

WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

JANUARY - MARCH, 2011

DEMOCRATIC TRANSITIONS IN WEST AFRICA: A YEAR OF ELECTIONS



WANEP is a leading Regional Peacebuilding organization founded in 1998 in response to civil wars that plagued West Africa in the late 1980s. We place special focus on collaborative approach, working alongside major actors, particularly governments, intergovernmental bodies and women in a bid to establish a platform for dialogue, experience sharing and learning, thereby complementing efforts at ensuring sustainable peace and development.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA

The first quarter of 2011 saw the organization of three relatively peaceful elections: presidential in Benin, Niger and legislative elections Cape Verde, amidst the degenerating security and humanitarian situation in Cote d'Ivoire due to the post-electoral crisis following the 28 November, 2010 run-off.

In the following quarters of 2011, Nigeria, Cape Verde, Liberia and Gambia will organize their presidential elections. The West Africa sub-region is at present grappling with the challenges of organizing credible and peaceful elections. Indeed, democratic transitions are increasing the risk for political instability in many countries in West Africa.

Nigerians braced themselves for a possible post-election violence as polling day drew closer. The contest of the election would be between the incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan and the former military ruler, Muhamadu Buhari.

In Liberia, the political atmosphere is heating up as the country prepares for presidential elections In October 2011.

In 2010, Guinea narrowly escaped a post-election violence of the scale of Cote d'Ivoire. The post-elections crisis in Cote d'Ivoire saw no signs of abetting, leaving the use of force as the only option. The country is bordering on the edge of a civil war. Various diplomatic efforts at the level of ECOWAS and the AU and the International Community as well as CSOs, to talk President Gbagbo into handing over power to the internationally-recognized winner of the presidential elections, Mr. Alassane Dramane Ouattara, have failed.

Alongside the political tension in Cote d'Ivoire, neighbouring Burkina Faso grappled with violent protests since February following the death of a student in the hands of security agencies after being abducted. The protests had led to closure of schools at all the levels. The security forces had also gone on protest to demand better conditions of service.

WANEP REGIONAL SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

General Assembly

WANEP organized its General Assembly in Accra from

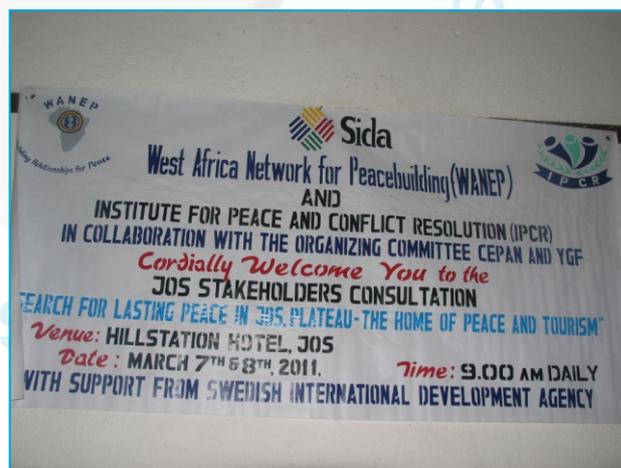


January 22-25 2011. The theme was “Developing National Capacities for Early Warning and Early Response: An



effective mechanism for sustaining the Africa Year of Peace and Security”. The 2011 General Assembly brought together the head of each of the 15 national networks of WANEP across West Africa. Issues relating to governance, accountability and future of the networks were addressed.

Dialogue Design Meeting for Jos Conflict in Abuja



WANEP in collaboration with Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution held a preparatory roundtable in Abuja on February 3-4, 2011 to design and develop strategies for the initiation of a dialogue process amongst the warring communities in Jos Plateau.

