

WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

JANUARY - MARCH 2014



***WANEP and KAIPTC renew Memorandum of Understanding for 5 years
Executive Director of WANEP and Commandant of KAIPTC sign copies of the MOU
for their respective establishments***

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.

OVERVIEW OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA:

West Africa has been confronted with diverse human security challenges including violent extremism and religious fundamentalism, agro-pastoralist conflict, communal conflicts, electoral tension, targeted killings and most worrisome the outbreak of **Ebola virus**.

Outbreak of Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in Guinea in early February where about 85 persons are dead out of over 100 cases has further engulfed the region into crises with cases reported in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Mali. The epidemic poses a serious risk of becoming widespread due to porous borders with devastating consequences on a region with limited medical facilities.

Renewed agro-pastoral conflicts in northern states of Nigeria which have claimed hundreds of lives since January 2014 have further compounded the insecurity challenges in the northern region where members of the Boko Haram sect has persistently launched offensives on innocent civilians, security agencies and infrastructures especially telecommunication facilities in a bid to stall communication in the area.

Two years after the coup that interrupted the second round of presidential elections in Guinea Bissau, elections are scheduled for April 13 in what is regarded as a major platform for the restoration of constitutional rule.

However, the sudden demise of Kumba Yala, founder of the Party for Social Renewal (PRS), and a key player in the Guinean political terrain, due to cardiac arrest raises mixed feelings among the citizenry, especially the perception that he may have been killed. There is the perception that he instigated most of the coups and attempted coups which repeatedly caused instability in the country.

Targeted killings have pitted communities in northern region of Ghana against each other with reprisal attacks leading to more loss of lives and properties. Issues of illegal mining have reportedly persisted with waves of arrest of aliens as well as locals; most saddening is the deaths of several locals in the caves where the illegal mining is taking place.

The trial of Charles Ble Goude, youth leader under former President Gbagbo of Cote D'Ivoire, at the International Criminal Court (ICC) poses a potential difficulty to national reconciliation, disruption of political dialogue due to alleged lack of cooperation by the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Perceptions that only supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo have been tried since the commencement of the prosecution of perpetrators of the political violence, although atrocities were committed by both parties has further compounded the already bad situation.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

1.0. CAPACITY AND INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING

WANEP REPOSITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING

As part of strategies to strengthen its institutional capacity and reposition the organization as a leading professional peacebuilding institution in the region, WANEP in February held a Participatory Review and Analysis Processes (PRAPs) in Ghana. The meeting aptly titled ***"Sustaining WANEP's Institutional Capacity for Conflict Prevention in West Africa"*** brought together WANEP staff from the 15 national networks across the ECOWAS member states and the regional office and was facilitated by a seasoned organizational development consultant, Rev. John Nkum. The key objective of the PRAPs was to discuss key



institutional issues and strengthen staff capacity in program implementation and technical harmonization towards repositioning the institution from a Project Driven to a Vision Driven Organization to ensure that WANEP continues to serve as a resource to States,



One of the many group brainstorming sessions

intergovernmental organizations and other key A key outcome of the meeting was the production of a concrete outline for the development of a five-year Strategic Action Plan (2015 to 2020) which is geared towards providing early response to early warning. The emphasis on early response is to consolidate the 2010 - 2014 strategic plan which focused on the establishment of



A cross-section of participants @ PRAPs

national early warning systems in the 15 ECOWAS member states as well as ensuring that WANEP remains relevant to ECOWAS, AU and member states in the peacebuilding continuum.

1.1. WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING PUBLICATION ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE LAUNCHED IN COTE D'IVOIRE

In the framework of WANEP's partnership with the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) in implementing the Gender Based Violence and Peace Mediation Project, the two organizations launched a publication on Gender Based Violence in Cote d'Ivoire. The publication is the outcome of two case studies conducted in Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire and is expected to serve as a resource for deepening expertise on gender-based violence in peace mediation. The joint

project implemented by CMI and WANEP sought to increase gender expertise in local and international mediation teams in West Africa by identifying strengths and shortcomings of existing initiatives on gender-based violence and providing technical guidance to existing structures with regards to peace and security.

