

12/13/2024

PDRI REPORT - SECOND SEMESTER 2024

Activities:

- **Peacebuilding**
- **Sport**
- **Information Communications Technology**
- **Early Childhood Development**
- **Women Empowerment**

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PDR REPORT OF ALL ACTIVITIES - SECOND SEMESTER 2024

PREAMBLE

In the second half of 2024, PDRI has made significant steps across various programs aimed at empowering individuals and communities in the Kakuma Refugee Camp and surrounding areas. Through our peacebuilding initiatives, we have fostered unity and collaboration, working towards conflict resolution and creating spaces for dialogue. Our sports programs have seen youth engage in football and dodgeball, building connections and personal growth, despite challenges in resources. In the Information Communications Technology (ICT) domain, we have focused on equipping individuals with skills for innovation and income generation, supporting long-term development. Our Early Childhood Development program has transitioned to a new location, continuing to provide quality education despite challenges. Lastly, our women empowerment initiatives have highlighted the resilience of women in the camp as they work tirelessly to build small businesses and contribute to community projects, overcoming financial barriers. Together, these programs reflect PDRI's commitment to fostering sustainable development, unity, and empowerment within the community.

A. PEACEBUILDING (JULY - DECEMBER 2024)



Introduction

In the last six months, PDRI has been actively working to promote peace and unity within the Kakuma Refugee Camp and the surrounding communities. Our activities have focused on community engagement, conflict resolution, training, and creating spaces for dialogue and collaboration. Here is an overview of our key activities and accomplishments:

1. Awareness Campaign on Peace Building:

In July 2024, PDRI led a successful Awareness Campaign in Kakuma Refugee Camp under the theme "*Schools as Forums for Social Cohesion.*"

We engaged with four secondary schools: Kakuma Refugee Secondary School (Kakuma1), Green Light Secondary School (Kakuma 2), Somali Bantu Secondary School (Kakuma3), and Vision Secondary School (Kakuma 4). The goal of the campaign was to foster peace and social cohesion among the youth, and we plan to continue spreading this message throughout schools, churches, mosques, markets, and football fields in the camp. We are grateful for the support of Jesuit Refugee Service, Danish Refugee Council, and all the school management teams involved.

2. Peace Center Project - Community Leaders Meeting:

In September 2024, we had a productive meeting with community leaders to discuss the progress of the Peace Center Project. The meeting provided an opportunity to review current activities and share updates on the positive changes occurring in the community. Although weather conditions interrupted a planned meeting with agencies, we were optimistic about rescheduling it in order to continue important discussions. This meeting was special and Victoria Stricker, our Volunteer from Switzerland was our guest and her participation was valuable.

3. Mediation Training Course:

In September 2024, PDRI successfully completed a Mediation Training Course, aimed at equipping our community leaders and PDRI staff with the necessary skills to handle conflicts effectively. This training was conducted by Enzo, our volunteer from Spain who led the course and congratulate all the 24 graduates for enhancing their mediation capabilities, which will help bring about positive change in the community.

4. Youth Peacebuilding Workshop:

In September 2024, PDRI held a Youth Peacebuilding Workshop, led by Enzo Belligoi. The workshop brought together diverse youth representatives, including from communities, schools, football teams, and religious groups. The goal was to inspire and empower young people to take an active role in peacebuilding. The workshop was a great success, and we are proud to announce that 27 participants completed the training, gaining the skills and knowledge to contribute to our Peace Center Project.

5. World Peace Day Celebration:

In September 2024, on World Peace Day, we celebrated the achievement of our Youth Peacebuilding Workshop graduates. These young leaders are now ready to play a significant role in fostering social cohesion and peace within their communities.

6. NGO and Agency Meeting - Peace Center Introduction:

In September 2024, PDRI hosted a successful meeting with several NGOs and agencies, including UNHCR, DRC, LWF, and KICOBO, to introduce our Peace Center project. The meeting provided a platform to discuss the challenges and achievements of the project, as well as the steps needed to ensure its sustainability. We were grateful for the positive responses and continued support from all partners involved.

