



IMPACT REPORT 2025

Peace Cultural Day · Youth Empowerment Workshops



Initiative for Peace – South Sudan

Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

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About this report

This report covers the first year of program delivery by IfP–South Sudan. It documents two pilot programs delivered in July 2025 in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda, the results they produced, the constraints the team worked under, and the organization’s plans through 2035. Results were gathered using participatory, oral feedback methods appropriate to the setting; the strengths and limitations of that approach are set out in Section 5.

1. Executive Summary

In July 2025, **IfP–South Sudan** delivered its first large-scale community programs in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda. Two events were held nine days apart: a **Peace Cultural Day** that brought together more than 1,000 people from 19 South Sudanese tribes, and a **Two-Day Youth Empowerment Workshop** that trained 127 young people aged 18–30 as peace ambassadors. Both were designed and led by South Sudanese youth living in the settlement.

1,000+ PARTICIPANTS	19 TRIBES UNITED	127 YOUTH TRAINED	13 COMMITTEE MEMBERS
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The problem we set out to address

South Sudan’s 2013 civil war displaced more than four million people. A generation has now grown up in exile, inheriting mistrust it did not create. In refugee settlements, families often live in tribally clustered blocks, and many young people reach adulthood having never held a sustained conversation with a peer from another tribe. Fewer than 10% of South Sudanese youth access higher education (World Bank, 2022). Where contact is absent, stereotype fills the gap.

What we delivered

- **Peace Cultural Day (12 July 2025)** — a full-day public gathering of youth, elders, artists and community leaders, built around traditional dance, music, drama, poetry, cross-generational panel discussions and elders’ blessings. It was the first time in the settlement that this many tribes shared a single stage.
- **Two-Day Youth Empowerment Workshop (21–22 July 2025)** — intensive training for 127 youth across three pillars: identity, leadership and conflict transformation, delivered through storytelling, role-play, simulation and facilitated peer dialogue.
- **Inter-Tribal Selection Committee** — a standing body of 13 youth leaders drawn from 13 different tribes, established to govern candidate selection for the scholarship program launching in 2026 and to act as community liaisons between events.

What changed

Participant feedback, gathered through structured oral reflection rather than written survey, pointed consistently in one direction: 93% reported greater empathy toward other tribes, 87% felt more confident to lead peace efforts, 80% felt better equipped to resolve conflict, and every participant and community leader consulted asked for the program to continue. Elders who had never shared space across tribal lines joined in cross-tribal prayer and gave public blessings for peace. Several requested that the Peace Cultural Day be held two or three times a year.

“For the first time, I felt safe enough to speak as myself, not just my tribe.”

— John Pitia, a workshop participant, Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

What it cost us in effort

The programs were delivered without legal registration, without paid staff and on a volunteer budget. The team faced delays securing settlement authority approval, worked across languages with three volunteer translators, and had to overcome real community skepticism rooted in past experience of outsiders who arrived promising peace, collected money and disappeared. Trust was earned in the weeks before the events through repeated, in-person relationship building — not on the day itself.

What comes next

Three priorities carry into 2026: completing legal registration (beginning in the United States as the global base, followed by South Sudan); launching the IfP–South Sudan Scholarship and Leadership Program in 2027 with a first cohort of 10–15 students at universities in Rwanda; and returning to Kiryandongo for follow-up Peace Cultural Days in response to community demand. By 2035, the initiative aims to have trained and graduated more than 200 youth peace ambassadors representing all 64 South Sudanese tribes.

“Can peace rise from the ashes of conflict?”

Yes — and it begins with the youth.

2. About IfP–South Sudan

IfP–South Sudan is a youth-led peacebuilding and education initiative working to heal tribal division among South Sudanese communities, at home and in displacement. It was founded in 2024 by Deng Aguer Bul, a South Sudanese changemaker and UWC alumnus raised in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in Uganda and is built on a simple conviction: that the people closest to a conflict are the ones best placed to end it.

From 2027, the initiative will bring together exceptional young leaders from across South Sudan’s 64 tribes and refugee communities, fund them to study at leading universities in Rwanda, train them as peace ambassadors alongside their degrees, and support them to return home and lead reconciliation work in communities other than their own.



Peace Cultural Day, Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, 12 July 2025

Mission

To use education to foster peace and unite South Sudan by investing in its greatest asset: the youth.

