

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding



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Emmanuel Habuka Bombande, Program Director

Staff

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Diana Akpene Toffa, Bilingual Secretary
Wilfred Brown, Senior Accountant
Francis Darko Asare, Program Accountant
Sandra Mark-Cofie, Program Manager
Levinia Addae-Mensah, Peace Education Coordinator
Takwa Suifon, Coordinator, Capacity Building Program
Fatoumatta M'Boge, Coordinator, Capacity Building Program
Thelma Ekiyor, Women in Peacebuilding Coordinator
Bijoue Kesia-Onam Togoh, Program Officer
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H. Calvin Birch, ICT/Desktop Publishing Officer
Ibrahim Amadu, Driver
Aisha Rita Cofie, Expediter/Receptionist
Samuel Bismark Berglah, Expediter
Ecoma Basse Alaga, Intern
Mawuli Dake, Intern
Prisca Enyonam Tettey, Intern
Norberta Kafui Gaglo, Intern

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Mennonite Central Committee

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

VISION

A West Africa region characterized by just and peaceful communities where the dignity of the human person is paramount and where the people can meet their basic human needs and decide their own direction.

MISSION

To enable and facilitate the development of mechanisms for cooperation among civil society based peacebuilding practitioners and organizations in West Africa by promoting cooperative responses to violent conflicts; providing the structure through which these practitioners and institutions will regularly exchange experience and information on issues of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, social, religious and political reconciliation; and promoting West Africa's social cultural values as resources for peacebuilding.

GOAL

To build sustainable peace; thereby creating an enabling environment for development in West Africa.

OBJECTIVES

WANEP seeks to . . .

1. Strengthen the capability of peacebuilding organizations and practitioners in West Africa to engage actively in the peaceful transformation of violent conflicts
2. Increase awareness on the use of nonviolent strategies in responding to conflicts in West Africa
3. Develop a conflict prevention network in West Africa to monitor, report and offer indigenous perspectives and understanding of conflicts in West Africa
4. Harmonize peacebuilding activities in West Africa through networking and coordination of WANEP members.
5. Develop the justice lens of peacebuilding to create understanding of the impact of truth, justice, and reconciliation on peacebuilding in West Africa.
6. Build the capacity of West African Women to alterly participate in peacebuilding processes at all levels.

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“...Because there is peace and stability it’s possible to find prosperity”.

Editorial Advisors:

Sam Gbaydee Doe
Bijoue Togoh (French)

Editorial Assistants (French):

Diana Toffa
Prisca Tettey
Norberta Gaglo

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West Africa Network for
Peacebuilding
Ampomah House, 37 Dzorwulu
Highway
P. O. Box CT 4434, Accra, Ghana
Tel: 233-21-221318/221388
Fax: 233-21-221735
Email: wanep@wanep.org
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West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

Message from the Chairman



The year 2002 was a year of opportunity and growth for WANEP. Our regional coalition for the building of justice and peace now has a presence in all states that are members of ECOWAS. More than 300 organizations in 17 countries are members of our grand alliance. Staff capacity of the regional Secretariat in Accra, Ghana has grown from 12 to 20 persons. Support from the United States Agency for International Development through the Catholic Relief Services will allow WANEP to have a staff within the ECOWAS Secretariat and over 25 paid staff in 10 countries. The number of donor partners has also grown. As Chairman of the Advisory Council I am proud of what we have been able to achieve for peace and stability in our sub region.

Growth comes with challenges. Coordination, clarity of roles at national level, standardization of approaches so as to maintain quality control, and power struggles are the key challenges WANEP must address as quickly as possible. The Advisory Council, Management, and partners of WANEP have already taken the neces-

sary steps to re-assess the structure within which WANEP has operated over the years. That is why the 5th Annual General Meeting scheduled for January 2003 will deliberate on the structural and operational dilemmas resulting from rapid growth and decide on the kind of leadership and coordinating structures WANEP should adapt to sustain itself.

For three years now WANEP has reported in all its analyses that 2003 will be a year of immense socio-political challenge in West Africa. West Africa's fledgling democracies will be tested as the most politically fragile states—Nigeria, Liberia, Guinea Conakry and Togo—return to the ballot to choose new regimes or maintain the ones that have governed them in the past four, six, twenty-four, or thirty-six years respectively. There are indications that the incumbent presidents in these countries will be vying for the presidency although, in the case of Togo and Guinea, this was only possible when they changed their respective constitutions.

I have always said that if electioneering is to achieve its primary goal of stabilizing political competitions in West Africa it must be free, fair, and empowering. The common person must appreciate the power of his/her ballot and cast his/her vote not on the basis of primordial inclinations but on the basis of national interest. As long as West Africa's party politics still evoke tribal and social proclivity, elections will always be marred by violence. And in a region where small arms can easily be obtained and violent youths are ever ready soldiers, electoral violence has the potential to destabilize any state.

The bloody civil war that began in Cote d'Ivoire last September marred the peace and stability we enjoyed in the region during the year. Interestingly, the violence began two weeks after WANEP attended the official ceremony in honor of President Laurent Gbagbo as he received the Hiroshima Peace Award from the Government of Japan. The seeming slap in the face is a telling demonstration that peace is not the absence of war. It is the presence of institutions, processes, and resources that ensure that all humans whether aliens or citizens, indigenes or settlers, black or white enjoy their basic freedoms. This is the message that WANEP takes to every community in West Africa.

I extend on behalf of the Advisory Council and members of WANEP deepest gratitude to all our donor partners and friends as well as the able men and women at the regional Secretariat who are the architects behind the success we celebrate in this annual report. Our destination is still afar but we remain undaunted in our walk.



