



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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ACRONYMS

AFEM	Association des Femmes des Medias AU African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
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
GIMAC	Gender Is My Agenda Campaign
ICGLR	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region
KJN	Karibu Jeunesse Nouvelle
NAP	National Action Plan
NSC	National Steering Committee
NWC	National Women Council
R-ARCSS	Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WPS-HA	Women, Peace and Security – Humanitarian Action

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.

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.

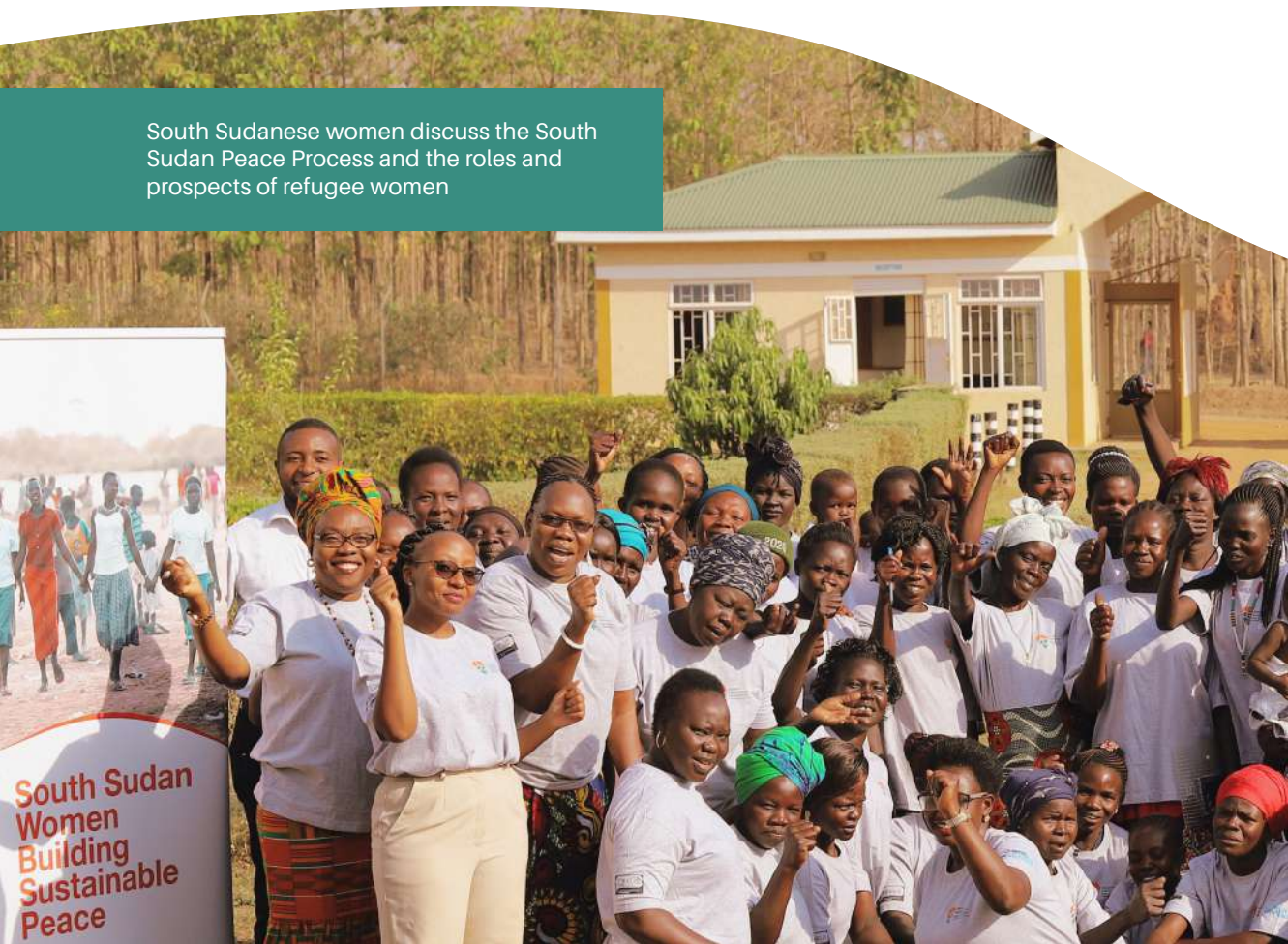
- » Mobilize and amplify women's political influence and demands for peace, freedom from violence, and gender-responsive post-conflict processes and realities.
- » Add to the body of existing feminist knowledge on women, conflict and peace building.
- » Lobby key stakeholders to change norms, policies 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. 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.

South Sudanese women discuss the South Sudan Peace Process and the roles and prospects of refugee women



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.

1

Outcome 2

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

2

Strategic Outputs

To support and work towards the achievement of the goal and outcome, the following key outputs or results will be achieved during this 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.



Helen Kezie-Nwoha, Executive Director of
Women's International Peace Centre

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2020 was a pivotal year for gender equality. We marked 25 years of the ambitious Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and 20 years of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS).

The year presented an important opportunity to evaluate progress in advancing the WPS agenda and for all actors to recommit to delivering on unfulfilled commitments to women affected by conflict. 2020, however, also marked the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, a crisis that worsened existing gender inequalities and affected WPS progress.

To continue promoting women's participation in peace processes, we adapted the design of our projects and used alternative means to meet the same goal. We organized more online meetings, cut down on meeting size, include protective gear such as masks and sanitizer as essential materials for all activities and our staff continued working from home, accessing the office in shifts as needed.

Throughout 2020, it was inspiring, energizing and refreshing to see women collectively and fiercely pushing boundaries for Feminist Peace despite COVID19. The Peace Centre is proud to have contributed to enhancing the expertise of 603 women to participate in peace processes in Burundi, DRC, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda through the Feminist Leadership Institute on Women, Peace and Security, learning exchanges and mediation trainings.

We also made information available for women to influence decision-making in peace processes in Uganda and South Sudan, including ensuring that policy and programming responses account for the impact of COVID-19. The 51st Edition of Women's World shared women peace builders' journey of advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda.


Our work enabled diverse women to claim space and influence peace processes at all levels. In Uganda, we partnered with the Continental Early Warning and Response Unit (CEWERU) to establish District Peace Committees and enhance their gender-responsiveness in six districts. We led an interactive campaign in partnership that made citizens aware and facilitated public debate on the National Transitional Justice Policy using dialogues and SMS polls (93,189 responses) discussed during live radio debates.

Refugee and grassroots women peace builders from Burundi, DRC, South Sudan, and Uganda were able to engage national and regional actors on their visions for peace in their communities and countries of origin including the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on WPS. We continued to amplify the voices, needs and recommendations of civil society partners and grassroots women peace builders regarding the impact of COVID-19 and gaps in the design and implementation of national COVID-19 response at the African Union. Our advocacy efforts in the Beijing +25 process were solidified by the Peace Centre's appointment to the Women Peace and Security- Humanitarian Action governance structure as a Catalytic Member. This is a significant opportunity to ensure a diversity of African women peace builders and organizations play key roles in the design and implementation of processes and initiatives of the WPS-HA Compact and in implementation of its commitments.

In promoting the holistic wellbeing of women we provided women peace mediators in the host and refugee communities in Uganda with sanitary kits to ensure they can safely raise awareness on peace and COVID-19 prevention within their communities. We also developed a practical wellness guide that supported women human rights defenders to enhance their wellbeing and sustain their productivity and activism both during and after the peak of COVID-19.

We are grateful to the Peace Centre staff, Board members and partners for your continued support to our work and our vision of a world where women live in peace and re(create) peace.

Sincerely,



Helen Kezie-Nwoha
Executive Director

Elizabeth Lwanga, Board Chairperson of
Women's International Peace Centre

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Women's International Peace Centre I am pleased to present the 2020 annual report.

2020 has been a year of notable success for the Peace Centre. However the past 12 months have also been particularly difficult, especially for the women and communities we serve that are still dealing with conflict and its legacy. We joined the world to grapple with the unanticipated challenges of COVID-19, to adapt and create our own 'new normal'.

Through all this, our primary focus was the wellbeing of not only the diverse women and girls we serve, but the Peace Centre's staff. 2020 tested and confirmed our belief that true feminist peace is not possible without centring the wellbeing of women. The organisation's work this year would not have been possible without the deliberate emphasis on individual and collective care.

The Peace Centre continues to work toward the desired results set out in the 2019 to 2022 Strategic Plan, with the generous support of our partners. We close our fiscal year in a strong financial position enabling us to continue supporting the communities we work with across our programmes in a safe manner. I thank the members of the Peace Centre board for their continued leadership.

I am deeply grateful to the women peace builders, government and civil society partners we work alongside with in Burundi, D.R.C, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda. I extend my gratitude to the partners whose continued support to the work of the Peace Centre makes it possible for us to continue igniting women's leadership, amplifying their voices and deepening their activism for peace.

