



WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

APRIL - JUNE, 2012

CONFLICTS AND INSECURITY: THREAT TO ECOWAS INTEGRATION AGENDA



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:

The Second Quarter of 2012 witnessed an upsurge of violence in most countries in the sub-region. The Malian rebellion continues to linger on, violent extremism continued unabated in Nigeria and a coup attempt foiled in Cote d'Ivoire. A coup d'état in Guinea Bissau following the death of the former president and in the build-up to the 2nd round of its presidential election exacerbated the volatility of the region which was recuperating from an earlier coup in Mali. These events signal grave security implications for the entire sub region.

Insurgency has sustained in the North of Mali where Islamist militants have capitalized on the disharmony within the army and government in Bamako to relentlessly unleash terror on the citizenry. This situation has generated massive refugees and internally displaced persons which pose a threat to the neighbouring countries and across the sub-region. So far, an estimated number of 350,000 refugees have crossed Malian borders into Mauritania, Niger, Algeria and Burkina Faso thus compounding an already deepening humanitarian crisis due to drought and famine.

Conflict and insecurity in Mali has compounded the complex humanitarian emergency and vulnerabilities in the Sahel region, where food and nutrition crisis is affecting over 18 million people due to a combination of drought, high grain prices, environmental degradation etc. This scenario poses a serious concern as the inadequate food and non-food aids accessible to most host communities particularly in Burkina Faso has to be shared with Malian refugees.

Insecurity lingers in the region with series of organised crime. The incessant bombings in Northern Nigeria by "Boko Haram" have left scores dead and properties worth millions of dollars destroyed thus posing a generational challenge on the future children.

The proliferation of weapons indicates the porosity of the West African coast; confining the populace to live in perpetual fear and limiting the economic growth and potentials of the sub region. Spats of communal violence were recorded in Ghana with envisaged implications for the upcoming polls in December.

The quarter also saw the emergence of a new militia attack which ambushed United Nation troops in Cote d'Ivoire's restive western Tai area that left at least 16 dead including 7 United Nations troops and triggered the displacement of about 300 families according to official figures. The gunmen suspected to be mercenaries from neighbouring Liberia and Ivoirians loyalists to former president Gbagbo (currently under trial in the Hague at the International Criminal Court) reaffirms the colossal presence of trans-border organised crimes in the region. In Togo, series of violent demonstrations for about two weeks by citizens against electoral reforms initiated by President Faure Gnassingbe have also been recorded with its implication on the fragile democracy in the country.

On the positive, the appointment of Fatou Bensouda, a Gambian as the chief prosecutor and the first woman to assume the top job at the International Criminal Court is celebrated by West Africans and Africans as a whole. The appointment comes after fierce denigration against the court for the grave caseload of investigations it has in Africa, arguing that it disburses justice selectively by focusing on the continent. A situation where African Union has pushed to form its own- African wide criminal court, but with the engagement of an African at its helm, the implications lies on the ability for the sub-region to curb crimes against humanity and uphold justice at large.

Similarly, the assumption of office by the first ever woman Chair of the African Union has put women in the forefront of decision making and a plus for the collective struggle of women on gender equity and recognition and generally, the respect of rights.

WANEP REGIONAL SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

WANEP'S PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES WITH GPPAC

In the framework of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), WANEP as the West Africa regional secretariat conducted a series of activities under the Austria Development Agency (ADA) funded-project on "*Enhancing Regional Response Capacity for Conflict Prevention*".

ON JUNE 17 AND 18 THE SIERRA LEONE PREVENTIVE ACTION WORKSHOP TOOK PLACE IN FREETOWN.

The meeting provided an opportunity for key stakeholders from UNIPSIL (United Nations Integrated Programme in Sierra Leone), The Sierra Leone Police, the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), The Trade Union Congress, the National Electoral Commission, Civil society representatives, the Media, WANEP Nigeria, WANEP Liberia, and WANEP Guinea Conakry. They discussed and debated the ADA Project document, which was presented

to them. In addition, they reviewed the Conflict Assessment Framework, with emphasis on the preventive action tools and how these tools can be adapted in the context of Sierra Leone.