We were also honored to welcome Conzana Mangati, the UNHCR Youth Coordinator, to the introduction of our Peace Center project. Her speech emphasized the crucial role of youth in peacebuilding and community development. Her visit was a great encouragement to continue our work in creating safe spaces for dialogue and understanding.

We heard also an insightful speech from community leaders about the upcoming Peace Center. Alain, one of our leaders, emphasized the Peace Center's potential as a place for dialogue, conflict resolution, and cultural exchange. Abraham also addressed the need for more capacity-building initiatives and better transportation options to reach underserved areas.

7. Mediation between Nuer and Burundian Communities:

In November 2024, a significant highlight of our Peace Center project was the mediation activity between the Nuer and Burundian communities. These two communities had been in conflict for several years, leading sometimes to deaths and injuries. With the help of Community Leaders, and our volunteer Enzo, we facilitated discussions between both communities, identifying the root causes of the conflict. After multiple sessions, both communities agreed to strengthen their relations and implement joint peace-promoting activities. This successful mediation process was a testament to the power of community leaders and collaborative efforts in resolving long-standing conflicts.

9. Involvement of Religious Leaders:

In November 2024, the Peace Center project has also focused on involving religious leaders, as churches and mosques play a vital role in promoting peace and unity. PDRI has been meeting with religious representatives to discuss how they can contribute to peacebuilding efforts in the Kakuma refugee camp and the surrounding areas. The number of religious groups we have already met are 12.

10. Building Bridges Between the Nuer and Burundian Communities:

In November 2024, the outcomes of the Peace Centre project are starting to show positive results. A recent meeting between the Nuer and Burundian communities was one of the most important gatherings since the mediation process was led by PDRI. During this mediation, both communities agreed to keep communicating with each other. PDRI was pleased and surprised to be invited to the meeting organized by these two communities with the agenda of discussing about the mechanisms to strengthen their relationship, as it shows the success of the project. This gathering has highlighted the important role the Peace Centre project plays in bringing the communities together.

Challenges in Implementing Peacebuilding Activities

Peacebuilding activities often face challenges with transportation, food, refreshments, and incentives.

1. **Transport:** Getting people to and from activities can be difficult due to the fact that the project includes leaders from all over Kakuma refugee camp who have to attend meetings events, ceremonies etc. Poor roads, damaged infrastructure, and security risks can make it hard too.
2. **Food and Refreshments:** Providing food and drinks during, meetings, events is also challenging.
3. **Incentive:** PDRI staffs and Community Leaders are working as volunteers. The lack of motivation has been sometimes discouraging them. Offering allowances or rewards to participants during gathering can help motivate them.

These logistical challenges need careful planning and management to ensure peacebuilding activities are effective and sustainable.

Recommendations and Next Steps

To build on the progress made in the last six months, we suggest the following actions:

1. Increase Community Participation:

- Involve more groups, especially women, youth, and people with disabilities, in peacebuilding activities.
- Hold more events in remote areas to ensure everyone can participate.

2. Offer More Training:

- Provide advanced conflict resolution and mediation training for community leaders and youth.
- Partner with schools or organizations to offer certification for training programs.

3. Ensure the Peace Center's Sustainability:

- Find more funding to keep the Peace Center running long-term and plan for its future activities.
- Make the Peace Center more accessible, possibly by providing transport or opening more locations.

4. Work More with Religious Leaders:

- Strengthen partnerships with religious leaders to use churches and mosques as spaces for peacebuilding.
- Create programs where different religious groups work together on shared issues.

5. Expand Mediation Efforts:

- Mediate other community conflicts and create ways to prevent new ones.
- Work with local authorities to set up formal mediation systems that everyone respects.

6. Improve Logistics and Support:

- Partner with local transport providers to improve access for peacebuilding activities.
- Set up a fair and sustainable volunteer incentive system.
- Work with local businesses for food and refreshments to reduce costs.

7. Monitor and Evaluate Programs:

- Set up a system to regularly check how well programs are working and make adjustments as needed.
- Collect feedback and data to show the impact of our work and attract more support.

