand and approach conflict as a peace ambassador. I am committed to promoting peace within the Lokopo Sub-County community."

Loyolo Mark,
Conflict Resolution Education graduate from Lokopo Sub-County,
Napak District



"I am more than happy for the training offered to me by WPDI. I enjoyed the practical sessions that were contextualized to our setting. I understood that conflict is part of our life that requires us to carefully manage conflict situations when it arises within the community. It is important to always be conflict sensitive as to manage conflict."

Lokawa John,
Conflict Resolution Education graduate from Lokopo Sub-County,
Napak District



Training in Detention Centers

This year, WPDI implemented programs of Conflict Resolution Education (CRE), Trauma Healing and Arts and Crafts training in Moroto Government Prisons. The request from the government was based on the observation that many inmates experienced bitterness, rejection, betrayal, hopelessness and felt that they had no more future or hope of life.

In response, a total of 51 prisoners received support. Among them, 20 inmates participated in CRE and Trauma Healing training, which fostered inner peace and emotional healing. They subsequently shared these skills with fellow inmates and, later, within their communities upon release. In addition, 31 female prison inmates completed a set of training in Arts and Crafts, consisting in jewelry making. The inmates felt that knowledge in making different kinds of jewelry would add a lot of value to them and would be something they can do and sell within the prison or when they get out of prison for income generation. The training took three months and the trainees were engaged twice a week. Training programs were agreed and made in consultation with the prison officials to enable harmonization with other running programs at the prisons.

WPDI will continue extending these training to government institutions like the prisons, the shelter and even to police cells where these people are detained. By extending the training to the detainees, it helps them feel listened to and cared for.

"I am currently serving my sentence at Moroto government prison. The Trauma Healing training has greatly changed my life and has brought healing as well as a sign of hope for me. I got comforted and found solutions to my own problems and now I have peace of mind. I am motivated to request for a transfer to Luzira to complete a counselling course from there, with the hope of transforming my life and my country. I am now able to support a number of the inmates who usually come to share their problems with me."

Norman,
Trauma Healing Trainee at Moroto
Government Prison



"The Conflict Resolution Education training exceeded my expectations. At first when I thought I knew it all, I was shocked to learn about aspects of emotional intelligence, various types of conflicts and mediation among others. Special thanks to WPDI for giving the inmates of Moroto Prisons an opportunity. I feel a changed person compared to before I attended the conflict resolution education training."

William,
Conflict Resolution Education
Trainee at Moroto Government Prison



Change in an Inmate's Life after the Trauma Healing Training

Before enrolling, Peter struggled deeply with emotional distress. He experienced persistent sadness, frequent nightmares, loss of appetite, and a short temper. He had lost hope for a better life and even wished for death to escape the challenges he faced while in prison.

Through WPDI's trauma healing training, Peter began to accept his circumstances and discovered a sense of purpose even within prison. The program helped him manage his emotions and develop strategies to live peacefully with fellow inmates. He reports that the training brought comfort, encouragement, and emotional healing, leaving him trauma-free and empowered to navigate his environment positively.

He can now identify fellow inmates experiencing trauma and provide peer counseling, leading to mindset shifts and improved emotional well-being among participants. Peter is committed to continuing this work beyond prison, planning to apply his knowledge to support trauma-affected individuals in his community once he is released.

Cinema for Peace

Our Cinema for Peace program is another key activity offered at our CLC. It engaged 92 children in conversations about peace and reconciliation by showcasing movies with powerful characters and narratives centered on conflict resolution.



“This program has been very useful because before I had many challenges in making peace with my friends and also the community. I had a lot of friends who engaged themselves in bad groups and that brought sorrow. When I joined this program, I learned more. The movies we have been watching have taught me how to be a good peacemaker, how to be fearless and make peace with friends. I hope that this program may continue teaching and preaching more about peace so that Karamoja may grow and develop with loving and peaceful people.”

Ampumuza Isaac,
Student of Kitebi Secondary School



“I heard about this program through my dad who underwent training with WPDI in ICT and it has helped me solve a lot of challenges. Before this program, I used to have low self-esteem, which is not good. Thanks to this program, I am more brave, strong, courageous, and have trust in myself, just like the protagonist of the film.”

Kakama Benjamin,
Cinema for Peace participant



Community Dialogues for Sowing Seeds of Peace

Karamoja has a long history of conflict associated with cattle raids and theft. WPDI’s interventions contribute to peacebuilding and reconciliation among these communities by facilitating both inter- and intra-community peace dialogues. These dialogues provide a platform for communities to voice their grievances and work toward peaceful resolutions.

In 2025, WPDI supported nine community peace dialogues, reaching 2,308 community members. These dialogues are demand-driven by leaders from the affected communities, who request WPDI’s support in facilitating them. Security personnel, including the police, the UPDF, and army commanders, are also typically involved.

During these dialogue meetings, resolutions are developed and action points are assigned to various stakeholders, including community leaders, community members, security service providers, and WPDI as a supporting organization. WPDI is regularly updated on the progress of these follow-up actions.

Peacebuilding in the Community

9
Community Dialogues held

2,308
participants in Community Dialogues

151
local leaders trained

2,459
total participants in community-level peacebuilding

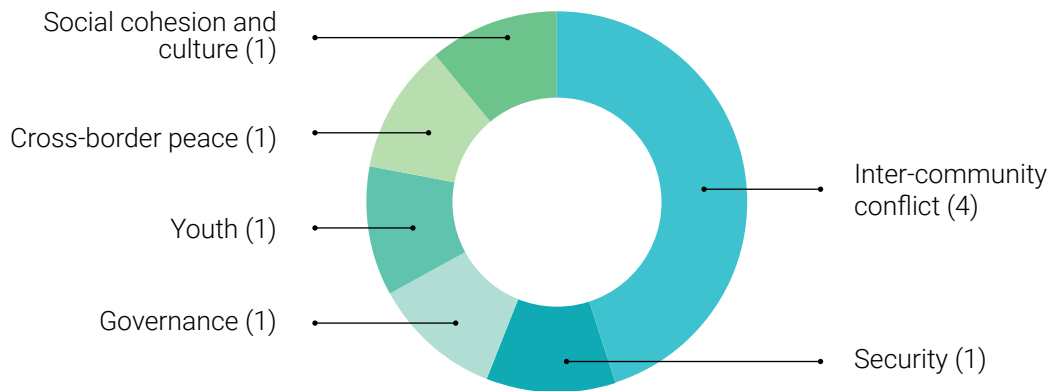


“I want to thank WPDI for always supporting the peace dialogues whenever I request for support. This dialogue created a platform for social positive change for Napak communities, especially with the presence of the District Security committee, Kraal Leaders, Youth and Security Providers. I am optimistic that after today, things will never be the same again because the leaders are committed to addressing the root causes of our conflicts. This was very fruitful and this was made possible with support from WPDI. Once again thank you very much for loving and embracing peace.”

Kodet John Paul,
District Chairperson, Napak District



Topics covered during the nine community dialogues held in 2025



"The community dialogue meeting held today was timely with the community members, Kraal leaders, security providers and district leadership in attendance. The meeting, aimed at positive transformation as well as peaceful co-existence with the neighbors of Pian of Nabilatuk and Jie of Kotido will bring lasting unity. The security providers and the community members were involved in coming up with workable action points targeting to address the current vice of cattle theft and the leaders committed to support in the process of recoveries of cattle theft/raids by giving useful information to the security personnel."

Lochoro Jacob,
Local Leader from Lokopo Sub-County, Napak District



Promoting Peaceful Dialogue over Shared Resources in Abim District

In Abim District, a long-standing dispute over the ownership and revenue sharing of a telecommunications mast had created deep tensions among Alerek Town Council, Atunga Sub-County, and Magamaga Sub-county. The conflict was marked by bitter disagreements, attacks, and counterattacks among local leaders, largely driven by competition over revenue collected from the telecommunications company. At the time, only Atunga Sub-County was benefiting from the mast revenue, further intensifying resentment and conflict among the neighboring administrative units.