ECOWARN Coordination Meeting

Within the framework of WANEP's partnership with ECOWAS, the first ECOWARN Coordination Meeting for the first semester took place in the Gambia from 7 to 11 February 2011. The Coordination meeting brought together 45 participants from the 15 West African countries representing the ECOWAS Early Warning Department (EWD), Government and CSOs Focal Points as



well as key WANEP regional secretariat staff. The ECOWAS team was led by the Acting Director of EWD, Ms. Florence Iheme, and the Executive Director of WANEP, Mr. Emmanuel Bombande led the CSOs delegates. The meeting reviewed the updated version of the reporting format and a training was conducted on the new features of the ECOWARN systems.

Agro-Pastoral Conflict Consultation

Farmer-pastoralist conflict across West Africa, particularly the Sahel region has become intractable. WANEP organized a 2 day consultative workshop in Burkina Faso on February 22-23 2011 with the support of the Finland Government, bringing together experts, conflict managers and representatives of farmers and pastoralists from



Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, and Niger. The workshop examined the factors contributing to the intractability of the agro-pastoralists conflicts and discussed issues and priorities for intervention to address the core issues.

The Jos Dialogue Process

Following the Dialogue Design Workshop in Abuja, WANEP in collaboration with the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) in Abuja, Nigeria and CEPAN with support from **SIDA**, organized a two (2) day Dialogue Meeting bringing together leaders of the aggrieved communities to start a dialogue process.



The leaders of the aggrieved communities committed themselves to the dialogue process and made recommendations towards addressing finding common ground towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Elections Observation in Benin

WANEP was invited by ECOWAS to join its election observation mission for the March 13th Presidential elections in Benin. Five WANEP staff drawn from the regional secretariat, its Togo and Cote d'Ivoire offices took part in the mission. Voting was observed as peaceful, orderly and transparent.

Baseline Data Collection for the WARHD Project

Following the renewal of the West Africa Human Rights and Democratization (WAHRD) project sponsored by IBIS-West Africa for another five-year period (2010-2014), WANEP led the data collection exercise in Burkina Faso in March 2011 as part of a process to establish baseline information for the project implementation.

The baseline survey is expected to establish the current situation in relation to human rights, democratization and

peacebuilding in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone so as to be able to monitor and evaluate changes or results that could be attributed to WAHRD interventions.

Roundtable Discussion with Dr. Toshiya Hoshino –

Dr. Toshiya Hoshino, Professor at Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP), Osaka University held a roundtable discussion on 3rd March 2011 at the regional office of WANEP at the request of the Japan Embassy in Ghana. Dr. Hoshino delivered a presentation on the topic



'Japan's Role in Human Security and Peacebuilding in West Africa' Present at the roundtable discussion were staff of WANEP, the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) and the Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA).

Debriefing with ECOWAS

WANEP held a debriefing session with the Early Warning Directorate (EWD) of ECOWAS on the 11th of March 2011 in Abuja, Nigeria. The two institutions had extensive discussions on the political stalemate in Cote d'Ivoire amongst other administrative and technical issues.

Meeting with CRS Vice President

On 31st March 2011, the Vice President of CRS, Mr. Bill Rastetter, met with WANEP regional secretariat as part of his visit to selected countries in Africa. The meeting was to

renew partnership with WANEP and identify new areas for collaboration. WANEP presented a citation to Mr. Rastetter in recognition of his contributions and support to WANEP and its national networks in West Africa.

Meeting with Partners – MacArthur and Finland

WANEP met with Dr. Shetima, Director of the Africa Office of the MacArthur Foundation in Abuja and Ms. Anneli Vuorinen, Permanent Representative of Finland to ECOWAS and Ambassador of Finland to Benin, Ghana, Liberia and Senegal on 10 to 11 March in Abuja to discuss about the partnerships.

Support to National Networks

Through the SIDA grant, the Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET) program received a boost. The program supported women in peacebuilding activities in Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Togo. The various activities conducted at national level included the commemoration of the International Women's Day in Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia and Liberia. Women in Cote d'Ivoire focused on sensitizing the population in the hot spots of the crisis on and how women can be involved in the peace process in the Ivorian crisis.