8. Raise Awareness and Advocate:

- Increase awareness about the Peace Center through community events and media outreach.
- Advocate for policies that support peacebuilding efforts in refugee areas, focusing on youth and religious groups.

By following these steps, PDRI can continue making positive changes, helping Kakuma Refugee Camp become a more peaceful and united community.

Conclusion:

The past six months have been a period of significant progress for PDRI's peacebuilding initiatives. From training community leaders and youth to mediating conflicts and establishing a peace, our efforts are creating lasting impacts in the Kakuma Refugee Camp. We are grateful for the support of all our partners, volunteers, and community members. Together, we are building a more peaceful and unified community for today and the future.

B. SPORT (JULY TO DECEMBER 2024)



Introduction

The second half of 2024 has been an exciting time for our sports programs, with new achievements and some challenges along the way. We've made great progress in football and launched a new dodgeball initiative, bringing opportunities for youth to grow and connect through sport. However, we are still facing some difficulties, such as a lack of resources and logistical issues, which have limited our ability to reach our full potential.

This report covers the key activities from July to December 2024, including our work with young athletes, the growth of dodgeball in Kakuma, and our efforts to empower communities through sport. It also highlights the challenges we've encountered and the ongoing need for support to ensure these programs succeed.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the progress we've made and the future opportunities for growth.

Achievements

July 2024: Football Tournament for Children under 16 years old

In July, we organized a tournament for our football activity where we are working with 20 football teams children under 16 years old. Our talented young athletes had to demonstrate their skills and passion for the game. The tournament aimed to select the talented children who will benefit the Football Academy next year as we expect to host a trainer from the United Kingdom for the academy.

However, we must acknowledge the challenges we currently face in meeting our objectives due to a lack of essential resources. Despite our dedication, we are falling short in providing the necessary equipment, training facilities, and opportunities for these athletes to excel.

August 2024: Partnership with Dodgeball World Federation

In August, we were excited to announce a partnership between PDRI and the Dodgeball World Federation (DWF). We signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will elevate the sport of dodgeball in Kakuma Refugee Camp and across East Africa. This partnership marks the beginning of an exciting journey to introduce and grow dodgeball in the region.

We kicked off this initiative with an innovative online training program, followed by in-person coaching sessions led by Amanda Furst, a talented trainer from Canada. This collaboration offers an incredible opportunity for local communities, and we express our heartfelt thanks to the DWF and World Dodgeball President for making this possible. We are excited about the future of dodgeball in East Africa!

August 2024: Empowering Women Through Football

As part of our ongoing commitment to social cohesion and peace, in August, we had the honor of visiting the Kakuma 4 Football Ladies Team. We were deeply inspired by the dedication and spirit of these incredible athletes. For these women, football is not just a sport; it's a powerful tool for empowerment, teamwork, and unity. Through our support, we aim to foster stronger communities and break down barriers for women in sport.

The players in Kakuma 4 are showcasing their remarkable skills while embodying the strength and resilience that sports can cultivate. Their commitment is a shining example of how football can bring people together and create positive change. PDRI is determined to continue expanding and supporting women's football.

November 2024: Dodgeball Training and Community Engagement

In November 2024, we were thrilled to start an in-person training program for dodgeball in Kakuma, following an online session facilitated by Douane Wysynski, President of the World Dodgeball Federation conducted in August 2024.

This training is an integral part of our strategy to introduce dodgeball to the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kalobeyi settlement, and surrounding host communities.

The initial training was designed to equip 16 local coaches, who will, in turn, train others and establish teams within their communities. We are incredibly grateful to the World Dodgeball Federation and their President for their ongoing support in helping us create spaces for peacebuilding and youth engagement. A special thank you goes to our facilitator, Amanda Furst, whose fluency in both English and Swahili made the training sessions accessible and effective for all participants. The practical training, although challenged by inclement weather, was successful in introducing the fundamentals of dodgeball. The unique nature of the game, which uses six balls, offers a fun and engaging experience for players, with the added advantage of allowing mixed-gender teams. As we look forward to the growth of this new sport in our community, we are excited about the opportunity it presents for youth to build friendships, interact peacefully, and have fun in a safe and supportive environment.