Creating a Neutral Space for Dialogue and Reflecting on Past Practices

To address the escalating tensions, WPDJ facilitated a community dialogue in Otalabar Village, Abim District, bringing together local leaders, elders, and community members from the three sub-counties. During the discussions, elders and community members shared historical perspectives, explaining that the three sub-counties were once part of a single common unit. They highlighted how government-led administrative divisions, combined with limited local revenue sources, had contributed to competition over the telecommunications mast as one of the few viable income-generating assets.

Pathways Toward Peaceful Resolution

Community members tasked local leaders with conducting GPS mapping to accurately determine the sub-county in which the telecommunications mast is located. It was also agreed that a follow-up dialogue would be held one month later to present the findings and make a final, informed decision regarding revenue allocation.

Progress and Current Status

The agreed-upon resolution to conduct GPS mapping has been implemented. The dialogue significantly improved inter-community relations by shifting the focus from confrontation to collaboration. The process strengthened trust, encouraged transparency, and reinforced the value of dialogue as a tool for resolving disputes over shared resources.

Community Testimonial

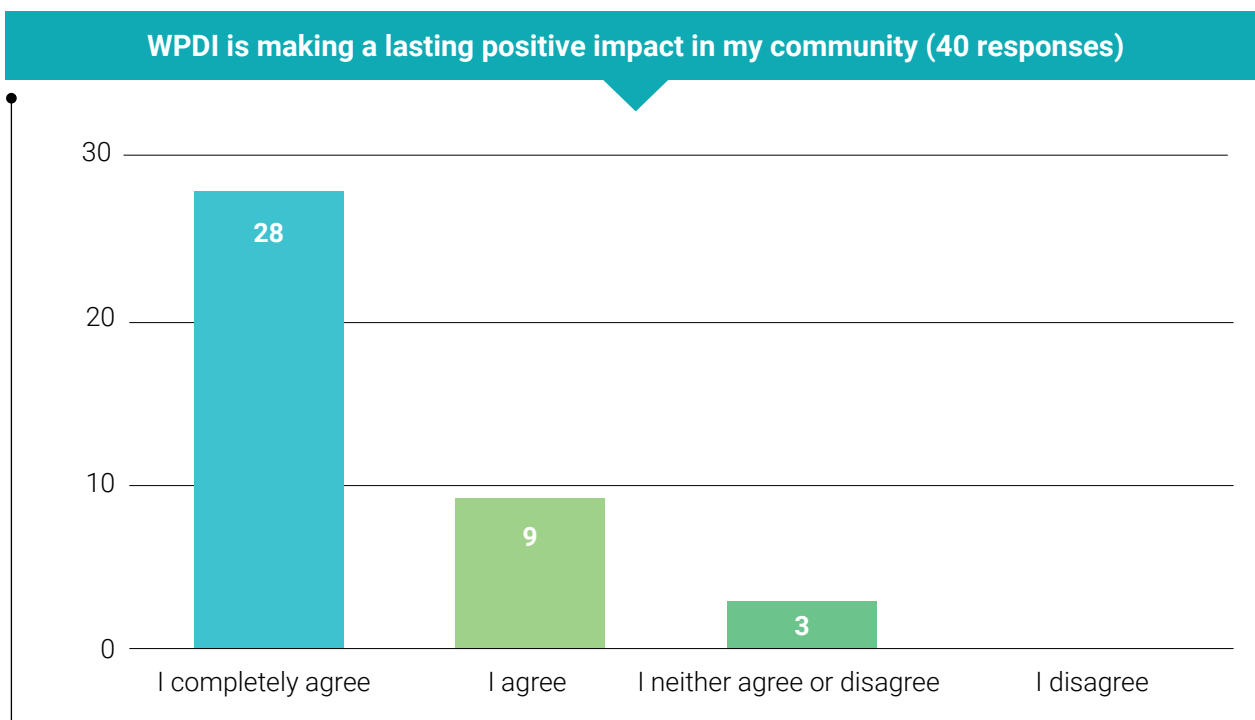


"I appreciate WPDJ for the timely support in facilitating the community dialogue held at Otalabar Village. The discussions helped us understand the origins of the conflict and opened the way for peaceful solutions that can benefit all three sub-counties. I believe the district will ensure that the funds are fairly allocated to avoid further conflict over the Airtel telecommunications mast. Through this dialogue, I was able to share my views and advocate for the inclusion of Alerek Sub-County in service delivery." *Okello John Baptist, a community member from Alerek Sub-county*



Community Leaders Training

In regions affected by conflict, it is crucial that leaders are equipped with the skills necessary to mediate disputes and foster peace in general, and it is also critical that they have the capacity to follow up on the results, thereby ensuring the long-term sustainability of WPDI's action. To this effect, 151 leaders were trained in 2025, with many expressing that the knowledge came at the right time, giving them a deeper understanding of conflict dynamics and resolution strategies. In 2025, 40 of the 151 leaders responded to our survey to measure the impact of the training.





“Before the training, I was not familiar with mediation processes or the steps required for effective mediation. However, with the skills gained, I now feel confident that I can facilitate negotiations and peace dialogues within my community and the wider Sub-County. I sincerely thank WPDI and the trainers for the excellent facilitation.”

Kokoi Emmanuella,
Senior Assistant Secretary, Kaabong District



“I encountered a conflict situation in my Parish. Fortunately, I had just completed the course and acquired the knowledge and skills needed to address it. During a community baraza in my sub-county, tensions rose among participants, and the discussion became heated. Using the Win-Win conflict resolution approach, I guided the conflicting parties through a successful mediation process, ultimately helping them reach a positive agreement and resolve the conflict peacefully. My skills and efforts were recognized for fostering peace in my community.”

Nekesa Esther,
Senior Assistant Secretary, Amudat District



Bringing Skills and Values for Peace in Schools

10
schools
hosting WPDI
programs

1,035
learners trained in
Conflict Resolution
Education

80
teachers and school
administrative staff
trained

2,355
advocacy
campaign
participants

75
scholarship
recipients

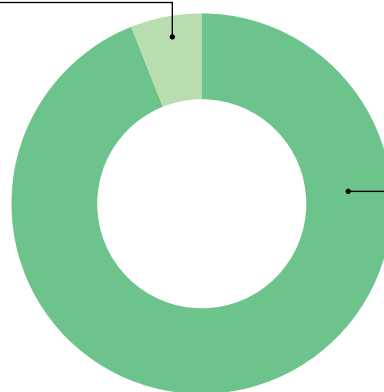
3,545 total participants in school-based peacebuilding

Conflict Resolution Education for Students and Pupils

To support youth empowerment and resilience in Karamoja, WPDI has been leading peacebuilding efforts directly in schools. By teaching CRE in both primary and secondary schools, students gain practical skills and values that encourage cooperation, respect, and personal development. In 2025, 1,035 students were trained in CRE and 409 of them responded to our survey to measure the impact of the training.

Is there less fighting among students who attend this program? (409 responses)

5.9%
No



94.1%
Yes



Students testimonials



"I am a member of the peace club in my school and I joined the Conflict Resolution Education class. Before attending the training, I did not know how to manage and control my emotions when annoyed. But now I am confident and I can handle any situation without being emotional."

Ingima Immaculate,
CRE student from Police Nursery and Primary School



"I want to thank WPMI for the program in our school. It has done a lot for me as a pupil. Before I enrolled in the training program, I liked fighting other pupils most of the time. But since I enrolled in the CRE training, I have learned to respect my peers as well as my teachers and parents. I am a changed girl now and even my friends now like me. Thank you WPMI for the good program."

Loput Florence,
CRE student from Rainbow Primary School



Teacher testimonial



"On behalf of the school management of Arengesiep Secondary School, we sincerely thank WPMI. The program has positively transformed students' behavior, with significantly fewer cases of indiscipline compared to 2024, including incidents such as leaving school without permission, fighting, and theft. Through peace education and advocacy campaigns, students have learned non-violent ways to resolve disputes, develop emotional intelligence and strengthen interpersonal relationships."