'WANEP MEN' CELEBRATE WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

As part of its deliberate strategy of working with men as allies, WANEP through the WIPNET programme conducted on-the-spot interviews with male colleagues to share their views on women's achievements throughout the ages and the inspiring roles women play in society both at the family, community, national and regional levels. The responses provided great insights into men's perceptions of women as 'role models,' 'peacebuilders,' and 'leaders' in their fields. The men also called for empowerment of women to achieve their potentials and be able to contribute their quota in the society. WANEP continues to advocate and ensure the mainstreaming of gender in all its programs and peacebuilding regime.

1.2. CIVIL SOCIETY COORDINATION AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE (CSDG)

WANEP HOLDS MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION ON PEACEFUL ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP, with support from the governments of Austria, Denmark and Sweden organized a two day Multi-stakeholders National Consultation in Abuja, Nigeria to assess the state of readiness of key institutions and stakeholders to prevent and mitigate threats to peaceful conduct of the 2015 elections. The forum was chaired by the representative of Professor Attahiru Jega, Chairman of the Independent



National Electoral Commission (INEC) Nigeria and was attended by key state and non-state actors from Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone representing governments, ECOWAS, election management bodies, representatives of political parties, media, CSOs, international development partners including His Excellency the Ambassador of Austria to Nigeria, academia, and women's groups.

The consultation created space for information exchange on the electoral process and collaboration amongst key stakeholders in order to enhance public confidence in the electoral process and the electoral management bodies among others. Proceedings from the meeting have been translated into a policy brief to inform policy makers on the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in order to attain peaceful elections in Nigeria. WANEP Nigeria is setting up an Election Barometer (situation room) to continue to monitor the electoral process and provide analysis on monthly basis that will inform ECOWAS commission, Nigeria Security agencies, Media, INEC and the major stakeholders in peace and security in Nigeria.

1.3. RESPONDING TO CONFLICT THROUGH DIALOGUE, MEDIATION & RECONCILIATION MEDIATION SUPPORT NETWORK (MSN) MEETING

Exploring policy options for practical conflict transformation interventions that could enhance mediation efforts and contribute to stability and sustainable peace dominated discussions at the ninth Mediation Support Network (MSN) meeting held in Durban South Africa from 26th to 28th March 2014. The meeting under the theme *"Transforming Societies through Peace Mediation: A Critical Reflection from the MSN,"* was attended by 11 MSN member organisations including two key WANEP staff; Program Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze and Administrative Manager, Mrs. Esther Gordon-Mensah. The meeting was an avenue for experience sharing and knowledge exchange. WANEP shared a case study from Jos, Plateau state of Nigeria which highlighted local level mediation efforts using a bottom-up approach at transforming relationships between the communities and creating policy framework for structural change. A key lesson from this strategy is that involving key actors that support the transformation of the process from the planning phase all through the process facilitated their ability to understand the situation and to attempt to implement the recommendations. The strategy of communities sitting together and sharing openly enabled them to dispel the mistrust and develop confidence that encouraged the groups to work together.

1.4. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WANEP and KAIPTC renew Memorandum of

Understanding for 5 years

WANEP and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) recently signed another five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Accra, Ghana on 18th March 2014. The MOU signifies the commitment of the two institutions to work together in pursuit of peace



and stability in West Africa through research, training, education, mentoring and strategic interventions. WANEP and KAIPTC are collaborating to coordinate the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) established by WANEP and currently hosted at KAIPTC. Through this partnership, the two organizations have reaffirmed their commitment to build sustainable peace and security not only in West Africa but in Africa as a whole.

ABANTU FOR DEVELOPMENT VISITS WANEP REGIONAL SECRETARIAT



During the quarter, representatives from ABANTU for Development paid a working visit to the WANEP Regional Office to discuss possible areas of collaboration between the two organisations on women, peace and security. The two organizations are both working to promote the effective participation and involvement of women in the peace processes. Areas of possible collaboration discussed included capacity building, advocacy and dissemination of the National Action Plan on United Nation Security Council

Resolution UNSCR 1325. The team was received by the Regional Coordinator for Programs, Ms. Queeneth Tawo and Ms. Kesia Onam-Birch, Program Officer, Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) Programme.