This is just the beginning, and we are committed to fostering a long-term impact with dodgeball as part of our peacebuilding and youth development programs.

Challenges Faced

While we have seen exciting growth and progress in our sports initiatives, several challenges have impacted the implementation and sustainability of these programs. Key challenges include:

- **Equipment Shortages:** Many of our athletes, particularly in the football and dodgeball programs, have faced difficulties due to a lack of proper sports equipment. This has affected training sessions and the overall development of the athletes' skills.
- **Transport Issues:** Given the vast geography of the refugee camps and surrounding communities, transporting athletes and coaches to training venues has been a persistent challenge. Limited resources have made it difficult to provide the necessary transportation for players and coaches to attend events and sessions, particularly for those living in more remote areas.
- **Refreshment Needs:** During training sessions, especially in the heat and humidity, athletes need proper hydration and refreshments to maintain their energy and focus. Unfortunately, we have often faced difficulties in providing adequate refreshments for all participants, which has affected the overall training experience.

Despite these challenges, we remain determined to push forward, but addressing these gaps will require continued support from our partners and the wider community.

Recommendations and Next Steps

As we look forward to the future of our sports programs, we have identified key recommendations and next steps to address the challenges we have faced and ensure the continued success of our initiatives.

1. Increase Resource Support:

- **Recommendation:** We need more financial and material support to provide essential equipment for our athletes, such as footballs, jerseys, dodgeball equipment, and training gear.
- **Next Steps:** We will continue to seek partnerships and donations from individuals, organizations, and sponsors to ensure our athletes have the resources they need to thrive.

2. Improving Transportation:

- **Recommendation:** To overcome transportation challenges, we need a transportation fund to help move athletes and coaches between training venues and events.
- **Next Steps:** We will explore partnerships with transportation companies or local community support to arrange travel for our athletes and coaches.

3. Enhancing Training and Facilities:

- **Recommendation:** We need to improve our training facilities and ensure that they are accessible and safe for athletes, particularly in remote areas.
- **Next Steps:** We will work on developing better training spaces and seek support to build or upgrade facilities that are more suited for both football and dodgeball programs.

4. **Support for Refreshments:**

- **Recommendation:** Providing proper hydration and refreshments during training is essential for the well-being of our athletes.
- **Next Steps:** We will reach out to local businesses and partners to help provide the necessary refreshments during training sessions, ensuring athletes stay hydrated and energized.

5. **Expand Women's Football Programs:**

- **Recommendation:** Women's football is an area of great potential, and we should focus on expanding these programs to include more female athletes.
- **Next Steps:** We will work with local communities to create more opportunities for women to participate in football, as well as organize workshops and tournaments specifically for women.

6. **Increase Community Engagement:**

- **Recommendation:** Strengthening relationships with local communities will help build a more supportive environment for our sports programs.
- **Next Steps:** We will organize community events, where people can learn about and support our programs. We will also increase communication with local leaders to ensure everyone is on board with our initiatives.

7. **Monitor and Evaluate Progress:**

- **Recommendation:** It is important to regularly assess the impact of our programs to ensure they are meeting the needs of the youth and communities we serve.
- **Next Steps:** We will set up a monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress of our sports programs and make improvements where needed.

Conclusion

The second half of 2024 has been a dynamic and transformative period for our sports programs. We have seen incredible growth in both football and dodgeball, with new partnerships and initiatives opening up exciting opportunities for our youth. However, challenges remain in ensuring that these programs are fully equipped to reach their potential. As always, we are grateful for the support of our community and look forward to building on these successes in the coming months.

C. INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (JULY - DECEMBER 2024)



Introduction

This report highlights the activities and achievements of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Department at PDRI for the period of July to December 2024. During this six-month period, the department focused on advancing its educational initiatives, particularly through the *Innovative ICT Curriculum*, supported by Aryan Garg, a Vanderbilt University scholar. Our efforts aimed at empowering individuals with essential ICT skills to foster innovation, generate income, and contribute meaningfully to the development of the ICT sector.

