

# WPDI ANNUAL REPORT

- 2020 -

## KIRYANDONGO REFUGEE SETTLEMENT



WHITAKER  
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVE

[www.wpdi.org](http://www.wpdi.org)



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# KEY FACTS & FIGURES

In 2020,  
WPDI's programs  
at the Kiryandongo  
Refugee Settlement  
directly reached  
**81,189**  
people



## Community Dialogues

- **24** Community Dialogues were held within the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, attended by **200** people
- **3** radio talk shows were organized by WPDI youth peacemakers, reaching an estimated **40,000** people



## COVID-19 Response

- **408** WPDI-trained youths were mobilized to educate their communities about the COVID-19 pandemic
- The youths distributed **62,500** facemasks, **215** handwashing stations, and **18,000** informational factsheets around the settlement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- The youth-led COVID-19 informational campaign has directly impacted **37,914** people in and around the settlement



## Peace Education in Schools

- **40** youth peacemakers and **100** local youths have distributed distance learning materials to **27,000** primary and secondary students in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



## Community Learning Center

- **43,903** people utilized WPDI's Community Learning Center in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement
- **141** trainees graduated from WPDI's Conflict Resolution Education course
- **277** trainees graduated from WPDI's Information & Communications Technology course
- **302** trainees graduated from WPDI's Business & Entrepreneurship course
- **337** trainees graduated from WPDI's Arts & Crafts course

# KEY FACTS & FIGURES



## Youth Peacemakers

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- **40** WPDI youth peacemakers are active at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement
- **368** local youths have been trained by WPDI's cohort of **40** youth peacemakers active at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



## Cinema for Peace

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- **120** film screenings were held in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, attended by **9,012** people



## Business Bootcamp

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- **2** Business Plan Competitions were held at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement
- **285** female refugees were trained in business, literacy, and arts & crafts, joining the **570** women we have already trained and are supporting
- **93** youth and women-led small businesses are being supported by WPDI at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement



## Trauma Healing

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- **4,084** people were beneficiaries of WPDI's trauma healing program



## Health

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- WPDI youth peacemakers maintained **10** school health clubs, conducted **27** community engagement activities, and **48** home visits, reaching **1,067** people



## Peace Through Sports

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- WPDI is supporting **30** soccer teams and **1,450** youths at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement
- WPDI sponsored **55** football matches, which drew a total of **23,143** attendees

# SURVEY RESULTS



A survey of **405** former trainees who had completed vocational courses with WPDI at our Community Learning Center in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement revealed that, six months after their time with us:

**76%**

had experienced a positive career change

**10%**

found a job

**18%**

increased their income

**27%**

started a business

**21%**

chose to pursue further studies

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report describes the results of WPDI's activities conducted in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in 2020. Even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, our programs, initiatives, and campaigns – under the guise of our Youth Peacemaker Network initiatives – proved to be significantly effective in promoting peace and sustainable development within the communities in and around the settlement. Although we had to adapt frequently, our team was able to operate in a nimble manner and continue to conduct activities like mediating conflicts in the community, offering vocational training courses at our Community Learning Center, expanding our Trauma Healing program, and supporting the development of additional youth and women-led small businesses.

Even with these achievements, perhaps our most significant accomplishment this year is the reaction of our staff and youths to the COVID-19 pandemic. When the virus first came to Uganda in March, we were forced to close our Community Learning Center and halt many of our usual programs for safety reasons. However, our cohort of **40** youth peacemakers and the **368** additional youths that they have trained wanted to contribute in their communities. At their urging, we helped them mobilize to educate their communities about COVID-19 and preventative measures they could take to keep themselves safe. Since March, the youths have created and distributed **62,500** face masks, **215** mobile handwashing stations, and **18,000** informational factsheets about the virus. They have also gone door-to-door, held informational dialogues in public spaces, and communicated over social media. In total, they have directly reached **37,914** people through their work, and their efforts have contributed to wider activities in and around the settlement to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Thanks to the hard work of our staff and youths, WPDI was able to re-open its Community Learning Center to the public at the end of May. At that time, we re-launched our regular activities, and were even able to train a large number of community members in our vocational courses while ensuring strict preventative measures against COVID-19. **In fact, a survey of 405 former trainees conducted in November revealed that, six months after completing their trainings, 76% of former trainees experienced a positive career change, with 10% finding a new job, 18% increasing their income, 27% starting a business, and 21% choosing to pursue further studies.** These results continue to clearly show the substantial impact of our vocational courses.