1.5. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

In the quarter under review, the following documents were published:

- i. WANEP E-Newsletter – Issue 2: January to March edition
- ii. 2013 Annual Report
- iii. Policy brief: *Burkina Faso's Test of Resilience and Democratic Stability – The 2015 Political Dynamics and Drifts*

1.6. SPECIAL EVENTS

WANEP HONOURED BY THE KOFI ANNAN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING TRAINING CENTRE (KAIPTC)

WANEP was the only African Civil Society Organization honoured among 20 other award recipients at the 2nd **Kofi Annan-Dag Hammarskjöld Annual Lecture and Awards** ceremony at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra, Ghana on 11th March 2014. WANEP was honoured as a result of its exemplary strategic partnership with KAIPTC in the design and delivery of courses in peace and security, its work on peacebuilding in the region and support in the growth and strengthening of the centre. The Kofi Annan-Dag Hammarskjöld annual

seminar and awards ceremony organised by the KAIPTC and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (DHF) formed part of KAIPTC'S 10th Anniversary Celebration.

Mr. Vincent Azumah Regional Coordinator, M&E of WANEP who received the award on behalf of WANEP and spoke on the topic, *“Advancing Inclusivity in Peacebuilding”* under the theme *Regional Aspects of Peacebuilding: Approaches, Dynamics and Actors*, used the occasion to present the



structure of WANEP and its partnership with ECOWAS and the Early Warning System; and to illustrate regional efforts in peacebuilding. WANEP dedicated the award to the people of West Africa whose daily struggles for peace and security in their communities continue to strengthen its resolve to work for a more peaceful, prosperous and integrated West Africa.

2.0. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES FROM NATIONAL NETWORKS

2.1. CAPACITY AND INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING

WANEP BENIN HOLDS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

As part of efforts to strengthen governance structure to provide effective oversight functions, WANEP-Benin held its General Assembly on February 15, 2014 during which a new board was elected for a three-year term from 2014 to 2016. The mandate of the existing board ended in 2013. The meeting was attended by 42 delegates.

In the reporting quarter, WANEP-Benin organized three capacity building training sessions for all staff from February 28 to March 2, 2014 on “Personal Development and Leadership.” This is in line with WANEP's policy on



internal capacity building in order to strengthen staff skills and position them for quality programming.

WANEP SIERRA LEONE BUILDS CAPACITY OF CHIEFS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

WANEP-Sierra Leone held a three-day capacity building

training on democratic principles for 60 participants comprising 35 males and 25 females including chiefs, CSOs and selected community members from the project targeted chiefdoms. The training focused on the accountability and participatory governance, provisions of the Chieftaincy Act (2009), Local Government Acts (2004)



*Capacity Building Training on Democratic Principles
(P. C. Serry Foray Gondoh of Lower Bambara C/Dom
making his points)*

and the PCs Code of Ethics on Justice and Security. The participants greatly appreciated the importance of the training as evidenced by the following statements:

“As traditional leaders, trainings of this nature was in high demand and we appreciate WANEP for the support and look forward to applying the skills gained from this training opportunity to benefit our people” – Paramount Chief Fatmata Kajue-Koroma;

“Women have important roles to play in promoting accountability leadership in the society, especially the grassroots women because they can easily downstream the information to their colleagues. I'll utilize skills gained from this training to serve my ward well”, - Councilor Veronica Dauda, a representative from Kono.

2.2. WEST AFRICA EARLY WARNING AND EARLY RESPONSE (WARN)

SUB-REGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE MALIAN CRISIS



Participants at the seminar on the Malian crisis

From February 20 – 21, WANEP Benin in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation held a sub-regional seminar in Cotonou on the theme *“The Malian crisis and the spread of violent extremism in West Africa: Current dynamics in Benin and Burkina Faso”*. Participants numbering thirty came from state security agencies, civil society and academia from both Benin and Burkina Faso.