Key Highlights and Achievements

1. Graduation of First Cohort (July 2024)

In July 2024, we proudly celebrated the graduation of our first cohort from the *Innovative ICT Curriculum*. With the generous support of Vanderbilt University, this milestone became a reality. We extend our deepest gratitude to Aryan Garg, whose dedication and expertise were instrumental in guiding and mentoring our 26 trainees. All graduates received their certificates in recognition of their hard work and commitment to completing the program. This achievement not only marks the success of each individual but also exemplifies the power of collaboration and innovation in education. We are confident that our graduates will contribute significantly to the ICT field with their newfound skills.

2. Launch of Cohort 2 (August 2024)

In August 2024, we were thrilled to announce the commencement of *Cohort 2* for the *Innovative ICT Curriculum*, also supported by Vanderbilt University. This new cohort is facilitated by an outstanding group of volunteer educators: Nwawo, Haidar, Bona, and Athiei, whose passion and expertise continue to enhance the quality of the training. Their efforts are critical in empowering our trainees to become future innovators and change-makers within the ICT sector.

3. Addressing Basic ICT Skill Gaps (August 2024)

In August, it was identified that many candidates for the diploma-level program were struggling with basic computer skills, such as typing and navigating Windows. These gaps were due to a lack of access to personal computers for practice, despite having completed initial ICT training. To address this, PDRI introduced a more rigorous interview process for diploma-level candidates, ensuring that only those with sufficient foundational knowledge and skills were selected for advanced training. Over the next four months, we provided intensive basic-level training to 14 students, ensuring they caught up on essential computer skills and were better prepared for more advanced coursework.

4. Final Project and Preparation for Cohort 2 Graduation (November 2024)

By November 2024, the diploma-level students were focused on their final project, which involved designing a website as part of their coursework. This project is a key component of the curriculum, offering students an opportunity to apply the skills they have acquired over the past four months. Aryan Garg's involvement in developing and introducing this new curriculum has been pivotal in ensuring a student-centered learning experience, benefiting trainees and fostering their growth. Additionally, the volunteer facilitators continue to support students in a crucial role, encouraging self-learning and resourcefulness that empower them to generate income and create job opportunities.

The final project also marked the culmination of months of hard work for the students, and the anticipation grew for the graduation ceremony, scheduled for Friday, December 19, 2024.

Challenges Faced

Despite the successes, PDRI encountered several challenges during the implementation of ICT activities from July to December 2024:

1. **Financial Constraints:** A major challenge has been the difficulty in covering the costs of electricity and Wi-Fi, which are essential for the successful implementation of the ICT curriculum. Our primary source of financing comes from the contributions of our members, but these funds have not been sufficient to fully cover the increasing costs of these utilities. Without adequate financial resources, it has become difficult to maintain a consistent and uninterrupted learning environment for our trainees.
2. **Facilitator Motivation:** Another challenge has been ensuring that our volunteer facilitators remain motivated and committed to delivering high-quality education. The facilitators play a critical role in the success of the program, but without adequate incentives or support, there has been a risk of burnout, which could affect the quality of instruction and the overall student experience. Motivating our facilitators is essential for the sustainability and effectiveness of the curriculum, and we recognize the need for further measures to ensure their continued engagement and dedication.

Recommendations and Next Steps

To build on the successes and address the challenges faced during the period of July to December 2024, we offer the following recommendations and next steps for the ICT department at PDRI:

1. **Increase Funding for Utilities:** To ensure the smooth running of the ICT curriculum, it is crucial to secure additional funding to cover the rising costs of electricity and Wi-Fi. This can be achieved through more partnerships, grants, or community fundraising initiatives. Diversifying sources of funding will help maintain an uninterrupted learning environment for our trainees.
2. **Support for Volunteer Facilitators:** To keep our volunteer facilitators motivated and committed, we recommend implementing a reward or recognition system. This could include small incentives such as certificates, appreciation events, or professional development opportunities.

Offering regular support and feedback to facilitators can also help prevent burnout and ensure the continued quality of teaching.