Despite the unprecedented challenges faced in 2020, WPDI managed to nevertheless reach 81,139 people at and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, ensuring the empowerment of even more youths and vulnerable people. Above all else, it serves as a homage to the willingness of vulnerable communities within and around the settlement, sparing no effort to build peace and bring about sustainable development.

# MOBILIZING WPDI YOUTH PEACEMAKERS TO EDUCATE THEIR COMMUNITIES ABOUT COVID-19

With the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement home to tens of thousands of refugees, when the COVID-19 virus reached Uganda, concerns were high that the virus could quickly spread there. After the Government of Uganda ordered a national lockdown in March, our youth peacemakers and the local youths they have trained wanted to take action. At their urging, WPDI mobilized our network of **40** youth peacemakers in and around the settlement as well as the **368** youths they have trained to take part in an informational campaign to help educate their communities about COVID-19 and how to keep safe.



**WPDI's youth-led COVID-19 informational campaign has reached 37,914 people in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.**



Since the end of March, these **408** youths have reached out to people in and around the settlement. Working with 46 members of WPDI-trained Village Health Teams, they have gone door-to-door to pass out **18,000** factsheets synthesizing information and recommendations issued by the World Health Organization, participated in radio talk shows, distributed **62,500** facemasks, and set up **215** mobile handwashing stations. The networks of local leaders developed by WPDI have also participated in the campaign by helping the youths educate the public in gathering spaces, including water distribution sites and markets. Overall, we have mobilized nearly **980** people to take part, and the overall campaign has directly reached **37,914** people.

Additionally, WPDI youths have organized three live radio talk shows at a local station. During those shows, they discussed COVID-19 preventative measures, stigma, and took listener questions in dialects including English, Luo, Arabic, Luganda, Dinka, and Nuer. An estimated **40,000** people listened to the shows.



“

*The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many communities in the settlement. However, youths have mobilized to help them understand ways they can prevent the spread of the virus. This has increased the level of confidence and reduced fear. I am committed and inspired to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable people in my community.*

— Todd, a 26-year-old WPDI youth peacemaker



“

*With WPDI, we youths have successfully supported communities in the settlement by distributing reusable facemasks, soap, and handwashing stations to improve hygiene. We have also gone door-to-door to provide people with information about the virus to help prevent its spread as well as with educational materials for primary and secondary school students.*

— Evaline, a 26-year-old WPDI youth peacemaker



“

*I am a mother of six children and a caretaker of seven orphans, which can be a big challenge. When COVID-19 came, all the children were at home from school and I didn't know what to do. We needed support to help stop the spread of the virus. Thanks to WPDI, I now have a handwashing station next to my home, soap, facemasks, and informational factsheets about the virus. I am very happy that my family was supported and can fight against the pandemic.*

— Regina, a 55-year-old South Sudanese refugee



# PROMOTING PEACE, RECONCILIATION, AND AWARENESS THROUGH YOUTH-LED COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

By promoting openness and transparency to reconcile conflicts and challenges, through Community Dialogues, WPDI's youth peacemakers are also able to strengthen their presence in their communities. This, in turn, reinforces local ownership of our programs on the ground and their empowering effect on local communities.



Despite that planned activities were partially interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020, WPDI's **40** youth peacemakers conducted **24** community dialogues that brought together **200** people, many of them local leaders to ensure that the results of this activity are widely disseminated across the Settlement. They also held **3** radio talk shows that had an estimated audience of **40,000** people. A majority of these dialogues had a healthcare-related focus, but many also had to do with educating settlement residents about gender equality as part of a larger advocacy campaign that aimed to target women to strengthen their knowledge about human rights and health-related issues.

**WPDI youth peacemakers conducted 24 Community Dialogues in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in 2020.**

“

*Community dialogues have been very helpful to women because at first we didn't feel comfortable speaking up. Now, I'm very confident and able to speak for the most vulnerable people.*

— Margret, a community leader



“

*Community dialogues have helped restore peace among conflicting tribes, and the weekly peace dialogues and advocacy campaigns have helped reduce hate speech and violence.*

— Stephen, 18-year-old South Sudanese refugee



“

*These meetings have really helped youths understand their responsibilities, rights, and how to respond to issues affecting them in a constructive way.*

— James, a youth leader



# DISSEMINATING KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

Being able to access information and knowledge is at the core of empowerment. Unfortunately, in many places, refugee populations and youths often lack access to educational opportunities, deepening socioeconomic and other challenges.



