



Reviving the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Women's
International
Peace Centre
Amplifying Women's Voice and Power

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Acronyms

AFEM	Association des Femmes des Medias
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CAR	Central African Republic
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CEWERU	Ministry of Internal Affairs Conflict Early Warning Early Response Unit
CEPO	Community Empowerment for Progressive Organisation
CIGPJ	Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace and Justice
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
FARUG	Freedom and Roam Uganda
FORODE	Forum for Women in Democracy
FPP	Forces Populaires de Paix
GIMAC	Gender Is My Agenda Campaign
ICGLR	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region
KJN	Karibu Jeunesse Nouvelle
LBTQI	Lesbian Bisexual Trans Queer Intersex
MEMPROW	Mentoring and Empowerment for Young Women
MFFPS	Mouvement des Femmes et Filles pour la Paix at la Securite
NAWHRD	National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders
NAP	National Action Plan
NAWOU	National Association of Women's Organisations in Uganda
NSC	National Steering Committee
NWC	National Women Council
NUWODU	National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda
R-ARCSS	Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UNSG	United Nations Secretary General
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UPDI	Union of Patriots for the Defense of the Innocent
UWOPA	Uganda Parliamentary Women's Association
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

About Women's International Peace Centre

The Women's International Peace Centre (formerly Isis-WICCE) is a feminist organisation with a mission to ignite women's leadership, amplify their voices and deepen their activism in re-creating peace. Founded in 1974, The Peace Centre works with partners in conflict and post-conflict contexts across Africa and Asia, using our home-grown WEAVE model to catalyse women's power for peace by integrating research, documentation, holistic wellbeing, skills and movement building as well as advocacy.



**Women's
International
Peace Centre**

Amplifying Women's Voice and Power

OUR VISION

Women living in peace
and (re)creating peace

OUR VALUES

Boldness, Innovation, Consistency,
Intentional Wellbeing



HOW WE EXPECT CHANGE TO HAPPEN

We work with women affected by conflict to nurture their dignity and self-esteem (power within), enhance their personal agency (power to), harness their collective agency (power with), and develop their influence (power over) so as to advocate for and effect meaningful change while addressing women's issues, which would typically go unaddressed in conflict and post-conflict settings.

HOW WE DEFINE IMPACT

KNOWLEDGE CREATION: We research and document the critical yet often-neglected experiences of women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, generating important data and information to influence policies and practice. Our research and documentation is impactful if we can;

- Tell the story from a woman's point of view, ensure that women are not erased from history in post conflict countries and survivors are viewed as vital agents of change in humanitarian and reconstruction processes.
- Create safe spaces for women to share their stories and challenge the silence, stigma, and denial related to sexual violence in conflict.
- Use the stories to demand resource distribution in ways that advance women's rights and wellbeing.
- Mobilize and amplify women's political influence and demands for peace, freedom from violence, and gender-responsive post-conflict processes and realities.
- Add to the body of existing feminist knowledge on women, conflict and peace building.
- Lobby key stakeholders to change norms, policies and practices that perpetuate gender inequality and violence against women in conflict and post conflict settings.

HEALING: After conducting research we facilitate responses to the unique impact of sexual and gender-based violence and the trauma of violent conflict on women. Our healing is impactful if;

- Women receive psychosocial support and have the necessary tools to support their personal and collective wellbeing before and during their participation in peace processes or peace building activities.
- Skills of women are strengthened to conduct self and group therapy, to provide support and to ensure safety and security of individuals, women's groups and networks.
- Partnerships with government and non-government actors, along with related advocacy, prompts prioritising of support and protection for women human rights defenders and women engaged in peace building and post-conflict governance.

CLAIMING SPACES: We build the capacity of women as change agents in peace building and post-conflict recovery processes through leadership training, cross-cultural exchanges, documentation and 'giving back to the community' initiatives. Our leadership institute is impactful if it;

- Documents and highlights the priority concerns and specific realities of women along with the situation of conflict in each country.
- Women are able to define informed responses to a specific concern and achieve the goals of their community peace building initiatives
- Alumnae apply the increase in knowledge and skills to engage in advocacy and action for peace in their contexts

CHANGE AGENTS: We contribute to building a women's peace movement through campaigns and sustained support to the activism of women peace builders. Our initiatives are impactful if;

- Women's voices and agency are at the centre of calling and activating for change.
- We create the space for women to engage with key stakeholders and in political work while respecting their personal journeys.
- Women's groups and movements are supported to build trust, collaborate and exchange strategies for gender-responsive peace processes.

ADVOCACY: We challenge norms, policies, practices and institutions that perpetuate violence and gender inequality through lobby and evidence-based advocacy. Our advocacy is impactful if;

- There is a feminist voice (centering women, survivors' concerns, women's priorities and solutions) in decision-making processes on peace building and post-conflict recovery.
- Policies and their implementation reflect women's concerns, and are gender-responsive- include and benefitting all women.



Our 2019 - 2022 Strategic Plan

GOAL

To enhance gender equity, justice and inclusive political, social and economic development, by contributing to sustainable peace.

OUTCOMES

Outcome 1: Increased participation of women in peace processes articulating and influencing gender responsive and sustainable peace.

Outcome 2: Transformed gender responsive peace processes in terms of prevention, mediation, dialogues, peace building, peace keeping and negotiation.


GOAL

To support and work towards the achievement of the goal and outcome, the following key outputs or results will be achieved in the next four years of the strategic time period.

1. Enhanced technical expertise of women to participate in peace processes.
2. Information is available for women to influence decision-making in peace processes
3. Deliberate attempts to claim spaces for women to participate at all levels of peace processes – local, national and regional. [Claim: pushing for implementation of existing policies and laws]
4. Holistic Wellbeing of women in peace processes ensured.
5. The Peace Centre is a structured and continuously improving institution delivering its strategic results, while maintaining a healthy working environment.



Message from the Executive Director and Board Chairperson

A portrait of Ms. Helen Kezie-Nwoha, Executive Director of the Women's International Peace Centre. She is a Black woman with short dark hair, wearing an orange and blue patterned top and a large orange headband. She is smiling and wearing glasses. A semi-transparent green box with a circular pattern is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

*Ms. Helen Kezie-Nwoha, Executive Director, Women's
International Peace Centre.*

Dear Friends,

It is with great pride that I share with you the fruits of your solidarity and support in 2019 as we take stock of our work and impact this year.

2019 holds a special place in our hearts and our evolution, as we continue to be the go-to centre on women and peace building.

The organisation officially changed its name from Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE) to Women's International Peace Centre (The Peace Centre), a reflection of our continued commitment to create a world where women live in peace and re-create peace. This year we also launched our new 2019 to 2022 strategic plan with the goal of enhancing gender equity, justice and inclusive political, social and economic development, by contributing to sustainable peace.

Over the next four years we will focus on enhancing the position of women to more powerfully and unapologetically influence peace-building processes and transform peace-building spaces to be more gender responsive and inclusive. We will continue to amplify the voices and decision-making power of women within peace building processes in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda.



Ms. Elizabeth Lwanga, Board Chairperson, Women's International Peace Centre.

Looking back at 2019, The Peace Centre is proud to have contributed to;

- **Enhancing the expertise of 273 women leaders** to participate in peace processes in Burundi, DRC, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda through the Feminist Leadership Institute on Peace and Security, learning exchanges and mentorship support. Women peace builders and representatives of national coalitions were supported to influence post conflict decision-making and governance, seek accountability from policy makers towards actualising the meaningful inclusion of women in peace processes and to advocate for the implementation of National Action Plans on UN Security Council Resolution 1325. In Uganda, women have been trained and composed as women peace committees to track conflict early warning indicators, mediate conflict and seek relevant early response.
- **Making information available for women to influence decision-making in peace processes** in Uganda and South Sudan. As we move closer to the 2020 Uganda elections, we conducted research on Election-related Conflicts and Violence in Uganda to inform and guide our support to women's efforts to promote peaceful electoral processes. In South Sudan, our research focused on assessing the implementation of the revitalised peace agreement with a specific focus on the gender dimensions. Our annual publication Women's World offered information and voices of women peace builders in Burundi, DRC, Uganda, and from South Sudanese women refugees to influence gender-responsive solutions to forced displacement in Africa.

- **Claiming space and influencing peace processes** at all levels. In Uganda, to enhance national early warning response and its gender-responsiveness we partnered with the Continental Early Warning and Response Unit to reactivate and strengthen the National Steering Committee for national level response and including gender-sensitive indicators in the early warning mechanism. At district level we established early warning mechanisms to curb election related conflicts, including Women Peace Committees where women gather, analyse and report information for mediation by District Peace Committees. To advance the women, peace and security agenda and amplify the role of young and grassroots women peace builders we partnered with the African Union Commission's Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security for a regional convening of key regional intergovernmental organisations, institutions and women's forums. We also partnered with Global Fund for Women to hold a regional convening of women's rights defenders and organizations from Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), DRC, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda to strengthen our collective advocacy and action to promote women's leadership in peace building in the Great Lakes region. We continued to amplify the voices and needs of women and girls in conflict-affected settings at the African Union under the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC), with the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the United Nations through the Beijing+25 review processes, the Commission on the Status of Women, the High Level Forum on SDGs, and in diverse national policy spaces.
- In **promoting the holistic wellbeing of women** we continue working with support groups of women living with HIV and AIDS in post-conflict North-eastern Uganda to support their access to sustainable livelihood opportunities. We also developed a bespoke curriculum on wellness and transformational leadership and have trained 90 women leaders in Uganda partnering with Womankind Worldwide to train women with disabilities, young women, women in rural areas, LBTQI women and women in governance.