Ochan Patrick,
Patron Peace Club in Arengesiep Secondary School, Nabilatuk District



Restoring Peace and Positive Learning in Schools through Conflict Resolution Education

At Kangole Girls' Secondary School frequent disagreements often escalated into indiscipline, disrupting learning and creating tension across the school environment. Teachers struggled to manage these cases fairly, and many conflicts were never fully resolved, leading to repeated incidents and an overreliance on school administration for even minor disputes.

WPDI's Intervention: Building Skills for Peace

To address these challenges, WPDI introduced CRE and peacebuilding initiatives, including advocacy campaigns and peer mediation training. The program equipped students with practical skills to manage disagreements constructively, communicate effectively, and resolve conflicts peacefully among themselves.

Visible Changes in Student Behavior

Following the training, schools began to see clear and lasting improvements. Students now resolve many conflicts independently, without immediate teacher or administrative intervention. Incidents of fighting and quarrelling have declined, while cooperation, sharing, and problem-solving skills have significantly improved. Students are also more confident in expressing themselves openly and respectfully, creating a healthier learning environment.

Voices from the Classroom

Mr. Keem Henry, a teacher at Kangole Girls' Secondary School, highlighted the transformation: "There is a great positive change in how students handle and resolve conflicts without the intervention of teachers. Thanks to the peer mediation skills gained through CRE, students are now able to manage issues at their own level. Compared to before, when even petty matters were rushed to administration, students now try to resolve conflicts constructively. We have also noticed improved self-expression, cooperation, and problem-solving among learners."

Similarly, Mr. Ochero Peter, a teacher at Apostles of Jesus School, emphasized the broader impact: "Conflict Resolution Education has greatly strengthened students' negotiation skills and emotional intelligence. Learners are better able to monitor and regulate their emotions, listen actively, and relate positively with others. The program has reduced bullying, improved relationships between students and staff, and created a safer, more inclusive school environment. It has also inspired students to take on leadership roles as peace advocates within the school."

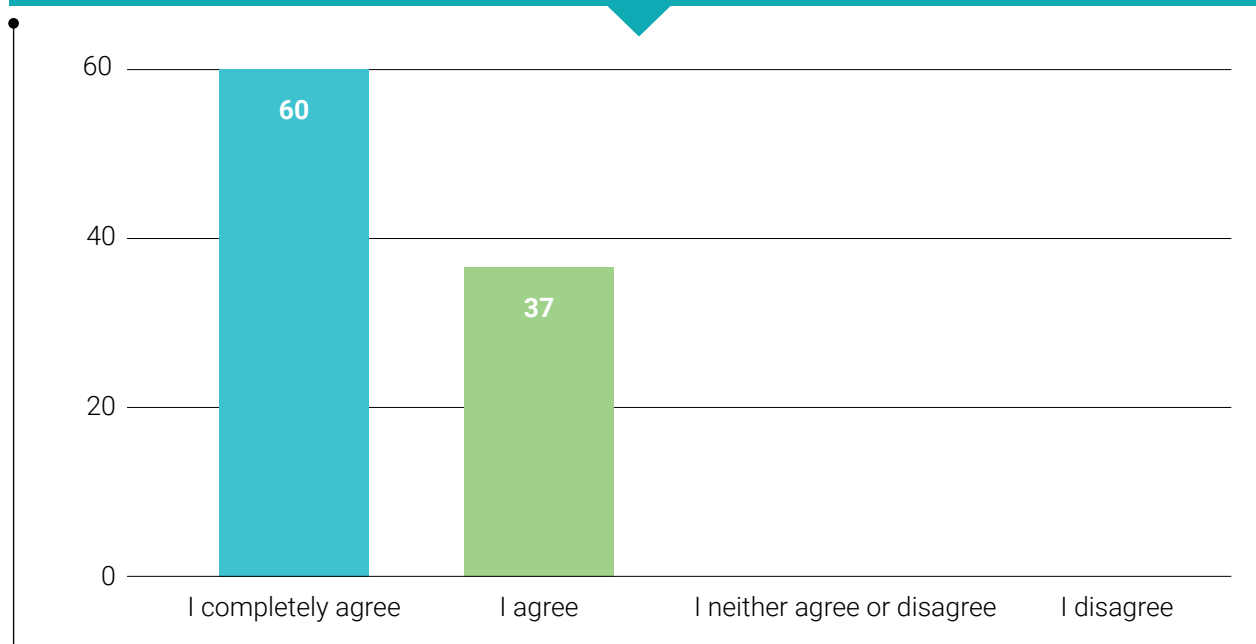


Training School Teachers in Conflict Resolution Education

Given that teachers interact with students daily, they are often the first to witness and address conflicts between students. WPDI recognized the need to empower teachers with the skills to handle and mediate conflicts, ensuring they could better support their students in overcoming challenges.

WPDI trained teachers across five schools in the Karamoja Sub-Region. In total, 80 teachers, of which 50 males and 30 females, underwent and completed CRE training, empowering them to manage conflicts of different natures both at school and in their community. To assess its impact, 97 school staff members completed a survey reporting on the effects they observed in the school.

“The WPDI program is effectively teaching and promoting peaceful attitudes, self-discipline, nonviolence, and other civic mindsets” (97 responses)



“I am so grateful to WPDI for bringing this program to our school. I am so empowered and very excited to start helping my colleagues and pupils in resolving the conflicts at school. The CRE training is useful for us teachers who handle children from different backgrounds.”

Adungo Christine,
Teacher of Moroto Police Primary School, Moroto District



“Teaching is a noble but a very demanding profession where, as a teacher, I meet challenging situations involving conflicts among teachers and students. This training has enriched me with skills and knowledge to address any conflict that may arise within the school. All teachers in my school should benefit from this training because what is shared in the training helps us in managing many competing demands that risk escalating into full-blown conflicts among students and teachers if not handled well.”

Nahondo Bruno Alex,
Teacher at Kangole Girls Senior Secondary School





From Inner Struggle to Becoming a Peace Champion in School and Community

Mr. Olupot Martin, a teacher at Moroto Police Primary School, describes WPDI's conflict resolution training as a transformative experience. Before participating in the program, he struggled with unresolved personal conflict that affected his emotional wellbeing. He often felt restless, easily irritated, and unable to control his temper, which placed strain on his work and relationships.

Personal Transformation and Inner Peace

Through WPDI's training, Mr. Olupot acquired practical tools for conflict management, meditation, and self-reflection. These skills enabled him to develop inner peace, regulate his emotions, and approach challenges with greater clarity.

The change did not stop with him. Mr. Olupot now relates more positively with fellow teachers and brings renewed energy to his role as an educator. He has embraced his responsibility as a peace advocate, applying his skills not only within the school environment but also in his family and wider community.

Reflecting on the experience, he shared: *"I feel a lot of change in me compared to before the training. The skills I acquired helped me find inner peace and transform the way I relate with others. I am grateful to WPDI and the school administration for selecting me at the right time. Without this training, my mental and emotional wellbeing, and my career as a teacher, could have been seriously affected."*



Promoting Access to Education for Girls through Scholarships

In the Karamoja Sub-Region, the low literacy rate has negative consequences on cultural and traditional practices where girls are groomed for marriage and their access to education is not a priority. To ensure that the region can aim for a future where no one is left behind, it is essential to focus on education and advocate for higher female school enrolment and retention, finding concrete ways to promote the right to education for the girls. Through its scholarship program, WPDI has continued to support 75 vulnerable adolescent girls from the Karamoja Sub-Region since 2023 in their pursuit of secondary education. The girls are in eight secondary schools in the region, where WPDI provides not only tuition and school supplies but also ongoing mentorship, until the girls will graduate in 2028.



