



WANEP MALI LAUNCHES HUMAN SECURITY PROJECT



As part of civil society efforts to restore peace and stability in Mali, enhance capacities for conflict prevention, WANEP-Mali launched a project titled **“Civil Society for a Human Security Strategy in Mali”**, The official launching was performed by the Ministry of Reconciliation on January 17, 2014 in Bamako. The urgent need for national ownership, building national capacities to prevent violent conflicts, promote human security while supporting and complimenting state agencies for dialogue and national reconciliation is now reinforced by the challenges of both civil society and state capacities. The project was conceptualised by a consortium¹, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC) and the Human Security Collective (HSC). The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) is providing funding to facilitate the development of comprehensive human security approaches by Malian civil society, to deal with the complex peace and security issues in the country.

With the objective of supporting a strong, vibrant Malian civil society network that mobilizes a critical mass around the issues of human security and peacebuilding, the event was attended by over 40

¹ West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC) and the Foundation for the Human Security Collective (HFC)

Malian CSOs, ECOWAS, Members of Diplomatic Missions, MINUSMA and some International NGOs working in Mali. Mr **Abdoulaye Bane**, the ECOWAS Adviser appreciated the strategic Partnership between WANEP and ECOWAS and how the objectives of the project highlighted such partnership while supporting the African Union (AU), ECOWAS and international representation in Mali under the aegis of MINUSMA in promoting reconciliation and in dealing with the underlying causes of the Malian crisis.

As part of the series of activities that culminated into the launch of the project, an Extra-ordinary Annual General Meeting (AGM) of WANEP-Mali was held on January 14 with a broader CSO representation in the country. The AGM was held at the office of the Special Representative of the President of ECOWAS Commission in Mali, H.E. Aboudou **Toure Cheeka**.

The Extra-ordinary Annual General Meeting was attended by over 40 CSO delegates, the WANEP Regional Secretariat headed by the Executive Director of WANEP, Mr Emmanuel Bombande, and the Special Representative of the President of ECOWAS Commission in Mali as Guest of Honour. In his opening statement, Mr Bombande provided the vision and institutional framework of WANEP as a regional organization that has been working in support of ECOWAS and its member states in the area of peace and security. He also highlighted the governance challenges that confronted WANEP Mali which eventually led to the 2013 WANEP Regional General Assembly's (GA) decision for WANEP Regional to take over and reorganize the national network; thus the organization of the extra-ordinary AGM. The GA's decision of WANEP Regional to take over the reorganization of WANEP Mali was guided by the results of the WANEP Sustainability Index (WSI), which put WANEP Mali in category "D"².

Thus, the extra-ordinary AGM was organized to elect a new board. Guided by the outcome of a work commissioned by WANEP Regional, WANEP Mali now has a professional board to ensure the effective and efficient operation of WANEP Mali in the implementation of its mandate to accompany and support ECOWAS in its conflict prevention and human security agenda.

The Special Representative of the President of ECOWAS Commission in Mali on his part appreciated and recognized WANEP the role that WANEP has been playing in support of ECOWAS in achieving its mandate in Mali.

Additionally, a round table with CSO was held on January 15 to enable network members formulate and upscale a human security strategy for Mali that is gender-sensitive, feasible, and pays attention to the structural causes of the conflict. The Special Representative of the president of ECOWAS Commission in Mali, **Aboudou Toure Cheeka** presented the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture as contained in the **PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT, RESOLUTION, PEACEKEEPING AND SECURITY**.

As an outcome, the main human security issues were fleshed out and some response strategies identified to deal with them.

² Category "D" means a weak national network based on the WANEP Sustainability Index (WSI)

Finally, a Steering Group was formed to provide strategic direction for the project vis-à-vis the set targets.

The weeklong activities were concluded with a cocktail with both local and international partners for networking aimed at sharing the project idea with them in view of a potential expansion of partners and collaborators.

The recruitment process, which started in December 2013, was also concluded and two new positions (Programme Manager and Finance and Administrative Officer) have been filled in the framework of the project.