We are overjoyed by our 2019 achievements and we hope that you will continue walking this journey with us. We look forward to our continued partnership to achieve our mission to ignite women's leadership, amplify their voices and deepen their activism in recreating peace.



Helen Kezie-Nwoha,
Executive Director



Elizabeth Lwanga,
Board Chairperson

Summary of Our 2019 Impact

1.0 Enhanced technical expertise of women to participate in peace processes.

1.1 Uganda



Women's participation in decision-making on peace building and post-conflict recovery processes (e.g. disarmament and reintegration, security sector reform, economic recovery programmes, legal, judicial and electoral reform processes) has been markedly low, especially at district level and within refugee hosting settings. This is often attributed to a shortage of trained women leaders, the absence of an enabling environment for women leaders' engagement, or strategic interventions that promote collaboration between government and non-government actors to implement national commitments. Uganda's National Action Plans on UN Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820 and the Goma declaration provide a national framework for a wide range of actors to advance the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda of enhancing women's participation in peace processes, protection from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and ensuring women's needs are fulfilled in post-conflict recovery processes.

1.1.1 Promoting Women's Effective Participation in Peace Building in Adjumani, Kotido and Yumbe

Strengthening the Expertise and Influence of Women Peace Builders

The Peace Centre trained 156 women leaders (78 refugees and 78 from host communities) from political, cultural, religious and women groups on mediation and advocacy to enable them influence peace building in Kotido, Adjumani and Yumbe. As a result, five (5) Women Peace Mediators Networks were formed in December 2019 with each creating community action plans.

Since then the Women Peace Mediators Networks have identified, reported and mediated conflict incidences including, cattle raids, conflict between refugee and host communities and gender-based violence specifically early marriages that led to withdrawal of girls from schools. Refugee Welfare Council II and III, Assistant Settlement Commandants, Sub-county authorities and the District Security Committee through Resident District Commissioners (RDC) worked with the network to address incidences reported. The women mediators are present in the five zones of Bidi Bidi, Nyumanzi, Agojo, Majji 1 and 3 refugee settlements of Adjumani, in Kululu, Romogi, Dzaipi, Ciporo, Rengen, Nakapelemoro, Panyagara sub counties of Yumbe and in Kotido Town council. Trained women are now using skills acquired to profile their personal agency (power to) by demanding for inclusion and mediating conflicts.

As women leaders, we have been handling cases of conflicts without any skills. After election of leaders, we would sit and wait for the District Chairperson to appoint leaders, but now I know that we have to lobby through peaceful negotiation for women to be put in the executive positions. We are now able to mediate cases professionally and push for women's participation in decision making.

Namwe Rose
Kotido



Harnessing Women's Collective Agency

Women Mediating Conflict in Karamoja

In October 2019 armed cattle raids resulted in loss of lives, cattle, property and general insecurity. The Women Peace Mediators Network in Kotido convened 5 community dialogues including community leaders, men and youth to explore how to prevent future outbreaks of violence. Women mediators committed to provide early warning information to leaders and encourage other women to desist from blessing the youth to go for raids. The dialogue made a resolution to include women in the Akireket, a traditional forum for major decision-making at community level.

The Women Peace Mediators Network led a delegation including the district's political and technical leaders (the Kotido RDC and District Chair) to negotiate peace between people in Kotido and neighbouring districts of Moroto and Napak. As a result, the women mediators were able to reclaim 80 cows, which they returned to Kotido.

Promoting Peace for Women and Girls in West Nile

In Yumbe and Adjumani, the women peace mediators formed 7 women's groups and used these to share information on peace and SGBV against women and girls starting in December 2019. Since then, in Nyumanzi refugee settlement they mediated an early marriage case, convinced the girl's father to keep her in school and connected the family to Lutheran World Federation in Adjumani which offered her a scholarship.

1.1.2 Youth and Women's Engagement and Influence on Peaceful Electoral Processes in Arua, Kapelebyong, Kasanda, Lira and Luwero

The Women's Situation Room Uganda (a women-led early warning and response mechanism to curb electoral violence) co-convened by The Peace Centre, demonstrated the value of women's conflict mitigation efforts and the need for early warning and response work to be done throughout the electoral cycle to ensure peaceful elections. In the lead up to 2021 presidential and parliamentary elections, and with newly formed and hotpot districts undergoing elections, The Peace Centre, in 2019 targeted 5 districts in Eastern, Northern, Central and West Nile regions to support youth and women's leadership in ensuring government accountability to citizens for peaceful electoral processes.

Enhanced Skills of Youth and Women Peace Advocates

110 youth leaders (40 female and 70 male) in youth organizations and groups including the informal sector and 112 Women Peace Advocates from women's groups, religious organisations and the informal sector in Luweero and Lira districts were trained in peace building and conflict resolution as well as attitude and behavioural change strategies. The training created peace ambassadors within the communities to pass-on messages of peace, identify and report cases of violence. Youth in Luweero created a WhatsApp group where updates on issues of violence are shared to devise means of mitigation. They continue to pass on non-violent messages to encourage the communities that non-violent free elections are possible.

To equip women to effectively lead in ensuring peaceful and democratic electoral making processes, 100 women leaders in the 3 districts received training in December 2019 to understand the electoral cycle, leadership and conflict management. The trained women leaders included National Women Council leaders at district and sub county levels, women leaders from religious and cultural institutions, women journalists, young women leaders, women in civil society, representative of women's associations and women with disabilities. The trained women leaders have since conducted community mediation sessions.

For instance, in Bukuya sub-county, Kassanda district, women de-escalated a potentially violent situation between citizens rioting against the killing of a child by a law enforcement officer seeking to kill a stray dog. Women leaders have raised women's issues to district leadership with some making the decision to pursue leadership positions in the upcoming elections in Obalanga, Kapelebyong, Katrini and Bukuya sub counties.



Nassozi Margaret facilitates a discussion on the election cycle during the training of women leaders in Kapelebyong district to promote peaceful and democratic electoral processes

Initially Women Council leaders were not recognized in public. This has given us - and the youth- a platform to address the community and the confidence to speak about issues like promoting peace and discouraging violence. I was talking to the RDC on my phone and my husband heard the conversation and wondered where I got all this courage. All the big shots in the district now listen and respect me.

Zulaika Sebbi

Kassanda District Women Council

”

The Peace Centre targeted leaders from the National Women Council, a structure with elected leaders that mobilizes women from the grassroots to the national level. To strengthen their impact and influence, the council was supported to develop and disseminate a strategic plan providing direction to interventions focused on advocacy for women's rights, women's leadership, enhancing women's economic empowerment, and strengthening National Women Council institutional systems

To create **an enabling environment for women's peace building** work and support district and sub-county efforts to promote peaceful elections, The Peace Centre has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with district local governments and held 12 meetings with leaders in 3 districts and 9 sub-counties (including political leaders, Electoral Commission, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Police and Civil Society).

The Peace Centre has collaborated with the Electoral Commission (EC) at local and national levels on **10 community awareness and accountability sessions** to educate citizens on electoral processes such as voter registration, voter validation, and election of special interest groups including the elderly, women, youth and persons with disabilities. The district leadership also used the platform to discuss governance issues of concern, listen to their constituents and provide instant feedback. During these accountability sessions community members also made recommendations for action by EC to ensure peaceful and inclusive elections for instance reducing nomination fees for grassroots women and youths, cancelling the candidature of those involved in electoral violence and malpractice, recruiting of local returning officers and polling agents and lowering cost of replacing national ID cards.

During 16 Days of Activism, The Peace Centre hosted an intergenerational dialogue on 3rd December to engage district leaders on ending sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls in Kassanda District. This brought together 70 (62 women and 8 men) women leaders, elders, cultural leaders, civil servants, politicians, parents, civil society organizations, students and community members. Factors that fuel violence and discourage reporting of rape and defilement were discussed. As a result, the sub county leaders agreed to pass two by – laws (i) forbidding alcohol consumption before 6:00pm and (ii) a by- law requiring all parents to take and keep children in school with the hope of reducing negligence and defilement cases. The Kalwana Sub County Police Child and Family Protection Unit designed forms for reporting incidences of violence, and leaders encouraged students to report teachers that harass girls to the Local Council III (LCIII) office.

1.1.3 Activating and Transforming National Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Mechanisms

Women's International Peace Centre on 7th November partnered with the Ministry of Internal Affairs Conflict Early Warning Early Response Unit (CEWERU), to make it's National Steering Committee (NSC) functional, ensure the collection of gender-sensitive data and the involvement of women. 40 NSC members were trained on their roles and responsibilities; to link their work to the IGAD regional mechanism for Peace, Security and Development; Conflict Early Warning and Early Response mechanism for reporting and responding to election related violence and early warning.