"I would like to sincerely thank WPDI for the invaluable support you have given me throughout my education. Your assistance in paying our school fees and providing essential school materials such as uniforms and scholastic supplies has made it possible for me to stay in school. I am especially grateful for the career guidance you have offered, which has helped me understand the subjects I need to focus on to achieve my future goals. I aspire to become a teacher, and through your guidance, I now have a clear understanding of the career path I should follow. I am truly thankful to the WPDI team, our mentor, and our teachers for their continued encouragement and support as we work towards achieving our dreams."

Igira Catherine,
Student of Kotido Secondary School



Improved School Retention Through Scholarship Support

Financial Challenges and Dropouts Before the Intervention

There was a high rate of school dropout among sponsored girls at the school. Many students faced challenges with school fees, and some were sent home or dropped out entirely due to failure to pay fees and meet other school requirements.

Teko Mackline Monday's Experience

One of the girls forced to drop out of Jubilee 2000 Senior Secondary School in Karenga District due to financial difficulties was Teko Mackline Monday. She shared her experience: "Before the WPDI scholarship, I struggled because I kept dropping out of school due to my inability to pay school fees and meet school requirements. Life was very hard, and my dream of becoming a lawyer felt like it was slipping away. Today, I am confident that I will achieve my dream because of WPDI's support in paying my school fees and supporting my education. I now believe that I will succeed."

Change Brought About by WPDI's Intervention

Through WPDI's scholarship program, students have become stable in school, with no reported cases of dropout or dismissal due to non-payment of school fees or unmet requirements. The support has enabled learners to focus on their studies and remain in school consistently.

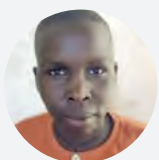


Advocacy Campaigns in Schools

Advocacy campaigns are key activities implemented by WPDI to promote peace within communities and to create an enabling environment for learners and their families. During these campaigns, learners actively identify advocacy issues and develop key messages, which are then shared with the broader community. Over 2025, WPDI conducted seven school-based advocacy campaigns, reaching a total of 2,355 learners. The advocacy campaigns focused on promoting education by addressing behaviors and social challenges that contribute to poor academic performance and school dropout. Key themes included the prevention of early pregnancy, discouraging alcohol consumption, reducing absenteeism and unauthorized movement out of school, and strengthening discipline among learners.

Among the most significant advocacy campaigns was the one held at Nadunget Senior Secondary School, which focused on preventing early and unplanned pregnancies among learners. Learners developed advocacy messages that were shared with their peers, drawing on real examples of students who had already dropped out due to early pregnancy. The campaign reinforced the importance of discipline and prioritizing education.

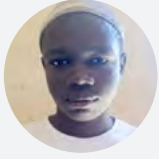
Another advocacy campaign took place at St. Kizito Lorengedwat Secondary School and addressed alcohol consumption as a major cause of indiscipline and poor academic performance. The campaign responded to an urgent need identified by the school community.



"I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to WPDI for the advocacy campaign, which has contributed to improved midterm performance for some learners at our school. As a girl, I have learned about the risks associated with unhealthy relationships, including early pregnancy. The advocacy sessions at school have helped me refocus on my studies and commit to avoiding unnecessary movement outside the school without permission."

Losike Hannah Grace,
Student from Kangole Girls Senior Secondary School, Napak District





“We appreciate WPDI for conducting advocacy engagements with students. At Arengesiep Secondary School, some students have been involved in activities such as drinking alcohol, which has negatively affected attitudes and discipline. Conflicts, including fights and quarrels, are common among students. The recent advocacy campaign was timely, helping students understand the responsibilities they hold and the dangers of indiscipline, as well as how these behaviors can impact their studies and future prospects. We thank WPDI for their continued efforts in supporting students to focus on education and promoting positive behavior in Karamoja.”

Lolem Mike,
Student from Arengesiep Secondary School, Nabilatuk District



Take-away from WPDI's Interventions in Schools

The school-based interventions in Karamoja have successfully moved to create a measurable culture of non-violence and academic stability. With 3,545 individuals reached through peacebuilding in schools across 10 partner institutions in 2025, WPDI has established a critical foundation for regional transformation. The quantitative results from the Karamoja surveys underscore this success: 98.7% of surveyed students in the region report that the program has helped them respect their peers, while 97.3% of teachers and staff state that school-based advocacy campaigns have significantly reduced cases of student indiscipline.

Strategically, the impact of these activities is best seen in the 92.8% of students who feel more confident in their future as a result of WPDI's presence. When combined with the 75 secondary school scholarships provided to vulnerable girls, which has resulted in zero reported dropouts among recipients, it is clear that the program is not only resolving conflicts but also dismantling the socio-economic barriers to education. By empowering 1,035 learners and 80 staff members with Conflict Resolution Education, WPDI has effectively turned these schools into regional models for peaceful coexistence, ensuring that the next generation of Karamoja leaders is equipped with the emotional intelligence and resilience necessary to sustain long-term stability.





Livelihood

WPDI's livelihood initiatives are designed to break the cycle of poverty and violence that affect fragility-affected communities by equipping individuals with practical skills that enhance their employability and economic independence. Through vocational training programs in ICT, Business and Entrepreneurship, and Arts and Crafts, beneficiaries gain valuable knowledge that enables them to pursue career opportunities and start their own businesses. To further support aspiring entrepreneurs, WPDI organizes business plan competitions that provide startup grants and mentorship, helping transform innovative ideas into sustainable enterprises. In 2025, the program has continued to expand, reaching more individuals and fostering self-reliance within communities.

Capacity-Building

257 Information and Communication Technologies trainees	200 Business and Entrepreneurship trainees	70 Vulnerable Women trained in business	187 Arts and Crafts trainees	257 Financial Literacy trainees	971 total trainees in vocational courses
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Businesses

27 businesses created in 2025	220 businesses supported by WPDI in total	959 jobs created	520 indirect beneficiaries of businesses (families)	1,479 beneficiaries of all businesses
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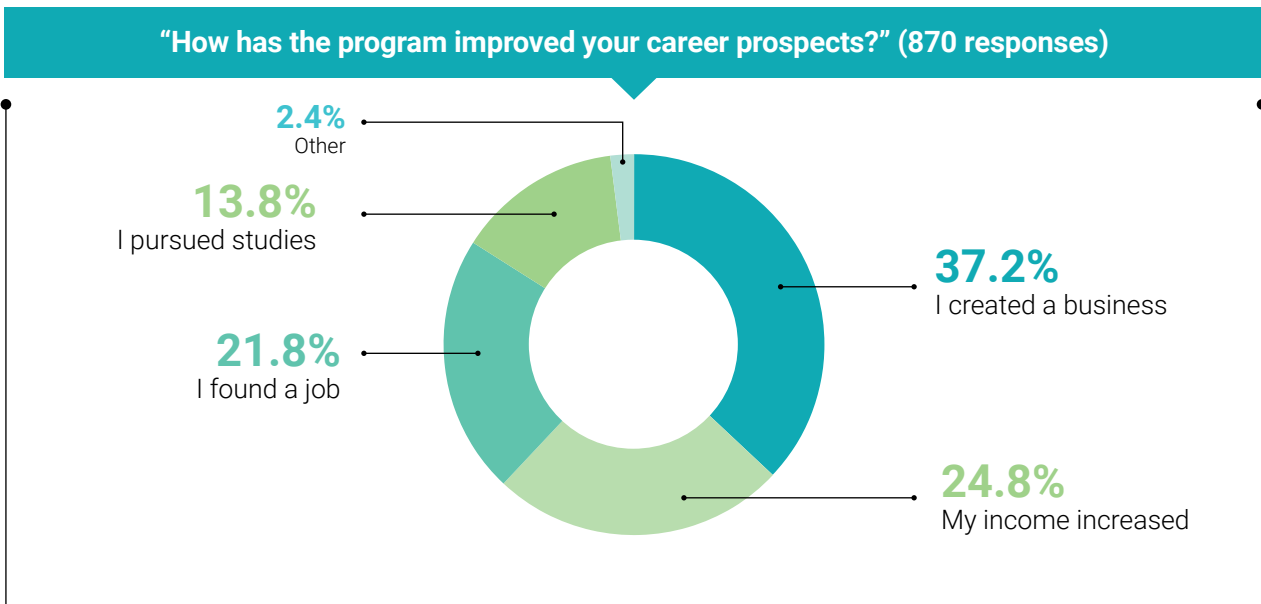
LIVELIHOOD: 2,450 participants

Capacity-Building Courses



In 2025, WPDI’s livelihood interventions in the Karamoja Sub-Region have continued to promote basic skilling as a robust engine for regional economic stability, directly challenging the 74.2% poverty rate that persists in the area. To this effect, WPDI offers comprehensive capacity-building programs designed to enhance participants’ employability and entrepreneurial potential.