“

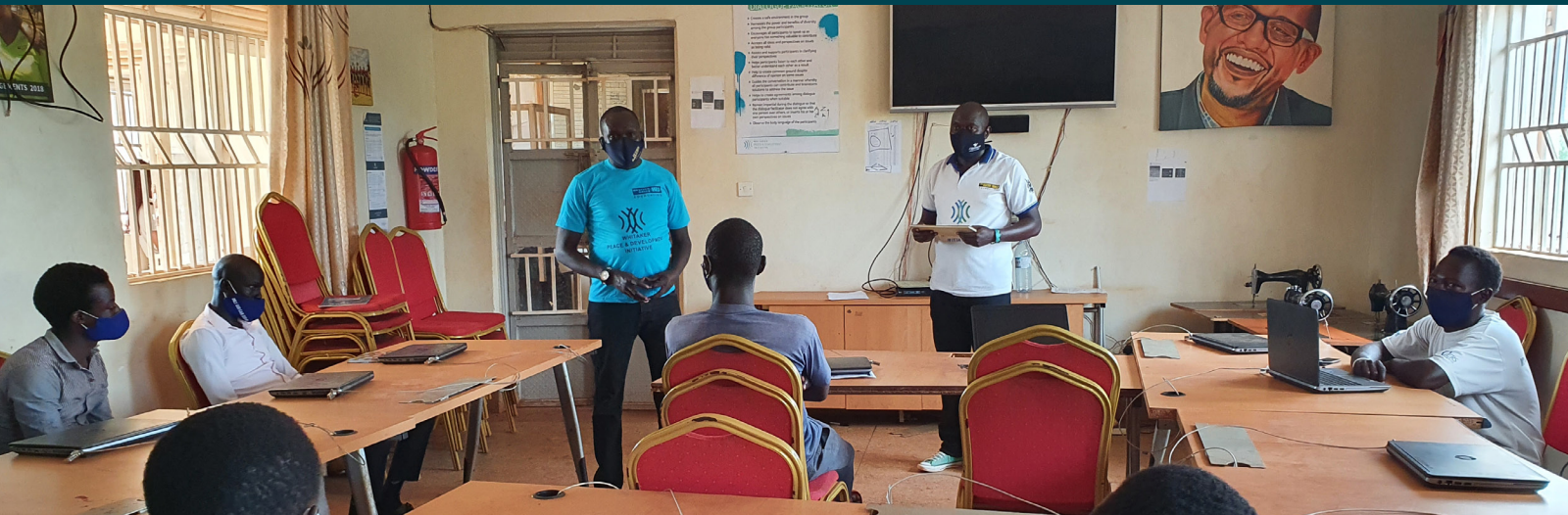
*WPDI's Community Learning Center supports youths in our community by empowering them with valuable, practical skills that translate into a lasting solution to achieving sustainable peace and development.*

*– Peter,  
a refugee settlement leader*

The idea that knowledge and skills are foundational to transformative change is at the core of our mandate. That is why WPDI views it as essential that young people – and other community members – can safely gain access to knowledge-based opportunities. That is the purpose of our Community Learning Center in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, an easily accessible place where people can use Internet-connected computers, a free library, or take free vocational courses in topics including Conflict Resolution Education, Information & Communications Technology, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Arts & Crafts.

**In 2020, WPDI's Community Learning Center in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement was utilized by 43,903 people.**

Under normal circumstances, the center also hosts public events under our Peace Through Sports and Cinema for Peace programs. However, the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted our operation, forcing us to discontinue services during the lockdown in spring and, thereafter, to put in place very strict measures, including limitation of simultaneous users, mandatory masks and hand washing as well as constantly monitored distancing. Despite that, our Community Learning Center in the settlement remains a vibrant community hub, with a significant number of visitors – even though the center was closed for two months.



The objective of WPDI's vocational course in Conflict Resolution Education is to promote values and attitudes conducive to peacebuilding. It also aims to empower trainees with the tools they need to be resilient in the face of conflict and become active peacebuilders in their communities. These trainings have contributed to SDG 16 in building the capacity of youths to become grassroots peace organizers in the refugee and host communities.