David Kangah
Board Chair

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding Management Report



Another year of hard labor for *justpeace* has ended and it is time to reflect on our journey—to recount the miles we covered, the landmarks we encountered, the lessons we learned, and the hopes we consolidated. For us at WANEP, 2002 will go down in our history as a year when we experienced phenomenal growth and made marked achievements for peace, social reconciliation, and human security.



In November 2001 we launched our Women in Peacebuilding Program. Our goal was to give special attention to building the capacity of women so that they become active peacebuilders. Many dismissed our plan as idealistic and therefore unrealistic. The skeptics were baffled when the

program celebrated its first year in Dakar in November 2002. The WIPNET program grew from 14 women at the initial consultation in Nov 2001 to over 400 women by Nov 2002. It touched the lives of at least 10,000 women in 8 countries. More than 400 women are members of the coalition and 8 members rose to become confident trainers in just one year. Two did their first international consultancy as trainers outside of their countries.

With support from the Forum on Early Warning and Early Response (FEWER) WANEP launched its West Africa Early Warning and Response Network (WARN) to monitor and report emerging conflicts so as to reverse the negative trends or at least reduce the impact of violent conflicts on ordinary people. Guided by our philosophy of *gradualism* we started with training of analysts selected from the Mano River basin countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea including Cote d'Ivoire. WARN's plan for 2002 was to complete the first phase of the training by training conflict monitors for the targeted countries. The September 19 coup turned rebellion in Cote d'Ivoire started just two weeks after the training of monitor workshop for Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire held in Grand Basam, Cote d'Ivoire. The newly trained monitors in Cote d'Ivoire immediately began reporting on the trends of the Cote d'Ivoire conflict. As these reports streamed into our office and as we followed the efforts of ECOWAS and international governments to end the crisis, WANEP felt the need to participate in the process by providing critical, local, evidence based analysis to policy makers. We produced five reports. The reports were widely disseminated, thanks to partners like FEWER and CRS. International media institutions, UN agencies, the United States Agency for International Development and some regional and international government missions have rated the reports as high quality, balanced, and informative for decision-making. We were pleasantly surprised by these feedbacks since we were not prepared for critical reporting.

At the 32nd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' rights, held in the Gambian capital, Banjul, WANEP was granted Observer Status to the Commission. WANEP has now been provided with the unique opportunity to participate fully in the Commission's activities and serve as a reference point for issues relating to peace and security in West Africa.

Just as the year was ending, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its West Africa Regional Program (WARP) awarded WANEP and CRS a two-year contract. The project will allow WANEP to engage ECOWAS at a more formal level on issues of peace and security and build a broader coalition of civil society. This is the moment we have been waiting for. Instead of sitting back and lamenting about the way decisions are made at the political level to resolve conflicts in West Africa, civil society organizations and groups will now have direct access to the decision makers.

The humble organization we launched five years ago has grown to a professional, internationally recognized institution. Those of us who lead humbled and modest lives are now pressured to learn how to wear booboes, agbadas, suites and ties. We are pressured to learn the culture of diplomacy in order to ably represent our grand coalition in official peacebuilding.

We are grateful to our donor partners, members, and fans in and out of West Africa. It is your support that has kept us in this work. We also extend deep gratitude to our colleagues at the Secretariat. They are the actual narrators of the stories you will read in this report. The actors in these stories are our many members throughout West and Central Africa. The narrators have told the stories and witnessed to the fortitude of the actors while we bask in the celebrations!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam G. Doe'.

Sam G. Doe
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emmanuel H. Bombande'.

Emmanuel H. Bombande
Programme Director

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding Program Report 2002

Capacity Building Training & Support to Members

E. Bombande & S. Doe

The **Capacity Building Program** aims at strengthening grass root, community based peacebuilding national networks and practitioners to deliver quality services in peacebuilding and social reconciliation. Primary focus of 2002 included elaboration of the Peacebuilding Impact Assessment project, the launch of a permanent training institute—the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI), and continuous capacity building support to member organizations.

Objectives

- Conduct local, national, and regional training in various areas of peacebuilding
- Produce and disseminate resource materials for peacebuilding
- Provide internship opportunities so as to mentor emerging practitioners
- Assist peacebuilding organizations in program design and impact assessment
- Launch a permanent training institute

Highlights of Activities

■ **Strengthen National Networks**

At the Annual General Meeting of 2001 members amended the WANEP constitution with a clause that limits the direct involvement of the regional Secretariat in activities of individual organizations in each country. For effective coordination all national peacebuilding organizations now relate to the regional Secretariat through their national networks. With support from the European Union (EU), the Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAD) and DKA-Austria WANEP supplied desktop computers and seed grants to six national networks (Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Togo, and Nigeria) and facilitated series of organizational development workshops and meetings. Through WANEP's support the offices of the national networks in Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria are staffed and actively operational.

■ **WANEP Launches WAPI**

At a colourful ceremony held at the Golden Tulip in Ghana on 2nd September the first West African peacebuilding in-

stitute was born. Representative of Ghana's Minister of Defence who launched WAPI told the audience that the name reminded him of a sweet that was once common in Ghana but had become extinct since. He hoped that WAPI will help in reviving and restoring the sweetness of West Africa. A participant from Uganda also indicated that the word WAPI is a Swahili word which means, *where*. Both interpretations explain the intent behind WAPI. It will increase the number of competent, active peacebuilding practitioners in West Africa. These trained practitioners will join in the search for justice, peace, and social reconciliation so that West Africa can become sweet again for all its children. 46 participants (32 men and 14 women) from 14 countries including Ghana, Nigeria, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, the Gambia, Niger, Togo, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Chad, and Uganda participated in the course. Support for WAPI came from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Catholic Relief Services-West Africa Regional Office, Mennonite Central Committee, and the Eastern Mennonite University.