Elizabeth Lwanga
Board Chairperson



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 2020 IMPACT

1.0 ENHANCED TECHNICAL EXPERTISE OF WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE PROCESSES

In **DRC**, 22 women leaders trained on feminist transformative leadership and advocacy for UNSCR 1325 mitigated local conflicts and successfully advocated for the nomination of more women (including 10 young women) into the leadership structures of political parties. Through radio, posters and 32 dialogues in schools, universities and communities, the trained women along with partners KJN and AFEM encouraged protection from COVID-19 and denounced increased gender-based violence during



22 women leaders trained on feminist transformative leadership and advocacy for UNSCR 1325 mitigated local conflicts



32 dialogues in schools, universities and communities, the trained women along with partners KJN and AFEM encouraged protection from COVID-19 and denounced increased gender-based violence

In **Nepal**, working with National Women Human Rights/Defenders Tarangini Foundation, the transformational leadership of 251 women was strengthened to deliver on peace dividends for women. We skilled 215 Parliamentarians, Deputy Mayors, Vice Chairpersons and WHRDs to integrate women's priorities in provincial budgets and plans. 136 women leaders including legislators, journalists, counsellors and COVID-19 frontline workers jointly reflected on the impact of COVID19 and planned their support to affected women.



The transformational leadership of **251 women** was strengthened to deliver on peace dividends for women



We skilled **215 Parliamentarians, Deputy Mayors, Vice Chairpersons and WHRDs** to integrate women's priorities in provincial budgets and plans.



136 women leaders including legislators, journalists, counsellors and COVID-19 frontline workers jointly reflected on the impact of COVID19 and planned their support to affected women

In **South Sudan**, with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare 60 Gender Focal Persons from government ministries and commissions were trained to understand, implement and report on the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan, contributing to the country's 2020 report. 21 young women trained to influence and participate in implementing the revitalised peace agreement raised awareness on the gender provisions in 2 Protection of Civilian camps and linked displaced women to national women's rights organisations calling for women's participation.



60 Gender Focal Persons from government ministries and commissions were trained to understand, implement and report on the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan, contributing to the country's 2020 report



21 young women trained to influence and participate in implementing the revitalised peace agreement raised awareness on the gender provisions in 2 Protection of Civilian camps and linked displaced women to national women's rights organisations calling for women's participation.

In **Uganda**, 235 women peace builders in refugee and cross-border communities in 6 districts were trained on mediation and advocacy on UNSCR 1325. 137 women and men as well as 123 peace committee members were trained as conflict monitors and analysts. They handled 373 conflict cases and worked with district peace committees and the national conflict early warning and early response mechanism to provide regular information for response. Working with the Ministry of Internal affairs led to re-functionalizing of 6 District Peace Committees and the National Steering Committee.



235 women peace builders in refugee and cross-border communities in 6 districts were trained on mediation and advocacy on UNSCR 1325.



137 women and men as well as **123 peace committee members** were trained as conflict monitors and analysts.



They handled **373 conflict cases** and worked with district peace committees and the national conflict early warning and early response mechanism to provide regular information for response.

31 young refugee women leaders from Burundi, DRC, South Sudan and Uganda trained on feminist leadership and the women, peace and security agenda trained 18 more young refugee women from Burundi, and 20 newly elected young leaders in Uganda to influence local governance processes. 90 single refugee mothers from South Sudan and 30 adolescent girls were trained to make reusable sanitary pads and soap for self-sustenance.



31 young refugee women leaders from Burundi, DRC, South Sudan and Uganda trained on feminist leadership and the women, peace and security agenda



Trained **18 more young refugee women** from Burundi, and **20 newly elected young leaders** in Uganda to influence local governance processes.



90 single refugee mothers from South Sudan and **30 adolescent girls** were trained to make reusable sanitary pads and soap for self-sustenance.

Young women leaders from South Sudan visiting Uganda for a more immersive learning experience with women leaders and rights organizations within the Uganda women's movement.





2.0 INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FOR WOMEN TO INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKING IN PEACE PROCESSES

In 2020 we conducted 7 research studies, with our partners, focused on South Sudan, Uganda, the Great Lakes region and globally to support the influencing work of women's rights organisation on peace and security.

In South Sudan we² mapped women's rights organisations working on women, peace and security (WPS), presenting these findings to representatives of the UK government and international community who committed to support CSOs advancing the WPS agenda.

In Uganda, with Womankind Worldwide and GAPS we studied the impact of COVID-19 on gender equality, peace and security, using the results to engage the UK government on the international response to COVID-19, future crises and WPS commitments. With Uganda's National Transitional Justice Policy in place, we documented citizens' views and recommendations for implementation, engaging government ministries, parliamentarians, civil society and the public to advocate for citizens' priorities.

To better understand support women's collective organising against GBV and for peace building, we partnered with the Global Fund for Women to study the Peace Building and Ending Gender-Based Violence Movement in the Great Lakes, focused on DRC, South Sudan, Burundi and at regional level.

2. As part of a consortium including Gender Action Peace and Security (GAPS), Somali Women Development Centre (SWDC), Saferworld, Women for Women International (WfWI) and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Nigeria targeting Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan

Research conducted with Cordaid studied the shrinking spaces for women's organisations and peace builders to influence regional and global policymaking platforms on WPS, informed by women from Libya, Cameroon, Togo, Nepal, DRC, South Sudan, CAR, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Yemen. The findings were used to engage the AU Peace and Security department and Office of the WPS Envoy.

3.0 DELIBERATE ATTEMPTS TO CLAIM SPACES FOR WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE AT ALL LEVELS OF PEACE PROCESSES.



100 refugee women peace builders in Uganda advanced their participation in the South Sudan peace process, engaging South Sudan CSOs on the priorities and presenting their recommendations to governments of South Sudan, Uganda, the Troika and UN agencies in Uganda.

We ensured diverse women peace builders and women's rights organisations participate in and influenced regional and global processes including:

- ▶ The 35th and 36th Civil Society Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union and Member States where refugee women, DRC and Burundi partners engaged IGAD and AU WPS Special Envoy on implementation of WPS national action plans and influenced recommendations for the revision of the Master Roadmap of Practical Steps To Silence The Guns of the AU Peace and Security Council
- ▶ The AU Specialised Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Meeting on the Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality and the AU Gender Ministers' Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender in COVID-19 Response where we shared lessons from work with refugee women and later joined GIMAC network to present a Statement to African Union Member States on the Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Girls.
- ▶ The East African regional CSO Consultation on WPS we co-hosted with the African Union Peace and Security Department to inform the Advisory Opinion to Member States, RECs and the AU organs on actions to accelerate implementation of the WPS agenda.
- ▶ Influencing the future of the Grand Bargain beyond 2021 in relation to gender equality along with the Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group, calling for the Safety of Women and Girls during COVID-19 in Humanitarian Response and accountability for the (under) fulfilment of commitments made at the Oslo conference on Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises.

- ▶ The Peace Centre joined the governance structure of the Women, Peace and Security-Humanitarian Action Compact (an outcome of the Generation Equality Forum) as a Catalytic Member, joining Member States, regional bodies, UN agencies, civil society networks, and private sector entities to steer the design and implementation of the WPS-HA compact's commitments.

4.0 HOLISTIC WELLBEING OF WOMEN IN PEACE PROCESSES ENABLED

With COVID-19 putting additional pressure on women peace builders' wellbeing and the wider women's movement, the need for tailored support was clear. The Peace Centre developed Healing through Rituals: a Guide for Sustaining Wellness and Activism and hosted wellness sessions for 568 women human rights defenders in Nepal, D.R.C, South Sudan and Uganda. Through the Self Love Camp, heads of women's rights organisations learned how to mainstream feminist leadership and wellness. In 2020 we equipped women for personal and organisational healing as well as creating healing communities.



Women take part in a neck hygiene and stretching routine during the wellness session held in Kampala.

SUMMARY OF OUR 2020 WORK

1.0 ENHANCED TECHNICAL EXPERTISE OF WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE PROCESSES

Uganda

Women's representation in formal conflict prevention structures and their participation in peace building processes and post-conflict recovery, has been notably low across Uganda, particularly at local level across conflict-affected districts, sub-counties, parishes and within refugee settlements. Women and girls' specific concerns are often under-prioritized. 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 Plan on UN Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820 and the Goma declaration provides 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.



Peace mediators discuss some of the recurring conflict issues during a mediation training in Yumbe district

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

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 launched its second-generation National Action Plan (NAP) 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. The momentum provided by the NAP presented an opportunity by to contribute to women's increased participation in decision making through politics.

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, women and particularly young women's critical role in formal peace building and conflict resolution has been under-explored despite their formal and informal contributions. Young women have also been traditionally excluded from formal peace processes and under-represented in efforts by the wider women's movement. The 5- year South Sudan National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions expiring in 2020, provides a framework for guiding decisions on women's participation in leadership, peace building and reconstruction, security sector reform, and efforts to prevent and protect women and girls against any form of violence. The review of progress in implementing this plan and efforts to define next steps provide a valuable opportunity to ensure that women and their needs are at the centre of peace and security in South Sudan.