**In 2020, 141 youths successfully graduated from our Conflict Resolution Education course.**

**In a survey conducted among 109 former course trainees, 100% responded that, following their WPDI training, they felt “confident to engage in activities in their communities to promote peace.”**

“

*I have gained new skills in peacebuilding and I feel confident and inspired to make a difference in my community when I return to South Sudan.*

*– Dhor, a 26-year-old South Sudanese refugee*

“

*I have acquired new skills in conflict resolution in this three-month training. I will use my skills to better my community and stand up for the vulnerable, especially for women in my community.*

*– Joan, a South Sudanese refugee*



In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, mastering Information & Communications Technology skills has become indispensable to professional, cultural, and personal development. However, in fragile environments, especially for refugees, access to technology and relevant knowledge is often scarce. This means that many young people will be deprived of skills that are becoming increasingly required both at home and in the workplace. Our vocational course in Information & Communications Technology is designed with this in mind.

**In 2020, 277 community members successfully completed WPDI's vocational course in Information & Communications Technology.**

The training was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and we had to reduce on the number of trainees from **50 to 20** per session in line with the Health Ministry's recommendations.

**A survey of 116 former trainees conducted in September revealed that, six months after their time with us, 18% created their own business, 2% found a job, 8% increased their income, 55% pursued additional studies, and 83% experienced a positive career change.**



*Before the three-month training, I feared even touching a computer. Today, I proudly use a computer confidently and can manage any computer-related work with ease.*

*– Samuel, a 21-year-old South Sudanese refugee*



*WPDI's course positively impacted my life. With their computer training, I can now use a computer, write emails, type, and save important documents. Thank you!*

*– Monica, a 23-year-old trainee*



Providing the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully operate a small business is one of the most empowering skills a person can acquire. WPDI's Business & Entrepreneurship course is very popular at our Community Learning Center, as successfully completing the course is also a prerequisite for entering into our Business Plan Competitions.

**In 2020, 302 people successfully completed WPDI's Business & Entrepreneurship course.**

This year started well with mobilization of trainees to receive training in Business & Entrepreneurship. Training started in February, however, the activity was affected by the outbreak of the pandemic, which caused Uganda to lockdown before the first semester was over. This halted the trainings until May 18 when the lockdown was eased and organizations were allowed to resume operations with strict compliance to COVID-19 prevention measures. In order to achieve the target for the year and to decongest the Community Learning Center, the trainings were held in external training venues in the settlement and host community.

**A survey of 209 former trainees conducted in October revealed that, six months after their time with us, 37% started their own business, 19% found a job, 21% increased their income, 6% pursued additional studies, and 83% experienced a positive career change.**



*The Business & Entrepreneurship training has expanded my mind, helped me identify gaps in the market, and become a seeker of information.*

*– Gloria, a local youth*



*When I completed my Business & Entrepreneurship training, I had restored hope. I learned that I could overcome poverty in my community through entrepreneurship. I hope to start a business one day.*

*– Juol,  
a South Sudanese refugee*



WPDI's Arts & Crafts vocation-focused course helps trainees gain skills by empowering them with tools that they can use to supplement their income or start a business. The course also aims to provide trainees with a platform to reconnect with their cultures and learn to design and produce crafts that echo the history and traditions of their communities.

After completing the course, most of the trainees have started their own small projects and businesses through which their livelihood and economic growth was developed and sustained.

**A survey of 80 former trainees conducted in October revealed that, six months after their time with us, 50% experienced a positive career change, 23% increased their income, 16% started their own business, and 11% pursued additional studies.**

**In 2020, 337 community members completed and graduated from WPDI's Arts & Crafts course.**



*I learned how to make liquid soap, shoes, and jewelry in WPDI's Arts & Crafts course. Right now, I'm using my skills to make additional money, which helps support my family.*

*– Jackline, a South Sudanese refugee and former Arts & Crafts course trainee*





Many of the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement's **65,000** inhabitants are predominantly from South Sudan. Having faced conflict and displacement, many of them suffer from varying degrees of trauma. As peacebuilding within a community is only possible if people are at peace with themselves, WPDI's Trauma Healing program seeks to help inhabitants of the settlement achieve inner peace.

Trauma healing sessions include home visits as well as trauma sessions in schools, at the Community Learning Center, and at the Panyadoli Health Center III. In 2020, we started training young people to undertake trauma healing and psychosocial work in the settlement. After taking a specialized course, **34** youths learned about psycho-traumatology, stress, depression, trauma, and other subjects.