3. **Expand Basic Skills Training:** Based on the challenges observed with basic computer skills, we recommend extending the basic ICT skills training to all new students before they begin advanced coursework. This will ensure that all trainees are adequately prepared for the more complex aspects of the curriculum and reduce the time spent on catching up during the program.

4. **Increase Trainee Enrollment and Reach:** We should explore ways to increase the number of students in future cohorts by reaching out to more communities and promoting the curriculum. Collaboration with local organizations, schools, and community centers can help attract more trainees and ensure that the program benefits a wider population.
5. **Regular Monitoring and Evaluation:** To continually improve the curriculum, it is essential to conduct regular assessments of both the teaching process and the outcomes of the program. Gathering feedback from trainees, facilitators, and partners will help identify areas of improvement and allow for timely adjustments.
6. **Strengthen Alumni Network:** Building a strong alumni network can provide ongoing support for graduates, such as mentorship, job opportunities, and collaboration. This will not only benefit the alumni but also enhance the overall reputation and success of the ICT curriculum.

By implementing these recommendations and taking the next steps, PDRI can continue to make a significant impact in the ICT sector, empowering more individuals and contributing to the development of technology skills in the community

Conclusion

The period from July to December 2024 has been a period of significant achievement for the ICT department at PDRI. We have seen the successful graduation of our first cohort, the launch of Cohort 2, and the ongoing development of diploma-level students through hands-on learning projects. The dedication of our facilitators, the unwavering support of our partners, and the diligence of our trainees have all contributed to the success of the *Innovative ICT Curriculum*.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to expanding and improving the program to empower even more individuals within the ICT sector. We are excited for the continued growth and success of the program as we strive to provide valuable skills that will have a lasting impact on the individuals, communities, and industries we serve.

D. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (JULY TO DECEMBER 2024)



Introduction

This report highlights the activities, achievements, challenges, and overall progress of the Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) program from July to December 2024. During this period, the program underwent a significant transition, relocating from Bidii Centre to Kakuma 1, Zone 4 and Block 5 following the end of our collaboration with Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

The new location, previously the PDRI office, has become the center for delivering quality Early Childhood Education to children in the community. Despite challenges, the program has continued to make strides, thanks to the contributions of dedicated volunteers and the support of parents.

Achievements

1. Successful Relocation and Classroom Setup:

- In July 2024, the ECDE program successfully transitioned to the new location in Kakuma 1, Zone 4 and Block 5.
- PDRI received a generous volunteer, Victoria Stricker from Switzerland, who helped raise funds for purchasing a room that now serves as the ECDE classroom. The room is still undergoing finishing works, including cementing and other minor tasks.

2. Parental Engagement:

- In August 2024, the ECDE facilitators organized home visits to parents of enrolled children. These visits were aimed at understanding their opinions on the quality of education and to ensure parents contribute to the growth and development of the program.
- During these visits, we established stronger communication between PDRI and parents, fostering collaboration for the children's educational development.

3. Classroom Management and Instruction:

- Despite limited space and resources, the ECDE program has continued to operate with 50 children enrolled, divided into two shifts (due to the single classroom).
- The classes were held twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays), conducted by two dedicated volunteer facilitators.

4. Support from Volunteer Contributions:

- The program greatly benefited from the involvement of volunteers, including Victoria Stricker, who played a key role in fundraising for infrastructure development and promoting the importance of Early Childhood Education in the community.

Challenges

1. Insufficient Classroom Space:

- The limited availability of space in the new location has made it difficult to accommodate the growing number of children in the community who wish to attend the classes. As a result, many children remain at home, missing out on educational opportunities.

2. Inadequate Nutrition Support:

- One of the primary challenges highlighted during the parental visits was hunger. Due to logistical limitations, the program has been unable to provide food for the children. This has led to a high rate of absenteeism, as many children are unable to attend class on an empty stomach.

3. **Classroom Infrastructure Needs:**

- The ECDE classroom, while functional, is still in need of some finishing work, including cementing, to provide a more comfortable and conducive learning environment for the children.

4. **Volunteer Support and Limited Teaching Hours:**

- With only two facilitators volunteering, the program faces difficulties in meeting the diverse needs of the children. Additionally, the limited teaching hours (only two sessions per week) restrict the amount of content and activities that can be covered.