■ **Internship**

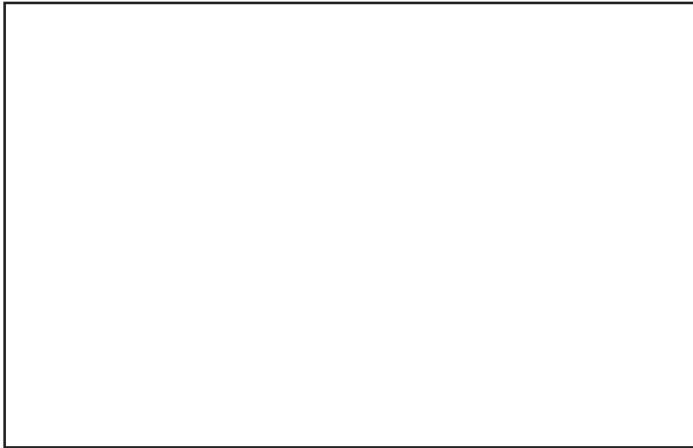
During the period under review WANEP admitted four interns from Burkina Faso, Togo, and Ghana. The interns participated in the administrative and program activities of WANEP for twelve consecutive months. By involving young graduates in the work of WANEP many young West Africans have developed interest in pursuing professional courses in the area of peacebuilding. In the coming year two interns from Nigeria and Benin will be admitted. Both have already completed their academic courses in peacebuilding at the Ibadan University in Nigeria and Mindolo Ecu-menical University in Zambia.

Impact

- Since their return to their respective communities after attending WAPI, news of their active engagement

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding Program Report 2002

Highlights of Activities



with building peace has been pouring in the Secretariat.

- Robana Nhathe, the only participant from Guinea Bissau, has briefed members of his Government and representatives of the United Nations in Guinea Bissau. His enthusiastic report led to the invitation of WANEP to Guinea Bissau. We now have active and willing organizations and individuals in Guinea Bissau
- Participants from Senegal have already begun discussions on the development of a Senegambia Network. Justice Lens Coordinator of WANEP facilitated a consultation in Zighinchor for the Senegambia team.
- The team from the Assembly of God Development and Relief Service in Ghana has fa-

ilitated peacebuilding training workshops in three bible colleges. They are working on a curriculum for peace education for pastors.

- Sam Johnson from the Press Union of Liberia has conducted

several training workshops for media practitioners in Liberia since he left WAPI. In his letter to us, Sam indicated that the JustPeace model presented at WAPI is the framework he uses in his training workshops.

Challenges

- The number of applications for WAPI 2002 was overwhelming. It was not possible to satisfy all candidates. WANEP will increase the number of courses to offer in 2003 to accommodate the growing demand for training in peacebuilding.
- The WAPI courses were conducted in the two major languages, French and English. Managing with two languages while exploring concepts and theories was a challenge. All of the Francophone

participants recommended thorough translation of training materials in French. They also recommended French trainers so that they can also get some of the lessons in their own language. Locating a Francophone trainer in active peacebuilding is proving difficult.

Lessons Learned

- WAPI has provided WANEP with an annual forum where learning and experiences from the field can be collected, collated, and repackaged as a body of knowledge. WAPI will promote WANEP's core objective of becoming a learning organization
- Though the focus of WAPI should remain in West Africa, it is useful to encourage a few participants from other sub-regions. The sharing from the Uganda participant was very much appreciated by the West Africans
- Public or civil servants from Governments did not gain from the experience of WAPI. There should be a deliberate effort to bring in such actors to directly influence official policy.

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Network Coordination, Research & Documentation E. Gordon-Mensah & H. C. Birch

Network Coordination, Research and Coordination promotes harmony and cohesion among civil society based peacebuilding organizations and individuals in West Africa. Core activities include networking between members of WANEP, cross-fertilization of expertise and experience, documentation and publication of lessons learned from the field, publishing quarterly newsletters and periodic monographs.

Objectives

- Compile and publish member and resource person directory.
- Produce and publish quarterly newsletters, annual report, occasional papers and monographs.
- Design and maintain website.
- Link related programs within and between countries.
- Establish contact with local, regional and international media to promote collaborative peacebuilding in West Africa.
- Profile member organizations in order to promote and legitimize their works.
- Conduct research on indigenous methods for peacebuilding in West Africa.
- Conduct lessons learned consultations with practitioners.

Highlights of Activities



• **Resource Center**

WANEP has established a resource room at the Secretariat. Books, audio visual materials and periodicals are being sorted by an expert on Library development. WANEP is requesting members and well wishers to donate books and other resource materials to the Resource Center. The Center will serve students of WAPI, interns and others who are pursuing studies in peacebuilding.

• **Website Design and Maintenance**

A Website Assistant/Desktop Publisher has been employed to handle the maintenance of the website and design and layout all publications. With support from our internet service provider (ISP) the Website Assistant/Desktop Publisher has redesigned the WANEP website in French and English.

• **Publications**

During the period under review WANEP published three quarterly newsletters (WANEPLinks), 2001 Annual Report, three topical papers, Report on Civil Society Consultation in Nigeria, and a WAPI brochure.

• **National Networks**

Secretariats for four national networks were developed and equipped. These are Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Ghana. WANEP will actively engage national networks in the coming year so as to improve upon the coordination of in-country peacebuilding.

• **Members and Resource Persons Directory**

Progress has been made on the compilation of information on civil society based peacebuilding organizations that are members of WANEP in West Africa including Cameroon. It was hoped that the directory would have been published by the end of 2002 but this was not possible due to the slow response from some of our members and also the need to include members of the newly inaugurated national networks in the directory. This has been the major setback. It is hoped that by the end of the first quarter of 2003 all information would have been collated from all network members and the directory would be published.