Peace Education Program

Through the SIDA grant, the peace education programs in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Togo and Cote d'Ivoire received support. In Nigeria, the support enabled the network to review its existing peace education program in Enugu, South East Nigeria and conduct a refresher training for teachers in the 12 schools of the pilot program. In Sierra Leone, a review meeting and refresher training was organized for selected pupils and teachers from the Western and Eastern regions. The training in Ghana drew participants from Community Youth and women leaders from the conflict zone in Dagbon in the Northern region to promote non-violence strategies for conflict resolution as the region battles with restoring lasting peace in that part of Ghana. Togo undertook a month-long peace education campaign on non-violence in primary schools in the Casablanca suburb of Lomé under a project entitled "the Seeds of Peace of Casablanca".

WANEP NATIONAL NETWORKS ACTIVITIES

WANEP-BENIN

Press Conferences

WANEP-BENIN held many press conferences during the period under review on various themes. In January two press conferences were held in Parakou and Cotonou on the state of preparedness towards the presidential and legislative elections. In February in Cotonou a press conference was organised demanding that citizens' concerns about the computerised voting register LEPI be taken into consideration. In March in Cotonou, a press conference was held to demand the report on the voters' register.

Another press conference was organised in Cotonou advising for a postponement of the voters' register, and to present the report on the project PEACE-Benin of FORSELECTIONS.

Alongside the press conference, WANEP-BENIN issued several communiqués and statements

Annual General Meeting of WANEP-Bénin

On 15th January, WANEP-Bénin organised its AGM. The objectives of the AGM were to review and adopt the annual report (narrative and financial), admit new members, renew the mandate of the Board, and revise sections of the constitution.



Institutional assessment of WANEP-Benin by the regional network coordinator

In March, WANEP-Benin had an institutional assessment carried out by WANEP Regional. The assessment covered administrative, financial and the viability of the organisation. At the end of the meeting, recommendations were made to the national coordinator to strengthen the visibility and credibility of WANEP in

Benin.

Exchange visit of UNOWA delegation

On March 18, 2011, WANEP-Benin received Mr Mohamed Jalloh of the mediation unit of the United Nations Mission for Africa (UNOWA). Mr Mohamed JALLOH discussed with the Board of Directors and the Secretariat of WANEP-Benin, the prospects of collaborating with civil society organizations operating in governance, peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

"Front view" project in partnership with Global Network for Disasters Reduction (GNDR)

Through this partnership, WANEP-BENIN organised on January 10, 2011 a workshop to launch the project of action-research "Front view" on the role of the local administration in disaster risk reduction in Benin. Twenty-five representatives of NGOs involved in the project participated in this training.



WANEP-CI

Final report on elections observation

In January, WANEP-CI finalised and published the final report on their elections observation in Cote d'Ivoire.

Radio Programme on social cohesion

A radio drama as well as public announcement on social cohesion was aired on 3 radio stations located in hot spots of Abidjan, Abobo and Yopougon as well as in Duekoue in the West of the country from January to March.

In search of peaceful solutions to the post-electoral crisis

In order to find peaceful solutions for the post electoral

crisis, the women for peace platform of CI including WIPNET met with many stakeholders. They held meetings with Général Kassaraté, the commandant of the National Gendarmerie on 12 January 2011; a meeting with women of RHDP on 12 January; a meeting with the humanitarian coordinator and the special representative of ONUCI; and a meeting with the patriotic women of LMP on 20 January.

17th Meeting of GIMAC (Gender Is My Agenda Campaign) at the AU

During this meeting on gender equality in the AU held in Addis Ababa, the recommendations of Ivorian women were taken into consideration and integrated in the recommendations of GIMAC. These recommendations were discussed during the head of States Summit on 30-31 January.