Vision

A peaceful and united South Sudan shaped by a generation with the education, relationships, and leadership to build its future together.

Guiding principles

- **Unity through diversity.** We honor every tribe and tradition while building one shared nation.
- **Youth at the center.** Young people are not only the future of peacebuilding; they are the present.
- **Education as empowerment.** Degrees open doors: peace skills open minds. Together they transform communities.
- **Culture as healing.** Storytelling, traditional song and performance break cycles of pain and restore dignity.
- **From words to action.** Every scholarship recipient must design and lead a real-world peace project.

Strategic objectives

PILLAR	OBJECTIVES
Peacebuilding	Train peace ambassadors in conflict resolution, dialogue and reconciliation · Foster inter-tribal unity through shared experience and cultural exchange · Support youth-designed, community-level peace projects
Education	Provide university scholarships to underserved youth from South Sudan and refugee settlements · Integrate weekly peacebuilding workshops alongside academic study · Build global perspective through international exposure
Leadership & development	Prepare youth for leadership in governance, entrepreneurship and civil society · Build an alumni-led national network of changemakers · Uphold inclusive, transparent student selection through the Inter-Tribal Selection Committee

What makes our approach distinctive

- **By South Sudanese, for South Sudan.** Founded and led by South Sudanese youth, rooted in lived experience and cultural fluency rather than an imported template.
- **A cross-tribal cohort model.** From Dinka to Nuer, Bari to Azande, each cohort is deliberately composed to represent the full mosaic of South Sudan’s people.
- **Education and peacebuilding together.** Academic opportunity is paired with rigorous, ongoing peace training — a dual journey of mind and heart.
- **Peace projects outside your own tribe.** Every student leads a project in a community that is not their own, turning theory into tested practice.
- **Built to scale.** Each cohort feeds a growing national peace fellowship network, extending reach year on year.

3. The Context: Why We Exist

Because South Sudan’s youth deserve more than survival. They deserve unity, dignity, and the chance to shape the future they imagine.

For too long, young South Sudanese have inherited conflict before they have inherited opportunity. Raised in the shadow of war, displacement and mistrust, their potential is constrained not by geography but by division, fear and silence. Fewer than 10% access higher education. Millions remain displaced, many growing up in settlements where contact with tribes other than their own is minimal. In that environment, stereotype and trauma are transmitted more reliably than dialogue or opportunity.

And yet, in even the most fractured communities, a quiet and durable hope persists — for peace, for belonging, for a different tomorrow. IfP–South Sudan exists to convert that hope into structure.

The evidence behind our model

Our approach draws on experience from other post-conflict settings, notably Rwanda, where reconciliation programs show that when young people from divided groups live, learn and grow together during their formative years, they not only form durable personal bonds but become active agents of national healing. What distinguishes our application of that evidence is that we do not import the model wholesale. We root it in South Sudanese culture. Through dance, storytelling, music and shared tradition, peace is not introduced as a foreign concept but rediscovered as something that already belongs to our people.

Our theory of change

STAGE	WHAT HAPPENS	RESULT
Contact	Youth from historically divided tribes share a stage, a meal, a dance, a conversation.	Stereotype is interrupted by direct experience.
Skills	Participants are trained in identity, leadership and conflict transformation.	Youth can de-escalate and mediate in their own communities.
Opportunity	Scholarships place cross-tribal cohorts in shared university housing and study.	Bonds deepen from a single day into years of relationship.
Action	Every student leads a peace project outside their own tribe.	Learning is converted into visible community change.
Network	Alumni join a national peace fellowship network.	Individual change compounds into institutional influence.

The 2025 programs documented in this report tested the first two stages of that pathway. The results below informed the design of the third.

4. Our 2025 Programs

In July 2025, IfP–South Sudan moved from vision to delivery, running two connected pilot programs in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. The Peace Cultural Day opened the door; the Youth Empowerment Workshop equipped the people who walked through it.

DATE	PROGRAM	REACH
12 July 2025	Peace Cultural Day — a full-day public celebration and peacebuilding intervention	1,000+ participants, 19 tribes
21–22 July 2025	Two-Day Youth Empowerment Workshop — identity, leadership and conflict transformation training	127 youth aged 18–30, 19 tribes
July 2025	Inter-Tribal Selection Committee established	13 youth leaders, 13 tribes

The Inter-Tribal Selection Committee

Alongside the two events, the initiative established an Inter-Tribal Selection Committee of 13 youth leaders, each representing a different South Sudanese tribe: Shilluk, Acholi, Pajulu, Kakwa, Kuku, Lotuko, Nuer, Azande, Moru, Dinka, Lopit, Baka and Langeria.