Outcomes

A website (www.wanep.org) has been established. The site has received a large number of visitors from Africa, the United States, Europe, and Asia. The site contains publications, basic facts on WANEP, early warning reports on conflict trends in West Africa and research reports. Ef-

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forts are being made to expand the search engine and repair all broken links of the site to enhance access. The website also hosts the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute at www.wanep.org/wapi.

WANEP-Links and *From the Field* series are helping in the cross-fertilization of knowledge and experience. The publications are widely distributed and readership is increasing. Particular positive feedback is the emphasis on practice instead of theoretical discourse. Grass root organization least known are now being exposed to the international community through these publications.

Difficulties

- The concept of peacebuilding network is new and many organizations and individuals seem to have conflicting expectations of the alliance. The Secretariat regularly

visited national networks to clarify expectations, resolve conflicts rooted in power struggle and lack of understanding of the function of national peacebuilding networks.

- Poor communication infrastructure in nearly all West African countries hampers effective communication and coordination. Besides, it makes the task of communication very expensive.

- Travel in West Africa is another challenge. Only a few airlines fly in West Africa and these are unreliable and very expensive to say the least. Flights are missed, delayed and cancelled and this affect our work adversely.

- The banking system and the transfer of money from one country to the other for project implementation have proven extremely difficult as well. Many times, resources are carried by staff in order to ensure that the funds are available and on time for project implementation. This increases risks to the personal safety of staff.

Activities for the Next Project Period

- Institutional development support for 6 national networks
- Computers for 3 national networks
- 4 Quarterly Newsletters
- Publish Directory for Member Organizations/Resource Persons
- 2 Board of Administrators Meetings (2 each year)
- 1 Annual General Meeting
- 1 Annual Report
- 2 Monograph or 6 topical papers
- 2 Intern support

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding Program Report 2002

Active Nonviolence and Peace Education

L. Addae-Mensah

Non-Violence and Peace Education Program: The rate at which West Africa's hospitable cultures are being replaced with the culture of violence, disaffection, religious intolerance, and fear is alarming. Respect for life, appreciation for relationship and community, deference for age, roles, and sex are becoming values of the past. The social, moral, political, and economic decadence has crept into both formal and informal educational sectors. Lack of well-trained teachers who see teaching as a vocation as opposed to an occupation to earn a living, lack of adequate and context-relevant pedagogic materials for teaching, little or no recognition of the teaching profession, and high level of corruption within education institutions leading to the erosion of the merit system explain the persistent *politics of the belly*, primordialism, and underdevelopment that now define West Africa.

The Active Nonviolence and Peace Education program supported by the European Union through CORDAID and DKA-Austria is WANEP's attempt to proactively address the crisis of identity and culture of violence that is spreading in the sub-continent. By targeting teachers who have become the primary group for socialization and children-West Africa's future, WANEP hopes to contribute to a better tomorrow where the sanctity of life, character, and integrity will be restored and appreciated. The program began in August 2000, although 2002 is the second year of a three-year support from the European Union.

In the second year under review the Active Non-violence and Peace Education Program emphasized the development of the pedagogic tools required for the operationalization of the program in formal schools. The three year program is implemented in seven West African countries: Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Ghana

Objectives

- Develop region-specific curriculum, teacher's guide, and source books for non-violence and peace education
- Organize Training of Trainers (TOT) workshops for teachers from the seven pilot countries
- Design strategies for the implementation of a three-year peace education program and conduct trial test of the curricula in 84 schools selected from the pilot countries
- Organize a regional conference of ministers for education, youth, and the girl child to adopt policies that will mainstream peacebuilding and non-violence in the educational systems of West Africa
- Develop peace clubs in the selected schools

Highlights of Activities

The second year of the project focused on the testing and contextualization of the pedagogic tools developed in 2001. These include curriculum, teacher's guide and source books for primary, junior and senior secondary schools of both the Francophone and Anglophone West Africa. The following activities were undertaken to achieve this goal:

Pre-testing workshops

The process of designing and developing a curriculum, teacher's guide and sourcebook on non-violence and peace education began with the organisation of a conference of experts in May 2001 with several other meetings of the working committee following on. A series of pre-testing workshops with thirty teachers in each country began in 2001 and concluded during the period under review. The last two workshops were in early 2002 in Liberia and Ghana. Through these workshops, teachers made significant contributions to the development of the materials.

Finalising working drafts of materials

Two significant meetings took place during the year to collate the various findings and observations from the various workshops and review the process so far. First was the 3-day working session in Lagos with the WANEP WIPNET

coordinator. Then followed another 3-day meeting in Dakar with a group of francophone educators to begin the process of adapting the tools to francophone context and review the process so far. Out of this process a paper that outlines the strategy for implementing the programme in schools was produced.

- **Development of Peer Mediation Handbook**

During the year under review, WANEP contracted a consultant to design a draft training manual for schools looking specifically at peer mediation. The forty-page draft manual was completed in November. It outlines the techniques for peer mediation, its importance and relevance for West African youths, and skills of peer mediation. Methodology for the use of the handbook are also included. It is important to note that the consultant hired for this project is among the first youths to experience peer mediation processes in West Africa. He was trained in 1994 as peer mediator, operated peer mediation program in his secondary school for 3 years and later became a trainer both in his home country of Liberia and other West Africa countries for five years. The manual is, therefore, rich with practical experience.

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Highlights of Activities

• **Formation of Country Teams**

Each country in the pilot project is to form a country team of not more than 5 people to oversee the implementation of the project in 12 schools in their countries. WANEP completed the formation of country teams for the Anglophone countries in the project. The team comprises five persons including two representatives from the WANEP national secretariat, one person from the ministry of education, and two teachers with interest in peace education. The country team will serve as trainers in peace education and non-violence in each country. The team will coordinate the organisation of all follow-up activities relating to the non-violence and peace education programme, monitor and accompany the trained teachers and students, liaise with relevant institutions relating to education, and facilitate the incorporation of the programme into the West Africa school systems.