Workshop on negotiation, mediation and conflict resolution



10 women from the platform of women's organisations working for peace benefited from a training in Addis Abeba on 26-27 January. All participants were sponsored by UNIFEM in CI in collaboration with Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS).

Advocacy of the platform of women's organisations working for peace during the Heads of State Summit

On 30-31 January, two members of the platform of women including the NNC of WANEP-CI carried out lobbying work during the Heads of States Summit in Addis Abeba.

Press conference of women who participated in the Addis Ababa Training

Upon return to CI, the participants of the workshop in Addis on negotiation, mediation and conflict resolution organised a press conference to inform the entire nation and the international community on its activities and suggestions to end the post-electoral crisis. The national and international press was present at this important press conference held on 8 February

Meeting with the High level Panel of the Africa Union

Many CSOs including WANEP-CI were received by the High Panel of Heads of States sent by the AU on 8 February to find a way out of the post electoral crisis.

Call for a humanitarian intervention

On 17 January, WANEP-CI, RAIDH and WACSOF made a statement calling upon the UN to intervene on the humanitarian crisis faced by the country.

WANEP-CAPE VERDE

WANEP-Cape Verde was officially launched in October 2010 at the instance of its constitutive general assembly that was organized in Praia. A five-member Board of Directors was inaugurated and a Coordinator recruited to manage the operational affairs of the National Secretariat. In view of addressing administrative and programmatic issues of WANEP-Cape Verde, the board of directors had their first statutory meeting on January 15th. As outcomes, the meeting designated the board chair and the NNC as delegates to WANEP General Assembly and decided on the priority areas to focus on in terms of addressing peace and security matters in the country. Directives were given to the secretariat to develop programmes and or projects in three thematic areas: 1) on narcotic drugs and the proliferation of small arms 2) youth delinquency and 3) violence against women. The priority areas were selected based on the priorities that were identified as risk factors in a conflict mapping exercise carried out in May 2010.

During the quarter under review the National Network Coordinator of WANEP-Cape Verde, **Mrs. Judite Medina** and the Chair of the Board of Directors, **Mrs. Lourença Tavares** attended the WANEP biennial general assembly in Accra, Ghana from January 24th – 28th. Their participation made it possible for them to understand WANEP better; its philosophy, operational structure through the presentations of regional and national

reports and experience sharing of other networks. On February 16th WANEP-CV submitted all relevant documents and an application to be registered as a network and received its registration certificate on the same day. This has legitimized its existence and will facilitate access to local funds for its activities. An office has been rented and a bank account opened to facilitate financial transactions safely.

The National Network Coordinator attended a training of trainers from February 11th to March 5th on the theme *gender and family* organized by the Centre for Investigation and Training in Gender and Family and the University of Cape Verde (CIGEF/UNICV) in partnership with the Institute for Gender Equality and Equity of Cape Verde (ICIEG). The training deepened the understanding of participants on the notion and concept of gender, its history and stereotypes and the consequences of gender based violence.

WANEP-GAMBIA

Signing of EU Non-State Actors (EU/NSA) Strengthening Programme Project

WANEP-Gambia on February 10th 2011 signed a contract with EU/NSA Strengthening Programme in The Gambia for the implementation of one year project on “**Effective Local Government for Peace building and Sustainable Development**”. The objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of personnel of three local government authority, councillors and the communities on Local Government Act 2000 and its 2006 Amendment, peace building and mediation.

United Nations Development Fund Project (UNDEF)

Following months of negotiation, WANEP-Gambia finally got approval for the UNDEF project to be implemented in two year. The objective of the project is “**Promoting democratic principles to enhance the electoral process in The Gambia within a framework of gender equity for sustainable democracy and peaceful co-existence**”. This project is expected to enhance the participation of women in the governance process of the Gambia.

Grant and Financial Management Training

As a project beneficiary, WANEP-Gambia participated in a training organised by the EU Non-State Actors Strengthening Programme Management Unit (NSAPMU-the Gambia) on Grant and Financial Management from 21st February to 25th 2011. The training was to orientate

beneficiary about the funding requirements of the project for better project delivery and optimum financial management.

