

KARAMOJA ANNUAL REPORT

- 2020 -



WHITAKER
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



This annual report details activities conducted by WPDJ in Uganda's Karamoja Sub-Region under the auspices of the Youth Peacemaker Network initiative. In 2020, the program did, despite obstacles created by COVID-19, make great strides towards its goals, notably with the opening of a new Community Learning Center and the subsequent offering of trainings to the public and the recruitment as well as the training of a new cohort of **36** Youth Peacemakers. The program's progress, measured against the backdrop of the pandemic, was made possible in large part thanks to the capacity of WPDJ's team on the ground to successfully engage with local stakeholders, which allowed for the timely signature of Memorandums of Understanding with local government authorities.

Establishing the new Community Learning Center and training the inaugural cohort of Youth Peacemakers were top priorities as these two components are key to most of the activities we plan to conduct in the coming years. Therefore, despite challenges presented by COVID-19, we were able to limit the impact of the pandemic on the rollout of the program overall, allowing us to remain on target to benefit communities in a period of unprecedented crisis.

ACHIEVEMENTS



755 people were directly impacted by WPDI's activities in the Karamoja Sub-Region.



36 young people were recruited and trained to become Youth Peacemakers.



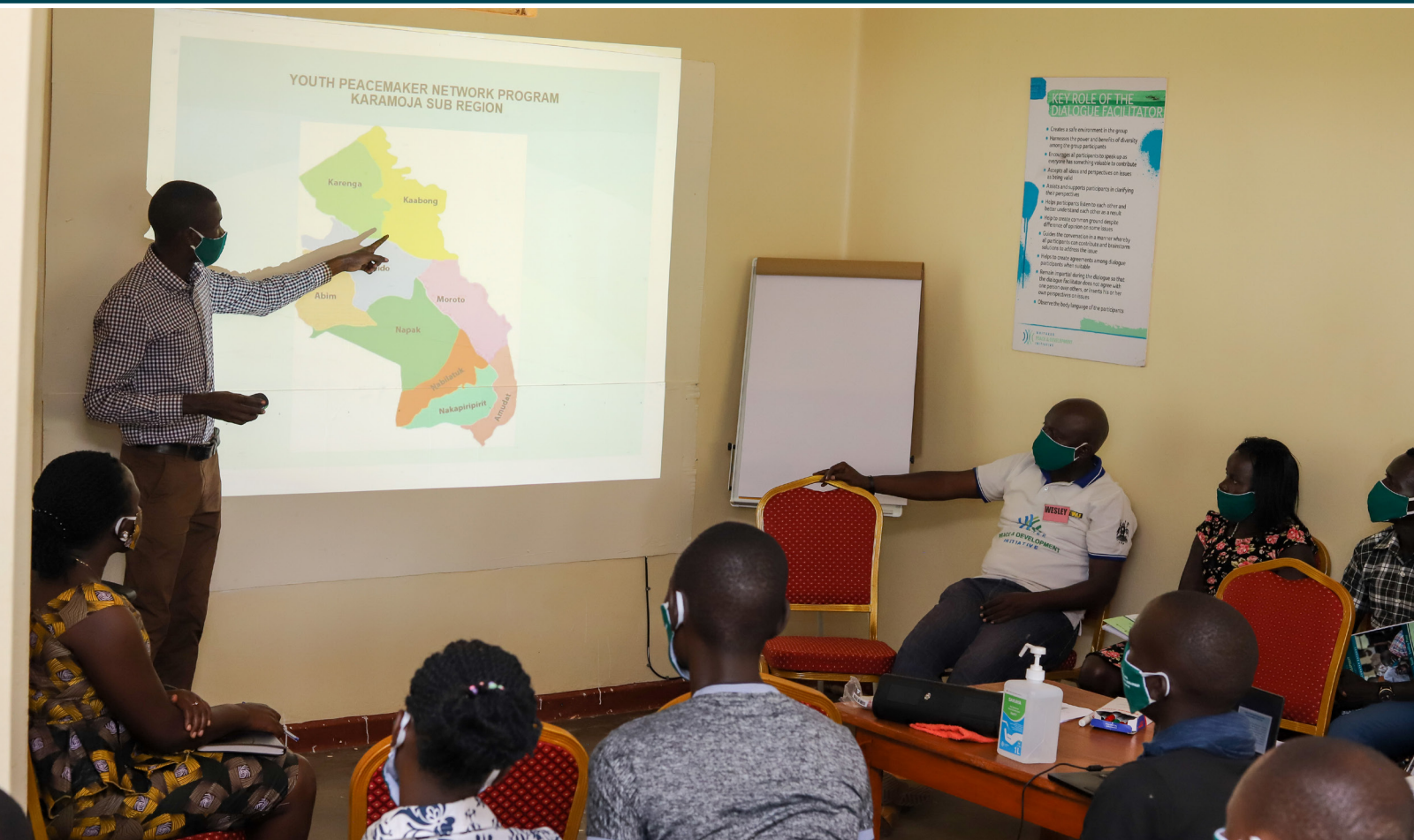
WPDI officially opened a Community Learning Center in Moroto.