This was a good boost for revival of the steering committee. Through this partnership Uganda is now second to Kenya in the IGAD region for having convened and made functional the National Steering Committee.

Florence Kirabira
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Unit



Following the training, the committee set up a WhatsApp group to manage responses to real-time early warning incidence reports from monitors within different communities. The committee has also since hosted 2 community mediation sessions and consultations with affected communities to understand the root causes of the conflict. The NSC and CEWERU coordination office also responded to reports of the conflict between host communities and refugees in Yumbe District and on cattle rustling in Karamoja region.

The NSC is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of East African Affairs, Office of the President, State Attorney, Police headquarters, Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Electoral Commission, National Women Council (NWC), UN Women, CEWERU staff, Makerere University, media and select CSOs.



1.2 South Sudan



Since the outbreak of armed conflict in December 2013, the resurgence in July 2016 and with the 2018 signing of the Revitalized Agreement on Resolution on the Conflict in South Sudan, young women's critical role in formal peace building and conflict resolution has been under-explored despite their informal contributions. Young women have also been traditionally excluded from formal peace processes and under-represented in efforts by the wider women's movement. Young women have limited access to information on ongoing peace processes and insufficient capacity to apply the tactics and skills necessary for ensuring their meaningful participation in peace processes. To close the gaps identified, The Peace Centre developed programmes that will nurture young women's leadership and effective engagement in the on going peace process in South Sudan.

1.2.1 Strengthening the Agency of Young Women to Lead for Peace

In November 2019, The Peace Centre and the Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace and Justice (CIGPJ) trained 25 young women (aged between 23 and 35, including 1 woman with disability, representing diverse ethnic groups and from diverse CSOs, coalitions and informal networks) to participate in the ongoing peace and post-conflict governance processes and raise awareness of key peace and security concerns for young women. Through the 5-day training, they were able to understand the women, peace and security agenda, frameworks for its national implementation and monitoring.

The specific focus on the Revitalized Agreement on Resolution on the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), including a gender analysis of its provisions and a look at key mechanisms/actors and processes informed young women's advocacy planning and assessment of entry points for participation. As a result, the young women, mapped advocacy targets and defined group work plans focused on ensuring the inclusion of young women's priority issues (related to SGBV, security, borders, inclusive governance) during the 100 days before the formation of the transitional government. They also formed an informal group dubbed 'Young Women Leading for Peace' after the training tagline and created a WhatsApp group to continue discussions, network and coordinate future actions.



The group sings to energize and center themselves in the room during the Young Women Leading for Peace training in South Sudan

The trained young women also learned from an **intergenerational dialogue** with established women leaders in typically male-dominated spaces who offered the young women practical strategies for their own increased participation and leadership in the new South Sudan. These included the head of Women's Block of South Sudan and a signatory of the 2015 peace agreement; the Chairperson of the South Sudan African National Union, a woman-led political party; the founder of South Sudan Grassroots Women's Network; and the Secretary General of South Sudan Law Society.

1.2.2 Women Leading Change in Post Conflict Governance

The Peace Centre in partnership with EVE Organisation for Women in Development and Community Empowerment for Progressive Organisation (CEPO) conducted a four days' leadership training on the theme "Rejuvenating the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Towards participation and implementation of the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan" in October 2019 in Juba South Sudan. Twenty-three women leaders including women members of parliament at national and State levels, NGOs and line Ministries working on UNSCR 1325 participated. The training re-awakened the agency of women leaders to engage and influence in post conflict decision-making and governance. They reviewed and audited the South Sudan National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, analyzed and assessed the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS), as well as understanding key issues in advocacy and Networking and reporting for the African Union Continental Results Framework.

The training provided space for engagement on the common agenda and strategies to engage political parties. Eve Organization, the coordinating network on UNSCR 1325 and other CSOs had an opportunity to engage with line Ministries and harness their collective agency to ensure the WPS agenda for South Sudan is achieved.

Following the training, participants came up with additional issues they want reflected in South Sudan's NAP 1325 and 1820 such as protection for peace activists and women human rights defenders; and the need to integrate the



The Young women leaders ready to lead change in their communities celebrate at the end of the training

implementation of women's rights treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other human rights norms in the NAP. The training also called for an increase in the number of CSO representatives to the National Steering Committee and a national conference for women of South Sudan to be held in 2020. Currently, there is only one CSO representative out of the 24 members of the National Steering Committee.

1.3 Democratic Republic of Congo



The Democratic Republic of the Congo has a long history of conflict that has impacted on the governance and livelihoods of citizens particularly women and children. The African Union led a process of developing the Framework of Hope- the Peace and Security Cooperation Framework for DRC and the region. Since then many stakeholders have played critical roles to ensure sustainable peace is achieved in the DRC with no significant achievements. The DRC has launched its second-generation National Action Plan to advance the women, peace and security agenda but lacked resources to disseminate the NAP to other regions in the midst of increased violence. The 2018 elections have brought in new leadership at different levels. However, women's participation in political decision-making remains minimal and short of the anticipated provisions by the UNSCR1325. It is to this end that The Peace Centre organized a series of activities to seize the momentum provided by the new NAP to contribute to increased women's participation in decision making through politics.

1.3.1 Women's Leadership for Peace and Security in DRC

The Peace Centre, Karibu Jeunesse Nouvelle (KJN) and Association des Femmes des Medias (AFEM) conducted a training from 20th to 26th June 2019, on Women's Leadership, Peace and Security in Bukavu, South Kivu province in DRC. Twenty women including politicians, lawyers, teachers, socio-workers, and women from religious institutions participated in the training that increased the capacities of women leaders to engage in and influence increased women's participation in decision making through the implementation of the National Action Plan on UNSCR1325 in DRC. After the training, the women leaders organised two dialogues with the media to sensitize the communities on the need for women's participation; several meetings to engage 50 political party leaders, demand for women's representation, and get the commitment for increased nomination of women in leadership. Following the engagements, the Governor of South Kivu nominated 2 women out of a 10 member cabinet, an increase from 10% to 20% representation of women in cabinet. The women are currently spear heading two campaigns called **"Nothing without Women"** aimed at mobilizing more women to join political parties and another tagged **"50% of women OR nothing"** aimed at raising awareness for increased women's participation in politics.

1.3.2 Regional Exchange Visit for women leaders from South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo

Meaningful participation of women in national, local and community leadership roles has become an important focus on global development. One of the major strategies of the Peace Centre is facilitating exchange learning visits among women leaders to promote experiential and practical learning spaces.



Women peacebuilders dance and exchange gifts during the training to equip women for political participation and peacebuilding in Bukavu, DRC

In this regard, The Peace Centre in partnership with Uganda Parliamentary Women's Association (UWOPA) organized a Regional Exchange visit in October 2019 in Kampala, Uganda. 15 women leaders from political parties and civil society organizations from the Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.) and South Sudan (S.S.) participated in the Exchange Visit. They interfaced with Ugandan women in political parties, women leaders in civil society and also visited the Parliament of Uganda and other cultural sites. Through motivational dialogues, they reflected on strategies of growth in multiparty systems, how to build strategic alliances and the legislative process in Uganda. The exchange visit enhanced their capacity in political engagement, resilience and strategies of engagements to enhance their personal and collective agency as well as increase their influence.

1.4 Giving Rise to an International Pool of Women Leaders in Peace Processes

The Peace Centre organised the international Feminist Leadership Institute in Nepal and Uganda to enhance the technical expertise of women to participate in and influence gender-responsiveness of peace building processes at national, regional and global levels. . In line with our healing strategy, we also mainstreamed wellbeing and self-care in all our trainings, aimed at supporting women peace builders' space to rejuvenate and learn new methods of sustaining their activism while remaining healthy.

1.4.1 The Asia Institute on Transformative Leadership

In Chitwan District Nepal, 22 women leaders including Deputy Mayors and Vice Chairpersons at the provincial level were trained in April 2019 in partnership with the National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders. The training focused on transformative leadership and power analysis, justice as a tool for transformation, the roles of judicial committees in combating Gender Based Violence, and promoting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

In applying the skills from the training, women leaders were able to ensure increase of local government budgets to women's economic activities, formulated the women's entrepreneurship federation, encouraged women to participate in local committees and as a result 50% of the local consumer committee is composed of women. The women also introduced a budget to support people living with disabilities and their caretakers this is due to improved assertiveness of women while engaging in committee meetings.

During the follow up meeting women leaders were also trained in Feminist Participatory Action Research; this enhanced their skills in research and documentation to enable them document their leadership journeys. Using a feminist perspective would enable the women to acknowledge gender power relations as well as recognize and validate women's experiences as valid. In addition, trained women engaged in community activism to challenge social norms that continue to discriminate and marginalize women.

Ambika Rupakheti, an institute alumna mobilised and educated widows in her community on their rights as women, through a campaign titled "Red Tika Program" that enabled widows to reclaim their right to dress in red (colour of marriage) thus turning around an age old traditional discriminatory practice.