Open Forum in Kerewan, North Bank Region

On Tuesday 8th March, 2011, WANEP-Gambia joined the rest of the world to celebrate International Women's Day. This open forum availed WANEP-Gambia, its local partners, participants and the regional authorities an opportunity to reflect on the status of women in the world and particularly the Gambia, by highlighting their contributions, achievements, plights as well as their limitations in terms of the promotion of gender equality and empowerment at all levels.

The occasion was seized as an opportunity to popularize the 2010 National Women's Act of The Gambia among grassroot communities

Training of Trainers on Women in Peace Building

WANEP-Gambia as part of its activities marking International Women's Day, organised a training of trainers (TOT) for 30 community members with a mixed regional representation of three women and two men drawn from all regions of the country from 9-12 March 2011 at the Agriculture and Rural Farmer Training Center (ARFTC), Jenoi, Lower River Region. Participants to the training were from the communities and among them were teachers, health workers, media personnel, community development workers, community-based organization representatives, staff of local government authorities and women's groups. The opening session of the training was presided over by the regional governor Lower River Region Mr. Lamin Waa Juwara.

At the end of the training, participants agreed to establish peace networks in each of the five regions

Advocacy Missions and Courtesy Calls on the Line Ministries, Departments and Institutions country wide

WANEP-Gambia in March 2011, paid courtesy calls to key stakeholders of the the EU project. Visit was made to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Lands, Chairperson, Regional Governors of Central River Region and Lower River Region. The briefing sessions were meant to inform and solicit the support of these key partners for the successful implementation of the EU/NSA project.

Baseline Study

As part of the activities implemented under the EU/NSA

project, a consultancy was negotiated and signed to undertake a baseline study. The baseline seeks to establish the capacity gaps and training needs of the three local government authorities and their level of awareness regarding the Local Government Act as well as conflict issues in the communities. The study will span a month to be followed by a validation workshop. The final report will serve as a baseline for project implementation phase.

WANEP-GHANA

Publication of Emergency Numbers

Under the Ghana Alert Project (GAP), a number of activities were implemented. They included the publication of toll free lines, short codes and hotlines for the purpose of getting the general public to report issues that threaten peace and human security. This was done in the daily graphic and on Ghana Television (GTV). The first publication was on the 29th of December 2010 and the second publication in January 2011. The last publication for the quarter appeared on the 2nd of March edition of the Daily Graphic. An average of 3 people called in a day to find out more information about how the system operates.

Radio Discussions

As part of the activities of GAP Community Project, radio discussions were held in all the 5 regions that WANEP-Ghana was operating. Topics discussed were on security threats gathered by the Early Warning System. Topics included the need for peace and calm during the festive seasons (the Bugum festival in Dagbon), increasing rate of road accidents and fire outbreaks, possession and use of small arms. The public were made to phone-in to contribute and also for clarifications. The discussions were held in local languages: Kusaal, Gurune, Wale, Dagaare ,Twi, Ewe, Dagbanli, and Gonja.

Executive Committee Meeting

An Executive Committee meeting was held on the 3rd to 5th February 2011 at Arewa Sunshine Hotel in Tamale. Those present were the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and two other members, and the National Network Coordinator who is the secretary to the EC. Discussions centred on the EC previous meeting follow ups, the 2010 Annual report that highlighted the activities implemented in 2010, the previous EGM Action Points in preparation towards the 2011 AGM etc. Other discussions focused on the need for a strategic plan to guide the organization and the proposed amendments to the WANEP-GHANA constitution for harmonization with that of WANEP Regional as well as the

election of new EC.