403 youths registered for free vocational training courses at the WPDI Community Learning Center.

- **97** registered for the Conflict Resolution Education course.
- **137** registered for the Information & Communications Technology course.
- **105** registered for the Business & Entrepreneurship course.
- **64** registered for the Arts & Crafts course.

WPDI LAUNCHES A NEW DEPLOYMENT OF THE YOUTH PEACEMAKER NETWORK IN THE KARAMOJA SUB-REGION



The first step in the deployment of a Youth Peacemaker Network branch is to establish partnerships and contacts with local authorities and organizations to ensure that our programs are well-recognized, inclusive, and, eventually, appropriated by all stakeholders. From March-July, WPDI staff consulted with local leaders and conducted an assessment mission to build a better understanding of local security situations, issues surrounding economic development, and potential future partnerships.

During these months, WPDI identified a number of challenges that we believe are major hindrances to the achievement of peace and sustainable development in the Karamoja Sub-Region. Those include a lack of educational opportunities for young people, the presence of longstanding conflicts, and weak economic development.

Building Trust with Local Stakeholders



In March, WPDI began working with key community leaders to lay the groundwork for the deployment of the Youth Peacemaker Network in the Karamoja Sub-Region. These consultations were key to creating good working relationships and led to successful inception meetings, which began in July. These meetings aimed to inform both leaders and members of the public about WPDI, our goals and objectives, and ask for their support. In total, **281** stakeholders from across the sub-region attended inception meetings during the summer. In the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the trust we built with these stakeholders significantly contributed to our being able to open the Community Learning Center in Moroto and conduct trainings, since we were able to demonstrate to local authorities in particular that we have the capacity to deliver a wide array of activities under the strictest sanitary measures.

Selecting a New Cohort of Youth Peacemakers



In July, WPDJ opened a call for applications for the inaugural cohort of Youth Peacemakers in the Karamoja Sub-Region's **9** districts and **36** sub-counties. By the end of the application period in September, **428** young men and women had applied to be trained and become Youth Peacemakers.

After reviewing individual applications and interviewing short-listed candidates, WPDJ staff and other key stakeholders, including members of local government institutions, selected **36** young people – **21** men and **15** women – to become members of our inaugural cohort of Youth Peacemakers in the sub-region.

	NAME OF YOUTH PEACEMAKER	SUB-COUNTY/TOWN COUNCIL	COUNTY	DISTRICT
1	Acheng Grace Omara	Alerek	Labwor	Abim
2	Atyang Hellen	Nyakwae	Labwor	Abim
3	Okello Simon Peter	Lotuke	Labwor	Abim
4	Achilla Kennedy Filbert	Abim	Labwor	Abim
5	Adiaka John Lotuu	Amudat Town Council	Upe	Amudat
6	Ngoria Joseph	Amudat	Upe	Amudat
7	Cherop Regina	Karita	Upe	Amudat
8	Chepoghisyo Janet	Loroo	Upe	Amudat
9	Adupa Sabina	Kakamar	Dodoth East	Kaabong
10	Lokol Mark Odong	Lotim	Dodoth North	Kaabong
11	Nangoli Martha	Lodiko	Dodoth East	Kaabong
12	Lokuda Mario Lomuria	Loyoro	Dodoth East	Kaabong
13	Lomado John Bosco	Kawalakol	Dodoth West	Karenga
14	Akudo John Emmanuel	Lobalangit	Napore West	Karenga
15	Logwee Emma Opio	Karenga Sub-County	Napore West	Karenga
16	Tubo Joseph Apeyo	Sangar	Dodoth West	Karenga
17	Atyang Ambrose Collins	Nakapelimoru	Jie	Kotido
18	Lokorimong John Pedeth	Rengen	Jie	Kotido
19	Lodero Robbinson	Kacheri	Jie	Kotido
20	Aleper James Emma	North Division	Municipality	Kotido Municipality
21	Okuda Florence	Rupa	Matheniko	Moroto
22	Akol Jacinta	Katikekile	Tepeth	Moroto
23	Lobur Andrew	Nadunget	Matheniko	Moroto
24	Lotee Robert	Tapac	Tepeth	Moroto
25	Nangiro Kizito	Lorengedwat	Pian	Nabilatuk
26	Awor Jennifer	Nabilatuk Town Council	Pian	Nabilatuk
27	Sagal Mary	Lolachat	Pian	Nabilatuk
28	Aleper Leah	Nabilatuk	Pian	Nabilatuk
29	Aliat Faith	Moruita	Chekwii East	Nakapiripirit
30	Kodet Walcott James	Loregea	Chekwii	Nakapiripirit
31	Korobe Hellen	Namalu	Chekwii	Nakapiripirit
32	Lomokol Charles	Kakomongole	Chekwii	Nakapiripirit
33	Amongin Regina	Lotome	Bokora East	Napak
34	Nakiru Scovia	Iriiri	Bokora East	Napak
35	Munyes Moses	Lokopo	Bokora	Napak
36	Mangat Samuel	Lopeei	Bokora	Napak

