

WHITAKER PEACE & DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Giving Tuesday Newsletter 2024





Foreword

WPDI Executive Director, Caroline Descombris

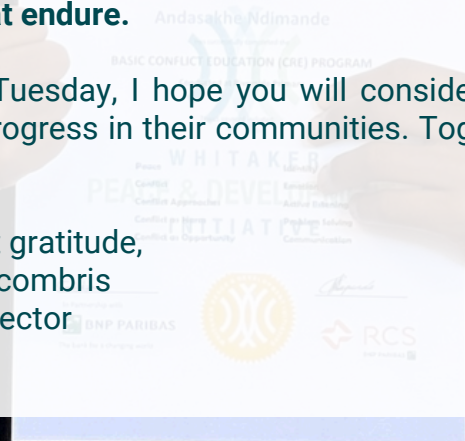
Dear Friend,

As we celebrate this Giving Tuesday, I invite you to join WPDI in empowering communities and creating pathways to peace and prosperity in some of the most vulnerable regions of the world. This special day reminds us that collective action has the power to transform lives, especially when it is rooted in collaboration and shared purpose. At WPDI, we are steadfast in our belief that sustainable peace and development can only be achieved through partnerships with local communities. By integrating their voices, knowledge, and cultural perspectives into our peacebuilding, education, and livelihood programs, we ensure that our initiatives resonate with their unique aspirations and challenges.

Your support is vital to our ability to sustain long-term projects that deliver real, measurable impact. From extending the reach of successful programs in Mexico or France to launching new initiatives in underserved areas in Uganda, South Sudan, or South Africa, your contributions fuel the resilience and creativity of people determined to shape a better future for themselves and their communities. **WPDI's mission, inspired by the vision of the United Nations, underscores that peace and development are inseparable—two sides of the same coin. Today, we are active in six countries where we work tirelessly to empower local leaders and foster solutions that endure.**

This Giving Tuesday, I hope you will consider standing with WPDI to amplify the voices of those striving for peace and progress in their communities. Together, we can ensure that no effort is wasted and no dream is left unfulfilled.

With deepest gratitude,
Caroline Descombris
Executive Director





PEACEBUILDING

Peacebuilding is one of the four foundational pillars of our mission.

Our peacebuilding approach focuses on empowering local actors, including leaders, students, and teachers, to become active participants in creating a culture of peace.

We approach peacebuilding by integrating conflict mediation, advocacy for peace values, and conflict resolution training into our programs on the ground. By working closely with community members, we help to bridge divides and build mutual understanding. Our goal is to transform conflict into opportunities for dialogue and cooperation, ensuring that communities are equipped to handle disputes and motivated to work together toward lasting peace.

99,910 participants in peacebuilding events across the world

31,073 participants trained in Conflict Resolution Education in 2024

13,710 participants in our Community Dialogues in 2024

SUPPORT OUR PEACEBUILDING PROGRAMS

10\$

Supplies to create a peace club in a schools

DONATE

200\$

1 year of school fees for a pupil

DONATE

3,000\$

1 year of Youth Peacemaker Training

DONATE

*“The peace meeting held today among the Districts of Napak, Nabilatuk and Moroto will bring sustainable peace and development as well stability among Karimojong communities, because everybody was really touched by the dangerous escalating insecurity in the region. **My appreciation goes to Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative for supporting such important dialogue meetings and bringing the three district together to make peace.**”*

– Pulkol Paul Local Council One, Naoi Village, Lorengedwat Sub-County Nabilatuk District of Uganda

*“The peer mediation program and guidance provided by the Domestic Harmonizer Program has been a great opportunity for students at Cresson to enhance their leadership skills. Our select group of peer mediators have been facilitating conflict mediations for their peers with great confidence. Students express feeling comfortable solving conflicts with these peer mediators. **Overall, the positive impact WPDI has had on our school culture highlights the importance of this program.**”*

– Martha Robles, Counselor at Cresson Elementary School, Greater Los Angeles Area, USA



LIVELIHOOD

WPDI's Livelihoods Initiative is a powerful engine for economic empowerment, spanning five countries across three continents.

In 2024, we cemented our role as a driver of sustainable development, showcasing how vocational training and entrepreneurship can transform lives in some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

This year, our impact reached new heights. Through targeted support and training, WPDI helped establish 82 new local businesses across Africa, Latin America, and Europe, bringing our global total to an inspiring 854 active businesses. These enterprises are more than numbers—they represent opportunities, hope, and resilience. **WPDI's Livelihoods pillar is more than a program—it's a transformative movement reshaping local economies and empowering communities to overcome cycles of poverty and conflict.**