Another key achievement in 2020 includes that **17** young girls formerly engaged in sex work in Bweyale Town decided to enroll in WPDI's Business & Entrepreneurship training after participating in several trauma healing sessions. **"I was not born to be a prostitute,"** says Giramia. **"I want to become an entrepreneur in this town!"**

**In 2020, WPDI-trained trauma healing counselors treated 4,049 people.**

“

*Trauma healing has helped me fight against depression and stigma. I hope to help fellow women who face similar challenges have peaceful, healthy lives.*

*– Shatua, a 30-year-old female refugee*

“

*WPDI's trauma healing program has helped support me after losing my husband. I feel more confident and stronger in the face of stress and grief.*

*– Joyce, a 29-year-old female refugee*



WPDI's Sexual & Reproductive Health program seeks to empower young people in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement with accurate health information to improve their lives. Activities conducted for the program are youth peacemaker-led and include community engagement activities, peer outreach sessions, and home visits. During these activities, the youths focus on educating other youths about issues including HIV/AIDS, condom education, and basic life skills, among others. This year, they also focused strongly on promoting good hygiene and other COVID-19 preventative measures.

**In 2020, WPDI youth peacemakers maintained 10 school health clubs, conducted 27 community engagement activities, and made 48 home visits. These activities reached 1,067 people.**

“

*The community engagement activities helped me learn a lot about my body and how to make healthy life choices. I am confident and will provide other young girls information about how to avoid teenage pregnancy.*

*– Shatua, a 30-year-old female refugee*

“

*After learning about HIV/AIDS from WPDI, I reflected on my lifestyle and want to keep myself and other girls safe. Thank you for improving my life.*

*– Kevin, a 22-year-old refugee*

## Partnership with Princeton University's Global History Lab



In September, for the second year in a row, a group of young refugee women and men sponsored by WPD at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement enrolled in the program designed by the Global History Lab of Princeton University (GHL), led by Professor Jeremy Adelman, the Henry Charles Lea Professor of History. The partnership draws on the GHL to further our youth empowerment mission by providing young refugees access to university-level knowledge as well as research skills that will help them to contextualize their situations and communicate about it. After a successful pilot, the GHL and WPD decided to renew the partnership and cooperate for three years for activities that will be mainly supported through a GHL partnership with the Open Society Foundation aimed at supporting young refugees across the world.

From September to December, the newly enrolled **15** young refugees (8m/7w) took a 13-week online course on World History with the assistance of an advanced doctoral student, Nikola Pantik, from the Central European University in Vienna and the support of two trainees from last year, Rajab and Busena who embarked on the second phase of the program. The course was conducted two days per week for one hour per session. The main objective of the course was to get the youths to learn how the world is connected and to engage in collaborative research about socio-economic issues, cultural variations, and international politics. Among the topics taught were Oral History, the discovery of the New World, World Wars I and II, the Cold War, and inter-religious conflicts. The course is an invitation to travel in time, exploring the history of the modern world since Genghis Khan's armies conquered China and Baghdad and the plague ravaged cities from Samarkand to Paris. In the meanwhile, the trainees gained insights on the forces that have shaped globalization for centuries and continue to inform it. This is highly meaningful knowledge for young people whose lives have been marked by cross-border displacement and are often eager to understand the deeper currents that have eventually transformed their own lives. The trainees took a post-course test, the results of which will be known early in 2021.



The successful and most passionate youths will embark on the second phase of the program, the Global History Dialogues, an oral history project, which our two “teaching assistants” Rajab and Busena successfully completed in December. Their research papers were published on the website of the program, [globalhistorydialogues.org](http://globalhistorydialogues.org). Busena's paper was entitled ***“Intertribal tension in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement: How do we Avoid Tribalism in our Communities?”*** and Rajab's, ***“The Role of Education in Peaceful Coexistence: Education, Migration, and Refuge in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.”***

The GHL also offered participants to exchange ideas with peers in many places, Bangladesh and France, Vietnam and Iraq, Nigeria and Greece. These exchanges were highly appreciated by the young refugees, notably those engaged in their research project.

The program therefore fulfilled its four objectives of raising awareness of young refugees on the historical forces shaping globalization, strengthening their capacity to conduct research projects, empower them through participation in an international project, and generating original youth-led research on socio-economic issues pertaining to refugees.