I realised that widows are victimized and oppressed by the harmful traditional practices' rato tika abhiyan' (Red tika program). A practice that prohibits widows from wearing red items. Therefore, I mobilized women in the community and widows in particular. We all dressed up in red and matched to the municipality headquarters. It was a way of sending a message that this is wrong, widows are also human beings who have rights just like others. An 85 years old woman who had been widowed at 20 years of age was excited to wear her red attire once again.





Ange and Liberate, participants at the Feminist Peace Institute (Africa Cohort) colour mandalas during the personal wellness and selfcare session

1.4.2 The Africa Institute in Uganda

The Africa Feminist Leadership Institute trained 21 young women leaders from Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan (including those from refugee camps in Uganda), Burundi, and Uganda in May 2019 in Entebbe, Uganda. The training strengthened the agency and voice of young women leaders to effectively engage in different peace processes in their countries. Since after the training young women have been able to exhibit their agency by engaging with actors to resolve conflict for example a participant from DRC Josephine Maombi together with other organizations engaged leaders of a militia group Union of Patriots for the Defense of the Innocent (UPDI)/Mai-Mai Mazembe and Forces Populaires de Paix (FPP) that signed an agreement committing to respect women's rights, stop rape and the recruitment of child soldiers in Eastern DRC.

The young women also acquired knowledge and skills on feminist analysis and leadership, wellbeing and self-care for women peace builders. Trained women have replicated the skills by passing on knowledge to young women in their countries. Sarah Abeja shared her follow up action with us:

I conducted a half day dialogue between the women grass root mediators and the women representatives at the national level. The aim of the dialogue was to create a good working relationship between the women at the grass roots and those at the national level.





Participants listen to Professor Makara sharing the research findings of the study on Election Related violence during the first research validation meeting.



A series of Focus Group discussions in Adjumani district held during the Baseline Assessment of women's effective participation in peacebuilding in Uganda



One of the key informants speaks to the interviewer during the Baseline Assessment of women's effective participation in peacebuilding in Uganda.

2.0 Information as Power to Influence Decision Making in Peace Processes

2.1 Information is available for women to influence decision-making in peace processes.

To address the shortage of current data and timely strategic analysis necessary for women to influence decision-making on peace, security and post-conflict governance in South Sudan, The Peace Centre in December 2019 conducted research to assess the *implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on Resolution on the Conflict in South Sudan with a focus on key gender dimensions*. The study carried out in Juba South Sudan also examined the opportunities, constraints and extent to which women influence the peace process in South Sudan; and how women and young women's advocacy efforts can be supported in ways that create new spaces for them to engage key decision makers at national, regional and international levels.

To contribute to improving the understanding of the complex nexus between elections and conflict prevention, The Peace Centre conducted a research on *Election-related Conflict and Violence in Uganda*. This targeted hotspots for electoral violence including Sembabule, Soroti, Arua, Rukungiri and Kampala districts. The study included 22 in-depth interviews, 366 participants in focus groups discussions and 80 respondents to random sampling questionnaires. This engaged strategic stakeholders in electoral processes such as District Chairpersons, Resident District Commissioners, District Police Commissioners, Chief Accounting Officers, Mayors, District Election Registrars, Women & youth leaders at district & Sub-County levels, Religious & Cultural leaders, Media, Political party representatives, Uganda human rights commission and leaders of civil society organisation. The research including the evidence-based recommendations will be used in engaging key actors and institutions to women's participation in addressing electoral violence and promoting peace.

The Peace Centre conducted baseline assessments in Uganda to strengthen the evidence base for efforts to ensure women leaders participate in and influence different peace building processes. This has also informed strategies to build capacities of women to effectively engage in decision making spaces, represent their community's concerns and engage their leaders for accountability.

2.2 Assessment of women's effective participation in peace building in Uganda: Case study of Yumbe, Kotido & Adjumani districts.

The findings from the assessment indicated that the involvement of women in decision-making and peace building was highest in Kotido district at 44% followed by Adjumani district at 41% and lastly Yumbe district at 40%. Majority (55%) of those who indicated that they participated in the decision-making processes were women from host communities while refugees formed only 45%. 32.7% of the respondents reported that they had participated in at least one advocacy to advance the women, peace and security agenda. On women's participation in leadership positions, 44.6% of the respondents reported that they held at least one leadership position in their community. It was also noted that in the Refugee Welfare Councils women occupy 52% of all positions but their ability to effectively influence decisions is still a challenge. To respond to these challenges, The Peace Centre organized a number of skills development sessions for women in these districts to increase their involvement in decision making and peace building.

2.3 Assessing the level of women's effective participation in peaceful electoral processes in Uganda: Case study of Arua, Kassanda and Kapelebyong districts.

The level of women's participation in the electoral processes was assessed on the basis of their involvement in pre-election, during election and post-election activities. These activities included voter registration, voter education, nomination of candidates, campaigning, election monitoring and voting. The findings revealed that, according to female respondents' peaceful electoral processes means; existence of transparency (mentioned by 25%), absence of bribery (14.8%), absence of intimidation or violence (13%) and no cheating (10.5%). While 88.1% of respondents were found to be registered voters, only 29.6% of the respondents had ever participated in the electoral process as candidates while 70.4% had never participated. The assessment revealed that women occupy only 2.9% of the local council 1 positions in the country which is attributed to low levels of education, poverty, limited civic education and election violence hence low participation of women as candidates in political elections.

Overall participation of women in campaigns was found to be average in as far as turning up for campaign rallies and others as campaign mobilizers and agents. Arua district registered the highest number of women who had voted while Kapelebyong had the lowest. Only 17.4% of female respondents had participated in engagements with various officials and offices about peaceful electoral processes while 82.6% had not. Only 12.6% women are engaged in decision-making structures to promote peaceful elections, such as the Electoral Commission, Local Councils, Women's Council, and Local Leaders at Sub-county and Village level.

It is upon this basis that The Peace Centre conducted a series of trainings on leadership and democratic electoral processes to equip the women in Arua, Kassanda and Kapelebyong districts with necessary skills to negotiate for conditions that foster peaceful electoral processes as well as enable more women to take up leadership positions in Uganda.

2.4 Building Feminist Body of Knowledge.

Our 50th edition of *Women's World* titled "**Women and Girls at the Heart of Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa**" contributed to the body of feminist knowledge on the experiences and agency of women affected by forced displacement as a result of conflict, political turmoil and insecurity in Africa. This focus was in alignment with the African Union's theme for the year 2019, as the Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa: Towards a Durable Solution to Forced Displacement. As Africa marked 50 years of the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and 10 years of the 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), the need to pay closer attention to women and girls affected by and responding to forced displacement was unquestionable.

3.0 Deliberate Attempts to Claim Spaces for Women to Participate at all Levels of Peace Processes.

3.1 Influencing and claiming spaces in South Sudan and DRC

Women's participation in decision making is grounded in the South Sudan Transitional Constitution, the South Sudan Gender Policy and the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) that included a provision of 35% affirmative action/women representation at the executive level and for the implementation of the agreement at all levels of decision making. The Peace Centre, CEPO and Centre for Inclusive Governance, Peace and Justice (CIGPJ) conducted two dialogues with women in political parties. The meeting reflected on strategies to enhance participation of women in multi-party-political dispensation and national development.

As a result, two communiqués were developed urging political parties to nominate influential women in political parties to ensure that the 35% affirmative action is achieved and to urge party's signatory to the Revitalized Agreement to fulfil their commitment in the implementation of the agreement and ensure the 35% for women is observed and enforced during nominations and appointments of political positions at all levels. A press conference was conducted on 25th October 2019 followed by a radio talk show on Bakhita radio. The women leaders shared their position based on issues in the communiqué in a bid to reach out to the wider audience and influence the nomination of potential women in political parties.

Influencing and claiming space in Bukavu, Eastern DRC

The Peace Centre and her partners Karibu Jeunesse Nouvelle (KJN) and Association des Femmes Des Medias (AFEM) conducted a dialogue in September 2019 in Bukavu with 30 participants. The engagement provided space for mapping key actors focusing on UNSCR 1325, designing a systematic reporting framework and harmonizing strategies for implementation. A roadmap was developed and agreed upon to guide participating organizations collective engagements on Resolution 1325.

A dialogue with the media and political leaders was also conducted in Bukavu for 50 participants (22 from media houses and 28 from political parties). The dialogue sensitised the leaders on the 2nd generation NAP for DRC, engaged political parties to lobby for women's participation and the media to appreciate the NAP, and thereafter sensitise communities. The political party leaders committed to ensure that women are considered in the upcoming provincial elections.