A main concern for the people of Sierra Leone is the upcoming elections. Participants reiterated their anxiety and fears of violence and instability in light of the elections and appreciated the timely intervention of the Project. In addition, they have expressed the need to be fully trained in using the PA tools so that they can proactively prevent violence before, during and after the elections. WANEP's Elections Disputes Management Practice Guide is timely as a preventive action tool, which will support electoral disputes management effort in the West Africa region. Participants were very enthusiastic about such a tool at their disposal for the prevention of conflict in their countries

PREVENTIVE ACTION (PA) CORE GROUP MEETING IN NEW YORK

WANEP, as the West Africa Regional Secretariat for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, took part in the PA Working Group meeting from June 23-29, 2012, in New York. It is worth mentioning that the Preventive Action Working Group (WG) emanated from the Early Warning & Early Response programme, which was initiated in 2006. The working group meeting which took place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, led to the decision to rename the programme Preventive Action, reflecting a desire to focus on how early warning can explicitly lead to the mobilization of early response. The last full working group meeting took place in Beirut, December 2010 as part of the GPPAC Strategic Planning process. Since then, the programme has evolved under the lead of the Core Group, the Programme Manager and a number of regions, with a particular focus on the tools and processes that can enable Preventive Action.

The meeting brought together over 20 participants from all the GPPAC regions in the world to engage in high level consultations on the PA tools, processes and concrete engagement on the ground. During the Preventive Action Core Group meeting in New York, the activities undertaken

by the West Africa project was presented to the broader group of practitioners, which permitted areas of collaboration and cross-fertilization and twining between the various regions. Lessons learnt and best practices were equally shared.

Furthermore, WANEP also took part in the Human Security Working Group meeting organized by Cordaid and GPPAC. Whilst Human Security was one of the key founding concepts of GPPAC, it was only with the new Strategic Plan 2011- 2015 that the decision was taken for GPPAC to focus on this framework, specifically as part of its Action Learning strategy. The first Human Security (HS) Working Group meeting "Grounding the Concept of Human Security in Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention" took place on 18 October 2011 in New York. It concluded that the Human Security framework provides an important entry-point for assessing and improving the effectiveness of post-conflict peace building, state-re-building and conflict prevention, and for strengthening the role of CSOs in these processes.

As a result of the first HS working group meeting, four thematic areas have been identified for the WG to engage in:

- The role of civil society in preventing violent extremism
- Civil Society and Security Sector Reform (SSR): CSOs and security sector relations
- Towards community-based DDR approaches
- Preventing organized crime and armed violence in urban areas

WANEP contributed in the sessions of the role of CSOs in preventing violent extremism as well as SSR and CSOs relations. WANEP has been nominated as a core group member in the HS working group as well.

A side event was co-organized by Cordaid and GPPAC, bringing together high level UN officials, American and international CSOs, diplomatic missions at the UN, Women's groups, representative from the humanitarian world, communications' organization, and others. This one-day side event provided a platform for all GPPAC



regions to share experiences on related issues. WANEP chaired the session on violent Extremism, explaining root causes of violent extremism, challenges in the West African region, and practical solutions based on its experiences in the field. Additionally, WANEP also presented an analysis on the Malian political impasse with concrete

recommendations for all stakeholders to rapidly engage in.

WARN POLICY BRIEF

WANEP in its efforts to prevent disputes from escalating into violent conflicts continues to issue Policy Briefs. In the quarter under review, A Policy Brief on Sierra Leone was issued. The Policy Brief gauged the temperature for a peaceful election. The brief made analysis on the historical and current context of the electoral situation in Sierra Leone including a stakeholders analysis, , underlining issues, current state of affairs, predictable scenarios and concrete actionable recommendations in order to ensure peaceful polls in November.

PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE FOR POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND MEDIATION

As its contribution to the field of Dialogue and mediation WANEP is finalizing a *Practitioner's Guide for Facilitating Political Dialogue and Mediation*, with special focus on multi-stakeholder processes for conflict prevention, which will complement its Election' Dispute Management Practice guide

ECOWARN-NEWS CONSULTATIONS

WANEP's engagement with other stakeholders such as ECOWAS is critical in implementing the Early Warning Early Response (EWER) Mechanism.

In the quarter under review, WANEP participated in an ECOWAS organized workshop on the platform of West African Civil Society Organizations Forum (WACSOF) engagement in EWER from June 5-6 in Lomé, Togo. WANEP, as founding member and the leader for the Peace cluster of WACSOF, presented a work plan to be adopted by ECOWAS in the efforts of engaging more CSOs in EWER mechanism.