The Peace Centre therefore developed programmes and held a series of activities to strengthen women's expertise in order to nurture their participation in decision-making and effective engagement in diverse peace processes at national and regional levels.

1.1 Growing an International Pool of Women Leaders in Peace Processes

To enhance the capacity of women leaders from DRC to engage and influence post conflict decision making and governance, the Peace Centre, Karibu Jeunesse Nouvelle (KJN) and Association des Femmes des Medias (AFEM) trained 22 women leaders in Bukavu on feminist transformative leadership and advocacy for UNSCR 1325 with emphasis on women's participation in peace building and post-conflict governance. From 27th to 31st July 2020 the women reflected on and defined strategies to carry out advocacy with the authorities at all levels, and to monitor the various actions put in place to deliver on women's right to participate in political affairs of South Kivu province and the country.

As a result, five joint advocacy action plans were defined to guide the women leaders to carry out effective advocacy with the leaders of the various political parties. The trained leaders continued to advocate for political party leaders, provincial governors and at Local Council levels to nominate at least 30% of women on federal political party committees by September 2021, advocate for women's representation as local chiefs at all levels and for women representation in management and leadership of public spaces including market places, and in churches.

Since then, the women leaders have hosted 28 community awareness sessions and dialogues on women's participation in decision-making, women's rights and sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). They also conducted 4 dialogues in schools and universities to encourage young women to join political parties and position themselves in leadership structures in preparation for the 2023 legislative elections. As a result, 10 young women joined the communication unit of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress Party. In Walungu territory the trained women leaders mitigated two land conflicts.

1.2 Equipping Women for Change in Post Conflict Governance in Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan



To enhance the capacity of women leaders from DRC to engage and influence post conflict decision making and governance, the Peace Centre, Karibu Jeunesse Nouvelle (KJN) and Association des Femmes des Medias (AFEM) trained 22 women leaders in Bukavu on feminist transformative leadership and advocacy for UNSCR 1325 with emphasis on women's participation in peace building and post-conflict governance. From 27th to 31st July 2020 the women reflected on and defined strategies to carry out advocacy with the authorities at all levels, and to monitor the various actions put in place to deliver on women's right to participate in political affairs of South Kivu province and the country.

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In Eastern DRC, with the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown, documented cases of gender based violence increased. The Peace Centre and partners KJN and AFEM sensitised communities in the Bukavu region on COVID 19 and its effects especially on women and girls. From May to July 2020, 720 posters translated into local languages were distributed in Bukavu, Kalehe, Kabare and Walungu territories; 30 megaphones were used to ease communication and 8 radio messages were produced and aired on 3 radio stations (Mama FM, Maendeleo and Iriba FM) with a reach of 1,000,000 people

In South Sudan, to support the implementation and reporting on progress in line with the South Sudan National Action Plan on the UNSCR 1325 (2015 -2020) (SSNAP) the Peace Centre in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW) trained 60 Gender Focal Persons (45 females, 15 males) from government ministries and commissions in Juba between 10th August and 25th September 2020. They received knowledge and tools that equipped them to promote the implementation of the SSNAP in their respective institutions and to collect data for quality reporting against the African Union Continental Results Framework on Women, Peace and Security. The training improved their understanding of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, developing, funding, monitoring and reporting of the South Sudan National Action Plan, introduced them to the IGAD and Great Lakes Regional Action Plans, as well as the Indicators for reporting on Women, Peace and Security. Gender Focal Persons were also provided with skills to gather national data and information. During and following the convening the focal persons gathered and provided available data and information from their institutions which contributed to the first national report on Women, Peace and Security compiled by the Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare.

1.3 Women Peace Advocates in Uganda Trained to Collect Early Warning Data, Ensure Rapid Response to Conflict and Lead Peace Building in their Communities



Trained women from the Peace Mediators' networks in Adjumani, Yumbe, Kotido, Arua, Kassanda and Kapelebyong handled 251 cases of violent conflict, which were either mediated, referred for protection, judicial or medical response, or reported to the respective District Peace Committees for action. The cases included gender-based violence incidents, land disputes, political conflicts, tensions between refugees and hosts communities, and election-related violence against women.

To boost their peace building work, 168 women peace mediators in Uganda were trained on advocacy for conflict prevention and peace building, equipping them to understand and drive implementation of national and regional policy frameworks on Women, Peace and Security. This included women from Kotido, Yumbe and Adjumani. This targeted women in refugee settlements and host communities within Yumbe and Adjumani districts from 31st August to 12th September 2020. The Peace Centre also partnered with Office of the Prime Minister's Community Based Services department to educate refugee women on the local referral pathway for SGBV and conflict cases to support their work within the settlements. In Kotido district, women leaders were trained from 17th to 21st August 2020, along with the district's Community Development Officers who had not received the necessary capacity building to conduct their peace building work. The training enabled them to understand Uganda's National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and the roles of different actors at sub-national and national level. As a result, the trained groups developed action plans to guide their advocacy on UNSCR 1325.

42 refugee women leaders seeking to play stronger peace building roles in their communities in Yumbe and Adjumani were nominated by UN Women partners Refugee Law Project and Care International and trained by the Peace Centre from 25th August to 4th September 2020. They were equipped with knowledge and practical skills on conflict resolution and management, tools for conflict analysis, practical negotiation and mediation skills, arbitration, reconciliation, power relations, advocacy for peace and understanding the women peace and security agenda. In two groups, the trained women devised plans to further explore and mitigate the conflict between refugee and host community members in Adjumani while the Yumbe team planned to tackle violence against women. As a result, trained women managed conflict incidents, promoted women's participation in electoral processes, supported fellow women in politics, encouraged women to contest for elective positions and took part in monitoring and reporting violence during the elections to ensure peaceful electoral processes in Uganda.

In post-conflict Amuria district, 25 women leaders from political, religious, cultural institutions and community-based organisations were trained on peace building, leadership and mediation from 19th to 21st November 2020. They were provided with tools to track, document and mediate conflict cases and to strengthen their participation in preventing violence and managing conflict at all levels. As a result they formed the Orungo Women's Peace Mediation Network to coordinate their mediation work. Since then, they have mediated 122 cases of land disputes, conflicts over cultural practices, political violence, domestic violence and referred 6 defilement cases.



With The Peace Centre's intervention women today appreciate their role in the electoral cycle and they desire to participate beyond being voters but also as candidates, Returning officers, Campaigning agents and monitors and observers.

- Achen Roda, Sub County Chief Acowa, Kapelebong district.



Working with the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Unit (CEWERU), the Peace Centre established an effective and gender sensitive conflict early warning and early response system to track, analyse and report on conflict incidences from the grassroots in Adjumani, Yumbe, Kotido, Arua, Kassanda and Kapelebyong districts. From 16th August to 4th September, 20th to 25th October and 13th to 21st November 2020, 116 women and 21 men were trained as Conflict Monitors and Analysts to enable them monitor, examine and analyse conflict early warning data in order to produce reports in line with Uganda's conflict early warning and early response mechanism. The capacity building sessions enabled them to understand conflict, early warning examples, conflict indicators and the practical steps for monitoring, documenting, reporting and facilitating peace building.

The follow-up sessions focused on the IGAD Conflict early warning and early response system, conflict analysis and tools, conflict indicators, gender and peace building, data collection and analysis, situational and incident reporting. As a result, each district defined action plans and created a WhatsApp group, which has been used to share real-time information and reflect on reports. With the documented and verified information the Analysts engaged with the District Peace Committees in 5 districts and national level agencies to ensure they take action, thereby functionalising the early warning reporting mechanism from district to national level.

1.4 Training National Steering Committee and District Peace Committees to Mediate Conflicts in Uganda



The National Steering Committee and the District Peace Committees are mandated to receive conflict-related early warning information and provide appropriate early response to resolve emerging or existing conflicts, coordinate all peace activities in their districts including intra district and cross-border peace building initiatives. In Kassanda, Arua and Kapelebyong districts and with the increase in election-related conflict, it was critical to enhance the capacity of Peace Committees to intervene and address reported conflict and post-conflict incidences. The Peace Centre therefore conducted a mediation training from 3rd to 19th November at district levels and from 15th to 17th December 2020 in Kampala targeting 123 (61 women and 62 men) political

and technical leaders, representatives from the Electoral Commission and security agencies, religious and cultural leaders, women leaders, violence monitors and data analysts.

Representatives of national institutions mandated to promote peace and security benefited from the training, including Ministry of Internal Affairs, Conflict Early Warning and Early Response unit (CEWERU), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Members of National Women Council (NWC), Electoral Commission, Uganda Police Force, Ministry of Lands, Office of the President, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and Peace Monitors from the CEWERU situation room. The sessions focused on understanding conflict, conflict analysis tools, negotiation skills, peace building concepts, lobbying and advocacy, situation analysis, power mapping, gender and conflict early warning, mediation skills, identification and demonstration, Communication skills in Mediation and in Electoral Processes among other subjects.