SITUATION TRACK ANALYSIS AND MONTHLY COUNTRY EARLY WARNING REPORTING

WANEP Nigeria in the quarter under review produced three Situation Track Analysis Reports, which were widely circulated to stakeholders in the peace and security sector. The analysis was on the ongoing terror attacks at Kaonduga, Borno State; Gujba, Yobe State and the attack by Fulani herdsmen at Guma, Benue State. A link to this report has been posted by the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) on their online information dissemination system to reach audiences worldwide; and was equally disseminated on the WANEP Regional website. Three reports were also produced under the Monthly Country Early Warning Report and Conflict census which highlighted the political, economic and social risk factors in the country. The activities of Boko Haram members, Fulani Herdsmen and crude oil theft/bunkering accounted for the highest risk indices for the quarter.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION PROJECT



Members of the Zonal Implementation teams

As part of the process for the effective implementation of the humanitarian project supported by Oxfam Novib titled, *“Strengthening Humanitarian Coordination Project in Nigeria”*, the project team conducted a pre-planning/sensitization meeting for zonal implementation teams at Enugu, Cross River and Oyo States. These teams comprised of member organisations that successfully met set criteria for direct implementation of the project in the pilot states. The zonal implementation teams embarked on series of advocacy visits to sensitize relevant state and non-state actors critical to the review and development and adoption of contextualized, gender sensitive and multi-hazard contingency plan for benefitting states of Oyo, Cross Rivers and Enugu State. A key outcome of the advocacy is

the pledge by the Oyo State Deputy Governor to financially support the follow-up training workshop planned for Oyo State by the project team. In this regard, the Oyo State team in partnership with the Oyo State Emergency Management Agency (OYOSEMA) conducted a 3-day workshop to develop community based, gender sensitive, multi-hazard contingency plan for the state in line with the eight sectors identified in the National Contingency Plan. Government Ministries/Department and Agencies (MDAs) and NGOs working in the eight sectors developed the plan which was also adopted as a working document for effective humanitarian response in Oyo State. A communiqué from the workshop urged the State government to make budgetary allocation for the operationalization of the contingency plan while development partners and private sector should work with the state government through the Oyo State Emergency Management Agency (OYOSEMA).

REPORT FROM BeWARN

In the framework of the regional early warning network, ECOWARN, 19 incident reports and 13 situation reports were submitted on www.ecowarn.org. Furthermore, Benin National Early Warning System (BeWARN) recorded a total of 18 incidents reports and 37 situation reports submitted to the national platform www.news.wanepbenin.org. This brings the total number of incidents and situations reports to 99 and 122 respectively since October 2013.

DEBRIEFING AND EXCHANGE MEETING OF ZONE IV NEWS MANAGERS

WANEP National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) Managers under Zone 4 covering Benin, Togo and Nigeria held their first debriefing session and exchange meeting with the



NEWS Managers and National Analysts

ECOWAS Zonal Bureau in Cotonou on March 18, 2014. The meeting was held in two separate sessions respectively in the conference room of the Head of ECOWAS Bureau for zone 4 and at the National Secretariat of WANEP-Benin. It was aimed at sharing experiences and assessing the peace and security situation in the zone. Present at the meetings

were the Head of ECOWAS Bureau, WANEP Liaison Coordinator to ECOWAS, the NEWS Managers and the National Analysts.

NEWS REPORT FROM WANEP BURKINA FASO

In the quarter under review, WANEP Burkina Faso under the WARN programme undertook the following activities:

- Production and dissemination of fact sheet on peace and security in the country. The publication was uploaded on the WANEP BF NEWS website
- Developed and submitted a draft policy brief to WANEP Regional for peer review and publication
- Data collection on the situation in the country for the WANEP BF National Early Warning System
- Debriefing sessions with Zone II NEWS Managers

WANEP SENEGAL HOLDS VALIDATION OF INDICATORS WORKSHOP

In the reporting quarter, WANEP Senegal conducted a workshop with 31 key partners and critical stakeholders to validate their NEWS indicators. The participants were drawn from the relevant ministries and other state institutions, media, international organisations and civil society organisations working in the area of peacebuilding and conflict prevention. This activity was particularly important for WANEP Senegal as it provided a platform to re-launch the network to take its rightful place as a leading peacebuilding and conflict prevention organization in Senegal.

WANEP GUINEA SUPPORTS SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND

WANEP Guinea facilitated a training workshop organized by SFCG for women in conflict prevention and resolution on the request of the Search for Common Ground-Guinea (SFCG) under the theme: *“Theories and practice of early warning, and its implications for women in Guinea”*.