• **Training Workshop for Country Teams**

A five-day training of trainers' workshop for 21 persons selected from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Ghana took place from 16th to 20th December 2002 in Elmina, Ghana. Objectives for the training were to:

- o Expose the teams to the concepts, philosophy, and methodology of the pedagogic tools for school based peacebuilding and social reconciliation
- o Develop skills in facilitating peer mediation training and the use of the peer mediation handbook
- o Discuss and design terms of reference for conducting research on issues of education and peacebuilding in West Africa as preparation for the policy conference with ministers of education scheduled for 2003
- o Design strategies for the implementation of the policy conference

Outputs

- o Peer Mediation Handbook
- o Curriculum for Primary, Junior and Senior Secondary Schools
- o Trainers Guide for Teachers
- o Four Country Teams in Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone

Key challenges

- o Getting schedules of the working committee to coincide has been extremely difficult. Contacting members individually and through the email system even this proved difficult as a number of the members have little access to the internet.
- o We are still wrestling with the applicability of an integrated peace education curriculum for the French and

English speaking countries. The feasibility of this strategy will be tested in the coming year

- o Schedules of schools in the sub region vary. As a result planning regional activities and programs was also a challenge

Lessons learnt

- o Workshops organized for teachers provided the most learning experience for us during the reporting period. We were brought closer to the realities of being a teacher in West Africa. Various methods of teaching, attitudes of teachers towards teaching and students, attitudes of community towards teachers, and students' expectations of teacher and teaching were explored.
- o Involving the teachers deepened sense of ownership in the respective countries. This re-emphasises the extreme importance of involving target groups and key stakeholders in all stages of a project. Most teachers left the workshops with elevated sense of worth as a teacher. They now appreciate the critical role they play in the making of persons and building of society. We hope society too would do reciprocate and give back to the teachers their dignity and recognition.
- o Team approach to the process was also realized and well appreciated. This prompted the idea of creating country teams which was not originally designed in the program. The country team approach is also strategic as it facilitates the process of contextualisation and ensuring sustainability of the project in each country. As the project unfolds in each country the team will be expanded. Ultimately, a national coalition that will revolutionize education in West Africa would evolve in each country.

Follow-up plans

The following are the plans we hope will help to achieve the overall goal of the programme in the subsequent and final project year:

- *Translation of materials into French*
- *Training of trainers (francophone countries)*
- *Training of Teachers who will train peer mediators*
- *Training of peer mediators in schools*
- *Research on Education Policies Roles in Promoting Peace, Social Reconciliation, and inter-group co-existence*
- *Conference of ministers of education for Policy design for education for peacebuilding in West Africa*
- *Development of learner's handbook*
- *Formation of peace clubs*

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding Program Report 2002

West Africa Early Warning & Response Network (WARN)

T. Suifon

WARN is an integral part of the West Africa Proventive Peacebuilding Program of WANEP. As a member of the Forum on Early Warning and Early Response (FEWER) WANEP through this program is setting the stage for a civil society based early warning and response network in West Africa. WARN's geographical scope covers the entire Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) sub-region including Cameroon and Chad. Present focus is the Mano River Basin countries of Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire with immediate plans to expand into the former Sene-Gambia region. Funding for activities implemented during this reporting period was provided by the Catholic Relief Services (CRS)-West Africa Regional Office (CRS-WARO). Activities for this reporting period included two training workshops for conflict monitors in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea Conakry, and Côte d'Ivoire, two strategic risk and opportunity assessment reports, and a training manual.

Objectives

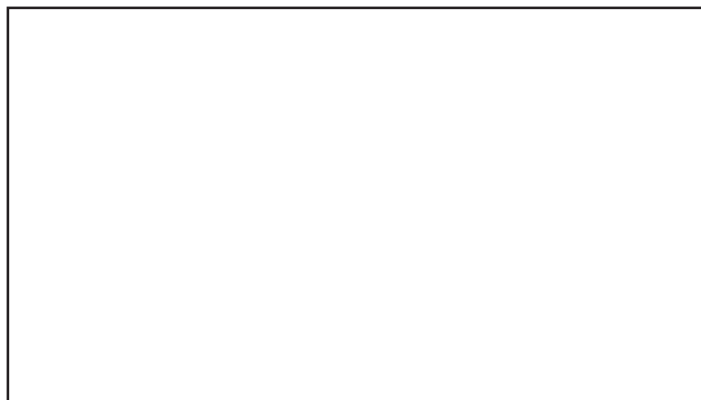
- Develop local and regional capacities/structures for early-warning and response through training, technical assistance and data-based development
- Develop and monitor context-specific conflict and peace indicators
- Foster a collaborative relationship between civil society and already established regional/international peacebuilding and conflict prevention organizations by sharing and documenting preventive instruments, mechanisms, tools and priorities
- Promote proactive and integrated approaches to conflict prevention and peacebuilding