The Peace Centre's collaboration with Ministry of Internal affairs - Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Unit has led to re-functionalizing of six (6) District Peace Committees and the National Steering Committee. Through these structures the early warning and early response mechanism has been enhanced. The Committees at district level are aware of the concerns and issues affecting the minority groups within the communities specifically women and youth and now follow up on issues reported to conclusion. Through this mechanism, effective and timely information sharing and flow in case of urgent redress has improved from lower local governments to district and national level. The Committees in the project districts have followed up electoral violence issues raised, created civic awareness to the electorates, shared information on electoral processes and mediated conflicts that may arise as a result of electoral violence.

1.5 Training Women Council Leaders On Electoral Laws and Frameworks for Peaceful Democratic Electoral Processes

The Peace Centre on 8th and 9th January 2020 trained 50 women leaders at district and sub county levels including National Women Council leaders, women leaders from religious and cultural institutions, women from media houses, CSOs sector, women with disabilities and female youth in Kassanda District drawn from kitumbi, Kalwana and Bukuya sub counties. The three (3) day training increased the knowledge and skills of women leaders on leadership, electoral cycle, electoral processes, role of women in electoral processes, mandate of electoral commission, early warning, conflict, conflict monitoring and tools for analysis, communication and dissemination of human rights violations, threats and instability. Following the training the women leaders documented early warning and electoral violence incidences, which were shared with members of the District Peace Committee for response. These activities have supported women to become politically aware of their right and capacity to participate as aspiring electoral candidates, as voters and election observers. Women leaders have come out to encourage fellow women within their communities to participate in electoral processes as a result of the confidence gained from understanding their legal rights and protections in relation to women's roles in elections.



Women leaders in Kassanda District discuss some of the challenges they face while participating in democratic processes

1.6 Training Young Women to Understand, and Influence Peace Processes in South Sudan

21 young women working in CSOs, faith based organisations and women's associations, NGOs, political parties, government institutions and universities were trained from 27th to 31st July to understand key gender, peace building, conflict management, relevant peace and security frameworks, transformational leadership, strategies for effective advocacy and lobbying, public speaking skills; wellness and self-care. The training organised in partnership with NTLI and South Sudan Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare included a press conference where the Minister of Gender highlighted gaps in the on-going implementation of the peace agreement as it relates to women's leadership quota in the Transitional Government of National Unity and stressed the importance of publically holding parties accountable for the commitments. Following the training, the young women leaders formed small groups to implement their action plans raising awareness of and public support for the full implementation of the 35% quota for women leaders.

“

I learned useful skills to improve my public speaking ability. Now I know that I need to prepare, practice, know the audience and build self-confidence

- Rebecca Poni.

”

“

The training integrated lessons on self-care, not forgetting ourselves and caring more for others. Exercise is important. A healthy body, mind and emotions are all critical to one's leadership and performance. It is important to have time to rest

- Victoria Night.


”

“

The knowledge has empowered us and given us more confidence. We can now advocate for women's rights in the community

- Yar Kuir Mabior

”



Susan Grace Duku takes notes during a group discussion highlighting the contributions of Refugee Women and Grassroots Women Peace Builders to Peace and Security

1.7 Learning Exchange Visit of South Sudanese Young Women Leaders to Uganda

Six of the trained young women leaders and one sign language interpreter from South Sudan took part in a more immersive learning and mentoring experience with women leaders and women's rights organizations within Uganda's women's movement from 9th to 13th February 2020 in Kampala. This included a focus on personal and professional leadership and growth, key life skills, self-care, public speaking and presentation skills, reimagining leadership and an intergenerational dialogue. This exchange visit exposed the young women leaders to models and positive examples of young women's leadership and efforts to influence policies, programmes and structures in a post-conflict context

As a result, the trained young women, through their groups, have since been able to take leadership in driving the women, peace and security targeting internally displaced women in 2 Protection of Civilian (PoC) camps within Juba (working with the PoC administration) to educate them on their right to participate in decision-making as laid out in the R-ARCSS and linking them to the women's peace coalition to ensure their priorities are amplified outside the PoCs and in national-level advocacy.

“

This is a unique opportunity to interact, challenge, rethink and restrategize for the future that we want.

- Eunice Pikiyiko.

”

“

Always mentor other young upcoming leaders so they can easily take over when you step down or retire

- Marline Jore Pitia.

”

“

I left the exchange visit re-energised and feeling strengthened in my personal leadership skills particularly due to the focus on our individual goals in relation to our personal and professional life as young leaders.

- Arek Malek.

”

2.0 INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FOR WOMEN TO INFLUENCE DECISION-MAKING IN PEACE PROCESSES

2.1 Understanding Gender, Peace and the Environmental Conflicts in Uganda

The Peace Centre partnered with the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) Centre for Women Peace and Security (WPS) and Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) to conduct research on Gender, Peace and Environmental Conflicts to understand the intersection between the environment, conflict and gender; and provide recommendations for the International Community for how it can better ensure that women and girls' human rights can be delivered despite environmental degradation and climate change.

The research was conducted and validated in town councils, refugee settlements and host communities in Kampala, Yumbe and Adjumani districts reaching 105 young women under 35. The research looked at themes including experiences of challenging corporate power; women and girls' resistance and defence of environmental and women's rights; extractives; and climate and migration. This study provides evidence and practical lessons from women's rights



organisations, feminist activists, international NGOs, climate experts and community members that can inform international actors working on gender, the environment, climate change, conflict and peace, whose decisions often exclude women and girls to both the detriment of their human rights and sustainable peace building.

2.2 Mapping Women's Rights Organisations working on Women, Peace and Security in South Sudan

To support access to funding for critical women's rights organisations playing vital roles in providing essential services, advocacy, transformational change, movement building, and delivering women and girls' rights in fragile and conflict-affected states, The Peace Centre joined partners to map them. As part of a consortium including Gender Action Peace and Security (GAPS), Somali Women Development Centre (SWDC), Saferworld, Women for Women International (WfWI) and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Nigeria the research titled *The Key to Change: Supporting Civil Society and Women's Rights Organisations in Fragile and Conflict Affected States* mapped over 200 WROs and CSOs across diverse regions in Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan.

The Peace Centre focused on South Sudan where we identified and mapped 80 Women's Rights Organizations and CSOs working on women, peace and security in Bahr el Ghazal, Equatoria, and Greater Upper Nile states. These include formal and informal, registered and unregistered associations, platforms, networks, groups, community groups, movements and organisations. The findings have been presented to the UK government officials and other actors in the international community who have committed to supporting an independent and strong civil society to advance the women, peace and security agenda.

2.3 Studying the Peace Building and Ending Gender-Based Violence Movement in the Great Lakes region

To deepen understanding of and document the evolution of women-led efforts and women organizing around peace building and preventing and ending SGBV in the DRC, South Sudan, Burundi and in the Great Lakes region, The Peace Centre conducted research with the support of Global Fund for Women. This focused further understanding the coalescing, creating and establishing movements; the drivers and the enablers of these movements - both internal and external, the successes, the challenges and lessons. The study, titled *Peace Building and Ending Gender-Based Violence Movement in the Great Lakes* highlighted the localised cases, the similarities as well as differences across the region in terms of strategies used by the women such as lobbying and advocating for equal participation in peace processes; the tabling of social and gender justice issues for negotiation at the peace tables, and networking generally.

2.4 Now and the Future Gender Equality, Peace and Security in a COVID-19 World

In order for governments, international NGOs and multilateral agencies to better understand the context-specific and global impacts of COVID-19 on gender, peace and security, and to develop policy and programming responses, which account for the impact of COVID-19, The Peace Centre with the support of Womankind Worldwide and GAPS undertook research in

Uganda. This looked at COVID-19's impact on refugees, women's and girls' participation in decision-making, violence against women, sexual and reproductive health and rights, access to healthcare, livelihood and women's economic rights.

Key informant Interviews were conducted in five geographic sub-regions of Uganda (Central, West Nile, Karamoja, Teso and Western) with individuals from 34 organisations working on issues of women, peace and security. They also included girls' organisations, disability rights groups, refugee and IDP rights groups, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) rights organisations, and groups representing religious and ethnic minorities. The research findings were presented to the UK government to enable the international community better respond to COVID-19, future pandemics and crises, well as deliver on their women, peace and security commitments.

2.5 Women Participation in Peace, Security and Transitional Justice Processes in the Great Lakes Region

To promote the implementation of the women, peace and transitional justice agenda (WPTJ) in the great lakes region, identify barriers to women's participation, opportunities to tackle these and strengthen coordination among actors in the region, the Peace Centre partnered with ActionAid International Uganda to study the current level of implementation of the WPTJ agenda. The research focused on seven countries including Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, DRC, Central African Republic (CAR) and Burundi.