INGO forum in Tamale

In order to improve the usage of the Early Warning System a forum was organized for INGO's and some CSO's on the operations of the EWS and their inputs on how the system can be made to serve its purpose. The forum was held on the 1st of March 2011 at Radach Memorial Centre with 20 INGOs, CSOs and the media under the theme "strengthening GHANAWARN: a collaborative effort".

WANEP-GHANA AGM 2011

An AGM was held on the 16th to 17th March 2011 at GILLBT Guesthouse in Tamale. It was held for 45 member organizations. The opening ceremony was graced by the Deputy Regional minister. The WANEP Regional Secretariat was represented. Some constitutional amendments were made and a draft of a 5-year strategic plan was presented by the consultant. A new Executive Committee was elected into office.

Training for Women and Youth in Dagbon

A two-day capacity development workshop was organized for women and youth of Dagbon. It was to train participants on peacebuilding and identification and reporting of signs of violence or threats to the community for rapid response. The training was for 30 women from Dagbon and the 30 youth from conflict hotspots in Tamale Metropolis and Yendi Municipality. Sponsors of the training were the Canadian High Commission, SIDA through WANEP Regional and Sustainable Peace Initiative (SPI).

WANEP-GHANA Strategic Plan Meeting

It was agreed that the organization needed a strategic plan to guide it for the next five years. To achieve this and with financial support from Christian Aid, a meeting was held from the 3rd to 4th March 2011. Representation was from 4 Regional chapters, EC members and staff of the secretariat. The meeting revisited the organizations values, vision and mission and key strategies to use to achieve the organizations goals.

Harmattan School

WANEP-GHANA delivered a presentation on the topic "GHANAWARN and the realization of SADA objectives" at the 2011 Harmattan School Series under the theme "bridging the development gap between southern and the northern Ghana: the prospects and challenges of the

Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA)". The presentation was to showcase WANEP Ghana and its early warning system in reducing violent conflicts in the north with a view to enhance development in the Northern part of Ghana.

WANEP-GUINEA

The key highlight for WANEP-Guinea in this quarter is the restructuring process that was started in January 2011. This was to implement the decision of the Regional Board of Directors of WANEP and the General Assembly to handover the running of the affairs of WANEP-Guinea to the Regional Secretariat. The decision further clarified the transformative directives to include the recruitment of a new National Network Coordinator, organization of a General Assembly and with it the election of a new board. The call for application for the recruitment of the NNC started in March and was posted on strategic locations and offices of national and international NGOs in Guinea, UN agencies and other public vantage points. The preparation is also well advanced to organize the general assembly alongside the recruitment in the next quarter. However, In order to sustain partnerships with WANEP-Guinea's strategic partners at national level, the implementation of the UNDP project on dialogue and reconciliation continued and efforts are underway to develop further projects with UNDP while the process of renewal of the 'open eyes for democracy' project funded by the US Department of States through CRS-Guinea made a headway and is expected to commence in the second quarter.

WANEP-LIBERIA

Voter's registration awareness

On January 5, 2011, members of WIPNET organised an outreach to sensitize communities to take the opportunity to register for the upcoming referendum and general presidential election to be held in August and October of this year. A total of One Hundred Twenty-Five women (125) participated in the process.

UNSCR 1325 monitoring and observatory

The Ministry of Gender and Development has been mandated by the Gov. of Liberia to set up a group of civil society organization to participate in monitoring the implementation of the Liberian Action Plan. Seventeen CSOs & faith-based organizations were accredited by the Ministry of Gender to make up the monitoring and observatory working group.

The Ministry conducted a two day workshop to orientate the CSO working group on the LNAP, its mandate/TOR and to develop a work plan for the observatory. On the 11th of January, the observatory met for a day's session to develop a six months work plan. The Plan was finalized on January 15, 2011 and submitted to the 1325 Secretariat. WANEP-Liberia was nominated by the CSO's Monitoring and Observatory vetting committee to sever as head of the Monitoring and Observatory Working Group on UNSCR 1325.