Highlights of Activities

- **Training of Monitors (TOM):** The West Africa Early Warning and Response Network (WARN) considers training as the foundation on which the analysts and practitioners draw their knowledge and skills. The goal of the training is therefore to develop knowledge base and skills of peacebuilding, human rights, media and development workers who will serve as conflict and peace monitors to report on conflict trends and the psycho-dynamics of key peace and conflict stakeholders in the sub-region. A total of 75 conflict and peace monitors were trained in Liberia (August 5-10) for Sierra Leone and Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire (August 26-30) for Guinea-Conakry and Côte d'Ivoire. The Côte d'Ivoire training was particularly significant. Less than three weeks after the training a rebellion engulfed the country and the conflict indicators participants identified have become the justification for the present rebellion in Côte d'Ivoire.
- **Training Manual:** The two training of monitors sessions and WANEP's experience over the years provided the basis and material for the region specific training manual in conflict and peace monitoring that has been developed. The manual is being reviewed and will be published in the next project period. The manual is divided into three sections: Conflict Analysis, Early Monitoring and Warning, and Response Mapping, Analysis and Mobilization.
- **Strategic Risk and Opportunity Assessment:** This constitutes a data base document. It identifies the country specific stability and instability indicators, key actors/spoilers/connectors/triggers, analyzes them, and proposes strategies for conflict prevention, resolution and transformation. Two studies were conducted during the reporting period on post-war Sierra Leone and crisis-ridden Cote d'Ivoire. Reports from the studies are completed.
- **Situation or Early Warning Reports and Policy Briefs:** WARN's idea was to complete the first phase of the training this year and effectively start the reporting process beginning 2003. The September 19 coup turned rebellion in Côte d'Ivoire became the litmus test for WARN. WARN in response published five Policy Briefs on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. The analyses and the scenarios were vastly circulated to WANEP's part-

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Highlights of Activities



and security in the region. Already conflict monitors in Côte d'Ivoire are responsible for the unique role WANEP is playing in the current crisis; their local on the ground reports inform the analysts WANEP is producing for

tors and analysts suffer personal threats including death threats. During the period under review the Executive Director of WANEP escaped near death in the hands of the Anti-Terrorist Unit of the Government of Liberia while conducting training for conflict monitors in Monrovia; he walked several hours into the bushes to escape Liberia. These threats are real and could increase as WANEP's conflict reports gain wide acceptance and are referred to by international media institutions. How to manage such risks is a major challenge.

ners. FEWER Secretariat provided the peer review and led in international dissemination. Feedbacks from readers including diplomats, the UN agencies, and key political leaders in the region are still coming in.

policy makers

Challenges

- **Engaging the Media:** Although this was not a planned activity the Program Coordinator and directors of WANEP have provided interviews with local and international media institution. Three interviews with Radio Deutschewelle (Voice of Germany), three interviews with BBC World Service, one briefing with Radio France International (RFI), one interview with Christian Science Monitor-World Service, and a number of interviews with local FM stations in Accra, Ghana.

- The need for timely conflict reporting for effective policy influencing is critical, yet the rapid rate at which conflict changes once it has reached a crisis proportion is difficult if not impossible to manage;
- Those who have the means and responsibility to act to manage or transform conflicts often do not read conflict reports. They are too busy to give any attention to analysis. WANEP is yet to have full access to national and regional policy makers in West Africa; Consequently, we suffer the trauma borne out of helplessness—knowing about an impending crisis and going through the risks and pain to warn about it and yet living to see the doom happens—is highly traumatic to say the least;
- Governments in West Africa, especially repressive regimes, still perceive civil society based early warning as intelligence gathering for foreign governments; as a result conflict moni-

Activities for the Next Period

WARN has just entered into a major partnership with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to implement a Capacity Building in Conflict Prevention and Good Governance Project for the Conflict Prevention Unit of ECOWAS and Civil Society Organizations (COSs) in West Africa. The project commenced October 2002. Activities will include training, institution support to CSOs and ECOWAS, and conflict reporting. We look to 2003 with excitement as this project brings us closer to ECOWAS, the institution that is at the centre of track one peacebuilding in West Africa.



OUTCOMES

- As a result of WANEP's quality analysis of conflicts in West Africa, the organization has gained the attention of highly credible international media;
- WANEP is quoted by a number of international diplomats and reporting networks including UN-IRIN
- 75 individuals are now trained conflict monitors in the most unstable region of West Africa; their reports will hopefully contribute to peace

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Collaborative Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone *E. Bombande, Coordinator*

Collaborative Peacebuilding Programme in Sierra Leone (CPP-SL): During the year under review, WANEP successfully concluded the first phase of the Collaborative Peacebuilding Program in Sierra Leone (CPP-SL). The program was designed in September 1999 following an intensive assessment of the Sierra Leone conflict. WANEP together with its partners consulted with 15 civil society organizations, 2 inter-governmental agencies and two government ministers. The Collaborative Peacebuilding Program was then designed taking into account concerted and integrated strategies in peacebuilding. Twenty national consultations, workshops, and meetings were held during the project life. Eighty members of parliament, 120 civil society leaders, 20 paramount chiefs, 40 primary victims, and 180 former combatants of the defunct Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), Revolutionary United Front (RUF), former Sierra Leonean Army (SLA), and the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) directly benefited from the project.

Core activities carried out during this reporting period included a consultation with primary victims and an interim end-of-project assessment. Ongoing institutional support to the Network for Collaborative Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone, an offspring of the CPP-SL is captured in the report.

Objectives

- Promote the development and articulation of local perspectives and definition of the Sierra Leone Conflict
- Facilitate understanding of the concepts and frameworks of peace and reconciliation in a context of a post-war society
- Build national coalition for peace, social reconciliation and post-war re-socialization
- Participate in the design and operationalization of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Special Court

Highlights of Activities

• Victim Groups

As part of the consultations with strategic stakeholders who have the capacity to influence durable social peace, WANEP organized a three day consultation with Victim Groups. Forty participants including those physically disabled by the civil war attended the consultation. Our primary objective was to ascertain the prevailing understanding of primary victims of the definition of the conflict, their expectations for post-war Sierra Leone, and their role in healing and reconciliation. It was revealed during the consultation that humanitarian support to victim groups has been increasingly reduced. There has been no campaign, commensurate to the internationally acclaimed disarmament program for ex-combatants, to demobilize and restore the lost humanity of war victims. No public and national recognition has been accorded them as yet. The workshop provided the opportunity for victims to express their grief, anger, shame, and despair.