WANEP GUINEA REPORTS ON NEWS

In the quarter under review, WANEP Guinea produced 3 monthly human security reports, which was shared with the WANEP Peace Monitoring Centre at the Regional Secretariat. In the same vein, the network produced 13 situation reports and 15 incident reports, which were published on WANEP Guinea NEWS site.

WANEP COTE D'IVOIRE NATIONAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

- A total of 12 situation reports and 46 incidents reports were produced between January and March 2014 and submitted to the ECOWARN system
- 9 situation reports and 62 incidents reports were also

submitted to the National Early Warning System site. In addition, 3 monthly reports were produced under the quarter and distributed widely.

- At the request of the Ivorian National Programme for Social Cohesion (PNCS), WANEP CI produced a conflict map covering land disputes, intercommunal violence, natural resources and agro-pastoral conflicts.

WANEP TOGO NATIONAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FUNCTIONAL

WANEP Togo under the quarter undertook the following activities to ensure effective operation of its National Early Warning System:

- The WANEP Togo NEWS site www.news.waneptogo.org is fully functional
- 15 conflict monitors were trained on how to upload information into the system
- 75 incidents reports and 46 situation reports were submitted by the conflict monitors and uploaded onto the system with the NEWS Manager providing quality assurance on the reports
- 2 monthly human security reports (January and February) were submitted to the Peace Monitoring Centre at the Regional Secretariat in Accra for analysis.
- 86 incidents reports and 11 situation reports were also submitted to the ECOWARN system

2.3. WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING NETWORK PROGRAMME

WANEP BENIN RECEIVES GRANT FROM GIZ BENIN OFFICE

WANEP Benin signed a new contract with GIZ Benin office in March 2014 to support the implementation of WANEP Benin's Women in Peacebuilding Programme (WIPNET). This contribution will go a long way to support part of the WIPNET Programme's annual work plan.

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



In February, WANEP Benin under the WIPNET Programme

mobilized over 300 people from Benin and the environs to participate in a campaign to end violence against women. The participants bear placards with inscriptions such as;



"STOP violence against women and girls" and *"Say NO to impunity surrounding such violence"* as part of the *"One Billion Rising for Justice"* global campaign under the framework of the Global Campaign Against Violence Against Women. The activity under the theme; *"The need for Justice for the victims of gender-based violence"*, was funded by the European Union under its Justice Reform project in collaboration with the Swiss Cooperation.

ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE ON SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND RESPONSES

WANEP Sierra Leone during the quarter organized a 3-day capacity building training for 30 participants (20 females and 10 males) from the traditional authorities, security agencies, educational institutions, and selected community members including youths and people with disability at the Yambatui Hall in Moyamba town. The tools and training materials were based on key provisions of the three Gender Acts of 2007 (i.e. Domestic Violence, Devolution of Estates, Registration of Customary Marriages and Divorce Acts) and the Sexual Offences Acts of 2012.

The training on the Gender Laws enhanced the participants' knowledge on the content of these Acts and enabled participants to understand key provisions in the laws as it pertains to major issues like rising number of rape and assaults against women in the district. One of the participants has this to say: *"I never knew then that cases of rape should not be settled at home but should be reported to the appropriate legal authorities"*. The participant who had earlier taken part in some of these illegal settlements of rape cases then resolved never to be a part of such in future due to the new insights gained from the training.

WANEP GUINEA TRAINS 20 WOMEN ON CONFLICT PREVENTION

In the quarter under review, WANEP Guinea trained 20 women from its member-organisations on conflict prevention and resolution techniques. This activity was a follow-up to a training organized in Kindia by UNDP and Search for Common Ground in Guinea for a total of 30 women.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

WANEP-BENIN: WANEP Benin commemorated the International Women Day on March 8, 2014 with a capacity building workshop for 50 women from 15 groups drawn from the Association of People engaged in Income-generating Activities (GAGR) in the district of Ouémé. The aim of the training was specifically to build the women's capacity in leadership and conflict resolution skills to enable them take the lead in resolving their own conflicts. In related activities, the network held series of sensitization programmes on national television ORTB and 3 radio stations (CAP FM, Tokpa and Tado FM) from March 6 to 30, 2014. Issues discussed bordered on situation of women in the country, Gender-Based Violence and women's participation in decision-making processes. At least 5000 people were reached by this sensitization programme.