3.2 Claiming Spaces at Regional Level

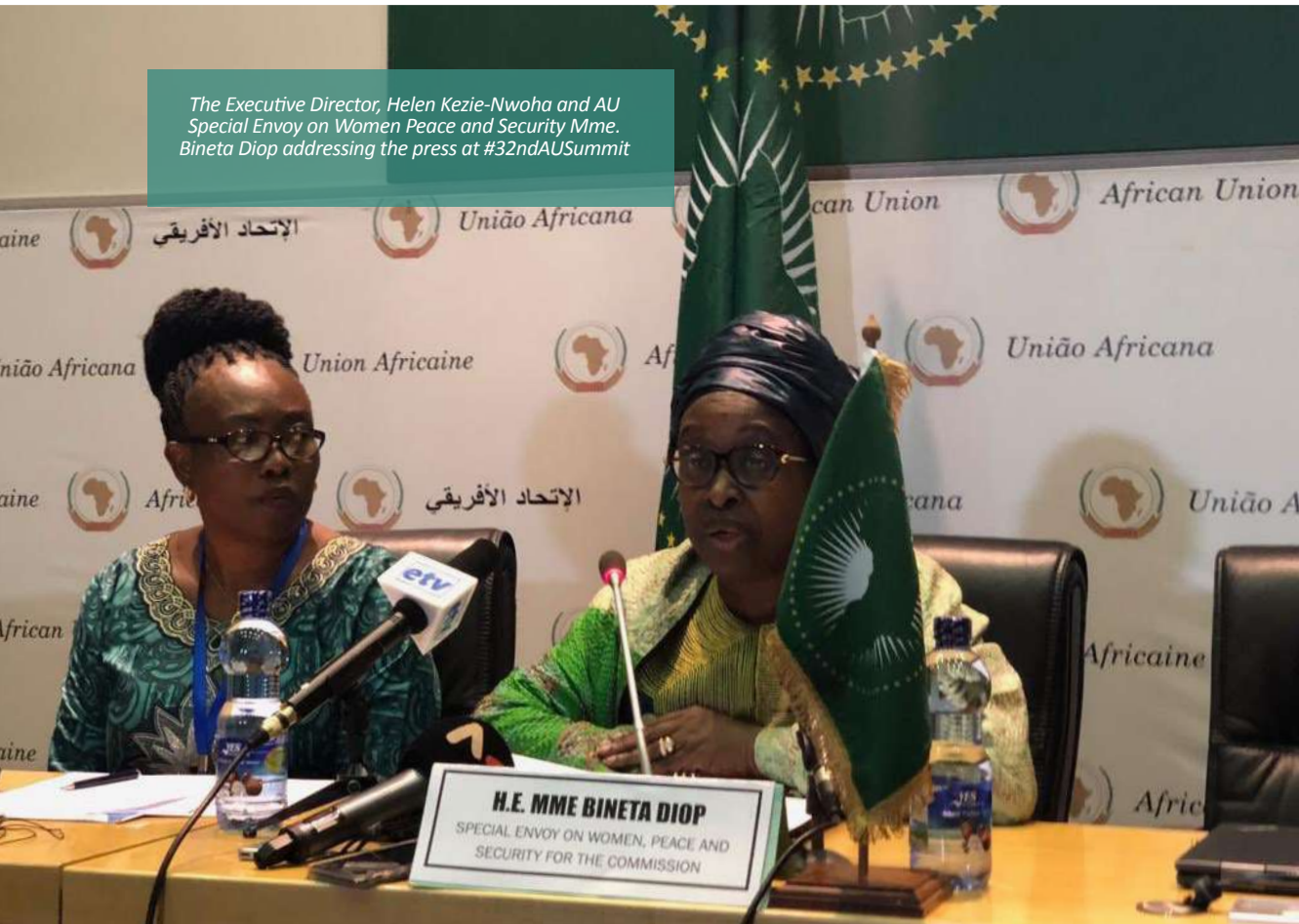
3.2.1 Regional Exchange on Women's Participation in Peace Building

A Regional Exchange, held from 31st January to 1st February in Addis Ababa was organised to define an inclusive agenda for Burundi women's advocacy for peace with the support of women peace builders in the region. 3 women leaders of the South Sudan Women's Peace Coalition, 2 women leaders of the Uganda Women's Peace Coalition and Kenya Women United for Peace joined 16 Mouvement des Femmes et Filles pour la Paix at la Securite (MFFPS) members living in Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Belgium. The experience of the movement building and advocacy of the other regional women's peace movements was shared, including their challenges, successes, lessons learnt and key strategies for impact. This was followed by reflection on the experience of Burundi women, the current context, a discussion of what is necessary moving forward as well as a new more specific advocacy agenda. The regional exchange also defined a plan, with a single goal (focused on the need to resume the inter-Burundi dialogue), redefined the more strategic power brokers to target and the need for more constructive engagement with regional women's peace builders and movements. Through the regional exchange, MFFPS members from Burundi, the region and diaspora were able to agree on a single advocacy agenda, the key message, along with the next steps for driving this and mobilising support from allies.

"Towards Gender-Responsive Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement"
 33rd Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union
 03 - 04 February 2019
 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
 #GIMAC33



Launch of the Pushing the Frontier of Gender Equality in Africa Report during the 33rd Gender Is My Agenda Campaign in Addis Ababa



The Executive Director, Helen Kezie-Nwoha and AU Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security Mme. Bineta Diop addressing the press at #32ndAUSummit

H.E. MME BINETA DIOP

SPECIAL ENVOY ON WOMEN, PEACE AND
 SECURITY FOR THE COMMISSION

3.2.2 Regional Advocacy Training for Young Women at the African Union

To enhance the capacity of young women to ably conduct regional advocacy and influence policy makers and decision-making processes at the African Union (AU), 3 (2 from Burundi, 1 from Uganda) were supported to attend Pre-GIMAC advocacy training on 2nd February 2019 in Addis Ababa. The sessions increased their understanding of advocacy at the AU in practice, the AUC and AU organs, key regional advocacy opportunities and events of relevance. The young women were also able to discuss the AU theme and draft recommendations, which were presented during the GIMAC and for inclusion in the final GIMAC outcome document. The Peace Centre, as the peace and security thematic lead on the GIMAC steering committee, co-hosted GIMAC 33 and used the opportunity to ensure that both young and grassroots women were represented on each panel, providing the platform for young women to be heard and to actually engage in policy dialogue.

3.2.3 33rd Pre-Summit Civil Society Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union

The Peace Centre hosted the 33rd Pre-Summit Civil Society Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (GIMAC) bearing the theme “Towards Gender-Responsive Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement” on 3rd and 4th February 2019 in Addis Ababa. Our partners in Burundi, South Sudan, DRC and Uganda were consulted to identify key issues to be amplified or advocated for during the GIMAC based on the work and evidence of these organisations or networks. CEPO (South Sudan) and MFFPS (Burundi) representatives addressed the meeting and highlighted the important peace-building role of women in protection of civilian sites and IDP camps in South Sudan as well as the need to include displaced women in peace building processes. These issues were discussed and reflected in the final GIMAC recommendations which called for support for displaced women to occupy leadership positions in decision-making in IDP and refugee camps. The outcome document also called for the participation of women in the inter-Burundian dialogue and the need for its revival. The AU Women, Gender and Development Directorate received these recommendations to feed into the processes leading up to the AU Heads of State summit.

3.2.4 GIMAC Strategic Engagement with AU, RECs and Partners on the AU Summit Theme of the Year

The Peace Centre as the Peace and Security thematic lead of the GIMAC Steering Committee hosted the 1st GIMAC Strategic Engagement with the AU, RECs and partners with a focus on ensuring gender-responsive solutions to forced displacement are translated into action from 29th to 30th June 2019, in Niamey, Niger. The meeting focused on defining concrete measures and action points to ensure regional and national implementation of previous GIMAC recommendations in addition to defining strategies for effective coordination and implementation of AU declarations at RECs and member state/national level. This provided 2 women representatives of MFFPS, (The Peace Centre partners) a platform to make a call to action urging the East African Community, regional partners and the AU to rethink their action regarding the intra-Burundi dialogue, women's peace building roles and the resolution of the political crisis. In response the AUC Chair's Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security expressed a commitment to support a meeting between women in Burundi and displaced Burundian women on the issue of women collectively building sustainable peace.

3.2.5 1st Consultative Meeting of the Women, Peace and Security Forum

The Peace Centre partnered with the AUC Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security working with the Government of Burkina Faso, and Norway to organise the 1st Consultative Meeting of the Women, Peace and Security Forums. The meeting with the theme Enhancing the Role of Regional Women, Peace and Security to Silence the Guns in Africa through Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda was held in Ouagadougou from 29th to 30th May 2019. The meeting included key AUC actors on peace and security, AUC Women Gender and Development Directorate, Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of West African States, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, Mano River Union, IGAD Women Peace Network, the

G5 Sahel Women's Platform, and select regional WPS organisations. Feminist leadership institute alumna (2 young women from South Sudan and Burundi, 1 woman from DRC) who were selected to represent the women, peace and security priorities of their fellow trainees, represented the 2019 cohort to highlight the need to continuously ensure the inclusion of young women and their needs and concerns in WPS discussions in Africa. The conclusions of the meeting reflected their recommendations including the commitment to engage and deploy grassroots mediators, for the AUC to strengthen networking across forums, expand their partnership and support the inclusion of women's centres of excellence to advance the WPS agenda.

3.2.6 Africa Regional Conference on Localisation of Humanitarian Aid

While local and national women's groups and women-led organisations are often best placed to ensure effective sustainable humanitarian response or post-crisis or conflict recovery and resilience, they continue to be left out of decision-making processes that shape and drive the agenda. The Peace Centre amplified the voices of local women's groups, organisations and women affected by conflict in the global processes leading up to the Grand Bargain and in the national processes that followed. Despite the commitments to increase quality partnerships and sustained funding to women-led local and national organisations engaged in humanitarian action, the realities in Uganda and South Sudan do not reflect this.