These programs cover practical skills in Business and Entrepreneurship, Arts and Crafts, Financial Literacy and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), equipping learners to navigate today’s competitive job market. Participants gain hands-on experience, develop problem-solving abilities, and cultivate leadership and teamwork skills that are directly applicable to real-world work environments. Beyond individual advancement, these courses strengthen communities by enabling participants to create small businesses, generate employment opportunities, and contribute to sustainable local development. In 2025, 971 individuals were trained in capacity-building courses and 870 of them responded to our survey to measure the impact of the training.



Information and Communication Technologies

In the Karamoja Sub-Region, as in most urban centers, there is a growing demand for digital literacy, especially in today's digital world, where ICT skills are essential for both personal and professional use. Recognizing this, WPDI has made it a priority to empower local communities with ICT skills, which in turn helps individuals improve their livelihoods and opportunities.

257 Individuals were trained in ICT this year both at the CLC and the community. Two districts, Abim and Kaabong, expressed interest in enhancing ICT skills of their local government staff. Responding to this request, these staff underwent and completed the basic ICT training in their respective districts. These trainings are designed in a way that those attending at the CLC will take a period of three months to be able to qualify for a certificate. They have to complete both Basic and Intermediate level topics and pass with an 80% pass mark.



Improved Workplace Performance Through ICT Skills Training

Difficulties at Work Before the Training

Asiyo Damian, a former ICT trainee, explains that before the training, his work life was very challenging due to limited computer skills. This often discouraged him, as he was unable to capture clients' details into the system, affecting his efficiency at work.

Changes and Promotion Brought About by WPDI's ICT Training

The ICT training transformed Asiyo's professional life by improving his effectiveness in the workplace and creating an opportunity for promotion. Previously working solely as a clinical nurse, he has since taken on an additional role as a records manager. In this position, he is now able to record and manage drug orders in the database, capture clients' details in medical systems for billing purposes, and prepare and share monthly reports with his supervisor and service providers via email.



Business and Entrepreneurship

This year, the business skills training managed to reach out to a total of 200 participants who benefited from the business skills training both at the CLC and the community level. These skills have greatly improved the lives of these individuals, as they have managed to improve their individual business performance, have started their own income generating enterprises, while profits made from the sales of their items have greatly improved their living standard.



“I am a businesswoman engaged in the production and sale of liquid soap, shampoo, and bar soap. I am deeply grateful to share how the business skills training has transformed my life by giving me the confidence and ability to manage my business with ease. The skills I acquired significantly improved my customer care practices. Previously, I held negative attitudes toward low-income customers and often treated them poorly, believing they could not afford my products. Through the training, I learned the importance of serving all customers equally, regardless of whether they make a purchase or their economic status. This change in approach increased customer trust and demand for my products, leading to a rise in monthly sales from UGX 500,000 to UGX 800,000. In addition, the training strengthened my record-keeping skills. Before, I was unaware of the various record books essential for managing a business. Through the training, I learned how to use the sales day book, purchases day book, stock record book, cash book, and profit and loss account to track business performance. After adopting these record-keeping practices, I have reduced losses and theft, as I am now able to monitor my business operations from start to finish.”

Irene Bala,
Business and Entrepreneurship Trainee from Natumkaskou Village,
Rupa sub-county, Moroto District



Arts and Crafts

WPDI's Arts and Crafts program is designed to equip community members with practical skills that enhance their economic independence and foster self-reliance. Through hands-on training, participants gain expertise in producing marketable goods, enabling them to generate sustainable incomes and support their families. This year, the program empowered 187 community members in and around Moroto CLC. Some have opened businesses that sell products they have been taught to make, such as liquid soap and other detergents. Others have opened up tailoring and fashion design workshops. Some trainees got jobs in other institutions and tailoring shops because of the skills they now have in tailoring and garment cutting.



"The program at WPDI was both inspiring and transformative for me as a trainee in tailoring and garment cutting. At the beginning, tailoring felt very difficult, especially learning how to operate the machine and draft clothing patterns, which was quite challenging for a beginner like me. However, after attending several training sessions with focus and commitment, I realized that it was my mindset that was holding me back. Today, I am well established, with many satisfied clients who appreciate my work and services. I am sincerely grateful to WPDI for equipping me with these skills and empowering me as a young woman. My life has truly changed for the better."

Ayugi Scovia Bridget,
Trainee in the Tailoring and garment cutting class



"I learned about the Arts and Crafts program through a mobilizer from Kraal Tours, who informed us about the new training opportunity in jewelry making and liquid soap production offered by Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative. The training involved creating web necklaces, straight necklaces, bangles, flower earrings, peyote earrings, and making liquid soap detergents. From the very first sessions, I felt inspired and motivated to master these skills. After completing two months of training, I began making jewelry at home, and later rented a shop that has now become my business specializing in Karamojong jewelry. In the shop, I sell jewelry, beads, liquid soap, and even traditional Karamojong outfits. I am deeply grateful to WPDI for turning my dream into reality through their empowering skills programs."

Aleper Shamusa,
Arts and Crafts Trainee, South Division, Moroto District



The Journey of Ajulut Pauline

Ajulut Pauline, like many young women in the region, was eager to gain practical skills that could help her secure a sustainable livelihood.

Pauline enrolled in the tailoring and garment cutting course offered by WPDI, a three-month intensive program designed to equip participants with marketable vocational skills. Through hands-on training and guidance, Pauline gained proficiency in tailoring, garment design, and production techniques, laying the foundation for her career in fashion design.

Starting Her Own Business

Early in 2025, Pauline applied for a position at Wabibi Pads, a business that specializes in reusable pads and mentors young girls and women on sexual and reproductive health and hygiene. The company also designs uniforms, bags, and other fabric products. Pauline's skills and professionalism impressed her employers, earning her a full-time position as a professional tailor and designer.

Recognition and Wider Impact

Pauline's success has not gone unnoticed. Her employers were so impressed by her work that they requested WPDI's tailoring department to connect them with more qualified tailors trained through WPDI programs. Pauline's journey demonstrates how vocational skills training can transform lives, creating pathways for entrepreneurship, employment, and community impact.



Take-away from Vocational Training

In 2025, the vocational training programs in the Karamoja Sub-Region transitioned from basic skill-sharing into a significant driver of regional economic resilience, as evidenced by both quantitative trainee data and qualitative stakeholder feedback.

- **Skill Application and Confidence:** Nearly 100% of surveyed trainees in Karamoja reported the ability to apply WPDI-acquired skills in their daily or professional lives. Notably, 99.5% attributed a significant increase in self-confidence to these programs, a critical metric for a region recovering from fragility.
- **Direct Economic Outcomes:** The impact on livelihoods is immediate, with 29% of capacity-building graduates having already established their own businesses and 24% reporting a direct increase in income.
- **Multiplying Impact:** Beyond individual success, 93% of graduates reported transferring skills to others in their communities, effectively serving as internal “vectors of change”.
- **Digital Transformation:** In the ICT sector alone, 257 individuals were trained, including local government staff from Abim and Kaabong districts who specifically requested the training to improve administrative efficiency.