# MAINTAINING EDUCATIONAL CONTINUITY EVEN IN THE MIDST OF THE CRISIS

Under normal circumstances, WPDI staff and youth peacemakers conduct Conflict Resolution Education trainings at partner schools in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement to help students learn about peace and how to successfully manage conflicts. Unfortunately, the closure of more than **51,000** educational institutions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in March left over **15 million** young people out of school. In response, the Government of Uganda took the initiative to supply primary and secondary schools with learning materials to allow students to continue studying at home.



**40 WPDI youth peacemakers and 100 local youths have distributed primary and secondary learning materials to 27,000 youths in and around the settlement.**

WPDI youth peacemakers in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement have played a leading role in mobilizing and educating students and parents about these materials, which they have also played a key role in distributing.

# THE BUSINESS BOOTCAMP



WPDI's Business Bootcamp initiative is a business incubation platform that serves and promotes local entrepreneurship. To ensure that participants have the necessary skills to operate a business, we select projects designed by trainees who have successfully completed at least the intermediate level of the Business & Entrepreneurship courses that we offer at our Community Learning Center. Then, selected projects are developed into businesses, a process that is overseen by a committee composed of representatives from WPDI, WPDI's partners, other non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and local and national stakeholders. The committee's role is to provide our entrepreneurs with both tangible resources, including grants and/or loans, and intangible resources, such as support, advice, and specialized training tailored to the needs of entrepreneurs and their businesses. Beyond supporting the launch of the businesses, WPDI's role is to ensure the monitoring of the projects over at least one year, a process which includes reviewing financial records as well as conducting on-site visits.

**In and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, WPDI currently supports 93 businesses, including:**

- 57 businesses developed by female refugees.
- 24 businesses undertaken by our cohort of 40 youth peacemakers.
- 12 businesses created by Business Plan Competition winners, including 6 from competitions held in 2019 and 6 from competitions held in 2020.

**These 93 businesses operate in the farming (28), retail (53), service (9), and wholesale (3) areas, directly impact 3,690 people, and have total revenues of \$29,951.**



***Starting our business this year was great! We're doing very well and are now receiving as many as 60 customers per day.***

***– Rajab, a WPDI youth peacemaker***





## Business Plan Competitions

This year, thanks to support from the Western Union Foundation, and the Swedish Postcode Foundation and despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, WPDI was able to conduct two Business Plan Competitions at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. The competitions aimed to identify promising projects to be incubated by WPDI. But the process contained more than a mere selection of business plans. The main objective was educational, based on the assumptions that most people from vulnerable areas may not master the skills required to translate a good idea into an actionable business plan likely to structure the development of an actual enterprise. In this sense, the competition process was beneficial not just for the winning candidates but for all the participants who have an opportunity to test their ideas and present them to business experts, which is undeniably empowering in itself.

Two workshops, exclusively open to graduates from our vocational trainings, were organized to vet the applicant's business plan in preparation for the business plan competition. The plans are also refined and feedback given to the youths to improve before making their presentations. The workshop was organized for the first semester on March 9 and for the second semester on October 5. The first workshop was attended by 9 groups (between 8-15 members) out of which the best three groups were selected as winners while 13 groups at the WPDI Community Learning Center attended the second workshop and three winners were also identified.

In these two competitions – held in March and October, respectively – **99** former trainees participated. They submitted dozens of business proposals, and after working with an expert review panel for several weeks, six proposals were ultimately selected to receive WPDI support. **They include: Living Hope Youth Group, Making Dreams Come True Youth Group, Youth Action Against Poverty & Unemployment Group, Dream Bakery, Leather Works and Production Youth Group, and Focus Youth Group.** These businesses all operate in either the retail or services sectors, and this year, they have directly impacted 328 people while collecting **\$2,690** in revenues.

During the coming year, WPDI and the oversight committee will continue to work closely with each business to ensure their viability and sustainability. Besides WPDI, the oversight committee comprised of five members representing a diversity of sectors: the Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR, Kiryandongo District Local Government, FINCA (microcredit institution) and Post Bank (credit institution).