As a result, from 12th to 13th July, The Peace Centre joined women-led and women's rights organisations working in humanitarian settings across the continent to discuss how to influence the outcome of the Africa regional conference by the Work Stream on localisation, to ensure a gender-responsive localisation and participation revolution. The consultation convened by the Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group and UN Women generated common recommendations and demands under the areas of capacity strengthening, coordination, financing, partnership and promoting women's leadership. These fed into the discussions and outcomes of the thematic working group sessions of the Africa Regional Conference on Localisation of Humanitarian Aid held from 15th to 16th July 2019. The outcome document reflecting the conference's priority issues included the gender-specific recommendations and the joint press release by the African Union Commission, the Swiss Government and IFRC highlighted the need for more support for women-led organisations.



(L-R) Robinet Lucille (Réseau pour le Leadership de la Femme en Centrafrique), Sourire Muhigirwa (Association des Femmes des Médias), Joan Bazilika Lado (Eve Organisation for Women Development), Agnes Ntahompagaze (Abaremeshamahoro), and Achiro Mercy (Refugee Law Project) address the press and share women's voices on peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region.

3.2.7 Convening on Women's Leadership in Peace Building in the Great Lakes Region of Africa

The Peace Centre partnered with Global Fund for Women to convene 40 women human rights defenders and organizations from Burundi, CAR, DRC, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda working to build peace, end sexual and gender-based violence, and combat the negative impact of the extractive industry on peace and women's rights from 12th to 14th November 2019. The convening facilitated women leaders' engagement with the ICGLR Regional Training Facility, the African Union FemWise-African Network of Women Mediators, and UN Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes on specific advocacy issues. Together the women peace builders assessed progress and gaps in advancing the women, peace and security agenda in the region, shared good practices and lessons learnt and thereafter defined a creative common vision and agenda for feminist peacebuilding as well as collective action. This was followed by a press conference to disseminate the women peacebuilders' key messages and call to action.

3.2.8 High-level Consultation of the ICGLR Ministers of Gender and Justice on the Implementation of the Kampala Declaration

The Peace Centre participated in the **High-level Consultation of the ICGLR Ministers of Gender and Justice on the Implementation of the Kampala Declaration** and the Kinshasa Communiqué which assessed and identified key actions and adopted the report on the status of implementation of the Kampala Declaration on SGBV on 27th November 2019 in Brazzaville. In addition to contributing to discussions on what remains to be done to step up the fight against conflict-related SGBV in the Great Lakes, The Peace Centre served as a technical resource and documented the debate and outcomes to inform the roadmap covering domestication of ICGLR protocols; judicial and security responses; holistic service delivery model; as well as monitoring and evaluation of the Kampala declaration. The high-level consultation followed an experts meeting, which ran from 24th to 26th November and included the UNSG Special Representative on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in conflict, the Office of the UNSG Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, the Representative of the Chair of the AUC for the Great Lakes and Burundi, representatives from development partners and civil society networks.

3.2.9 Reflection Meeting of the South Sudan Women's Coalition for Peace

From 13th to 14th December 2019, The Peace Centre joined members of the SSWCP to review the activities of the coalition, assess members' participation in the different peace building mechanisms and identify areas of focus for the 100-days extension of the formation of the national government. The meeting reflected on participation of the women's coalition members in the implementation of the R-ARCSS, forming a Core Group/Emergency Response Team to address gaps in advocacy and sustained engagement, which The Peace Centre joined to provide technical support for women's meaningful participation. The meeting also defined an advocacy plan for the following two months including various lobby meetings and a larger review meeting to assess the status or progress before the end of the 100 days.

3.3 Global Advocacy

3.3.1 63rd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

The Peace Centre participated in the **Pre-CSW63 Africa Expert Meeting** from 3rd to 6th February 2019 in Cairo, Egypt and was able to work with other regional CSOs to contribute to influencing the common African position on the priority theme, and agreeing on an advocacy plan informed by key messages defined in Cairo.

The Peace Centre submitted a **written statement** to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, titled 'Trauma

Relief as a Prerequisite for Enhanced Effectiveness of Social Protection Schemes for Women and Girls in Post-Conflict Contexts.’ The position and recommendations made in the written statement to the CSW were contextualised to the case of Uganda and published in the March 2019 4th Issue Special Edition of the Humanitarian Platform for Local and National Humanitarian Actors in Uganda newsletter.

In order to increase awareness and inform action based on knowledge generated from The Peace Centre’s research and efforts in communities, as well as evidence from partners and other women’s rights organisations, The Peace Centre hosted a **side event on the margins of CSW 63** (on 15th March 2019 in New York) focused on feminist peace and social protection for women affected by conflict. The discussion focused on the findings of the study by The Peace Centre, Tilburg, Makerere and Mbarara Universities on the cost-benefit of social protection schemes such as cash transfer programmes and post trauma services for the empowerment of women in post-conflict Northern Uganda. The findings were reflected on using the realities in post-conflict, post- Ebola crisis Liberia (shared by My Voice My Safety/Ministry of Gender, Liberia) and the challenges of women’s rights and peace building in Nepal, in the absence of knowledge on the centrality of holistic trauma relief (by NAWHRD Nepal) with closing reflections from Cordaid. This allowed a dialogue on what must be done to ensure national government institutions and funding partners drive social protection programmes that advance feminist peace, the need for efforts addressing shrinking civic space and its impact on the women’s movement among others.

The Peace Centre also organized a **joint event on improving social protection outcomes for conflict-affected and grassroots women** with Femmes Africa Solidarite, Action Aid and the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security hosted by the AU Permanent Mission to the UN (on 15th March 2019 in New York), which strengthened the reach of our key messages, our access to target actors and the exchange of knowledge among practitioners. This enabled engagement with representatives of member states (Ministers from DRC, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Niger and Liberia), AUC and civil society on our specific recommendations. We contributed to the conversations at #CSW63, and gained 50,500 impressions on twitter.

3.3.2 Review of the Progress of Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for Empowerment of Women in Uganda.

The Peace Centre contributed to the Uganda National Report on the **Review of the Progress of Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform For Action for Empowerment of Women** (+25 Report) under the area of peace and inclusive societies. This highlighted the contributions of the actions by women and women’s organisations and the value of their inclusion in any measures and processes seeking sustained peace and inclusive societies. In addition, the recommendation was made to prioritise efforts to strengthening women’s participation in conflict prevention (such as preventing violent extremism), increasing funding to the priority needs of refugee women such as psychosocial support.

3.3.3 Launch of the #IMatter Campaign

The Peace Centre Executive Director made a keynote address at the 28th October launch of the #IMatter campaign led by Oxfam designed and implemented with the participation of WIPC, which celebrates the work of women and girls working in crisis and recognizes the universality of women’s experiences and struggles, reinforcing the need to recognise the work of WHRDs and CSOs. IMatter is a solidarity movement amplifying the voices of women and girls in conflict, and post-conflict contexts. It also supports women-led organisations to disrupt power and demand that women are leaders in their communities; and challenge policies and practices which stop women from leading.

3.3.4 United Nations Security Council's Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security

The Peace Centre participated in the United Nations Security Council's Open Debate on women, peace and security in addition to relevant discussions organised on its margins in October 2019. This included the 2019 Multi-stakeholder Forum on women, peace and security (WPS) organized by the Swedish government, UN Women and the NGO Working Group on WPS. The Forum presented a platform for civil society organizations to discuss how to advance the WPS agenda in four priority areas including women's participation in all aspects of peace building, investing in conflict prevention, recognizing the important role of WHRDs and creating an enabling environment for civil society and WHRDs, and lastly advancing women's human rights and gender equality. The Peace Centre also contributed to discussions held during the session convened by the Republic of South Africa and African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and UN Women under the theme 'Twenty years of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Delivering on Implementation' which highlighted the contributions of women leaders and women-led organisations.

4.0 Holistic Wellbeing of Women in Peace Processes Enabled

4.1 Influencing and claiming spaces in South Sudan and DRC

On the onset of the new Strategic Plan the Peace Centre made deliberate attempts to consider self-care and wellness as a political tool to ensure the survival of the feminist movement as well as our personal wellness. But, the patriarchal legacy mandating women as “care-givers of the world”, creates contradictions in balancing the demand of caring for others with needing to care for ourselves. Therefore, the Peace Centre incorporated wellness and selfcare in her feminist leadership institute that trained 28 young women and during the exchange visit for 20 women from DRC, South Sudan and Uganda. Key areas addressed during the sessions were; personal health such as health eating, exercising, avoiding stress, drinking lots of water, detoxifying, rest and relaxation as well as creating me time and social networks and friend needs a shoulder to lean on.

After the training Sarah Jackson Abeja an alumna from South Sudan organised a radio talk show on Eye Radio on self-care. She also mobilised 15 Women Human Rights Defenders and reflected on wellness and self-care. She then created a WhatsApp group called Care for Caregivers as a platform to share achievements, challenges and coping mechanisms for the WHRD’s.