Community Leader Feedback and Strategic Impact

- **Institutional Trust:** Community leaders have formally recognized the CLC and its vocational programs as vital regional assets.
- **Security and Stability:** District leaders have observed that providing vocational alternatives to youth has directly contributed to a decline in local conflict. Feedback from monitoring reports suggests that these economic opportunities are viewed as a “peace dividend,” where business success serves as a deterrent to cattle raids and other forms of violence.

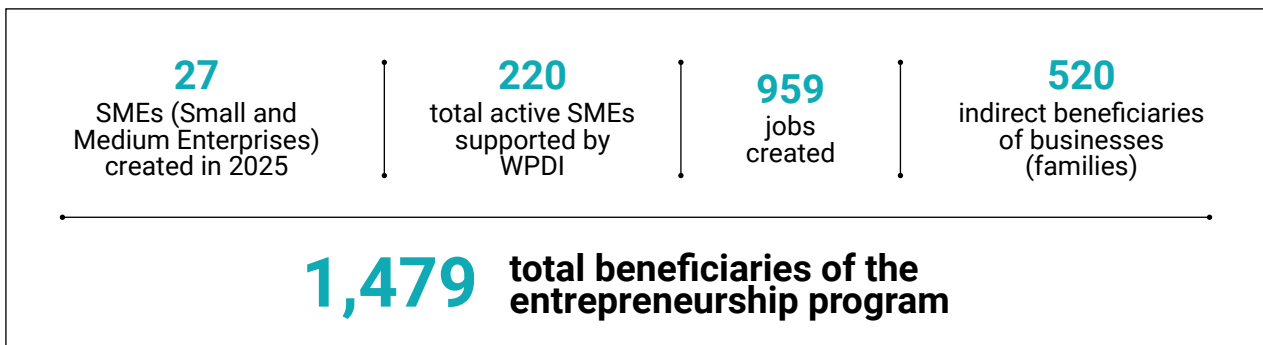


Supporting Local Entrepreneurship

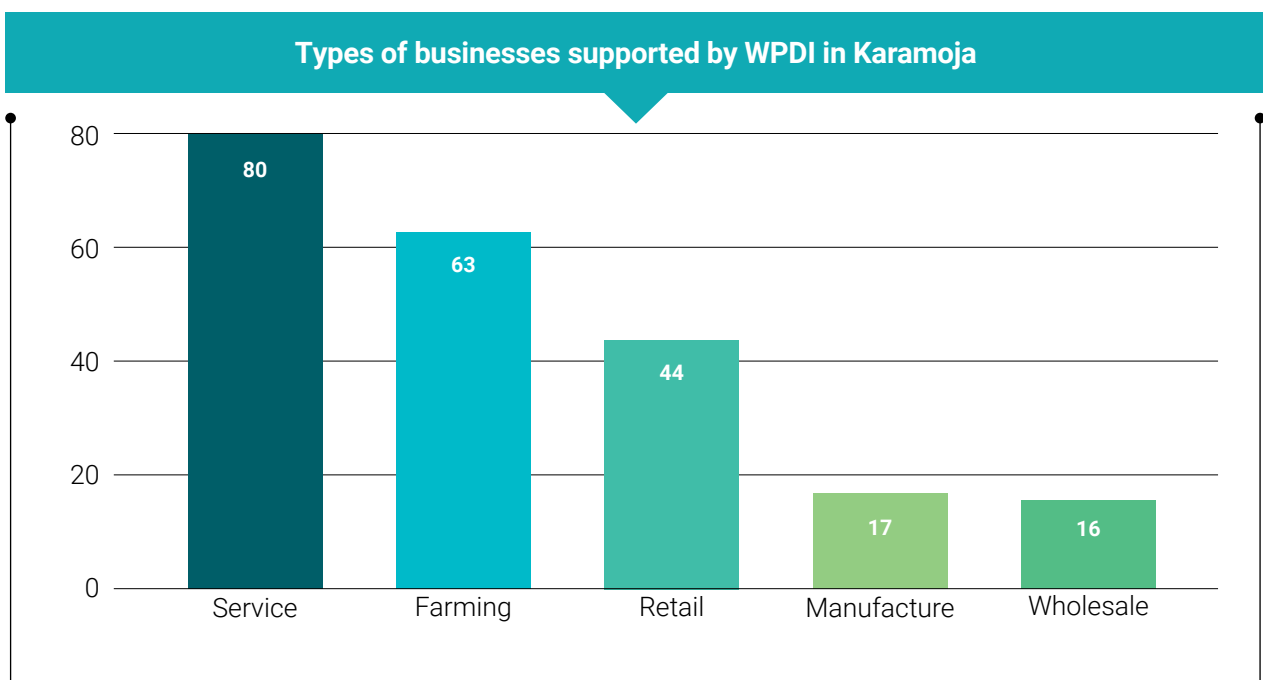
In 2025, WPDI’s livelihood work in the Karamoja Sub-Region continued to serve local communities as a strategic catalyst for regional self-reliance. By supporting 220 SMEs and creating 959 jobs, WPDI has directly challenged the historical narrative of vulnerability. Our data reveals a profound multiplier effect: for every direct business supported, an average of two families (520 total) experience improved household stability.

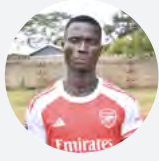
This transformation is anchored in a remarkable 90% business survival rate in a fragile market, demonstrating that our model of “mentorship plus grants” builds resilient enterprises. For the 2,371 beneficiaries reached through our Livelihood pillar, this change means more than just income - it is the restoration of dignity. As reported by community leaders, this newfound economic independence acts as a “peace dividend,” where self-employed youth now prioritize their enterprises over the cycles of cattle raids and violence that previously defined the region. By empowering women to become primary breadwinners and youth to become job creators, WPDI is not just funding businesses; it is fostering a permanent culture of self-reliance that secures both the household and the community’s future.

Business Bootcamp



In 2025, WPDI supported 27 groups with business grants after undergoing the business skills training both at the CLC and in the community. These beneficiaries underwent a business bootcamp process of idea generation, preparation of elevator pitches and then presentation and defending of their business ideas through a business plan competition.





“I started my business in August after receiving a start-up grant from WPDI. Before this support, life was extremely difficult. I had no stable income or land of my own, and my family’s survival depended entirely on hired labor. If I did not work on someone else’s farm, we would go hungry. Life was full of hardship, and we could barely afford basic food. Today, I am proud and grateful because WPDI transformed my life. With their support, I now run my own farming business, which has greatly improved the well-being of my family. This season, I cultivated two acres of horticultural crops, including vegetables, and one acre of rice. I have already harvested seven bags of rice, and the harvest continues. The income from my business has enabled me to feed my family adequately and pay school fees for my two children. From the profits, I have already saved and expect to save more as the harvesting of rice and tomatoes continues. My future plans include purchasing my own land and improving the irrigation system to expand my horticulture project further. I am deeply grateful to WPDI for coming to my aid during a time of great need.”

Olupot George,

Entrepreneur from Kiteyarae Farmers Group in Moruongor Parish,
Moruita Sub-County, Nakapiripirit District



Empowering Women Entrepreneurs to Build Sustainable Livelihoods

Turning Opportunity into Growth at Moroto Central Market

Logiel Gabriella, a member of the Bold Vision Women Group, runs a small business at Moroto Central Market. Her entrepreneurial journey took a significant turn when she received a business grant from WPDI. Prior to this support, Gabriella faced major limitations due to a lack of essential equipment, despite growing demand for her services.

With the grant, Gabriella purchased a sewing machine and a sweater-making machine, tools she urgently needed to expand her operations. The new equipment enabled her to respond more efficiently to customer demand, improve service delivery, and increase production capacity. As a result, her sales rose quickly, allowing her to generate profits within a short period of time.