We were challenged to demonstrate in concrete terms our commitment to address the material and survival needs of victims. Consequently WANEP supported three of the victims with sewing machines and employed one of the ex-combatants in the offices of the NCP-SL. Others were given one-year scholarships. While it is true that WANEP is not in relief, it was difficult to leave these victims without a symbolic demonstration of goodwill. The NCP-SL has been following progress in the lives of the participants from these workshops especially those for whom we provided scholarships and skills support. Some have already been referred to members of WANEP who deal directly with relief and rehabilitation.

• Peace Impact Assessment (PIA)

In the three-year program for Sierra Leone WANEP integrate a mechanism to monitor and assess the impact of work done in the country. During this reporting period, a peace impact assessment survey was conducted. Terms of reference in-

cluding a framework for conducting the survey were developed, discussed and approved by all stakeholders including the Network for Collaborative Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone (NCP-SL), donor partners (CORDAID and Act-Netherlands) and the African Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Network based in Nairobi, Kenya.

A total of 60 participants drawn from the four provinces in Sierra Leone attended the PIA. Those who attended the assessment consultation were participants of the project. After attending the workshops and consultation they applied the skills and concept in their works. The goal of WANEP, therefore, was to ascertain the impact of the project on their personal lives and professional or community work. It also examined peacebuilding approaches and strategies adopted by the beneficiaries of this project, whether the five operating principles of peacebuilding shared during the workshops and consultations were upheld in their work. The principles

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Highlights of Activities

are comprehensiveness, local ownership, strategic thinking and acting, interdependence, and sustainability. A full report of the PIA including narratives of qualitative impact of the project is available at WANEP Secretariat and will be hosted on the website (www.wanep.org) in 2003.

OUTPUTS

- 630 participants (about 200 women) participated directly in all activities of the project; while over 50,000 radio audience benefited from peace campaigns carried out through the radio.
- A framework for concerted and collaborative peacebuilding called Network for Collaborative Peacebuilding was established during the project; the NCP-SL remains the only infrastructure that articulate cooperation, networking, and coordination among local, national, and international organizations operating in post-war Sierra Leone.
- Over 60 members of the NCP-SL have attended advanced courses through the support of WANEP both in and out of West Africa; these trained members are now the team of trainers, conflict monitors and analysts in Sierra Leone. Their expertise are being used locally and internationally.
- A Standing Committee on National Reconciliation was conceived during consultations with members of parliament in 2001; the MPs followed through their commitments by establishing into law a framework in parliament that will strategize and articulate peacebuilding and social reconciliation in Sierra Leone.
- While it may be difficult for WANEP to claim its role in Sierra Leone's peace process at the political level, leaders of the RUF and AFRC who participated in WANEP's consultation have indicated the impact of those deliberations on decisions they made during negotiations in and out of the country; change of language and frequent use of words like "the cycle of violence", reconciliation, building bridges with coalition of the willing, became common jargons picked up from these consultations by the rebel leaders.
- Beneficiaries of this project still maintain their relationship with WANEP and the NCP-SL by frequently visiting the offices of NCP-SL, maintaining communication with WANEP, and actively participating in post-war peacebuilding in Sierra Leone.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Scars of Sierra Leone's decade long civil war are evident everywhere in the country. While a number of people try to repress the psychological scars in order to survive, the

maimed and physically disabled, women and girls who became HIV positive out of gang rape, the unprecedented increase in prostitution and street begging, and the presence of dilapidated buildings everywhere make forgetting impossible for all Sierra Leoneans. Facing head on the painful past cannot be wished away.

- Resources needed to heal the past are in short supply. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission charged with this responsibility to heal old wounds and build a new society is grossly under-funded while the Special Court that targets not more than 100 war criminal in the country has 58 million United States dollars to do its job. The Special Court, though needed to re-establish justice in Sierra Leone, lacks the mandate and capacity to rebuild Sierra Leone's shattered society. The under-funding of healing and reconciliation processes in Sierra Leone is not only a challenge, it is a threat to durable peace in the country.
- There are multiple intervention activities in Sierra Leone with hundreds of organizations working on a wide range of issues including relief, development and peace. In many instances, these multiple activities have not informed one another; thus, creating a gridlock. The Network for Collaborative Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone and its members are attempting to encourage complementarity and cooperation. The task is proving difficult although gradually many are beginning to appreciate working together.
- Managing the leadership of the Network and ensuring effective coordination is the current challenge. WANEP is endeavoring to elaborate and clarify the structure and operation of network and collaborative frameworks. In the coming years the structural and operational clarity will be done in Sierra Leone through workshops and consultations.

LESSONS LEARNED

Sierra Leone taught us that operating integrated and collaborative peacebuilding program in a deeply divided society requires flexibility, careful and continuous planning, and constant affirmation of the power and resources of local actors. It requires transparency, trust-building, and focus on process instead of result. During the three years we cannot count one plan that was carried out smoothly and according to schedule. Exigencies including sporadic armed clashes and difficulty getting all actors at a scheduled time challenged our search for peace in the country. The success we claim today is a result of patience, hope, faith in local actors, and constant exploitation of interpersonal conflicts as opportunity for personal and collective growth. Our understanding of the psychology of people under crisis and people intervening in crisis increased significantly as well.

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Justice Building in West Africa

F. M'Boge

Justice Building in West Africa: With support from the European Union through CORDAID, a study is underway to survey the current relationship between peacebuilding and human rights organisations in West Africa. The project seeks to develop the framework and strategy whereby human rights and peacebuilding practitioners will harmonize their interventions so that justice and peace can embrace both in theory and in practice. The project was conceived along with CORDAID and Samuel Kofi Woods, a renowned human rights activist from Liberia. The partners believe that in order to achieve durable peace in West Africa, a more collaborative relationship between human rights and peacebuilding organizations is required.