EMPOWERING A NEW COHORT OF YOUTHS TO BECOME PEACEMAKERS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES



From September to December, WPDl conducted **5** training workshops for the new cohort of **36** aspiring Youth Peacemakers in the Karamoja Sub-Region. The workshops were conducted from September 20-26, October 11-18, October 25-November 1, November 15-22, and November 29-December 6.

These trainings were designed to equip the future Youth Peacemakers with skills and tools in Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution Education, Business & Entrepreneurship, Information & Communications Technology, and Trauma Healing as well as general life skills. All will help them as they work in their communities, and each remains on-track to sit for final exams and graduate from the training in 2021. The training on Conflict Resolution was based on the new curriculum that WPDl is currently developing with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

“

With the new Business & Entrepreneurship skills I received from WPDl, I have been able to teach other women in the community how to handle entrepreneurial activities. We want to be job creators.

– Janet, a Youth Peacemaker from Laroo Sub-County

Mobilizing Youths to Respond to COVID-19 in Their Communities



In response to the unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, WPDI worked closely with our newly recruited aspiring Youth Peacemakers as well as local officials and other stakeholders in the Karamoja Sub-Region to help vulnerable communities protect themselves against the virus. Through actions like distributing masks, sanitizer, and informational factsheets from sources like the World Health Organization, we directly reached **735** people.

735 people have been directly reached by WPDI's youth-led COVID-19 informational campaign.

Promoting Peace and Reconciliation Through Youth-Led Community Dialogues



Community dialogues play a key role in fostering peace and reconciliation in areas that have been impacted by long-term conflict and violence, such as the Karamoja Sub-Region. By holding dialogues in an open and transparent way, our Youth Peacemakers are able to improve conditions, foster peace, and reinforce their role in their communities, increasing their standing and creating important partnerships with local stakeholders. Our **36** Youth Peacemakers have been equipped with the skills and tools needed to help them become successful in this area.

Even though they just completed their training, **2** of our Youth Peacemakers have already helped address conflicts in their communities. One of them, Andrew, intervened and resolved a cattle theft issue. As he later told us, ***"I engaged the youths, and after they calmed down, we discussed the issue of cattle theft peacefully. People from my village and the owners of the raided cattle all agreed to stop fighting and to provide compensation for the theft."*** Hellen, another aspiring Youth Peacemaker, was able to resolve a domestic violence situation in her community. ***"I was able to bring the husband and wife together and explain to them the negative effects of conflict, not only to the community but to themselves and their young children. They have chosen to embrace peace and help address domestic violence incidents too."***

FOSTERING CHANGE IN THE SUB-REGION WITH A NEW COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER



WPDl strongly believes that education is key to creating long-lasting peace and sustainable development in any community, as articulated by the Sustainable Development Goals. In the Karamoja Sub-Region, however, disparities and inequities are glaring. More than **70%** of the sub-region's population over 10 years old has never been to school, a majority of them women and girls. Meanwhile, the sub-region's literacy rate stands only at **25%**, compared to **94%** in Central Uganda.

To address these and other issues, WPDl opened a Community Learning Center in Moroto, strategically located in the center of all of Karamoja's districts. It has **3** training facilities for standalone trainings in topics like Conflict Resolution Education, Information & Communications Technology, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Arts & Crafts. It also offers free Internet connectivity and library services to visitors. As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted in the coming months, the center will additionally serve as a public meeting space for a wide array of activities, including cultural and sporting events, workshops, advocacy campaigns, and celebrations of international observances such as International Women's Day and the International Day of Peace.

As of December, **403** community members have registered for the free vocational courses we offer at the center, showing the high amount of interest in educational opportunities.



The Conflict Resolution Education course offered at the WPDJ Community Learning Center seeks to disseminate values of peace and reconciliation by empowering trainees with skills so that they can teach others about sustainable peacebuilding, human rights, and mediate conflicts that they encounter. This course was a very popular offering, with **97** registrations in the fall. However, due to challenges presented by COVID-19, WPDJ could only start training **34** young men and women in the first cohort.