WANEP-GHANA: WANEP-Ghana through its Women in Peacebuilding Network Programme (WIPNET) joined the people of Dagbon on March 7 and 8 to celebrate the International Women's Day. WANEP commended the chiefs of Dagbon especially the Regents of the two main gates of Andani and Abudu, the Women Chiefs, the REGSEC, Dagbon Peace Initiative, Yendi Peace Center and all other relevant stakeholders for their hard work in bringing peace to Dagbon. In particular the Women have acknowledged that the successful and peaceful celebration of the Damba Festival at the Gbewaa Palace by the two gates is a remarkable achievement towards attaining durable peace in Dagbon. The celebration climaxed with a visit of the women chiefs to the two royal gates to express their appreciation and gratitude to them for their efforts and commitment to bringing peace to the area.

WANEP SIERRA LEONE: WANEP Sierra Leone marked the IWD by engaging rural women and men in Moyamba District in an awareness raising campaign on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Violence Against Women (VAW) especially, targeting the increased spate of rape and sexual exploitation in the district. Two community radio discussions and phone-in programs were held and six learning institutions visited.

WANEP-THE GAMBIA: WANEP-The Gambia celebrated the

International Women's Day at the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA). As part of activities marking the day, the network in a press release issued to raise awareness on the event, used the opportunity to urge everyone to reflect on the importance of the day and the need for involving more women in decision making processes.

Similarly, the network held a symposium on March 18, 2014 with partners, line ministries and students from various Senior Secondary Schools under the theme "Inspiring Change" to share best practices and raise awareness on the plight of women. The occasion was used to officially launch a documentary produced under the UNDEF project on *Women in Decision-Making*. Students were educated on the need for female participation and involvement in Decision-Making and Democratic processes.

WANEP GUINEA: in a communiqué widely disseminated to mark the IWD, WANEP Guinea called on the women to increase their knowledge in every aspect of their lives and engage more actively in peace and security issues, in governance and in decision making processes. WANEP Guinea took the opportunity to appeal to the Government of Guinea to respond more effectively to the needs and concerns of women of Guinea.

WANEP-CI: WANEP CI issued a press statement to commemorate and celebrate the Women of Cote d'Ivoire on the occasion of the IWD 2014. A key issues raised in the statement was the situation of women in relation to violence against women in consonance with the national theme titled "Women at work for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the emergence of Côte d'Ivoire". This statement was disseminated widely to partners and key national media houses.

The network also organised a debate with 50 women leaders from the Abobo municipality in Abidjan, on March 19, 2014 in continuation of the IWD activities. This activity helped to collect personal stories, opinions and recommendations in order to improve the humanitarian care given to survivors of the crisis, to denounce violence against women and to promote a better understanding of women through exchanges.

WIPNET ACTIVITIES IN COTE D'IVOIRE

During the quarter, WANEP Cote d'Ivoire undertook the following key activities under the WIPNET programme:

1. Under the "Combating violence against women and improving the livelihoods of women in the Guémon region (Bangolo)" project in collaboration with the Australian Government
 - Organisation of 24 mass sensitization and local

sensitization programmes with 1,828 reached comprising 1,242 women and 586 men

- Training of trainers workshop in literacy held from 14 to 17 January 2014
- 2. **Capacity building of Rural Women to contribute effectively in the post-conflict reconstruction process**
 - Capacity building of 15 trainers in Women's Rights and literacy at Lataha in the district of Korhogo in January and February
- 3. **Implementation of "Leadership for Change" project with support from Urgent Action Fund**
 - Training of mentees on self-esteem and social awareness took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 15 Feb. to 1 Mar. 2014
- 4. **Presentation of report titled "Ending gender-based violence in the peace process"**
 - WANEP Cote d'Ivoire on 1st March presented in Abidjan, the report on the research it conducted on ending gender-based violence as part of the post-conflict reconstruction process. Present at the presentation were key stakeholders including women's rights activists, all relevant ministries, departments and agencies and most especially the Ministry of Family Solidarity, Women and Children's Affairs.