4.2 Girls’ Power Camp

To promote self-esteem and leadership among girls, The Peace Centre from the 4th to 5th April 2019 skilled 128 schoolgirls (aged 10 to 16yrs) from Otubet Primary School on positive living, leadership, sexual reproductive health rights, handling stigma and discrimination and making re-useable sanitary pads. The girls were able to identify their dreams and set personal goals. An awareness dialogue on HIV and AIDS was also organised during the school assembly for over 800 pupils.

4.3 Feminist Leadership and Wellness Trainings

The Peace Centre sought to strengthen diverse voices within the women’s rights movement, create safe spaces for intersectional feminist dialogue, and strengthening advocacy efforts of women’s organizations. 104 women/students leaders (from partner organisations MEMPROW, FARUG, NUWODU, NAWOU and FOWODE); university student leaders and women leaders from Lira, Kampala and Gulu were skilled in feminist leadership and wellness. This provided space to women leaders to relax and reflect upon themselves for the first time, freely share challenges faced and benefits of putting self-first. Participants engaged from an honest and experiential place of understanding oneself and others and not from an idealistic one that is tinted with unacknowledged bias and prejudice.

4.4 Harnessing Our Power with Soul: Bespoke curriculum for Transformational Leadership and Wellness

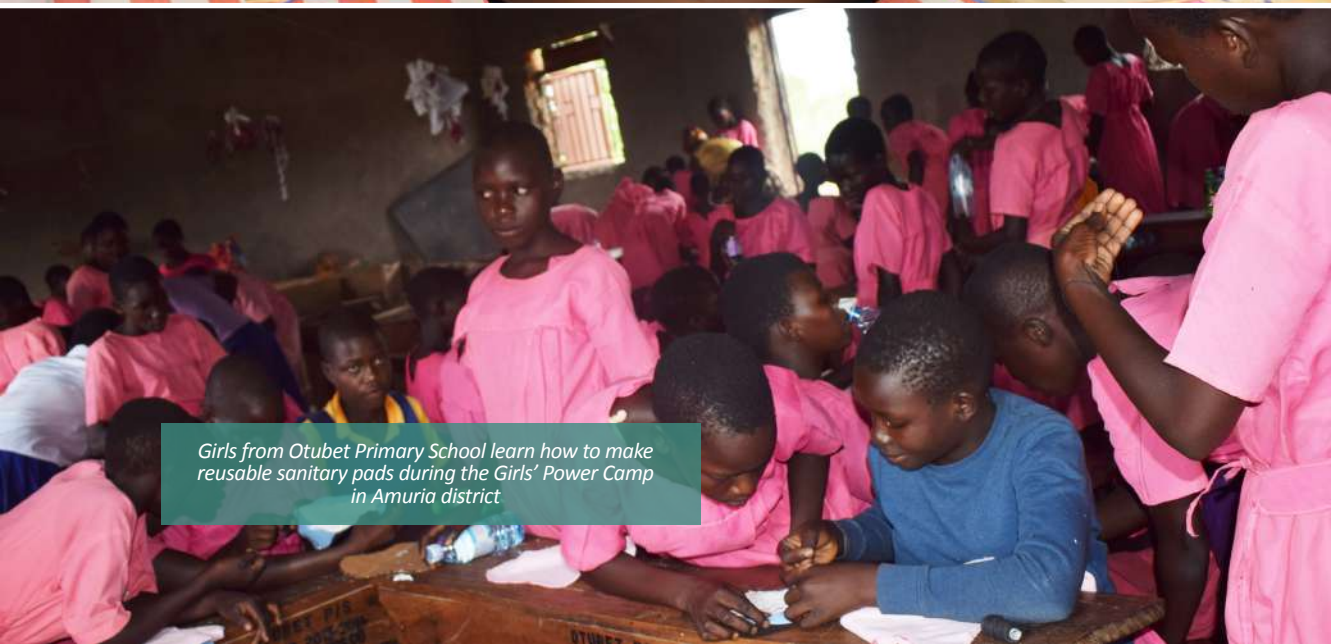
As a feminist organization that is committed to the intentional integration of wellness into the ways and practices of organizing for transformational leadership, The Peace Centre developed a training manual, Harnessing Our Power with Soul: Bespoke curriculum for Transformational Leadership and Wellness. The Bespoke Curriculum contains practical activities to meet the needs of diverse groups. It also offers a range of tools and techniques that can be used to assist a facilitator and participants to collectively create space that encourages everyone to show up as they are, that honours the kind of bravery it takes to engage honestly and authentically with a group and in which everyone is valued and respected.



Women leaders discuss leadership practices they engage in their communities during the Feminist Leadership and Wellness training in Gulu District.



A moment of meditation during the Feminist Leadership and Wellness training for Women Advocacy for Voice and Empowerment (WAVE) Project partners.



Girls from Otubet Primary School learn how to make reusable sanitary pads during the Girls' Power Camp in Amuria district

4.5 The Uganda Feminist Forum

The Peace Centre co-organised the 8th Convening of the Uganda Feminist Forum #UFF2019 on “Silencing Our Fears and Fearing Our Silence” from 30th July to 1st August 2019. The forum was an opportunity to celebrate sisters’ courage, risking life and examine our complicity, inadvertent or not, in keeping quiet when our voices could have made a difference. The forum hosted 110 women who identify in different groups including 15 Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer (LBQ), 3 women with disabilities, 15 sex workers, together with sisters from Rwanda, South Africa, Malawi and Zimbabwe young and old all engaged in a series of conversations that enabled us to reflect, comfort and hold ourselves as sisters in the movement. In the space, we named and faced our fears, and individually and collectively worked to dismantle them.

I’m very glad to have learnt so much in the space. I was used to attending meetings with fellow persons with disabilities but this time it was a different case. I heard that there would be different groups of people and I was scared. During introductions, I almost ran out of the room because I heard people introduce themselves as witches, lesbians and sex workers and yet I had a negative attitude towards those people. I’ve interacted with them and learnt a lot. I have changed my attitude towards them. I know that I will not discriminate such an individual.

Nalwoga Berna

National Union of Women with Disabilities Uganda (NUWODU)





(L-R); Anita Ntale, Irene Ikomu, Rita Aciro, Sarah Nkuchia-Kyalo and Leah Eryenyu discuss macro-economic issues; gender budgetting, unpaid care work and tax justice on a panel interrogating the state of the economy for Ugandan women




Sisters at UFF discussing principles, beliefs and expectations for the forum.


5.0 Amplifying Women's Voices on Social Media




FACEBOOK


198,125
People reached


450
Page followers gained


918
Page views


500
New page likes




TWITTER


5,521
Profile visits


1,128
New followers


800
Mentions


1,741
Retweets


3,328
Likes

#FeministFriday

We used #FeministFriday to share inspirational quotes, and self-care tips from African Feminists in line with our feminist principles and gained

30,465
Impressions

#WomanIcon

Twelve #WomanIcon celebrated and acknowledged the work that women are doing to promote gender equality and uplift young women gained

34,987
Impressions on Twitter

22,647
People Reached

#WorldHumanitarianDay

On #WorldHumanitarianDay we recognized the value of local and national women's rights actors in humanitarian action building bridges between development, humanitarian and peace and security. The Peace Centre recorded a 1-minute video contributing to the Charter4Change video-messages for World Humanitarian Day celebrating the role and highlighting challenges faced by local women in humanitarian action. On Twitter, the video reached **2,247** people with **170** views and **64** engagements, On Facebook, the video reached **492** people with **46** views and on YouTube received **20** views.

#UFF2019

We shared the #UFF2019 experience on Twitter and received **73** retweets, **94** likes and **390** engagements and **10,977** impressions while on Facebook, **1,069** people were reached.

#MzansiForSouthSudan

We joined women's rights organisations from South Africa and South Sudan under the Crisis Action-led #MzansiForSouthSudan campaign to call on governments to use their influence to reinvigorate peace efforts in South Sudan and promote justice and accountability for the women of South Sudan. On Twitter, **8** tweets were shared gained **61,725** impressions with **149** retweets, **228** likes and **868** engagements while on Facebook **5** posts were shared reaching **3,666** people, **224** engagement and **10** shares.

We contributed to #EndRapeInWar on the International Day of Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, #StopGBVatWork led by FEMNET to demand governments to adopt a strong and inclusive convention on ending Violence and Harassment in the world of work, and #RefugeeDay in solidarity

6.0 The Peace Centre is a structured and continuously improving institution delivering its strategic results, while maintaining a healthy working environment

6.1 New Name, New Strategic Plan

On 26th June 2019 we officially launched our new name Women's International Peace Centre and the new strategic plan for the period 2019 to 2022 at a conference in Kampala attended by partners, the media, former and current staff of the Peace Centre. The launch was officiated by the Board Chairperson along with the Executive Directors of the Uganda Women's Network, Institute for Social Transformation and Teso Women Peace Activists, also an Isis-WICCE Leadership Institute alumna. The #WIPCLaunch social media campaign reached 407,562 individual users online and was seen by 1,128,863 twitter users. Posts on Facebook reached 5,216 people.