The committee exists to protect the credibility of what comes next. Its first responsibilities are to set transparent criteria for student selection, conduct community-based outreach, and mobilize across tribes to identify promising young leaders for the scholarship program. Beyond recruitment, members serve as community liaisons and champions of peace between events — the mechanism through which trust, ownership and long-term sustainability are held at grassroots level rather than concentrated in the founding team.

4.1 Peace Cultural Day

Igniting unity through culture

Date	12 July 2025
Location	Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda
Participants	1,000+ attendees, including youth, elders, artists, educators and community leaders
Tribes represented	Shilluk, Acholi, Pajulu, Kakwa, Bari, Kuku, Lotuko, Nuer, Azande, Moru, Dinka, Lopit, Didinga, Baka, Apadang, Morokodo, Lokoyo, Langeria and Madi (19 in total)

The Peace Cultural Day was the first public-facing initiative of IfP–South Sudan and a deliberate act of reconciliation. More than an event, it was a statement: that peace cannot wait for a political settlement, and that South Sudan’s transformation can begin now, in the hearts of its displaced youth.

Through traditional dance, storytelling, music, drama and cross-generational conversation, participants rediscovered a shared identity and began imagining a future built not on fear but on understanding, pride and mutual respect. The day functioned simultaneously as a cultural celebration and a structured peacebuilding intervention — a safe and joyful space in which art became the bridge between people fractured by displacement, inherited trauma and years of mistrust.



Cultural performances by groups representing 12 of the 19 tribes presents

Objectives

- **Foster inter-tribal unity.** Break the barriers that divide communities and promote genuine interaction, trust and friendship.
- **Celebrate cultural diversity.** Honour the richness of South Sudanese heritage and turn cultural pride into a force for unity rather than separation.
- **Empower youth as peace ambassadors.** Equip young people with the courage, voice and vision to lead reconciliation within and beyond their communities.

- **Facilitate dialogue and healing.** Provide a safe, inclusive space for open conversation, cross-generational storytelling and the sharing of lived experience.
- **Lay the foundation for the movement.** Serve as the first visible step in launching IfP–South Sudan as a long-term, youth-led program.

Program of activities

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Cultural performances	Traditional music, dance and attire from groups representing 12 of the 19 tribes present, staged together for the first time.
“Tomorrow’s Dream”	A youth-led play tracing the journey from conflict to coexistence, written and performed by settlement youth.
Poetry slams for peace	Young poets performed original work on identity, trauma and healing.
Panel discussions	Cross-generational conversations on tribalism, unity and youth leadership in peacebuilding.
Artistic and musical showcases	Local artists used creative expression to envision a peaceful, united South Sudan.
Elders’ speeches and blessings	Tribal elders shared wisdom, offered cross-tribal prayer and publicly endorsed reconciliation.

Outcomes

- **New friendships across old divides.** For many participants it was the first time connecting beyond tribal lines. What began as hesitation ended in shared laughter and shared dance.
- **A renewed vision of peace.** Youth and elders alike described a restored belief that a peaceful South Sudan is achievable.
- **Community validation and demand.** Leaders, elders and youth called for the Peace Cultural Day to be held two or three times a year within the settlement.
- **A credible public launch.** The day established IfP–South Sudan as a community-driven force for peace, led by and for South Sudanese youth.

4.2 Two-Day Youth Empowerment Workshop

Empowering youth to lead peace from within

Dates	21–22 July 2025
Location	Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda
Participants	127 young people aged 18–30, drawn from 19 South Sudanese tribes
Curriculum pillars	Identity · Leadership · Conflict transformation
Facilitation team	Ajang Aguer (peacebuilding and conflict resolution trainer); Abraham Manyok (community reconciliation and project facilitation); Bolo Rock (youth leader, Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement). Program conceived by Deng Aguer Bul.

Nine days after the Peace Cultural Day, 127 young people reconvened for hands-on training designed to convert a moment of celebration into sustained capability. The workshop was not theoretical. It was a launchpad, equipping participants with the tools and confidence to act as peacebuilders in their own blocks, households and peer groups.