*The Business Plan Competition was very exciting. Now, I know I can develop a very competitive business plan. Thank you for making me proud of myself and for giving me an opportunity to start a business.*

*– Grace, a South Sudanese refugee*



*When we won the Business Plan Competition and started our enterprise, we were scared. But today, things have worked out well, and we have many customers. We are busy all of the time and planning how we can increase sales. Thank you to WPDI for the support!*

*– Diana, a local youth*





In 2017, we piloted, upon receiving a request from refugee women residing in the settlement, a program to economically empower vulnerable women, mostly widows and single mothers who have lost their livelihoods and support due to conflict and displacement. The strategy is to have a group of **285** women trained in topics including business and literacy, after which they developed 19 businesses in groups of 15. This approach to sustainably support the livelihoods of vulnerable women proved highly successful as shown by the number of people that these businesses can support - notably the **38** businesses that were created respectively in 2017 and 2019. In 2019, WPD began training another cohort of **285** female refugees in Business & Entrepreneurship in order to help them prepare to launch **19** businesses to support themselves, their families, and their communities.

This year, we trained a third cohort of **285** women. All these women also received training from our partners, namely in financial literacy from FINCA and Post Bank Uganda to help them improve their business management skills.

In addition to training, WPD established collaborations with Power Trust Uganda Limited and Danish Church Aid. The former supplied a business hub powered by solar energy to one of the women-led businesses and the latter supplied **10** groups with tree seedlings to plant at their homes to protect the environment.

57 Businesses developed by Vulnerable Refugee Women (three years: 2017, 2019 and 2020)	Managers F	Managers M	Managers All	Employees F	Employees M	Employees All	Beneficiary F	Beneficiary M	Beneficiary All	
# businesses:	57	111	3	114	650	31	681	1,793	494	2,287

# PEACE THROUGH SPORTS



WPDI's Peace Through Sports program at the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement aims to combine sports with peacebuilding activities. While the COVID-19 pandemic halted many activities for several months under this program this year, WPDI still supports **30** teams of **1,450** youths at the settlement. After their weekly practices, the youths take part in workshops that focus on the values of peace, tolerance, trauma healing, or healthcare-related issues.

Through our monthly review meetings held at the CLC, **we confirmed that 11 of the Peace Through Sports beneficiaries have joined professional soccer clubs (three on the South Sudan National Team)** where they are being paid for the soccer they play, earning themselves a living.

**In 2020, before the national lockdown, WPDI sponsored a total of 55 local and regional football matches, which drew a total of 23,143 attendees.**

“

*My culture doesn't allow girls to play sports with the opposite sex. But, WPDI helped me believe in myself. Since I started playing football, my academic performance has improved, and I feel healthy. Thank you for supporting young girls like me.*