16,695 impacted by the income generated through these enterprises

6,145 jobs created across five countries and three continents

854 active businesses supported by WPDI in 2024

SUPPORT OUR LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS

200\$

Supplies for Business Training Programs

DONATE

1,000\$

Support Expansion of Promising Businesses

DONATE

3,000\$

Start up capital for youth or women led business

DONATE

*"The businesses I mentored in 2023 experienced varying levels of success. The main challenges included a lack of administrative and marketing efforts, as well as crime in the business locations, which hindered success and caused delays. However, those who actively worked on their businesses daily, despite obstacles, experienced significant highlights. **With funding assistance, they were able to expand beyond their initial pitches and offer more services to reach a broader target market.**"*

Kayla Isaacs, a WPDI Business Trainer & Mentor, Cape Flats, South Africa

*"Before attending this training, my business was suffering losses because I didn't know how to manage it effectively. **Thanks to the three-month course, I now have the skills to maximize profits, and I have already noticed an increase in my earnings.**"*

– **Flora Africa**, Juba, South Sudan



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Many of the communities we operate in have suffered years of conflict, instability and a total lack of supportive infrastructure. People in these communities have often experienced various forms of trauma, and are in need of support.

This is why in 2023, WPDI created a new pillar to include trauma healing as a core part of our action, Health and Wellbeing. In the framework of this pillar, we set up and develop trauma healing initiatives, mental health training programs and informative programs on health, notably sexual and reproductive health, in the marginalized communities where we operate in order to help vulnerable people heal and find peace. Our ambition is to provide community members tools that are adapted to their ages and conditions so they can regain their resilience capacity, achieve inner peace and, in turn, contribute to making peace happen among people and communities.

11,603 beneficiaries of our trauma healing program in 2024

8,530 Sexual & Reproductive Health participants in 2024

100+ Youth Peacemakers participated in trauma informed training

SUPPORT OUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROGRAMS

10\$

Purchase sanitary pads for school pupils

DONATE

50\$

Support an awareness raising campaign on GBV

DONATE

1,000\$

Support our Trauma Healing Programs

DONATE

*“As I explore into the field of trauma healing, I became a WPDI certified trainer, mixing my personal perception with evidence-based practices. **Every time I facilitate a trauma healing session, I witness the incredible resilience that exists in each participant. It’s so exciting to see individuals transform their pain into strength, using their experiences as a promoter for personal growth.** Thank you WPDI for empowering me and my fellow youth to become advocates for trauma healing in the community.”*

Obale Robert, a Youth Peacemaker at Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

*“The youth friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health services which are being conducted at the WPDI Community Learning Center in Yambio, include a range of reproductive, relationship and sexuality counseling services. So far, I have acquired basic knowledge, skills and ability to make responsible, positive, informed and safe sexual choices. Now the choice to make informed decisions is ours, and as the saying goes, “If you choose to close your eyes to facts, you will learn through accidents”. **We the youth must take responsibility and make health a priority.**”*

– Emmanuel Victor, Youth Peacemaker from South Sudan



PEACE THROUGH SPORTS

Sports have a fundamental human appeal. They can connect people across cultures, religions, nationalities, languages, and other divides.

Recognizing the potential of sports as a vector for peacebuilding, WPDI created the Peace Through Sports program to empower young men and women to embrace and practice positive values in dynamic and inclusive environments. **The program combines life skills training with the excitement of organized competitions, community events, and regular training sessions led by qualified coaches.**

Beyond the joy of participation, these activities inspire young people to shine as leaders and agents of positive change in their communities. Together, we can use the universal language of sports to foster peace and unity.

76,407

participants in our sporting events in 2024

231

teams managed by WPDI in Uganda and South Sudan

44.5%

of our sport activities participants are women and girls

SUPPORT OUR PEACE THROUGH SPORTS PROGRAMS

10\$

Purchase soccer balls or basketballs

50\$

Contribute to sports uniforms purchase

1,000\$

Organize a Whitaker Peace Cup

DONATE

DONATE

DONATE

*"I want to become one of the respected male basketball players in the world, so **I am very grateful to the training that we have received from WPDI, both vocational training and basketball technical skills from our coaches.** I think it is time for our township to produce world class basketball players like in the United States of America,"*

Obale Robert, a Youth Peacemaker at Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

*"In my community, not many people were involved in basketball. I encouraged young people to play, and their interest grew rapidly. I am so proud of the progress the players have made. At the NBA Junior tournament, two of our players excelled. **We wish to thank WPDI and NBA Africa for giving our youth a platform to grow and improve their talents.**"*

Coach Prince, WPDI basketball coach, Cape Flats, South Africa



On Giving Tuesday, the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative would like you to join us in our efforts to foster peace and sustainability in vulnerable communities around the world. You can become a part of our action. **In places where so many talented and resilient youths, women, children and adults have an immense potential to become agents of change, your contribution can make a world of a difference.**

It will help make a lasting impact, because the skills learned by our trainees, the projects undertaken by our beneficiaries or the care received by our patients represent seeds of peace and resilience that have the potential to transform their lives and the lives of their communities for years.

With your contribution, you will be a part of the change through which WPDI connects individuals and communities, striving to make our world more peaceful, prosperous and resilient.

DONATE

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