Two-Day Youth Empowerment Workshop, 21–22 July 2025

PILLAR ONE · IDENTITY: RECLAIMING OUR STORY

Participants examined the roots of bias, tribal identity and inherited trauma. For many, it was the first structured opportunity to reflect on who they are beyond tribe, status or place of origin. Through storytelling and facilitated dialogue, they located a shared humanity and began building trust across tribal lines.

“For the first time, I felt safe enough to speak as myself, not just my tribe.”

— John Pitia, a workshop participant

PILLAR TWO · LEADERSHIP: BUILDING COURAGEOUS SERVANT LEADERS

The workshop challenged participants to redefine leadership as service, empathy and courage under pressure. Through real-life simulations, group challenges and reflective journaling, each participant identified their own leadership style and strengths, and made a personal pledge to lead change in their community with integrity and compassion.

“Leadership starts with listening. That’s the kind of leader I want to be.”

— Achol Wal, a workshop participant

PILLAR THREE · CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION: EQUIPPING PEACEBUILDERS

Through role-play, simulation and peer dialogue, participants learned to de-escalate conflict, navigate group tension and mediate disputes. They practiced restorative communication, empathy-building exercises and community-based resolution strategies — tools they can now use to interrupt violence and restore harmony in their homes and neighborhoods.

Outcomes

- 127 youth trained in conflict resolution, cross-tribal dialogue and transformational leadership.
- New inter-tribal friendships formed across ethnic lines, with stereotypes tested and broken in real time.
- Commitments made by participants to take part in future peace projects and campaigns.
- A safe, cross-cultural space created for open discussion of identity, belonging and shared futures.

This was not the conclusion. It was the commissioning.

5. Impact and Results

The 2025 programs brought more than 1,000 displaced South Sudanese from 19 tribes together to learn, dance, talk and lead. Turnout, however, is an input rather than an outcome. What the team set out to measure was emotional change: shifts in empathy, confidence and readiness to lead peace.

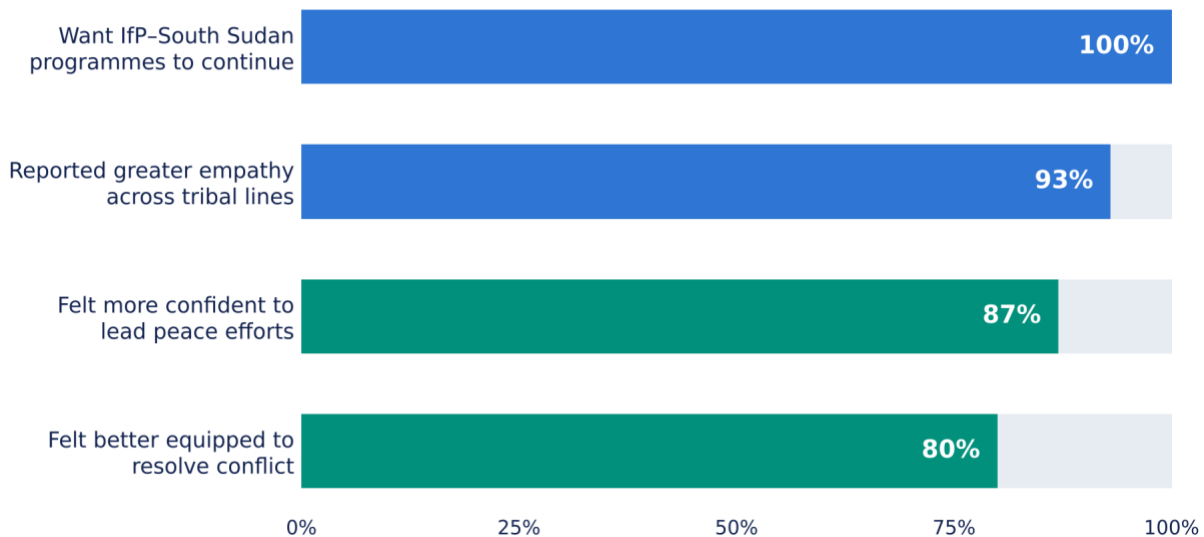
How we measured impact

In a setting where literacy levels vary widely and written surveys can feel bureaucratic or culturally inappropriate, the team chose participatory oral methods. Feedback was collected through:

- Facilitated verbal reflection and group discussion at the close of each session.
- Testimonies from participants, including performers, workshop attendees and panellists.
- Spontaneous speeches made by youth and elders during the Peace Cultural Day.
- One-to-one follow-up conversations with youth leaders and cultural group coordinators.