Mobilizing women and youth for participation and transparent election

A partners meeting was held with the donor (OSIWA) in attendance to provide information on the project implementation in order to meet its objectives. A revise workplan was developed and reviewed on January 13, 2011. Upon the approval of the work plan, the voters' registration awareness commenced in the five counties (Nimba, Bong, Lofa, Bassa and River Cess)

Rural women learning and leadership development

The first set of activities of the Rural Women Learning and Leadership Development ended in 2010. The narrative and financial reports were submitted and has been certified. The second tranche of funds was transferred and a work plan developed and submitted.

As part of the project, radio programme/airing commenced in Totota, Buchanan, Salala and Ganta. Gbarnga, Tubmanburg, Monrovia and Zorzor. Branches received seed fund to start small business initiatives to sustain their work.

Community women peace and security

An exchange visit was held in Kakata, Margibi County. A total of 20 women from Todee, Bomi, Montserrado and Margibi took part in the exchange visit to share experiences.

Meeting with coordinating group on Cote d'Ivoire

In relation to the conflict in Cote d'Ivoire, five women's groups (MAWOPNET, AFELL, Angie Brooks International Center Randell, WONGOSOL & WIPNET) led by MAWOPNET decided that actions be taken in solidarity with the Ivorian women and children. Several meetings were held to discuss a trip to Cote d'Ivoire to have meetings with Laurant Gbagbo and Alassan Ouattara to appeal for a peaceful settlement to the crisis. Meetings

were held with various Embassies (American, Sierra Leone, and Cote d'Ivoire), the SRSG and the President of Liberia, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf gain entry into Cote d'Ivoire.

Leadership meeting/workshop

A one day leadership meeting was held with eight (7) county coordinators of the WIPNET Program. These County Coordinators were from Bong, Bomi, Maryland, Bassa, Lofa, Margibi and Montserrado Counties. The agenda items for the meeting were on the Liberian Presidential and general elections, the referendum and updates from the branches.

International women's day

The activities for the International Women's Day were centered on monitoring of the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and Policy Engagement. The aim of the activities was to ensure compliance and accountability of the implementation of the Liberian National Action Plan. The activities were held in more than 3 of the WIPNET Sub branches.

Meeting with mediators beyond borders

Five (5) days training on dialogue was organised. Following the training, a meeting was held between Mediators Beyond Borders and WANEP-Liberia. The meeting was decided on three action points: **1.** WIPNET's training needs for advocacy and linking to the program with other Organizations (Women for Women International) that support women's work. **2.** WANEP-Liberia to join the Kofi Anna Peacekeeping Institute at the University of Liberia Campus. **3.** Establish partnership with Mediator Beyond Boards and write a joint proposal for the USAID call for proposal. They hoped that the proposal can focus on promoting cultural, trauma healing and dialogue.

Visitation

The Head of the new UN Women, Madame Michelle Bachelet visited Liberia to celebrate the International Women's Day as guest of Her Excellency Madame Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. WANEP was opportune to play host to Madame Bachelete on the 7th of March 2011 at Totota where the WIPNET Branch showcased the women's Peace Hut in Totota. Other visiting guests during this time included Mr. Moustapha Soumare, Deputy SRSG, the UN Women Regional Representative, Madame Josephine, the Minister of Gender and Development, Honorable Vabah Gayflor, The UN Women Liberia Country Representative Madame Izeduwa Derex-Briggs and a host of others including the CNN team etc.

Madame Bachelete thanked the women for their continuous support to the peace process in Liberia and also thanked WANEP-Liberia for the level of support to the women in Liberia.

WANEP-SIERRA LEONE

13th Peace and Development Forum

The Forum designed to widen the space for learning and sharing between and among various peacebuilding organization in the country for effective work and documenting best practice in peacebuilding took place in Makeni City, north of the country on the 18th – 21st February 2011. The forum attracted over 80 participants on the theme: "Strengthening CSOs coordination for effective engagement in peace, security and governance". A significant outcome of the forum was the consensus that the early warning signs point to potential threats to peace, security and governance in the country.