Business Expansion and Increased Income

As her income grew, Gabriella diversified her business beyond tailoring and sweater-making to include the sale of both new and second-hand clothing. This expansion strengthened her business and significantly increased her monthly earnings. Her enterprise continues to grow steadily, providing her with a reliable and sustainable livelihood.

Looking Ahead

Building on this success, Gabriella plans to further expand her tailoring services by purchasing kitenges, African fabrics, to better meet customer preferences and increase sales. Reflecting on her journey, she shared: “Before receiving this support, I had very little. Today, my livelihood has been transformed. WPDI turned my situation from nothing into something meaningful, and for that I am deeply thankful.”



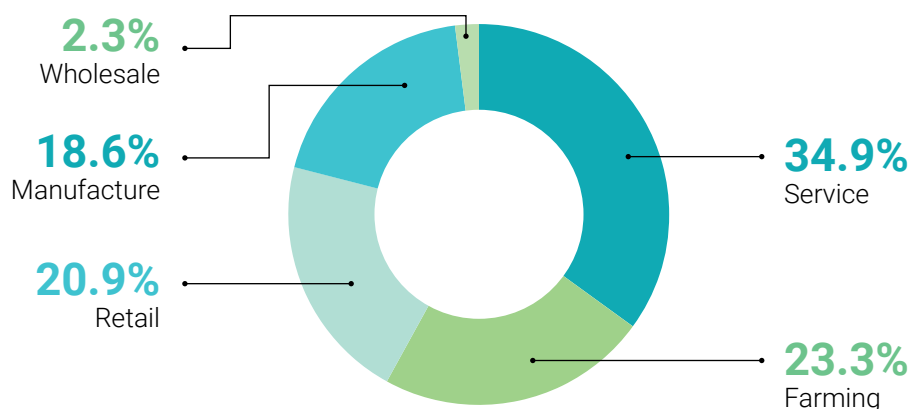
The Women's Livelihood Program

WPDI is dedicated to supporting vulnerable women in rural Karamoja Sub-Region through business grants, enabling them to establish and run income-generating projects within their communities. In many rural households, women are the primary breadwinners, shouldering the responsibility of fulfilling nearly all the family's needs. WPDI's efforts have helped address this imbalance by empowering 70 women in 2025, allowing them to become financially independent and self-sufficient.

With the financial independence gained through their income-generating group projects, women have been able to send their children to school, improving educational opportunities for the next generation. Household nutrition has also seen improvement as women can now afford better food, leading to healthier families. Furthermore, the dignity of these women has been restored, and they now stand with pride in their communities.

The contributions of the Youth Peacemakers have been crucial in ensuring that these women remain focused and committed to their goals. With guidance and ongoing support, the women continue to thrive and grow in their respective ventures, creating lasting change not only in their own lives but also in their communities. WPDI's focus on empowering women has proven to be a key driver of social and economic transformation in the Karamoja Sub-Region.

Business category of the 43 active businesses launched by women's groups





Health and Well-being

626
Trauma Healing
individual
beneficiaries

860
Trauma
Healing event
participants

225
students trained
in Sexual and
Reproductive
Health

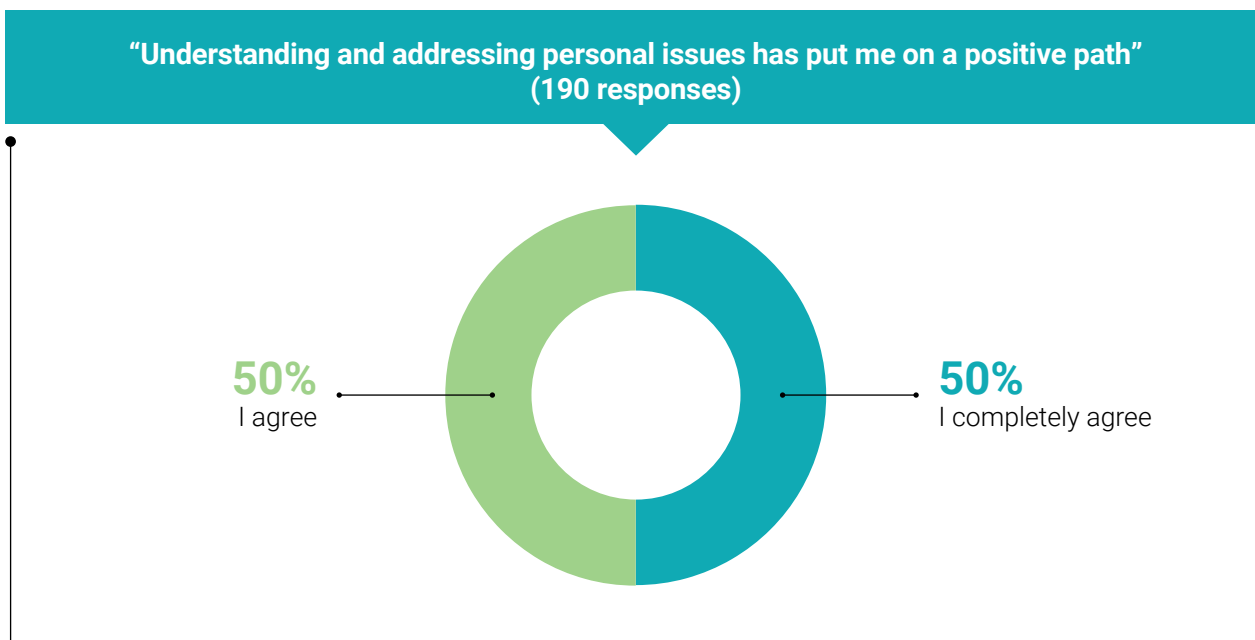
442
Sexual and Reproductive Health
individual beneficiaries and
event participants in schools



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: 1,711 participants

Health and well-being are essential pathways to achieving inner peace, especially in regions affected by chronic violence and poverty, where individuals often experience profound trauma and psychosocial distress. In response to this need, in 2025 WPDI provided dedicated services in Trauma Healing and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) education.

Recognizing the importance of healing from the wounds of conflict, our Trauma Healing programs aim to break the cycles of pain and suffering by fostering empathy and creating supportive environments for personal recovery. In 2025, 1,711 individuals received Health and Well-being trainings and 190 of them responded to our survey to measure the impact of the training.



Trauma Healing

WPDI experts and peacemakers work with beneficiaries, equipping them with the skills to provide psychosocial counseling and raise awareness on mental health and sexual reproductive health within their communities.

The Karamoja Sub-Region has endured decades of conflict, leaving many residents in deep emotional pain and bitterness due to the loss of loved ones, assets, and livestock. Extending trauma healing interventions remains one of the most urgent and impactful initiatives in the region.



Individual Support

Since 2020, WPDI’s trauma healing interventions have provided timely and effective support. Youth Peacemakers identify and screen trauma clients, who are then offered psychosocial services or referred to government and partner organizations for specialized care. These interventions have been widely appreciated, with many beneficiaries reporting inner healing, restored hope, and the ability to rebuild their lives. In 2025 alone, 626 individuals were screened and received psychosocial support through counselling and rehabilitation.



“Before counseling, I had sleepless nights, no appetite, and didn’t want to socialize with anyone. I was slowly losing myself after the loss of my son, who meant the world to me, and at one point, I even wanted to take my own life because I didn’t know what to do. After undergoing counseling with WPDI, I learned to release my son and let him go, holding on to the hope that we will meet again in heaven. Slowly, life started returning to normal. I began attending social gatherings, my sleep improved, my appetite came back, and I started seeing positive things happening in my life. I am truly grateful to WPDI for walking with me through my mourning and helping me heal.”

Akello Margret,
Trauma Healing Beneficiary, Kololo Village



Restoring Hope and Dignity Through Mental Health and Livelihood Support: Lomuria Emmanuel's Story

Employment and Emotional Challenges due to Being Disabled

Emmanuel Lomuria, a 27-year-old man from Lopei Sub-County in Napak District, acquired a disability as a result of a motor accident. The injury left him feeling helpless and feeling useless, as he was denied many employment opportunities due to his disability. In an effort to survive, he even attempted to join the army, but was unsuccessful. These repeated setbacks caused severe stress, loss of hope, and led him to contemplate suicide.