2.6 Research on Shrinking Spaces at Global and Regional Levels for Women's Rights Organizations focused on the Women Peace and Security Agenda

The Peace Centre partnered with Cordaid to conduct research on Shrinking Spaces for Women's Rights Organisations to Advance the Women Peace and Security agenda at global, regional and national levels. The collective capacity of civil society to influence regional and global peace and security platforms, to support the meaningful participation of women and women's rights organisations in conflict-affect contexts, was strengthened by documenting the experiences and voices of 17 women peace builders from civil society in Libya, Cameroon, Togo, Nepal, DRC, South Sudan, CAR, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Yemen.

The study generated critical information for evidence based advocacy and planned dialogue with policy makers within RECs such as IGAD, at regional level within the African Union and globally. The report was launched in partnership with GIMAC on 17th December through a dialogue to explore opportunities to expand the spaces for grassroots women's peace builders within regional policy making spaces including diverse women and the Special Policy Advisor, Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, African Union Commission. It also formed the basis for similar discussions with the African Union Peace and Security department. The messages in the report were shared on social media as part of the GIMAC #COVID19GenderResponses campaign with 46,139 post engagements, reaching 535,111 people, 1,685,856 impressions on Twitter and reaching 10,804 people via Facebook Live.

2.7 Transitional Justice in Northern Uganda: Citizen's Perspectives

A survey report with data on citizen's views and recommendations related to transitional justice and the national policy implementation generated from the campaign in the Greater North of Uganda was disseminated through a national television talk show on 27th August 2020. The panel included the Justice Law and Order Sector Secretariat Transitional Justice Advisor, Member of Parliament for Gulu Municipality, Director of Watye Ki Gen, an organisation of returnee women and children, and Executive Directors of ICTJ and The Peace Centre. The discussion highlighted key transitional justice issues, explained the contents of the National Transitional Justice Policy (NTJP) and governments plans for implementation, highlighted the role of parliament in moving the agenda forward, provided an update on the legislation process, presented the findings and recommendations of the campaign and discussed specific poll results in detail. Citizens' perspectives were amplified during the debate. The talk show reinforced the need for transitional justice concerns to be treated as priority and for the policy implementation process to be expedited. The live stream had 10,181 views (9,500 views on Facebook and 681 on YouTube). Tweets about the show on the NTV Uganda Facebook page received 246,705 impressions and 55,386 impressions on Twitter.



9,500 views on
Facebook Live



246,705 impressions



681 views on
YouTube



55,386 impressions
on **Twitter**

2.8 Ensuring Gender-Sensitive Early Warning Data Collection for Improved Conflict Prevention in Uganda

The Peace Centre worked with Ministry of Internal Affairs and 65 district leaders (39 male and 26 female) to adapt the early warning data collection tools to include gender sensitive indicators from 8th to 11th September 2020 in Arua, Kassanda and Kapelebyong districts. As a result, the violence monitors and data analysts were able to capture data on issues of access to justice by women, livestock raids with abduction, rape and improper behaviour of aspiring candidates in communities in the 9 sub counties of Pajulu, Katrini, River Oli and Acowa, Kapelebyong and Obalanga in Kapelebyong District, Bukuya, Kalwana and Kitmubi in Kassanda District. These issues were presented to District Peace Committees for discussion and action during the 18 meetings that followed involving a total of 255 committee members, women mediators, monitors and analysts.



3.0 DELIBERATE ATTEMPTS TO CLAIM SPACES FOR WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE AT ALL LEVELS OF PEACE PROCESSES

In 2020, the Peace Centre focused on ensuring diverse women peace builders and women's rights groups or organisations were able to participate in and influence regional and global processes, particularly as key actors were defining the roadmap for next years in relation to peace and security. 2020 reinforced the need for deliberate efforts to ensure that conflict-affect women, including young women, displaced women, and women in rural areas, are heard and involved in defining peace and security agendas as well as holding key stakeholders accountable for inaction or insufficient progress in delivering on commitments made relating to the WPS agenda.

3.1 Refugee Women Claiming Space in the South Sudan Peace Process

The Peace Centre convened 100 South Sudanese women refugees in Uganda, 3 South Sudanese women peace builders and local partners including UNHCR, Office of the Prime Minister, and UN Women to discuss the South Sudan Peace Process and the roles and prospects of refugee women on 25th and 26th February 2020. The refugee women shared their peace building experiences, exchanged best practices, and planned to address WPS concerns such as under-representation of women in defining and delivery of humanitarian-development services, shortage of specific measures and mechanisms to facilitate women's sustained participation in the peace processes and accountability for gender-responsiveness. Women refugees also received information on the progress of the peace processes in South Sudan and designed strategies to integrate their voices and participation.

An outcome document including the recommendations of the refugee women to the Government of South Sudan and the Government of Uganda in relation to implementation of the peace agreement was developed and shared in a press conference in Uganda and with the media in South Sudan. Uganda's Office of the Prime Minister acknowledged the statement and committed to use it to hold South Sudan leaders accountable during any discussions on return of refugees.

3.2 Influencing and Claiming Spaces at Regional Level

The Peace Centre enabled women's rights organisations and peace builders to claim space and influence processes, actors and outcomes at the African Union level.



Martha, a Peace Mediator from Nyumanzi Refugee Settlement shares concerns for the rights of Persons with Disabilities

3.2.1 35th GIMAC Civil Society Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union and Member States

As a member of the GIMAC steering committee the Peace Centre co-organised the 35th GIMAC meeting held from 3rd to 4th February 2020 in Addis Ababa, under the theme "Recognizing and Amplifying Women and Girls' Agency to Silence the Guns in Africa" and facilitated the panel discussion on peace and security in the Sahel and the Great Lakes region. Through the outcome document of the 35th GIMAC Pre Summit Consultative meeting, which included the recommendations of the Peace Centre's partners in South Sudan (a young woman peace builder) and DRC (Karibu Jeunesse Nouvelle) on engendering peace and security in the AU and its Member States, women were able to contribute to the revision of Master Roadmap of Practical Steps To Silence The Guns of the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC). They called on Member States and the AU to ensure the meaningful inclusion of women, including young women, grassroots women and women war survivors, in nation building, the design and implementation of peace agreements, responses to violent conflict, and post-conflict governance.

3.2.2 36th Virtual Pre-summit CSOs Consultative Meeting Recognizing and Amplifying Women and Girls Agency to Silence the Guns in Africa

To contribute to and influence the second mid-year coordination meeting between the African Union and Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms, the 36th GIMAC Pre-Summit CSO Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming provided the Peace Centre an opportunity to facilitate a panel discussion to highlight progress over the past 20 years of implementing the WPS agenda in Africa and practical actions critical to accelerate delivery on commitments. This allowed partners (including refugee and grassroots women peace builders) the opportunity to engage with the IGAD and the AUC Office of the Special Envoy on 10th October, regarding their support to Member States to ensure real progress and reinvigorate implementation of the WPS agenda. The recommendations focused on ensuring the implementation and monitoring of regional and national action plans on UNSCR 1325 were well receive and partnership with the CSOs to support national progress was welcomed by IGAD and the AU OSEWPS.



Gender Focal Persons from government institutions in South Sudan analyze UNSCR 1325 indicators to enhance their reporting and monitoring the implementation of WPS at regional level

3.2.3 Influencing the African Union and Member States on COVID-19 Impact and Response

The voices and recommendations of civil society partners and grassroots women peace builders regarding the impact of COVID-19 and gaps in the design and implementation of national COVID-19 response were amplified at the African Union level and included in the final recommendations to the Heads of State and Government. As a result, the Framework Document on the Impact of COVID-19 on GEWE: African Union Guidelines on Gender-Responsive Responses to COVID-19 includes a section on the impact on women, peace and security as well as guidelines for safeguarding gains and mitigating its impact on women in conflict and post-conflict zones.

African Union WGDD Specialised Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Meeting on the Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality

On 29th April, The Peace Centre as a member of the GIMAC steering committee took part in the virtual meeting of the Specialised Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment convened by AU Women Gender and Development Directorate to define the African Union Guidelines on Gender-Responsive Responses to COVID-19. The webinar focused on briefing Ministers in charge of Gender and Women Affairs on guidelines being defined by the African Union to ensure national responses to the pandemic are gender-responsive as well as to discuss support required by the ministers to enhance on-going national responses. We focused on highlighting the responses of women and women's rights organisations in addition to sharing recommendations including the importance of centring women's leadership, of gender responsive resourcing, addressing the crisis of gender based violence, the need for attention to conflict-affected contexts among others.