Responses were prompted by four simple questions, asked consistently: whether participants felt more empathy toward people from other tribes; whether they felt more confident in their leadership; whether they felt better equipped to resolve conflict; and whether they wanted IfP–South Sudan programs to continue. The team tallied recurring themes, strong affirmations and direct responses to arrive at the figures below.

Participant feedback

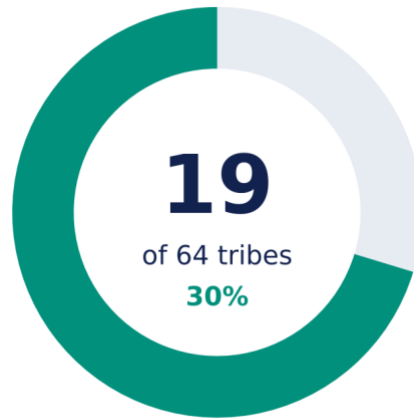


Self-reported change among participants, Peace Cultural Day and Youth Empowerment Workshop, July 2025

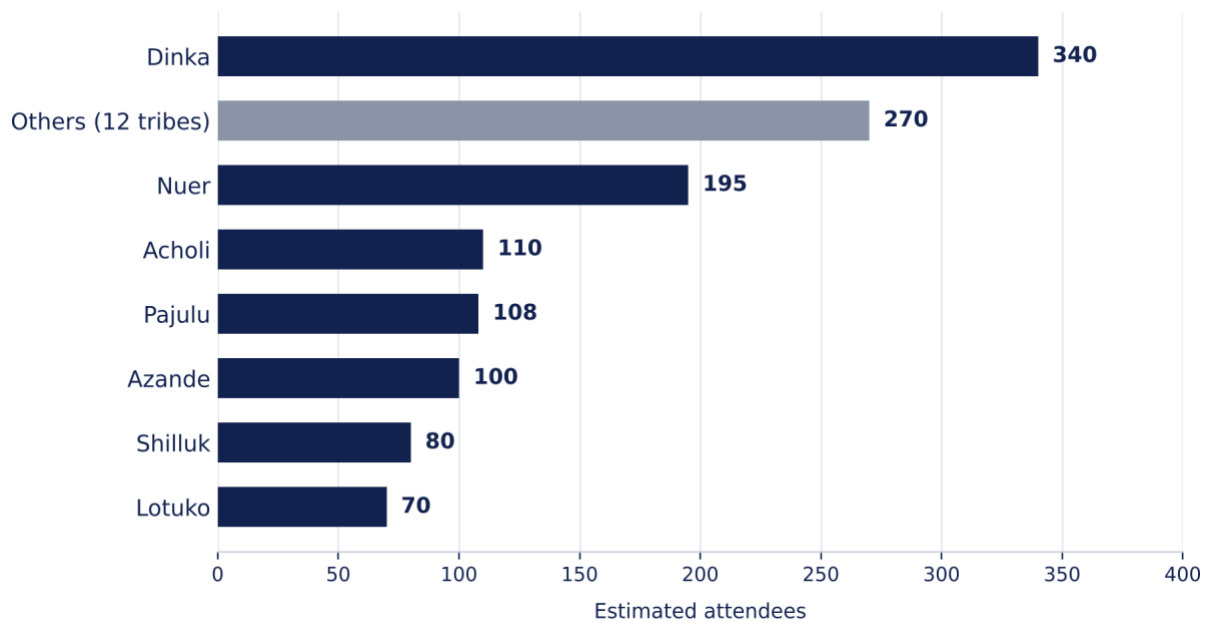
INDICATOR	RESULT	WHAT PARTICIPANTS TOLD US
Empathy across tribes	93%	Participants described powerful emotional shifts after sharing stories and dances with peers from other tribes — for many, a first — and recognized shared values and humanity.
Confidence to lead peace	87%	After the identity and leadership sessions, youth described a stronger sense of purpose and voiced clear intentions to carry the learning into their communities and peer circles.
Equipped to resolve conflict	80%	Through scenario-based learning and peer dialogue, youth reported better command of non-violent communication, de-escalation and mediation tools.
Want programs to continue	100%	Every participant and community leader consulted asked for the Peace Cultural Day to return; many requested two or three times a year.