During the three-month course, participants will learn how to understand conflict, communicate with others in an active way, and build resiliency to conflict in their communities.

97 people registered for WPDJ's Conflict Resolution Education course at the WPDJ Community Learning Center.

“

Before starting this course, I had little knowledge of how to handle conflicts. What I have learned will help me manage them in the future. I aspire to be a peace activist and help my community and country.

– Christine, a current Conflict Resolution Education course trainee



In the Karamoja Sub-Region, only **8%** of the population regularly uses the Internet. With that in mind, WPDl's Information & Communications Technology course aims to help trainees become digitally literate – a “must” in the 21st century.

This course has received the highest degree of enthusiasm among our offerings at the Community Learning Center, with **137** men and women in the current cohort, as they understand that digital skills are especially needed in order to compete in the current job market.

137 people are being trained in Information & Communications Technology at the WPDl Community Learning Center.

“

Taking this course has had a great impact on my life. I have learned how to use a computer, including Microsoft Word and Excel. This is a big deal to me and I love ICT now.

– Lucy, a current Information & Communications Technology course trainee



WPDI's Business & Entrepreneurship course aims to give trainees the knowledge and skills required to start, manage, and sustain a small business. As the failure rate of new businesses is extremely high in Uganda, this course is very relevant. Understandably, the course attracted a large number of registrations, and WPDI began training **105** people in November.

In addition to empowering trainees with the skills necessary to conduct business, graduates of this course are also eligible to participate in WPDI-hosted Business Plan Competitions and win start-up grants accordingly.

105 young people are currently taking
WPDI's Business & Entrepreneurship course.

“

I have gained practical business skills as a result of the Business & Entrepreneurship course. I have even been able to start a chapatti making business in my village. While I didn't have enough capital at first, I learned how to minimize my expenses, and I am motivated to make it a success.

– Tonny, a current Business & Entrepreneurship course trainee



The Arts & Crafts course offered at the WPDI Community Learning Center seeks to empower young men and women with practical skills and knowledge that can help them increase their employability in an empowering manner reflective of their unique culture and heritage. Starting in November, WPDI began training **28** out of the **64** people who registered for the course due to COVID-19 restrictions, and, so far, the trainings have been successful.

It should be noted that many trainees – and WPDI as well – are especially optimistic about the potential of the Arts & Crafts course, as the Karamoja Sub-Region is home to the Kidepo Valley National Park and hosts hundreds of tourists per year. To take hold of this opportunity, WPDI plans to organize course graduates into groups and enter into partnerships with local safari companies, thereby creating a market for artistic products.

64 members of the public registered for WPDI's Arts & Crafts course in 2020.

“

When I joined WPDI's Arts & Crafts course, I didn't know what to expect. In only a few weeks, I have learned a lot about craft making. I now know that I can gain new skills that will help me make extra money.

– Mercy, a current Arts & Crafts course trainee



As many in the Karamoja Sub-Region have been impacted by decades of violence and conflict, WPDI offers trauma healing and rehabilitation sessions at our Community Learning Center to help inspire hope, resiliency, and inner peace. This component of our Youth Peacemaker Network initiative began in November and – by the end of the year – WPDI-trained counselors treated **20** cases, all in the Nakapiripirit District. A majority of the cases had to do with issues surrounding gender-based violence, family neglect, and domestic violence.

WPDI-trained trauma healing counselors addressed 7 cases of gender-based violence, 6 cases of long-term illness, 5 cases of domestic violence, and 2 cases of family neglect in 2020.

CONCLUSION



While 2020 presented unforeseen challenges, namely with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, WPDl nevertheless made great progress towards achieving our goals in the Karamoja Sub-Region. Thanks to a strong framework and robust working relationships with key stakeholders, despite all challenges, **90%** of our program activities were successfully implemented, notably the opening of our new Community Learning Center in Moroto and the training of our inaugural cohort of 36 Youth Peacemakers in the sub-region.

Another key achievement from 2020 was that **403** community members registered for free vocational courses offered at our Community Learning Center in topics like Conflict Resolution Education, Information & Communications Technology, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Arts & Crafts. This positions the center well for being an important feature in the community, allowing us to better promote peace and sustainable development.

While WPDl's program in the Karamoja Sub-Region is still in its early stages, we made significant progress towards our goals in 2020, and with the launch of additional activities like the women livelihood program next year, we will continue to do so in 2021. Without a doubt, we put down a firm foundation, and with our Youth Peacemakers at the forefront, we will be able to positively impact communities throughout the sub-region in the months and years ahead.

In partnership with:



Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative (WPDI)

1000 North Alameda Street | Suite 104

Los Angeles, California 90012

United States of America