African Union Gender Ministers' Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender in COVID-19 Response in Africa

The meeting on 12th May brought together leaders of the African Union, Gender Ministers, Africa Centre for Disease Control, UN agencies and Women's Rights Organizations to share work done to ensure gender responsive COVID response and adopt a regional framework for mainstreaming gender in COVID response in Africa. GIMAC network shared women's rights organisations response strategies to COVID-19 and The Peace Centre presented lessons from work with refugee women incorporating COVID-19 prevention into their early warning and peace building activities. The Africa Gender Ministers thereafter shared their national strategies, received feedback and adopted a gender framework for COVID-19 response

Statement to African Union Member States on the Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Girls


The Peace Centre joined members of the GIMAC Network to draft a statement issued on 15th May 2020 in Addis Ababa to the African Union Commission and AU member states, on national level and regional responses to COVID-19, the need to mitigate increasing consequences on women and girls and prevent amplification of existing vulnerabilities. The Peace Centre included the case of women in conflict and conflict-affected settings and called for the prioritising of

targeted measures and resources to ensure the participation of refugee and internally displaced women in COVID-19 decision-making structures and post-COVID-19 recovery and resilience programming that includes access to justice following the increased levels of sexual and gender-based violence.

3.2.4 East African regional CSO Consultation on Women Peace and Security with the African Union Peace and Security Department

In September 2020 The Peace Centre was invited to join the African Union ECOSOCC Advisory Opinion Group on Women Peace and Security Agenda in Africa, which serves as a policy development interface that ensures civil society expertise is reflected in the work of the Peace and Security Department (AUC PSD) of the African Union Commission. This provided a valuable opportunity to facilitate dialogue between civil society partners and regional policymakers, and sustain access of women's rights organisation to regional level policy and decision-making spaces in order to accelerate implementation of the WPS agenda.

The Peace Centre as a member of the AU ECOSOCC Advisory Opinion Group (AOG) on WPS on 21st October 2020 organised and facilitated a regional consultation where 54 CSOs and women's groups from 9 countries, including young women and grassroots peace builders discussed and agreed on key strategic recommendations which formed part of the Advisory Opinion of the AUC PSD to Member States, RECs and the AU organs on priority actions to accelerate slow implementation of the WPS agenda. Women's rights organisations will be able to follow up (through the Peace and Security Council and the AUC Peace and Security department) on the recommendations adopted for the advisory to the Member States.



Rosalba Oywa shares her thoughts on some of the advocacy issues to be addressed during the Transitional Justice Campaign

3.2.5 Regional Consultations with the Grassroots Women Peace Builders and the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security

Forty refugee and grassroots women peace builders from Burundi, DRC, South Sudan, and Uganda met from 13th to 15th October 2020 in Kampala, Uganda to reflect on grassroots women's contributions and vision for peace in their communities and countries of origin. This was organised within the context of national consultations by the Office of the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security to inform ongoing efforts to support Member States and Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) to monitor and report regularly on the implementation of the WPS Agenda. The women were able to discuss the persisting challenges for women and girls and define specific recommendations for the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security to consider and amplify, including to Member States, RECs/RMs and Development Partners. The Special Envoy in her meeting with the peace builders committed to present the recommendations to heads of state and governments during the February 2021 AU Summit. During the 10 to 12 November First Africa Forum on Women, Peace and Security, a representative of the refugee women was invited to present the outcome document whose recommendations were reflected in the forum's final recommendations.

3.3 Influencing and Claiming Spaces at Global Level

3.3.1 Influencing Humanitarian Policies and Action from a Gender Perspective

The Future of the Grand Bargain Beyond 2021 in relation to Gender Equality

To strategize for advocacy and engagement in the lead up to the annual meeting of the Grand Bargain signatories, the Peace Centre joined the Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group (FOGG) on 28th May to reflect on progress to date, the long-term vision of the Grand Bargain and key priorities for 2021 in relation to gender-responsive humanitarian action. The meeting identified key issues and specific recommendations to present to international donors and UN agencies. This discussion and individual consultations that followed, informed an advocacy brief developed by the FOGG for use on the Annual Meeting of 25th June that documented the field level implementation of the Grand Bargain, assessed impact, good practices, the level of women-led organisations in humanitarian coordination mechanisms, and country-level priorities in relation to localisation, joint needs assessments, cash, transparency, flexible and quality funding, and harmonised reporting requirements.

Accounting for the Safety of Women and Girls during COVID-19 in Humanitarian Response

With the OCHA Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) set for a July release, the Peace Centre also joined the Friends of Gender Group and other women-led humanitarian organisations to sign onto a letter to UN OCHA highlighting the risk of not addressing violence against women and girls in the response to COVID-19 in humanitarian settings. The letter pointed out that GBV programming was significantly underfunded in the GHRP and in COVID-19 response and called for a specific objective and indicators focused on GBV, prioritising protection of women and

girls as key to the success of the response. The letter also called for the collection of sex and age disaggregated data to inform decision-making on the response and for the agency to translate the commitments made during the Oslo conference into action through the GHRP and national-level humanitarian needs overviews and humanitarian response plans for 2021 as well as in the 2021 country based pooled funds.

Tracking Commitments of the Oslo conference on Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises

Friends of Gender Group and partners also reflected on the Oslo conference on Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises and the relative inaction that has followed, one year after the political, policy and best practice commitments were made to strengthen SGBV prevention efforts and financing of GBV response. As a result, the Peace Centre contributed to drafting an open letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Iraq, Somalia and UAE, the Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Director-General ICRC and UNFPA Executive Director. The letter encouraged the prioritising of GBV response in the global humanitarian response to COVID-19; called for public reporting and collective accountability on the commitments of the Oslo conference as well as country-level follow up action that includes local women-led organisations and women's rights actors. The letter also called for the same commitments (taking stock of progress and strengthening concrete action) to be reflected in high-level discussions during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment and with the UN General Assembly.

3.3.2 Claiming Space within the Generation Equality Forum and Influencing the

Addressing the Side-lining of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Beijing+25 Processes

In January 2020, WIPC along with the Beijing+25 WPS-YPS Action Coalition leads drafted an open letter to the Core Group of the Generation Equality Forum (including Mexico, France, UN Women and civil society organisers) decrying the undermining of peace and security in global Beijing+25 processes, the lack of an official WPS Action Coalition and calling for the same. In the lead up to its March 2020 release, WIPC continued to the process of defining an advocacy paper highlighting the intersections between gender equality and conflict and calling for meaningful inclusion of WPS in all processes and outcomes.

Review of 25 years of implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Advocacy efforts at national and regional level to ensure that WPS is prioritised in Beijing+25 processes geared toward assessing progress, challenges, emerging issues and prospects for gender equality and women's empowerment culminated in a new compact on WPS and Humanitarian Action. The Peace Centre's appointment to its governance structure as a Catalytic

Member is a significant opportunity to ensure a diversity of African women peace builders and organisations play key roles in the design and implementation of processes and initiatives of the WPS-HA Compact and in implementation of its commitments.

Beijing+25 Africa Civil Society Organisations' Regional Review Report

In January 2020 the Peace Centre contributed to and reviewed the regional CSOs parallel report as the lead for 'Women and Armed Conflict' on the African Reference Group for Beijing+25 convened by FEMNET to lead in amplifying African women's voices and supporting collective advocacy. This followed national-level consultations and included the current processes, challenges, gaps and recommendations informed by the Peace Centre's partners and work in DRC, South Sudan, Uganda and at regional level.

Reflecting on the Generation Equality Forum Compact on Women, Peace, and Security – Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA)

On 10th June the Peace Centre co-sponsored a convening by the Beijing+25 WPS-YPS Action Coalition, including 40 civil society representatives, UN Women, UNFPA and the Department of Peace Operations to analyse the compact's concept note, identify key recommendations for



Women mediators reflect on the status of implementation of UNSCR1325 within refugee settlements and hosting district in West Nile, Uganda

the compact's design, principles, process and framework specifically in relation to accelerating implementation of existing WPS-HA frameworks, strengthening mechanisms for accountability, and mobilizing funding for implementation of key commitments. The Peace Centre highlighted the need to ensure the meaningful participation of grassroots women peacebuilders, including young women, in the compact's design and implementation.

The Peace Centre thereafter took lead in drafting specific recommendations, applicable to the contexts in South Sudan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, defining how the compact can be designed and implemented to ensure change and action at local level with ownership by civil society and government. The recommendations also addressed how to raise awareness on Beijing+25 processes and enable grassroots women peace builders' effective participation despite the digital divide.

Research to Strengthen the B+25 Generation Equality Forum Compact on Women Peace and Security – Humanitarian Action

The Peace Centre in June 2020 contributed to research to influence the operational framework of the compact, including its design, guiding principles, and role in accelerating implementation of key women, peace and security commitments. The analysis focused on specific provisions and priority issues from the UNSCR 1325 Regional Action Plan and National Action Plans of South Sudan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda in consultation with partners including EVE Organisation, Community Empowerment for Progressive Organisation (CEPO), MFFPS and Karibu Jeunesse Nouvelle. The analysis also proposed key recommendations to address gaps in national financing for the WPS agenda and humanitarian action by women-led organisations, and highlighted significant obstacles to be addressed in order to facilitate national level accountability for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans.