Tribal representation

Nineteen of South Sudan’s 64 tribes were represented across the two programs — 30% of the country’s tribal groups, gathered in a single refugee settlement. They included youth, elders and community leaders, many of whom had never previously shared cultural space with one another. This is the result the team considers most significant: not the size of the crowd, but its composition.



19 of South Sudan’s 64 tribes represented



Estimated attendance by tribal group, Peace Cultural Day. “Others” aggregates the twelve remaining tribes present. Figures are headcount estimates recorded by coordinators on the day.

Interpretation and limitations

These results show an initiative that is not simply convening events but shifting mindsets. They should nonetheless be read with the following caveats, which the team states plainly in the interest of credibility:

- **Self-reported and non-anonymous.** Feedback was given verbally, often in group settings, which can encourage positive responses. The figures capture stated experience, not independently verified behavior change.
- **No baseline or control.** Pre- and post-program measurement was not conducted, so change cannot be attributed with statistical confidence.
- **Estimated percentages.** Figures were derived by tallying recurring themes and affirmations rather than by counting responses to a standardized instrument.
- **Short time horizon.** Feedback was gathered during and immediately after the programs. Durability of change has not yet been tested.

The method was chosen deliberately: it produced honest, culturally appropriate insight rooted in lived experience, at a time when the initiative had no budget for formal evaluation. From 2026, IfP–South Sudan will introduce a simple pre- and post-program measurement tool, disaggregate participation data by gender and age, and follow a sample of participants at three and six months to test whether these shifts hold.

6. Success Drivers, Challenges and Lessons Learned

The 2025 programs succeeded because of specific, repeatable choices — and were constrained by equally specific gaps. Both are set out here so that partners can judge the work accurately and so the team can hold itself to what it has learned.

What drove our success

- **A community-led design process.** Before the first invitation was sent, the team listened. Informal consultation with youth, elders and community leaders shaped the program around their hopes and concerns, giving both events legitimacy and local ownership from day one.
- **Deep cultural relevance.** The initiative was rooted in South Sudanese culture rather than imported wholesale. Every element felt familiar yet transformative, allowing participants to experience peace as something that belongs to them.
- **Trust built in advance.** For weeks beforehand, the team invested in relationships across tribal and generational lines. Outreach, humility and physical presence earned the confidence of local leaders long before mobilization began.
- **Volunteer commitment.** With minimal resources, volunteers — youth coordinators, dancers, translators — became the initiative’s greatest asset, executing every detail and setting the atmosphere of the day.
- **A safe and inclusive space.** Tribes were named to be celebrated, not shamed. Co-created ground rules, cultural icebreakers and skilled facilitation kept difficult conversations respectful, giving participants the confidence to speak openly.
- **A clear, bold purpose.** The gathering was for transformation, not entertainment. Every activity, from poetry to panel discussion, was designed to rebuild empathy — which gave the day seriousness and depth.

What challenged us

CHALLENGE	WHAT HAPPENED	HOW WE ARE RESPONDING
Legal and structural gaps	Operating as an unregistered initiative caused delays in securing settlement authority approval and created planning uncertainty.	Persistence, community backing and support from partner organizations earned the authorities’ trust. Registration is now the top organizational priority.
Language and accessibility	With 19 tribes present, participants did not share a common language.	Three skilled translators fluent in English, Arabic and at least one local language each enabled communication on the day. Clearer multilingual planning is required at scale.
Community skepticism	Some leaders and elders were initially hesitant about a youth-led peace initiative, shaped by past experience of outsiders who promised peace, collected money and disappeared.	Sustained in-person engagement and visible delivery converted skepticism into public endorsement. Transparency and financial accountability remain central to maintaining it.
Resource constraints	The programs were delivered on a volunteer basis with no core funding or paid staff.	Securing grant and individual funding is a 2026 priority, alongside strengthening the core team.

What we learned

- **Creative space unlocks healing.** Safe environments infused with culture and creativity are not decorative; they are the precondition for emotional processing and dialogue. When youth feel seen, they begin to see others.
- **Relationships must be sustained.** One-off events spark connection, but lasting change requires long-term engagement — which validates the cross-tribal university fellowship model now in development.
- **Youth have the will; they need the way.** The willingness to lead and bridge divides is already strong. The gap is mentorship, training and platforms — which is where the initiative must concentrate.
- **The deepest divides are sustained by silence.** Many participants said this was the first time they had shared a stage with someone from another tribe in a celebratory setting. Decades of mistrust were built on absence, not interaction — and absence can be reversed faster than expected.
- **Unity can be celebratory, not solemn.** Peace does not arrive only through negotiation and roundtables. Collective healing often begins in laughter, music and shared movement — which is exactly what the Peace Cultural Day unlocked.