DEVELOPMENT OF A FRAMEWORK FOR NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 IN WEST AFRICA

WANEP, in its review of the various national efforts in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in West Africa in 2010 discovered some progress in the national implementation of UNSCR 1325 with **5 countries** (Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Bissau and Cote d'Ivoire) adopting national action plans (NAPs) and, Ghana the Gambia and Nigeria in the process of developing NAPs. However, the slow progress in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 especially in West Africa where only **5 countries** have put in place the National Plans of Action after 10 years of its enactment is a clear indication that there is a need for guidance on how to develop National Action Plans through which the Resolution will be implemented.

In the light of this gap, WANEP organised a consultative meeting with experts and practitioners across West Africa between May 9 and 10 2012 in Lagos to develop a Guideline for the development of NAP for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 that can inform governments, civil society and other stakeholders in developing National Action Plans for the implementation of the Resolution.

The Expert Meeting is the first stage of the four-part strategy towards the actualization of providing a generic template that will guide the development of the NAP. It will be followed by the development of the Guidance by a Consultant, validation meeting, review, production and launch of the Guidance. Beneficiaries of this guidance will include: civil society actors, gender ministries, international nongovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in the area of Women, Peace and security and women throughout West Africa and beyond.

AFRICA REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE PROPOSED GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

A regional consultation in Africa on women in conflict and post-conflict situations was organised in Addis Ababa on 12 and 13th April, 2012 by the Secretary of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The aim of this initiative was to gather first-hand information from key stakeholders from the region and assist the Committee in its process of elaboration of a General Recommendation on "Women in conflict and post-conflict situations" in the context of the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women.

Taking into account the experience of working with women in the sub-region, WANEP took part in the consultation and shared experiences, best practices and lessons learnt to enrich the draft of the document.

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE NATIONAL NETWORKS

WANEP-BURKINA FASO

1. Institutional Matters:

From 25 to 28 April 2012, The WANEP Regional Coordinator for Network Development had a working meeting with WANEP Burkina Staff during which they were trained on financial reporting according to SIDA's standards. During the working meeting, roles and working relationship between the National Board and the National Network Coordinator on one hand and the National Network Coordinator and the Zonal Coordinator on the other hand were clarified after which an action plan was developed to carry out activities to contribute to the consolidation of peace in the country.

2. Courtesy Call on the Minister for Human Rights and Civic Promotion

During the working visit to WANEP Burkina the Regional Coordinator in the company of the board members and the National Network Coordinator paid a courtesy call on the former board chair of WANEP Burkina, Prof. Albert Ouédraogo who is now the Minister for Human Rights and



Civic Promotion. The delegation briefed the Minister about the activities being undertaken by the network. The Minister on his part thanked the WANEP delegation for the call and appreciated WANEP's work in the country but encouraged the network to do more to help the country. He also invited WANEP Burkina to be increasingly present on the ground; to play its part in managing conflicts in the country. He equally informed the delegation about his own working tour with CSOs to show solidarity with the Malian refugees.

3. WANEP- Burkina Participates in the Solidarity visits at the Malian Refugees Camps organised by the Ministry for Human Rights and Civic Promotion

From 21 to 24 June 2012 the Ministry for Human Rights and Civic Promotion organized a solidarity visit to Malian refugees in partnership with some civil society organisations.

WANEP Burkina was part of about twenty civil society organizations who took part in the solidarity visit. As part of its contribution to the cause of the refugees, WANEP Burkina represented by the Secretary to the Board donated an amount of 100000 CFA francs (Hundred thousand CFA



Francs) in response to the call by the Ministry.

The main objective of this visit was to get first-hand information to inform adequate provision of basic needs and shelter for the refugees in the North and the Sahel regions of Burkina Faso. Both refugee camps by the second quarter of the year have hosted a total of 67,000 people. The first site in the North that was visited is located 325 km from Ouagadougou and 2 km from the Malian border. Food items, clothing and animal feed were presented to the refugees by the Ministry and the CSOs.

WANEP-COTE D'IVOIRE

WANEP Cote d'Ivoire (WANEP CI) in the current context of the continuous socio-political and economic challenges still confronting the country continued with its contribution to the restoration of lasting peace through its 4 main programmes:

1. Democracy, Good Governance and Election Programme

On 05th April the quarterly meeting of zonal coordinators of the project "Civil society Engagement in Democracy and

Good Local Governance" with all the zonal coordinators present was held at the National Secretariat of WANEP Cote d'Ivoire which serves as the coordination centre of the project. This meeting was followed by the working session of the National Monitoring Committee to approve the reports from the zonal committee.