Recommendations and Next Steps

1. **Find More Classroom Space:**

- Look for ways to get more space for the classroom, either by expanding the current area or finding a new place to fit more children.

2. **Provide Food for the Children:**

- Work with local organizations or find donors who can help provide meals for the children. This will help reduce the number of children missing school because they are hungry.

3. **Finish the Classroom Setup:**

- Complete the remaining work in the classroom, like fixing the floors and making it a more comfortable space for the children to learn.

4. **Get More Teachers and Volunteers:**

- Try to recruit more teachers or volunteers to help with the classes. This will make it easier to meet the needs of all the children and allow for more activities.

5. **Increase Class Time:**

- Consider adding more days for classes each week, from two days to at least three or four. This will give the children more learning time.

6. **Work More with Parents and the Community:**

- Keep talking with parents and the community to find more ways they can support the program, whether by helping in class or providing resources.

7. **Get Long-Term Funding:**

- Look for partnerships with other organizations or donors who can give long-term funding to ensure the program keeps running and can grow.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the ECDE program from July to December 2024 has seen positive progress despite facing challenges related to space, resources, and nutrition. The successful relocation, strong parental engagement, and the dedication of volunteers have been key achievements during this period. However, it is clear that the program requires further support,

particularly in terms of infrastructure development, space, and nutrition to improve attendance and the overall quality of education. Going forward, it is essential to address these challenges and continue working with the community to provide better opportunities for the children. We remain optimistic that with ongoing collaboration, further support from donors, and community involvement, the ECDE program will continue to thrive and meet the needs of the children in Kakuma.

E. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT (JULY TO DECEMBER 2024)



Introduction

In the heart of Kakuma Refugee Camp, women are showing great strength and determination as they work hard to improve the lives of their families and secure a better future for their children. Despite facing many challenges and having limited resources, they are building small businesses and taking part in community projects. These women are resourceful and hardworking, but a big obstacle remains: they don't have enough money to grow their businesses and reach their full potential. This report will share the story of these women, the successes made possible by empowerment programs, the challenges they still face, and what can be done to help them move forward.

Achievements

Over the course of this report period, several key milestones have been achieved:

1. Training and Skill Development:

In October 2024, a pivotal training session was held by PDRI, focusing on entrepreneurship and business management. The training, designed for the most vulnerable women in the community, equipped 22 women with essential skills to start and manage small businesses. This training provided participants with foundational knowledge on financial management, market analysis, and the steps required to establish a sustainable business. The feedback from the beneficiaries was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing newfound confidence in their ability to take the first steps toward entrepreneurship.

2. Community Engagement and Volunteer Support

In September 2024, PDRI Women Empowerment Department, along with volunteer Victoria, visited the women to witness their work and dedication firsthand. This visit was instrumental in highlighting the strength and resilience of the women, and in providing them with moral and emotional support. It also created an opportunity for the women to share their challenges and discuss potential solutions for future growth.

3. Resourcefulness and Innovation

Despite the challenges they face, these women have shown remarkable innovation and creativity in their small businesses. From food stalls to tailoring services and small-scale farming, the businesses initiated by these women are not just a means of livelihood, but a source of pride and empowerment. They are demonstrating how, with minimal resources, they can make significant strides toward self-sufficiency and economic stability.

Challenges

While the women of Kakuma Refugee Camp have made great strides, they continue to face numerous challenges that hinder their full potential:

1. Insufficient Capital

A primary challenge identified by the trainees is the lack of capital to launch or expand their businesses. Despite acquiring the necessary knowledge from the business training, many women are unable to put their plans into action due to the absence of financial resources. The women have expressed a need for loans or grants that can act as seed funding, with the possibility of repayment after six months, ensuring sustainability and growth.

2. Limited Resources and Support

Another significant barrier is the scarcity of resources. These women have little access to affordable materials, tools, and infrastructure needed to start and run businesses effectively. The support they currently receive from local aid programs, such as monthly rations from LWP, is insufficient to cover their needs and the operational costs of their businesses.