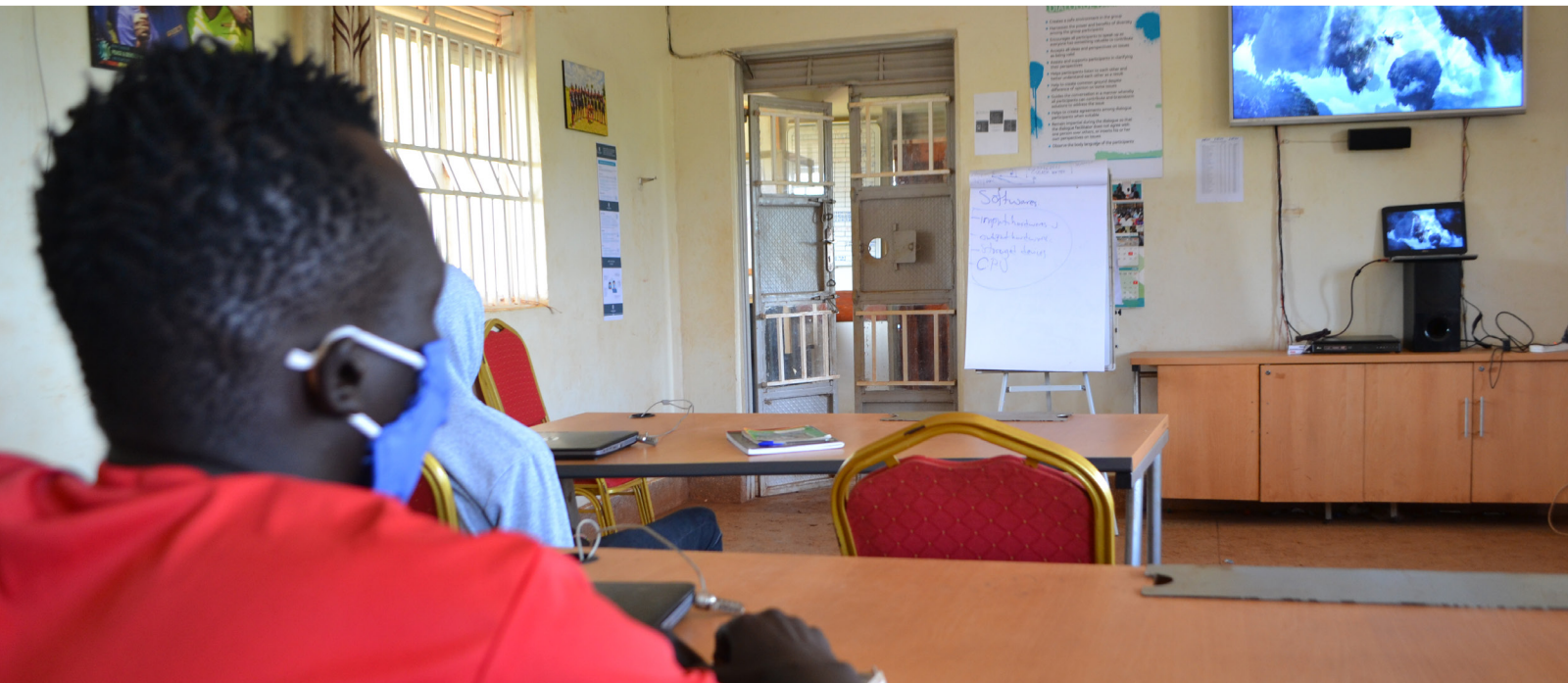
*– Grace, a South Sudanese refugee*

“

*Football has helped me learn a lot of things, like valuing and respecting other people. WPDI has motivated me to interact with others and pursue my education and have a bright future.*

*– Riek, a South Sudanese refugee*

# CINEMA FOR PEACE



A popular form of media, cinema can portray values that connect people, no matter their ethnicity, nationality, or background. WPDI's Cinema for Peace program helps make progress towards SDG4 by providing cultural and emotional enrichment, as well as for psychological support, to residents while also engaging audiences in wide-ranging discussions that reflect upon peace and how to achieve it.

**In 2020, WPDI conducted 120 film screenings in and around the settlement, which were attended by 9,012 people strictly following COVID-19 preventative measures.**

“

*I enjoy Cinema for Peace because the films teach people how to love, share, and respect others, even when we are different. I can now play with my friends from different tribes. I am a Dinka and my best friend is an Acholi.*

*– Riek, a South Sudanese refugee*

“

*The Cinema for Peace sessions have really helped empower us girls. We are comfortable standing up and speaking out for our rights, and I am proud to say that I am a peace ambassador in my community.*

*– Sarah, local youth*

# CONCLUSION



As for many organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be a major challenge for WPDI in the first half of the year. Almost overnight, we had to close our Community Learning Center, halt planned activities, and overhaul our approach to ensure the safety of our staff and beneficiaries. With an enormous, highly mobile refugee population, there was great concern about the pandemic in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement.

However, despite these challenges, WPDI was able to quickly adapt and demonstrate how resilient our model and approach can be. When we reopened our Community Learning Center, for example, we implemented safety protocols; yet, we were able to train a large number of people in our vocational courses in the second half of the year and support the largest number of youth and women-led small businesses we ever have. We also managed to launch new, innovative partnerships with institutions like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to digitize our curriculum, allowing us to move ahead with our plans to have an even larger impact in the months and years ahead. Working in direct partnership with the authorities of the Settlement – namely the Office of the Prime Minister and the UNHCR – as well as local officials and community leaders, WPDI has continued to generate positive impact for Kiryandongo as a whole, including the **65,000** refugees and the **32,000** inhabitants of the neighboring host communities.

In these times of trial, our proudest achievement is how our cohort of **40** youth peacemakers responded to the challenge posed by the virus. When they came to us and asked how they could help their communities, we mobilized them to take part in an informational campaign that ultimately reached more than **35,000** people. In doing so, they showcased themselves as true agents of peace, and in the coming year, thanks to new opportunities such as the opening of a technology lab for online training, thanks to support from the Western Union Foundation, we know we can continue to foster change on the ground in and around the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement – with them in the lead.

# OUR PARTNERS





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