3.4 Amplifying Women's Voices Online

In 2020 The Peace Centre continued to amplify diverse women's voices online and engage in digital dialogues on feminist peace.

3.4.1 Voices of Refugee Women on the Impact of COVID-19

In a mini podcast series hosted on the Feminist Peace Talks channel on Soundcloud, The Peace Centre amplified the voices of 5 refugee women peace builders and Refugee Welfare Council representatives living in Nyumanzi and Bidibidi settlements in Uganda on their experiences and how they are coping with COVID-19 containment measures in the settlements.

3.4.2 #SheLeadsPeace Campaign

The Peace Centre partnered with the Office of the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security on an online campaign **#SheLeadsPeace** highlighting women peace builders in Africa and publicizing actions taken by women groups and women leaders in response to COVID-19. We profiled the voices and important contributions of refugee women from Burundi, DRC and South Sudan as well as the stories of young women peace builders in South Sudan and Uganda advancing the women peace and security agenda and responding to COVID-19 in their communities. Key engagements under the hashtag reached 2,358 people on Facebook and 19,323 impressions.

3.4.3 Amplifying Women's Voices and Feminist Peace on Social Media

This year our online discussions on women, peace and security on Facebook reached 291,635 people and 65,025 people joined in. Our audience grew with 780 new page likes and 750 page followers. On Twitter @thewipcentre, our 950 tweets on feminist peace received 8,147 likes, 4,356 retweets, brought 15,190 visitors to our profile and we gained 1,159 new followers. 38,969 unique visitors read our news, downloaded our research reports, and shared the content on our website.



@thewipcentre

950 tweets on **feminist Peace**

8,147 likes
4,356 retweets
15,190 visitors
1,159 new followers



291,635

Number of people reached by our online discussions on **Women, Peace and Security**

65,025 people joined in
780 new page likes

750 new page followers

Voices from Social Media



Kalule Flavia Nabagabe

Wow! Thank you for training our women leaders. This is wonderful!



Gorret Komurembe

Nice job there



LenaCh Iz

Women International Peace Centre has changed the way I see the society now. I have learned that I am the one to start the change



Mary Aemo

Thank you peace center, this training has opened my eyes to ignore negative voices that discourage me, I will what I want....Brave Peace Centre #Feminist leadership



Miriam Lumonya

Women make the best mediators, peace builders and are so talented at negotiating for peace and Conflict resolution

3.4.4 Online Dialogue: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the time of COVID-19

To understand the impact of COVID-19 on sexual and gender-based violence from the perspective of policymaking, advocacy and practice, on 27th May the PRIO Gender Peace and Security Centre hosted an online discussion including United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, representatives of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Monash University's Centre for Gender Peace and Security, Colombia Diversa and Women's International Peace Centre. The Peace Centre highlighted the situation of sexual and gender-based violence during COVID-19 with a focus on data generated by women peace builders engaged in early warning within refugee settlements in Uganda as well as associated recommendations for responses.

3.4.5 Virtual Consultation: Women and Youth Exchanging Lessons for Peace and Security

The Peace Centre on 12th June joined the African Union Youth Envoy, the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN), Zimbabwe Young Women's Network for Peace Building and ACCORD to discuss conflict prevention and mitigation as well as the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the strategies and work of women and young women peace builders. The online conversation included reflections on how the women peace and security and youth peace and security frameworks can be used to tackle the impact of COVID-19. The Peace Centre shared from the experience of on-going work with women peace builders and women mediator networks in refugee settlements and hosting districts in Uganda. Participants (totalling 108) also discussed the impact on the pandemic on the WPS agenda and explored opportunities to develop resilience and move the agenda forward

3.4.6 TV Talk Show Marking International Day of Peace in South Sudan

The Peace Centre partnered with the South Sudan Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and CIGPJ to mark International Day of Peace with a talk show on South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation TV on 21st September 2020 reflecting on important roles of women in sustaining peace, the status of and opportunities for women's (including young women's) participation in peace building and national development. The discussion highlighted progress and gaps in government efforts, including in implementation of the 2015-2020 National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and the revitalised peace agreement. It also highlighted the contributions of young women to peace and nation building, opportunities for ensuring women's leadership in political parties and public institutions and closed with calls to action.

4.0 HOLISTIC WELLBEING OF WOMEN IN PEACE PROCESSES ENABLED

4.1 Healing through Rituals: a Guide and Sessions for Sustaining Wellness and Activism in the Time of COVID-19

The Peace Centre developed a practical wellness guide titled *Healing through Rituals: a Guide for Sustaining Wellness and Activism* and accompanied by tooling sessions, this equipped women leaders and women human rights defenders to adapt to COVID-19, its impact on personal lives, women's groups and their ability to gather, engage key decision makers, each other and their wider constituencies.

In Nepal, the wellness sessions revitalized the emotional wellbeing and productivity for the 118 women leaders (including journalists and counsellors). They were able to continue with their leadership roles as legislators, reporters and frontline workers. An online interactive meeting for 18 women journalists was held on 17th May 2020. This provided a platform to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women journalists and design strategies for harnessing their mental wellness that informed our next steps. In addition, online self-care sessions were conducted every Saturday for two hours from 4th July to 8th August 2020 for 46 frontline COVID-19 counsellors who were providing support to those tested positives all over Nepal.

Online wellness and self-care training sessions were conducted from 22nd to 28th July 2020 for 61 women in leadership (Deputy mayors, Vice Chairpersons and Women Human Rights Defenders) as a support mechanism to handle the mental stress related to COVID-19 and their responsibilities. They were skilled on self-care, strengthening self from within, integrated security, management of stress and burnout, and meditation.



Women leaders exploring feminist methods of leadership that incorporate self care.

In South Sudan, 56 young and established women human rights defenders benefitted from 2 online sessions self care and wellbeing co-convened with Centre for Inclusive Governance Peace and Justice (CIGPJ) and Crown the Woman South Sudan on 28th and 30th May 2020. The tailored conversations allowed the groups to learn personal and organisational healing practices that would support them and to create healing communities. The WHRD also received copies of the wellness guide to support their daily practice of wellness, particularly during the COVID-19 lockdown.

In Uganda, to protect and enable the 160 women peace mediators to continue their work of documenting conflict incidences in the host and refugee communities of Yumbe, Adjumani and Kotido district, the Peace Centre provided a total of 560 bars of washing soap, 464 packets of sanitary pads and 202 masks between 14th and 23rd May 2020. This enabled the women peace mediators to apply the recommended COVID-19 prevention measures, particularly while raising awareness on peace and now integrating information on COVID-19 prevention within their communities.

In addition, 45 of the women peace mediators from South Sudan, Burundi, DRC and Uganda on 12th October 2020 benefitted from a wellness session based on the Healing through the Rituals guide. The session allowed them to reflect on the COVID-19 experience, personal and relational stress and learn simple self-administered exercises to let go of negative energies and poor coping strategies that interfere with their emotional wellbeing and ability to deal with the difficult situations in their work.

In DRC, 22 women leaders in civil society in Bukavu, South Kivu benefitted from an online session on wellness and self-care to support them in dealing with the stress associated with COVID-19 and to give them tools to manage their individual and collective wellness.

4.2 Self Love Camp: Tooling for Transformational Feminist Leadership and Wellness

To rebuild the lives of women affected by armed conflict and Women Human Rights Defenders. The Peace Centre created safe spaces for intersectional feminist dialogue, and strengthening and harnessing transformative leadership and wellness as a way of sustaining movements. From January 13th to 15th and February 12th to 13th 2020 a Self-Love Camp themed Harnessing our Power with Soul: Transformational Feminist Leadership and Wellness was organised for 60 The Peace Centre's partners, Executive Directors, Program Managers/Directors, board members, youth leaders and district administrators from Kampala, Jinja, Soroti, Luweero, Yumbe, Adjumani, Lira, Gulu, Amudat, Kitgum, Tororo and Masaka districts. They engaged with the central themes of feminist leadership and wellbeing in their own lives. As a result each of the women leaders made a commitment to mainstream feminist practices and wellness into their day-to-date lives and their organizations.

4.3 Girl's Leadership Camp Radio Talk Shows

With girls out of school at the height of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Peace Centre held radio talk shows targeting girls under 16 years in Teso sub-region, Uganda with information to support their independent thinking and personal leadership. The morning talk shows provided a space for women leaders and girls to have dialogues on their changing bodies, sexuality, violence against girls, self-discovery, self-esteem, goals, confidence building and leadership. The talk shows also allowed girls to share the challenges they face during the COVID-19 lockdown and learn coping strategies.