A communiqué was issued urging the government and political parties to address the issue of political tolerance, establish a ministry/commission of peace to expedite the ongoing justice sector reforms among others and for CSOs to be non-partisan and the international community to continue their technical support to governance and civil society.

Two-day Review Meeting on Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) Program

A two-day review meeting took place in Freetown on the 16th-17th March 2011. It attracted 30 WIPNET members all over the country to deliberate on the theme: "Women in Peacebuilding: Lessons learnt and experiences sharing of women's efforts in peacebuilding".

The objectives of the two days review meeting were to undertake a retrospective study of the past activities and program as well as networking of WIPNET in Sierra Leone.



The review meeting aimed to reposition the WIPNET program in Sierra Leone.

The Review meeting developed a one year action plan.

Review Meeting on Peace Education and Training of Teachers in Peace Education and Conflict Management in Sierra Leone

A review meeting on Peace Education and Training of Teachers took place at Hotel 5:10 in Freetown on the 10th-12th March 2011. Teachers, heads of departments and section of the Executive of the Sierra Leone Teachers Union (SLTU) participated in the three-day workshop and were exposed to the need for peace education program in schools in Sierra Leone.

WANEP-TOGO

On 27-28 January, the project team held its first quarterly meeting with the parents of the pupils of the 53 kindergatten schools involved in a pilot project on teaching non-violence to kids. 89 participants were present including 44 women and 45 men. During this meeting there was discussion on the involvement of parents in the project in order to achieve behavioral changes to promote peace.

Training on Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS

On March 2, 2011, RECORD an institution representing Bread for the World in Togo organised a workshop on 'mainstreaming HIV/AIDS' for the staff and board members of WANEP-TOGO. The workshop discussed the

importance of personal hygiene, how to live with an infected person, how to demystify the disease in order to fight it and why one must know his/her status.

Monitoring Visit

On March 4 2011, the team of the pilot project on the 53 kindergarten conducted a monitoring visit on the project. Drawing kits and paints were given out during the monitoring to the schools to children to use for their drawing and painting to depict the notion of peace.

Seeds of Peace of Casablanca

WANEP-Togo designed a Peace Education Programme called Seeds of Peace of Cassablanca. Cassablanca is a



locality where WANEP-Togo is located. The project is targeting children aged between 5-10 years.

Children Visit to Museum

Through the financial support of SIDA, WANEP Togo organised for children a visit to the National Museum, the



Cultural Centre of Lome and a poem competition. 76 children participated in these activities.

WIPNET

WANEP-Togo organised training activities for rural market



women in Tsevie and Adidogome respectively on 8-11 March 2011. The training was on the theme « Involvement of rural women in conflict management in their marketplace and homes ». The training was funded by SIDA through WANEP Regional Secretariat. 26 participants were trained in Tsevie while 25 were trained in Adidogomé.

Radio Programme

With the financial support of the Embassy of Finland

through WANEP Regional, WANEP-Togo organised awareness-raising activities through radio programs during the month of January, 2011. The translated programmes on Radio Ephphata of the Togo Presbyterian Evangelical Church on the theme: "Tolerance as a prerequisite for peacebuilding" and "intolerance: major obstacle to peace", were aired in 4 local languages (Ifè, Bassar, Kabyè and Kotokoli) was done for wider dissemination at 7 radio stations during the period from 22 to January 31, 2011.

Showing of nonviolence film to students of CETEC

On February 25, 2011, at the request of the Organising Committee of the school Institute CETEC, WANEP-Togo showed the film 'Hotel Rwanda' followed by discussions with the students. This film which outlined the history of the Rwandan genocide, was used to educate young people about the benefits of peace and the disastrous consequences of violence. About 20 students took part in this activity.

For more Information log on to www.wanep.org

Building Relationships for Peace