6.2 Our Team

Women's International Peace Centre is comprised of 21 staff members (19 women and 2 men). The Peace Centre has an international board, which serves as the sole trustee of the organisation. It is responsible for policy and fiscal matters of the organisation including the approval of budgets, audited accounts, monitoring the performance of the organisation. It is composed of 6 members, led by the Board President Elizabeth Lwanga, a Development Advisor, AU Conflict mediator and election observer. Gertrude Bibi Annoh-Quarshie the African Women's Development Fund Director of Operations serves as the Board Treasurer providing oversight and advice on financial management. Magdalena Kropiwnicka the Board Secretary is a Climate Change and Food Security Governance Specialist. Luz Martinez a Gender and Communications Specialist who also Chairs the Board of Io, and Professor Cheryl Hendricks is the Executive Director of the African Institute of South Africa are Board Members responsible for the Peace Centre's strategy and programming. The board also appoints and supervises the Executive Director in addition to participating in the recruitment of senior staff.

Our team is led by the Executive Director who provides overall leadership, management and support to the team, working with the management team to fulfil the organisation's mission vision through implementation of the strategic plan. The Deputy Executive Director/Programme Manager supports the office of the Executive Director and leads programme coordinators in operationalising the strategic plan. 2 Finance and Administration Officers are charged with leading financial planning, supporting the budgeting process, the application and updating of financial policies and procedures, financial controls, budget controls, audit and financial report. The management team is composed of The Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director/Programme Manager and the Finance and Administration Officer.

The organisations programme implementation is led by 3 programme officers supervised by the Deputy Executive Director/Programme Manager including the Exchange Programme Officer (focused on leadership capacity strengthening and movement building), the Research and Monitoring Officer and the Advocacy and Communications Coordinator. 3 Project officers are charged with implementing specific projects with the support of 3 Field Officers. 1 Project Assistant represents the organisation in South Sudan and implements specific project activities. 1 Communications Officer handles the organisation's external communication.

The administration team supervised by the Finance and Administration Officers includes 1 Finance Assistant, 1 Administrative Assistant, 1 Driver, 1 Security Officer and 1 Office Attendant. The organisations receives a maximum of 4 interns or volunteers at a time on a rotating basis to assist with project implementation.

6.3 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

To ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of the Strategic Plan, The Peace Centre developed a **Monitoring and Evaluation framework** in line with the desired Strategic Outputs and it describes the indicators that are used to measure whether the implemented programs are a success. The framework has been an effective tool in enhancing the quality of project planning and management that has helped project managers/implementers to understand whether the projects are progressing on schedule and to ensure that project inputs, activities and outputs are proceeding as planned. As a result, The Peace Centre has maximized its output targets within limited timeframe with minimal resources. This has supported our level of accountability to our partners, and the communities that we serve.

6.4 Staff Learning Sessions

Learning and sharing sessions with our key stakeholders and partners shaped and strengthened our intervention approaches in 2019. Lessons learned from one project acted as possible solutions to the prevailing challenges in other implemented projects.

8.0 Our Incomes and Expenditure



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Independent auditors' report

TO THE MEMBERS OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE CENTRE (THE PEACE CENTRE)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Women's International Peace Centre, ("the Company"), which comprise the statement of fund balance as at 31 December 2019, and the statements of income and expenditure, accumulated fund and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes comprising of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information set out on pages 14 to 28.

In our opinion, the financial statements of The Peace Centre are prepared in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting policies as set out in note 1.1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code)* together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Uganda, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the company information, report of directors', the statement of directors' responsibilities and unaudited project information but does not include the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Emphasis of matter- Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Use and Distribution

We draw attention to note 1.1 to the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared to assist The Peace Centre in complying with its financial reporting guidelines. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for THE PEACE CENTRE and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than The Peace Centre. Our opinion is not modified in respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that present in all material aspects the affairs of the organisation in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1.1, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

KPMG Uganda is a registered partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity.

KPMG is regulated by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU)

Partners
 Edgar Iungoma
 Asad Lukwago
 Stephen Inegbe



Independent auditors' report

TO THE MEMBERS OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE CENTRE (THE PEACE CENTRE) (Continued)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements (Continued)

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the organisation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Directors are responsible for overseeing the Organisation's financial reporting process.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with the Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditors' report is CPA Asad Lukwago - P0365.

KPMG
Certified Public Accountants
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P.O. Box 3509
Kampala, Uganda

Date: 09 November 2020

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE CENTRE (THE PEACE CENTRE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019 Actual USD	2019 Budget - USD	2018 Actual USD
Income				
Balance as at 1st January		19,314	-	71,138
Grant income	2	1,156,518	1,525,289	627,683
Other income	3	947	-	5,901
Total income		1,176,779	1,525,289	704,722
Expenditure				
Exchange Programme	4	(349,594)	(435,964)	(91,221)
Research, Monitoring and Evaluation	5	(207,385)	(312,513)	(32,305)
Information, Communication and Advocacy	6	(117,677)	(264,764)	(132,604)
Programme Development	7	(396,788)	(512,047)	(429,278)
Total expenditure		(1,071,444)	(1,525,289)	(685,408)
Surplus for the year		105,335	-	19,314

The notes set out on pages 17 to 27 form an integral part of the financial statements.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE CENTRE (THE PEACE CENTRE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019 USD	2018 USD
Non-current assets			
Property and equipment	8	83,880	83,734
Current assets			
Receivables	9	29,555	29,931
Cash and bank balances	10	394,311	304,174
Investments in Fixed Deposits	11	-	3,499
Total current assets		423,866	337,604
Total assets		507,746	421,338
Funds and liabilities			
Capital fund		83,880	83,734
Sustainability fund		105,335	19,314
Accumulated fund		189,215	103,048
Current liabilities			
Payables	12	318,531	318,290
Total current liabilities		318,531	318,290
Total funds and liabilities		507,746	421,338

The financial statements on pages 13 to 27 were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 14 October 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:

Elisabeth Swanga
 Board president

[Signature]
 Board Secretary

[Signature]
 Executive Director

The notes set out on pages 17 to 27 form an integral part of the financial statements.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE CENTRE (THE PEACE CENTRE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Capital Fund USD	Sustainability Fund USD	Total USD
As at 1 January 2018	86,267	71,138	157,405
Surplus for the year	-	(51,824)	(51,824)
Depreciation charge for the year	(8,482)	-	(8,482)
Accumulated depreciation on disposal	6,016	-	6,016
Additions	10,791	-	10,791
Disposals	(7,888)	-	(7,888)
Write off	(2,969)	-	(2,969)
Deficit for the year	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2018	83,734	19,313	103,047
Surplus for the year	-	86,022	86,022
Depreciation charge for the year	(9,290)	-	(9,290)
Additions	9,436	-	9,436
Disposals	-	-	-
Write off	-	-	-
Deficit for the year	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2019	83,880	105,335	189,215

The notes set out on pages 17 to 27 form an integral part of the financial statements.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE CENTRE (THE PEACE CENTRE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019 USD	2018 USD
Cash flows from operating activities			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		105,335	19,314
Balance as at 1st January		(19,314)	(71,138)
Proceeds from sale of assets		-	(3,499)
Purchase of PPE	8	9,436	10,791
Interest Income from investments	3	(92)	-
Cash flows from operating activities		95,366	(44,533)
Working capital changes			
Decrease/(Increase) in receivables	9	1,395	(670)
(Decrease) /Increase in payables	12	(779)	83,889
Net cash generated / (used) from operating activities		95,983	38,686
Cash flows from Investing activities			
Purchase of fixed Assets - Donors	8	(9,436)	(10,791)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	8	-	3,499
Investments	11	3,499	(3,499)
Interest Income from investments	3	92	-
Cash outflows from Investing activities		(5,845)	(10,791)
Cash flows from Financing activities			
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents		90,137	27,895
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 January	10	304,174	276,279
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 December	10	394,311	304,174

The notes set out on pages 17 to 27 form an integral part of the financial statements.

8.0 Challenges and Lessons Learnt

Programme management and implementation could be challenging particularly in areas where we work – post conflict and conflict settings. A number of them have mitigation factors but there are others that we do not have control over. Whatever the case, we learn from them, adapt our implementation strategy to ensure that set goals and objectives are achieved.

- One aspect we have no control over is the weather and its impact on the roads we travel. Bad weather made bad roads impassable and cut off certain project areas in Uganda. In such situations we move activity dates forward or have to travel longer routes that place a high burden on our travel cost.
- As we work in diverse locations we face language barriers. To address this we engage with local resource persons to work with us as subject matter experts or interpreters.
- In the post conflict countries where we work the challenge of shrinking civic space is glaring. Government laws and policies demand strict requirements for civil society organizations to operate, this sometimes delays activities and make it impossible to respond fast to emerging issues. The need to obtain security clearance before each activity limited flexibility or spontaneous organising in South Sudan
- We learnt that partnerships with civil society organisations as well as government ministries or agencies eased implementation of activities and added value to the quality and impact of interventions in South Sudan, DRC, Uganda and Nepal.
- In addition, building stronger movements for peacebuilding calls for a systematic investment in nurturing and mentoring young women. It is also important that voices calling for change focus on the entire spectrum of practical and strategic needs of women.



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