3. Lack of Financial Literacy

Although the training provided essential business management knowledge, many women still face difficulties in understanding advanced financial concepts or securing funding through traditional means. This knowledge gap prevents them from confidently seeking loans or managing larger-scale businesses.

Recommendations and Next Steps

To help the women of Kakuma Refugee Camp continue their journey toward empowerment, several important actions should be taken:

1. **Provide Financial Support:** It is essential to provide these women with the capital they need to start or grow their businesses. This can be done through small loans, grants, or seed funding.

Offering financial support, with the possibility of repayment after a few months, will help them expand their businesses and create a sustainable income.

2. **Increase Access to Resources:** These women need better access to materials, tools, and infrastructure to run their businesses. Efforts should be made to provide affordable resources, such as sewing machines, farming equipment, and other essential materials. This will allow them to improve their productivity and increase the quality of their work.

3. **Offer More Training on Financial Literacy:** While the women have learned basic business skills, many still need more knowledge about managing finances, budgeting, and accessing funding. Offering additional training on financial literacy will help them make informed decisions and confidently seek loans or manage larger businesses.

4. **Strengthen Community Support:** Building a stronger network of support within the community is crucial. This can be achieved by organizing regular meetings where women can share their challenges, successes, and advice. Encouraging collaboration and mentorship among women can provide them with the motivation and guidance they need to overcome obstacles.

5. **Secure Long-Term Funding:** It is important to secure long-term funding for the women's empowerment programs to ensure they are sustainable. This funding will help continue the training, support, and resources needed for these women to thrive and build better futures for themselves and their families.

6. **Monitor and Evaluate Progress:** Regular monitoring and evaluation of the programs and businesses will help identify what is working and where improvements are needed. This will ensure that the women continue to receive the support they need and that the programs remain effective in empowering them.

By taking these steps, we can help the women of Kakuma Refugee Camp reach their full potential and create a better future for themselves and their families. With the right support, they will be able to overcome their challenges and build successful, sustainable businesses.

Conclusion

The women of Kakuma Refugee Camp are a testament to the resilience and determination of the human spirit. They are using their skills, knowledge, and community support to build a better future for themselves and their families. However, the path to empowerment is not without its obstacles. The critical need for financial support, whether in the form of loans, grants, or seed funding, is paramount for these women to fully realize their potential.

As demonstrated through their innovative efforts, given the right resources and ongoing support, these women can achieve remarkable things. Moving forward, it is crucial that efforts are made to secure sustainable financial backing, expand training programs, and provide consistent support to ensure the long-term success and growth of these women's initiatives. By investing in their success, we are investing in the future of the entire community.

CONCLUSION SUMMARY

In the second semester of 2024, PDRI has made meaningful strides across several key areas, working together with communities to create lasting change.

Our peacebuilding efforts have fostered unity and strengthened leadership, especially in the Kakuma Refugee Camp. Through training and mediation, we are helping to build a more peaceful environment for all.

In sports, we have witnessed impressive growth, with new opportunities emerging for youth in football and dodgeball. Despite some challenges, we are excited about the future and the potential of these programs to bring positive change.

In the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), we successfully graduated our first cohort, launched a new group of learners, and continued to offer valuable hands-on experiences. We are committed to further expanding this program to empower even more individuals with essential ICT skills.

Our Early Childhood Development (ECDE) program, though facing obstacles in space, resources, and nutrition, has made great progress, thanks to strong community involvement, the relocation of the program and the new classroom we own now. We are optimistic that continued collaboration will help overcome these challenges and provide better opportunities for the children in Kakuma.

Lastly, the women of Kakuma Refugee Camp have shown incredible strength and determination in their journey toward empowerment. Through community support and their own efforts, they are building brighter futures. To fully unlock their potential, financial backing and expanded training are critical. We are committed to supporting these women, ensuring their initiatives flourish and contribute to the overall development of the community.

Together, across these diverse areas, we are fostering growth, unity, and empowerment in Kakuma, and we look forward to continuing this work in the coming months.

Done in Kakuma on 13th December 2024

For PDRI

Pascal Amisi



PDRI Chairperson