7. Governance and Accountability

This section states the organization’s current position honestly rather than aspirationally, so that partners can see both what is already in place and what is still being built.

Legal status

At the time of the 2025 programs, IfP–South Sudan operated as an unregistered community initiative. Registration is now the organization’s highest structural priority and will proceed in phases: first in the United States as the global base, then in Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan. This sequencing ensures legal compliance, funding eligibility and uninterrupted delivery across the region.

Leadership and structure

The initiative is led by a core team of South Sudanese changemakers, supported by facilitators drawn from the settlement community and governed at grassroots level by the Inter-Tribal Selection Committee.

NAME	ROLE
Deng Aguer Bul	Founder and Executive Director — South Sudanese changemaker and UWC alumnus, raised in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement
Abraham Manyok	Program Director — community reconciliation and project facilitation
Daruka Pantheer	Partnerships and Development Lead — partner relationships, outreach and fundraising
Dut Jessino Dau	Peace Arts and Theatre Lead — creative programming, performance and storytelling for peace

BODY	COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITY
Program facilitation team (2025)	Ajang Aguer (peacebuilding and conflict resolution); Bolo Rock (youth mobilization, Kiryandongo), alongside the core team
Inter-Tribal Selection Committee	13 youth leaders from 13 South Sudanese tribes; responsible for selection criteria, outreach and community liaison

Stewardship of resources

The 2025 programs were delivered on a minimal budget, sustained largely by volunteer labor and in-kind community contribution. Direct costs were met through small individual contributions, and the donated time of coordinators, performers, facilitators and translators carried the rest. No participant was charged to attend either program, and no funds were solicited from the community.

Full financial records for the period are maintained by the founding team and are available to prospective funders, partners and settlement authorities on request, together with detailed budgets for the programs planned for 2026 and 2027.

Additional funding will be directed to the following priorities, in this order:

PRIORITY	PURPOSE
1. Scholarship fund	Fully funded university places in Rwanda for the first cohort of 10–15 students — tuition, accommodation and living costs.
2. Student peace projects	Small grants enabling each student to design and deliver a cross-tribal peace project outside their own community.
3. Organizational core costs	Registration, core staffing, website and application system, and monitoring and evaluation.
4. Follow-up Peace Cultural Days	Up to two community events per year in Kiryandongo, in response to community demand.
5. Peacebuilding curriculum	Weekly workshops, facilitator time and materials delivered alongside students' degrees.

Our accountability commitments for 2026

As the initiative moves to managing scholarships and donor funds, it commits to the following before the first cohort is selected:

- **Safeguarding and child protection policy**, written, with a named focal point and a clear reporting route.
- **Informed consent for photography and testimony**, recorded in writing, with the freedom to decline.
- **Transparent selection**. Published criteria applied by the Inter-Tribal Selection Committee, with a documented appeals route.
- **Financial controls**. Dual authorization for expenditure, receipts retained, and an annual financial summary prepared for funders and partners.
- **Gender inclusion**. Participation data disaggregated by gender, and a stated gender-balance target for the first cohort.
- **Data protection**. Participant details stored securely and never shared without consent.

8. Strategic Roadmap 2025–2035

Building peace from the inside out

Short-term goals (2025–2028)

Laying the groundwork for scale by strengthening structure, visibility and early program delivery.

PRIORITY	WHAT WE WILL DO	TIMELINE
Legal registration	Register IfP–South Sudan in the United States as the global base, then sequentially in South Sudan and maybe Rwanda and Uganda	2026–2027
Governance	Strengthen the core team and put in place a clear governance framework covering roles, decision-making and financial oversight.	2026
Funding	Apply for grants, run targeted fundraising campaigns and secure dedicated support for the Scholarship and Leadership Program.	2026 onwards
Digital infrastructure	Finalize the official website and build an online scholarship application system.	2026
Scholarship launch	Select 10–15 promising youth leaders from diverse tribes as the first cohort for a fully funded university program in Rwanda.	2027
Leadership curriculum	Deliver weekly workshops on identity, leadership, conflict transformation and social innovation alongside students' degrees.	2027 onwards
Student peace projects	Support students to design and lead cross-tribal peace projects outside their own community, executed during long holidays.	2028 onwards
Community engagement	Host follow-up Peace Cultural Days in Kiryandongo, up to twice a year, in response to community demand.	2027 onwards
Committee expansion	Broaden the Inter-Tribal Selection Committee to include representatives of additional tribes, working toward full national representation.	2027–2028
Partnerships	Formalize collaboration with colleges, universities, NGOs and donors to sustain scholarships and delivery.	Ongoing