Psychosocial Support and Change in Mindset

Through counseling sessions provided by a WPDI counselor, Emmanuel began to view life from a new perspective. The sessions helped him understand that disability is not inability and that he could still live a meaningful and productive life even without joining the army. The counseling restored his hope and gave him a renewed reason to live.

Starting a New Business and Having a New Purpose and New Perspective

Following the counseling, Emmanuel enrolled in a business skills training program. His group later received a business grant from WPDI, which enabled them to start a grinding mill business. The enterprise has kept him engaged, allowed him to support his family, and restored his sense of purpose. Emmanuel now says he no longer sees himself as useless because of his disability and feels valued and important within his community.

Awareness Events

WPDI acknowledges that communities in Karamoja are still suffering from the long negative effects of conflict and are still recovering. Many are trapped between bitterness, revenge and helplessness with very little options of life. Others attempt suicidal tendencies while others do not know what to do. A number of them have developed mental health due to post traumatic stress disorders and failure to accept reality.

The community awareness sessions on trauma healing and mental health are meant to empower the community to be able to cope amidst the stresses of life. They are sensitized on the types of trauma and how to deal with trauma, mental health and how to identify and manage people with mental health issues other than stigmatizing or abandoning them. The awareness sessions began in 2024 and continued in 2025 under the pathway grant. Communities appreciate such knowledge when engaged and it becomes an eye opener to them. In 2025, 860 community members were reached through five mental health and trauma healing awareness sessions.

"I am a survivor of domestic violence, and today's discussion really resonated with me because it reflected my own experiences. My husband used to beat me almost every day, even in front of our children, which made me feel powerless and small. I tried seeking help from local leaders and clan members, but nothing changed. Eventually, I made the decision to leave the marriage, and since then, my life has been at peace. I am grateful to WPDI for educating our community on the dangers of domestic violence. I believe that programs like this will help reduce the incidence of domestic violence in my sub-county and empower others to take action for their safety and well-being."

Teddy,

Resident of Kariwonyang Cell, Kangole Ward in Karenga Town Council



“I am very grateful for the program brought by WPDI to our community. I wish it had started earlier, as it could have helped me change and develop much sooner. In the past, I used to cause a lot of violence in my family whenever I drank, and there was little respect for me or my household. The sessions on domestic violence have truly opened my eyes, helping me recognize my behavior as a perpetrator of harm. This community awareness program has taught me valuable lessons, not only for myself but for the community as a whole. I am happy to say that there will now be peace, love, care, and unity in my household. I urge WPDI to continue holding such dialogues to empower other men like me so that we can all work together to promote peace, harmony, and unity in our families.”

James,
Community Member from Gulopono parish, Lotuke Sub-County



Sexual and Reproductive Rights

WPDI's Sexual and Reproductive Health education program aims to help individuals make informed decisions about their health. In communities where access to such services is limited, this initiative helps to reduce misinformation, combat stigma, and improve overall health outcomes.

The program provided comprehensive education on key SRH topics to 225 students, including body hygiene, teenage pregnancy, adolescent growth and development, harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation (FGM) and early marriages, adolescent sexuality, building healthy relationships, the consequences of early sexual activity, menstrual health, and menstrual hygiene.

These efforts are important in addressing harmful sexual attitudes and behaviors that reinforce gender stereotypes and inequalities, which hinder youth development. A lack of understanding of SRH can entrench prejudices about gender roles, limiting socio-economic opportunities and negatively impacting the self-image of women.

442
Sexual and Reproductive
Health individual
beneficiaries and event
participants in schools

225
students trained in Sexual
and Reproductive Health

Individual Support

WPDI through the trauma healing department conducts Sexual Reproductive Health sessions in schools. These are aimed at empowering students and pupils to know more about their bodies and the changes they go through as they grow and how to control and still stay safe. Through these awareness sessions, the patrons and the Trauma healing officer generate a topic under sexual reproductive health to discuss with the students. It is through these sessions that students realize the challenges associated with growth and body change, peer pressure and change in behavior.



"Today's SRH session helped me understand a lot about teenage pregnancy and its negative effects on the lives of girls. I learned that teenage pregnancy can lead to dropping out of school, poverty, and even death during delivery because young bodies are not ready for childbirth. Moving forward, I will avoid negative peer influences, follow school rules, and focus on my studies to protect myself and stay in school. I am determined to concentrate on my education so that I can achieve my dream of becoming a doctor. I am very grateful to WPDI for bringing this program to our school, as it will help girls like me stay in school and complete our education."

Rosemary,
Student from Kaabong Senior Secondary School



"This is my first time attending an awareness session at school, and WPDI is the first partner to bring such services to us. As an adolescent, I have learned the importance of maintaining personal hygiene, as neglecting it can cause discomfort both in public and during menstruation. I also learned that relying on 'safe days' is not a reliable method to prevent pregnancy, so I should focus on my studies, stay healthy, and seek guidance from my senior female teachers and health personnel at home. I am very grateful to WPDI for introducing these awareness sessions at our school. I hope the program continues and reaches the entire school, as it benefits us greatly."

Stella,
Student from Abim Secondary School





Sports

8
female teams
managed by WPD

8
male teams
managed by WPD

304
regular training
participants



SPORTS: 304 participants

Peace through Sports

WPDI, through its Peace Through Sports initiative, has laid a strong foundation for youth empowerment and reconciliation in Moroto District. This program brings together reformed youth from eight sub-counties, Katikakile, Rupa, Loputuk, Nadunget, Lotisan, Tapac, Katikakile-Kakingol, and Tapac-Kodonyo, uniting them through sports as a tool for peacebuilding. Recognizing that sustainable peace in the Karamoja Sub-Region requires a multi-faceted approach, WPDI integrates sports as a powerful medium for conflict resolution and community engagement.

In addition to supporting 16 teams through capacity-building training and psychosocial well-being interventions, WPDI leverages Peace Engagement Day events to promote values beyond fair play in the field. Indeed, with advocacy materials and messages, these events serve as an opportunity to promote messages of peace and inclusivity.



Conclusion

The numbers and narratives presented throughout this report lead to a singular strategic conclusion: the transformation of Karamoja is an ongoing reality. Beyond the nearly 14,000 beneficiaries that our teams and volunteers could impact in 2025, the dividends of peace in the sub-region are tangible in the 90% survival rate of WPDI-supported small businesses and, above all, in the 97% trust that local stakeholders have reported as to the work of WPDI in their communities. Their judgement is based on the results attained through the many activities that we carried out in 2025 across our four pillars of – Peacebuilding, Livelihood, Health & Well-being, and Sports – and at their intersection as well. When an inmate finds the clarity to pursue a counseling degree through Trauma Healing, or when another one discovers the power of emotional intelligence behind prison walls, we are witnessing how a combination of well-being and economic empowerment can help break the cycle of despair and fragility.

These individual triumphs are the building blocks of a more hopeful future for our beneficiaries and their communities, a future spelled out in terms of peace, security, opportunity and self-reliance. However, this progress remains delicate. As we look to the future, we must acknowledge that the sustainability of these gains depends on continued adaptation and deep-rooted partnerships. In this light, we extend our profound gratitude to our international partners for their unwavering dedication in a climate of dwindling global resources, and to the local leaders of Karamoja, whose commitment to dialogue has been the cornerstone of our success. WPDI stands ready to scale these interventions, guided by the belief that well-equipped communities – beginning with women and youth – make the most effective safeguard against the return of insecurity. By honoring the commitment of our beneficiaries and the vision of our founder, Forest Whitaker, we remain steadfast in our mission to ensure that the peace achieved today becomes the prosperity of tomorrow.



Our Partners



A foundation that wishes
to remain anonymous



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