A pupil from Ocakai Primary School in Amuria District shares the impact of COVID-19 on girls in her community and her coping mechanism during the pandemic

5.0 THE PEACE CENTRE IS A STRUCTURED AND CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVING INSTITUTION DELIVERING ITS STRATEGIC RESULTS, WHILE MAINTAINING A HEALTHY WORKING ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Growing the Peace Centre Team

In 2020, sixteen (16) new staff members were recruited to align with the organisation's recommended structure bringing the Peace Centre staff total to 37 with 7 men and 30 women. These include a Human Resource Officer and staff recruited to manage the Women's Situation Room Uganda secretariat including a National Coordinator, National Youth Coordinator, Technical Advisor, IT Specialist, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Communications Manager, Communications Officer, Finance Assistant, three (3) Administrative Assistants and two (2) drivers.



The Peace Centre Staff discuss the root causes of Violence Against Women during a Refresher Training of Trainers on the four phases of the SASA Together Methodology in Kampala.

The Peace Centre's staff benefited from a wellness retreat to Fort Portal district from 8th to 10th August 2020, which enabled us to reconnect as a team and to have individual grounding. During the retreat, team members had an opportunity to discuss the impact of COVID-19, reflect on feminism at The Peace Centre, to visit the Tooro Palace and the crater lakes.

To boost staff member's understanding of Ugandan laws relating to marriage, divorce and inheritance, a legal education session was organised on 30th November 2020. Staff members were enabled to prepare personal wills and interpret the provisions of the Marriage Bill and the Land Act.

As the team adapted to changes in ways of working due to COVID-19 regulations, a training session was organised on 4th December 2020 on Professionalism in the light of COVID-19. This allowed staff to reflect on the principles of professionalism and how these can be embodied while working remotely or on a rotational basis.

5.2 Responding to COVID-19 and Adapting to the New Normal

In March 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak hit Uganda and public health measures were put in place to contain its spread, including a ban on nonessential travel and gatherings.

The COVID-19 containment measures therefore affected the implementation of project activities and the methodology had to change to meet the same goal. Staff adapted to organize more online meetings; to cut down on meeting size; to include protective gear such as masks and sanitizers as essential materials for all activities; to use WhatsApp groups for what would normally be quick in-person conversations between staff and to use zoom or google meet for staff meetings.

The Security Management Committee conducted regular assessments of the situation and put in place measures to ensure the safety of staff and lower the risk of infection even after the lockdown was eased. Due to the size of the office compared to the number of staff, it was determined that staff would work from home and access the office in shifts as needed. Staff members were also provided private transport to limit interactions with the masses and possible exposure to COVID-19 by using public transport. The Peace Centre has provided staff with masks and sanitisers for personal use, all visitors to the office have their temperature checked and are required to sanitize before they are granted access.

6.0 OUR INCOMES AND EXPENDITURE

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE CENTER

Our opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements of Women's International Peace Center ("the Organisation") for the year ended 31 December 2020 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

What we have audited

The Organisation's financial statements comprise:

- statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2020;
- statement of fund balance as at 31 December 2020;
- statement of changes in accumulated fund for the year then ended;
- statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

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 *auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report.

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

Independence

We are independent of the Organisation in accordance with the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants ("the IESBA Code") together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Uganda, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of accounting and restriction on distribution and use

We draw attention to Note 2 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared to assist the Organisation in complying with its reporting requirements. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

Our report is intended solely for the Organisation and should not be distributed to or used by other parties other than the Organisation. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the annual report but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's 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.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Certified Public Accountants, Communications House, 1 Colville Street, P. O. Box 882, Kampala Uganda. Registration Number 113042
T: +256 (414) 236018, +256 (312) 354400, F: +256 (414) 230153, E: ug_general@pwc.com, www.pwc.com/ug



REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE CENTER (continued)

Other information (continued)

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above 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.

Responsibilities of Management for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements and for such internal control as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, Management is responsible for assessing the Company'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 management either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Management is responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's 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 auditor's 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 judgement and maintain professional scepticism 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 internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.



REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL PEACE CENTER (continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's 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 ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's 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 auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with management 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 leader on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is CPA Clive Mayombwe - PO349.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'PricewaterhouseCoopers'.

Certified Public Accountants
Kampala
1 November 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mayombwe'.

CPA Clive Mayombwe

Women's International Peace Center Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of income and expenditure

	Notes	2020 USD	2019 USD
Grant income	3	2,287,915	1,156,518
Other income	4	7,052	947
Total income		<u>2,294,967</u>	<u>1,157,465</u>
Expenditure			
Exchange programme	5.1	372,137	349,594
Research, monitoring and evaluation	5.2	194,421	207,385
Information, communication and advocacy	5.3	139,977	117,677
Programme development	5.4	503,124	396,788
Increased participation of women in peace building	5.5	517,674	-
Total expenditure		<u>1,727,333</u>	<u>1,071,444</u>
Surplus for the year		<u><u>567,634</u></u>	<u><u>86,021</u></u>

Women's International Peace Center Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of fund balance

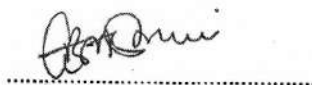
	Notes	2020 USD	2019 USD
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property and equipment	7	<u>156,518</u>	<u>83,880</u>
Current assets			
Receivables	6	<u>117,600</u>	29,555
Cash in hand and at bank	8	<u>769,083</u>	<u>394,311</u>
Total current assets		<u>886,683</u>	<u>423,866</u>
Total assets		<u>1,043,201</u>	<u>507,746</u>
Funds and liabilities			
Capital fund		<u>156,518</u>	<u>83,880</u>
Sustainability fund		<u>672,969</u>	<u>105,335</u>
Accumulated fund		<u>829,487</u>	<u>189,215</u>
Current liabilities			
Payables	9	<u>213,714</u>	<u>318,531</u>
Total funds and liabilities		<u>1,043,201</u>	<u>507,746</u>

The financial statements on pages 15 to 28 were approved by the Board of Directors on 1 November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



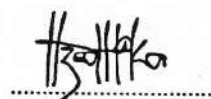
Elizabeth Lwanga

Board President



Getrude Bibi Annoh Quarshie

Board Treasurer



Helen Kezie-Nwoha

Executive Director

Women's International Peace Center Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of changes in accumulated fund

	Capital fund USD	Sustainability fund USD	Total USD
Year ended 31 December 2019			
At 1 January 2019	83,734	19,314	103,048
Surplus for the year	-	86,021	86,021
Additions (note 7)	9,436	-	9,436
Depreciation charge (note 7)	(9,290)	-	(9,290)
At 31 December 2019	83,880	105,335	189,215
Year ended 31 December 2020			
At 1 January 2020	83,880	105,335	189,215
Surplus for the year	-	567,634	567,634
Additions (note 7)	99,998	-	99,998
Depreciation charge (note 7)	(27,360)	-	(27,360)
At 31 December 2020	156,518	672,969	829,487

Women's International Peace Center Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of cash flows

	Notes	2020 USD	2019 USD
Operating activities			
Surplus for the year		567,634	86,021
Purchase of property and equipment	7	99,998	9,436
Interest income from investments		-	(92)
Cash flows from operating activities		667,632	95,365
Working capital changes:			
Receivables		(88,045)	1,396
Payables		(104,817)	(779)
Net cash generated from operating activities		474,770	95,982
Investing activities			
Purchase of property and equipment	7	(99,998)	(9,436)
Investments		-	3,499
Interest income from investments		-	92
Net cash utilised in investing activities		(99,998)	(5,845)
Net increase in cash at bank and in hand			
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents		374,772	90,137
Cash at bank and in hand at start of year		394,311	304,174
Cash at bank and in hand at end of year	8	769,083	394,311

7.0 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Challenges

1. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our usual ways of working and deepened the burden that women in contexts of conflict and humanitarian settings carry.
2. Inconsistency, reluctance or inaction by principal actors with the duty to take action in line with commitments made in various policies and peace agreements created anxiety and despondency among our partners and different categories of women.
3. The level of patriarchy and rigidity in the contexts where we work is still a significant hindrance to progress on gender equality.
4. Frequent transfer of District Officials especially political leaders creates an information gap necessitating new persons to be oriented on roles and responsibilities of the district peace committees and structures. This takes time and therefore slows progress in implementation of activities.
5. Partners and beneficiaries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic expected the Peace Centre to provide food and other basic needs outside of our scope.

Lessons Learned

1. It is important to create safe spaces for women to and to provide exposure-learning opportunities. This helps women to learn, unlearn and challenge themselves to get out of their comfort zones, exposes them to new ideas that enhances their knowledge, builds their social networks and also inspires other women to take up leadership positions.
2. Working in partnership is critical to success and effectively adapting to changes in our contexts.
3. Linkages between individual women's lived experiences as well as connections across community, national, regional and international processes enhances advocacy experiences and outcomes for women.
4. The importance of addressing practical barriers to diverse women peace builders participation e.g. by providing internet data, connecting them to nearby host organisations, ensuring language interpretation, receiving pre-recorded videos - to ensure they participate and their voices are heard and considered as policy influencing and accountability spaces are mostly virtual



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