Long-term goals (2028–2040)

GOAL	AMBITION
Train and graduate 1000+ youth peace ambassadors	Engage students from all 64 South Sudanese tribes, creating a genuinely national network of leaders.
Establish the National Youth Peace Fellowship Network	Unite alumni and partners to collaborate on peacebuilding projects and influence policy at local and national level.
Launch annual Inter-Tribal Youth Peace Summits in South Sudan	Create a high-profile platform for young leaders to share solutions, collaborate and showcase cultural unity.
Build the first youth-led Center for Peace and Dialogue in South Sudan	A permanent hub for training, dialogue, research and cross-tribal collaboration.
Expand regionally across East Africa	Replicate the Peace Cultural Day and Empowerment Workshop model in other refugee settlements in Uganda and Kenya where South Sudanese communities are concentrated.



Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, July 2025

9. Acknowledgments

The Peace Cultural Day and the Two-Day Youth Empowerment Workshop were not the achievement of one organization. They were collective achievements, made possible by the commitment of many.

TO THE YOUTH

Your courage to step into the unknown, to share your voices and to stand hand-in-hand with peers from across tribal lines has been the heartbeat of this initiative. You have shown that leadership is not a matter of age or title, but of action, empathy and vision.

TO THE ELDERS

Your blessings, wisdom and openness to a new generation's leadership gave these programs cultural depth and legitimacy. In your words and actions, you reminded us that peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of understanding.

TO COMMUNITY LEADERS AND PARTNERS

From mobilizing participants to facilitating dialogue and providing logistical support, your dedication ensured that every detail served the larger mission. Your collaboration is proof that combined resources, ideas and commitment can overcome even the deepest divides.

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND ARTISTS

Your talents turned these gatherings into celebrations of unity. Through dance, music, theatre and poetry, you transformed messages of peace into experiences that touched hearts and inspired hope.

TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Your generosity — financial, in-kind, or simply in sharing our vision — made this work possible. Some of you gave from afar and others from within the community, but each act of giving was a seed planted in the soil of peace.

We extend particular thanks to Kathy O'Brien, James Shillabeer, Mrs. Olatundun Janet Adelegan, Abraham Manyok, Cathy Jones, Jill Kaplan, Dr. Alan R. Watkinson, Faith Abiodun, Katherine Cranes, Videep Agarwal, John Godfrey, Melissa Kwee and Ashima Thomas. Your mentorship, encouragement and belief in this vision guided us at every step.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who trusted us, worked alongside us, and believed that peace is possible. Together, we have taken the first step in a much longer journey.

10. How to Get Involved

The journey to a peaceful, united South Sudan has only just begun. The milestones in this report are proof of what is possible when communities work together — but sustaining and expanding that impact requires collective effort.

WAY TO HELP	WHAT IT MAKES POSSIBLE
Support financially	Expand the scholarship and leadership program, fund further Peace Cultural Days, and train the next generation of peace ambassadors.
Partner with us	Collaborate on program delivery, resource sharing, training and outreach to maximize reach and impact.
Offer your expertise	Contribute skills in peacebuilding, education, cultural exchange, monitoring and evaluation, or project management.
Spread the word	Amplify this work across your networks and introduce us to people who can help it grow.

Detailed program budgets and financial records are available to prospective funders and partners on request. We would be glad to discuss where support would make the greatest difference.

Contact us

Email	info@ifpsouthsudan.org deng@ifpsouthsudan.org
WhatsApp	+1 (813) 507-3387
Website	In development — launching 2026
Social media	Facebook · Instagram · LinkedIn — IfP–South Sudan
Location	Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda



Peace Cultural Day, Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, 12 July 2025

Initiative for Peace – South Sudan
Educating Youth · Building Trust · Bridging Divides