A consultant was hired by WANEP to carry out the study. At the first meeting with Management of WANEP, a detailed work plan was produced. Activities include a survey of human rights organisations in West Africa and their capacities to influence issues of justice and peace, conduct two case studies on transitional justice in Sierra Leone and the role of the Africa Commission for Human and People's Rights in re-establishing justice in countries emerging from armed conflicts in West Africa; conduct 3 in-country consultations between human rights & peacebuilding organisations in Senegal, Guinea Bissau & Sierra Leone; and develop a conceptual framework for an integrated justice and peacebuilding course to be taught at the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI).

Objectives

- Identify and map human rights and peacebuilding organizations in West Africa and their capacity to influence issues of justice and peace in their respective contexts;
- Assess the operational relationship between human rights and peacebuilding organizations in West Africa, as well as their ability or willingness to participate in regional collaborative programmes;
- Assess the main issues and challenges facing human rights and peacebuilding organizations in West Africa and their current strategies to counter such challenges;
- Promote national and regional dialogue between human rights and peacebuilding practitioners and organizations in West Africa;
- Identify key strategic interventions of human rights organizations and their correlation in peacebuilding and vice versa;
- Support longer-term efforts of human rights organizations to promote the culture of peace, justice, and reconciliation through offering appropriate training in justice and peacebuilding concepts and skills at the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI);

Highlights of Activities

• **Directory of Human Rights organisations**

A data base on human rights and peacebuilding organizations in all countries of West Africa is being compiled. This will act as a useful guide as it will highlight their institutional and operational capacities, the strengths they will bring to joint ventures, their weaknesses and critical areas for capacity building. A Questionnaire was developed and used as instrument for data collection in the field.

• **In-Country Consultation with Human rights and Peacebuilding organisations**

Three consultations were planned. So far, two have been held in Zighinchor at the heart of the

Casamance region of Southern Senegal and in the capital of Guinea Bissau. During each consultation, a total of 25 peacebuilding and human rights organisations active on the ground came together to engage in open dialogue aimed at assessing their operational relationship, as well as their ability or willingness to participate in regional collaborative programmes. In doing so, we considered the main issues and challenges facing human rights and peacebuilding organizations and brainstormed on the current strategies to counter such challenges. The media expressed interest in the consultations and awareness was increased with the general public by WANEP's participation in radio programmes and interviews in Guinea Bissau and Senegal.

• **Case studies**

The study was also expected to conduct two case studies in which the Consultant is to analyse strategies used by justice or human rights and peacebuilding organizations in their respective interventions with focus on identifying strategic links. The demonstrative case studies gave the study a thematic focus. The first case study was conducted on "*The role of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights in addressing human rights violations in countries emerging from violent civil conflicts*". Draft report from this study is completed and is being reviewed at the WANEP Secretariat. The second case study aimed at assessing "*the role of human rights and peacebuilding NGOs in Post-Con-*

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flict Peacebuilding" is due to be conducted in Sierra Leone in February 2003.

- **Application for Observer Status to the African Commission on Human and People's Rights**

Human rights activists and organisations from across the African continent and international NGOs, state representatives, and national human rights institutions gather each year for the Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights with headquarters in Banjul, The Gambia. While preparing to conduct the first case study on the Commission, the Consultant discovered that although WANEP is the largest peacebuilding coalition in West Africa it does not affiliate with the African Commission. The Consultant therefore applied on behalf of WANEP for observer status with the Commission. At the 32nd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' rights, held in the Gambian capital, Banjul, WANEP was granted Observer Status to the Commission. WANEP has now been provided with the unique opportunity to participate fully in the Commission's activities and serve as a reference point for issues relating to peace and security in West Africa. WANEP can now bring to the attention of the Commission issues of peace and security and influence the agenda of Ordinary sessions.

Outcomes

- A major outcome during this reporting period is the granting of observer status to WANEP by the African Commission on Human and People's

Rights. Being close to the largest human rights entity on the African continent is already a marked achievement for WANEP's goal to harmonize justice and peacebuilding work in the sub region.

- As a result of the consultation in Senegal, human rights and peacebuilding organizations are in the process of launching a peacebuilding network for WANEP in Senegal. This is a clear indication of the level of commitment of these various organizations to develop an all inclusive approach to

building justice and peace in Senegal particularly in the Casamance region where a 20-year secession war persists.

- Also, for the first time, through this project, WANEP has entered Guinea Bissau. Organizations in Guinea Bissau are also working to establish a national coalition for justice and peacebuilding. With a network in Guinea Bissau, WANEP can now boast of presence in all member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Challenges

- Language divide in West Africa

proved to be a challenge in linking organizations and expertise across the region. The major challenge was experienced in the Portuguese speaking country of Guinea Bissau as none of WANEP's staff speak Portuguese. The use of interpreters and the translation of documents was difficult and yet necessary.

- Arranging travel throughout the region posed its own challenges which meant that extra days had to be added to each travel to cover delays and flight irregularity and connections.
- The organization of in-country consultations revealed some of the challenges and obstacles faced by the organisations themselves that hinder their ability to work together effectively.
 - Involvement in countries where WANEP has not been active required some active work to engage partners and contacts to facilitate the smooth implementation of the project.

Activities for the Next Project Period

- Organise the final in country consultation with human rights & peace building organisations in Sierra Leone
- Conduct case study on the role of human rights and peacebuilding NGOs in post-conflict Sierra Leone
- Produce a working directory of human rights organisations in West Africa
- Design a module outline for a justice and peacebuilding course to be taught at WAPI 2003
- Publish the final report of the project as a monograph
- Formulate a concept paper for a regional conference on adopting joint strategies that look at the link between justice / human rights and peacebuilding issues that are specific to the regional context.