2.4. NON-VIOLENCE ACTION AND PEACE EDUCATION

WANEP SENEGAL HOLDS NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON PEACE EDUCATION

In the quarter under review, WANEP Senegal held a national consultation on peace education and non-violence in schools attended by a total of 40 participants. The consultation, which attracted high-level participants from the Ministry of Education, civil society organisations as well as the media, discussed critical issues pertaining to best practices in ensuring non-violence and peaceful living in the school environment. This was to ensure social cohesion among the students not just at the school premises but also in the communities where they live.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS IN PEACE EDUCATION AND NONVIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS



WANEP Guinea held a training workshop in peace education and non-violence for teachers from the primary to second cycle institutions from 5 districts of Conakry. The objective of the training was to build the capacity of the teachers on the theories and practice of Peace education and non-violence in schools.

MONITORING VISITS TO SCHOOLS IN KPALIME

The Peace Education programme team of WANEP Togo conducted monitoring visits to the beneficiary schools of the peace education programme in Kpalime from February 24 to 28, 2014. 45 out of 52 peace clubs established are functional and conducting various activities on conflict



School children in a beneficiary school in Kpalime singing about Peace

prevention and non-violence in schools. The children are able to resolve conflict among them and have been adopting non-violent approaches to dealing with conflicts in their school environment.

2.5. CIVIL SOCIETY COORDINATION AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE (CSDG)

WANEP BENIN RECEIVES A NEW TWO-YEAR GRANT FROM OSIWA

WANEP-Benin on February 17, 2014, received a new grant from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) for the implementation of its advocacy project for 2014-2015, titled "Towards the adoption and implementation of an advocacy strategy for the passage into law of access to public information bill in Benin". This new two-year grant is to support WANEP Benin's work in election, democracy and good governance.

"ENHANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DEMOCRACY" PROJECT IN THE GAMBIA

Following the submission of the end of project narrative

and audited financial reports to UNDEF in 2013, the donors during the quarter visited the WANEP Gambia national secretariat to conduct evaluation on the project. During the evaluation process, the Project Management Team (PMT) and beneficiaries were interviewed. The materials produced under the project were validated and stakeholders interviewed to ascertain the overall impact of the project. UNDEF and the evaluators are currently working on the final report, which will be published in due course.

WANEP SIERRA LEONE SUPPORTS COUNTRY CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW PROCESS



Cross section of Religious leaders and community members

As part of civil society's support to the constitutional review process, WANEP Sierra Leone took part in the Monitoring and reporting on the community interventions and consultations of 7 implementing partners supported through the UNIPSIL Non-state Actors Fund on the constitutional review process. A target of 23 community meetings and consultations was set for monitoring nationwide. These meetings and consultations were monitored and reports with lessons learnt and observations were subsequently submitted to UNIPSIL Constitutional Review Project Team.

RADIO PROGRAMME ON ELECTORAL GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION IN TOGO

WANEP Togo in collaboration with Radio Ephphata has developed a bi-weekly radio programme that airs on Thursdays from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm. The programme which debut on January 23, 2014 seeks to sensitize the citizenry on good governance and conflict prevention especially election related conflicts. WANEP's Practice Guide on Election Management in West Africa is used as resource

document during the discussions. This radio programme is geared towards contributing to the reduction and prevention of electoral violence in Togo.

2.6. RESPONDING TO CONFLICT THROUGH DIALOGUE, MEDIATION & RECONCILIATION TRAINING ON LEADERSHIP, DIALOGUE AND MEDIATION FOR 4 TARGET DISTRICTS IN SIERRA LEONE



Training on Mediation and Dialogue in Kono District

WANEP SL conducted a two-day training workshop on leadership, dialogue and mediation in 44 target chiefdoms, which cover 4 target districts. 15 participants took part in the training sessions per chiefdom (i.e. 5 men, 5 women and 5 youth including traditional leaders and people with disabilities). The training sought to increase the capacity of Chiefs, CSOs and communities on dialogue and mediation for effectiveness and efficiency in leadership at local level to mitigate communal conflicts. So far, a total of 660 people comprising 300 females and 360 males including chiefs, CSOs and chiefdom peace committees have been trained on leadership, dialogue and mediation in 44 chiefdoms in the 4 project target districts.



Cross section of Religious leaders and community members

For more Information log on to www.wanep.org