From 09th April to 05th May, the project coordinator and the deputy national network coordinator undertook the second monitoring visits of the implementation of the Democracy, Good governance and Election Programme. All the 18 municipalities in which the programme is being implemented were visited. The monitoring team met with the mayors and other administrative authorities and deliberated on the progress of the project and its impact on sustaining peace in those communities.

WANEP Cote d'Ivoire also conducted two opinion polls on national reconciliation and governance respectively from 15th to 31st May (Report available).

2. WARN Programme ECOWARN

During the quarter under review, a total of 14 situation reports and 110 incidents were submitted. A working session for the harmonization of the indicators for NEWS and its usage was also conducted; while three staff at the national secretariat were trained on the use of the NEWS site

3. Justice/Peace and Human Rights Programme

• Under the *"Non-violence, Democracy and Peace Education"* project in pre-schools and primary schools in the Abidjan District and in Adzopé, the following activities were carried out:

- Monitoring and evaluation visits in the clusters of



- schools in Adjamé, Abobo, Yopougon and Adzopé;
- Distribution of training manuals to the trained teachers from the pre-schools;
- Evaluation of the trained teachers was conducted

from 22nd to 24th May in Abidjan and on 29th May in Adzopé;

- With regards to the short film on awareness and sensitization campaign on social cohesion and national reconciliation titled « All for Peace », RT11 (a national television) broadcast two times in the week. Efforts were being made to finalize other short films in collaboration with partners.

- A Monitoring visit on the community mediation efforts in Lohé Djiboua in the South Bandama region.

4. WIPNET Programme

- Under the project *"Restoration of the Rights of Women victims of Sexual violence"*, the following preparatory activities took place:

- Meeting with all partners and stakeholders;
- Identification of facilitators for Peace Huts.;

- From 05th to 07th June, WANEP-CI in partnership with the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), and the Women Peacemakers



Programme (WPP) organized an international conference to reflect on gender mainstreaming in conflict prevention efforts.

WANEP-THE GAMBIA

1. Board meeting

In accordance with the constitutional provision of WANEP which stipulates that its Board shall meet at least twice in a year, WANEP- The Gambia's second quarterly Board meeting was successfully conducted on 5th June, 2012. The meeting discussed staff matters, programmes and projects, audit & finance and general matters of the secretariat.

2. European Union Non State Actors (EUNSA) strengthening programme, “Effective Local Government for Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development”

The one year European-Union Non State Actors (EUNSA) project which officially ended in the last quarter had the final liquidations and audit exercise successfully conducted in the quarter under review. The final narrative and financial report were scrutinized by the EUNSA Programme Management Unit. The exercises were conducted by international auditors to ensure that the EUNSA project grant was utilized as planned.

3. United Nations Democracy Fund project (undef), “Enhancing the participation of Women in Democracy.”

The two year UNDEF project which focuses on the role of women in the democratization process in the Gambia and on how to increase participatory involvement of women in decision making and governance successfully reached its third milestone. It commenced its final year during the quarter with the completion of a four-day capacity training for female aspiring candidates of the Local Government Elections. The project nonetheless continued to focus on activities of awareness creation, capacity building and sensitization of women in the regions on the need for their participation and involvement in the democratic processes. WANEP-Gambia and its implementing partners, the Forum for African Women Educationalists, FAWEGAM and Pro Hope International, PHIN-The Gambia together with the focal points from the five regions, continue to provide oversight and general support to the implementation process of the project.

A total of four (4) activities were slated for the quarter during the UNDEF project management team (PMT) review and planning meeting, which also marked the first activity of the UNDEF sixth quarter. Other activities scheduled for the quarter included: Capacity Building for Women and Political Party Representatives, which also served as the Milestone Monitoring activity by the donor's national representative, UNDP-Gambia; PMT Quarterly Advocacy Missions; and Radio Programmes.

a. PMT Quarterly Review and Planning Meeting: 16th April

The sixth quarter Project Management Team (PMT) Review and Planning meeting held on 16th April 2012 was attended by all members of the PMT. The meeting reviewed the reports of the focal points in each of the 5 regions followed by a discussion of the activities held in the fifth quarter as well as the quarterly UNDEF report. The sixth-quarter work plan was also presented to the PMT who approved all of the activities lined up.

At the conclusion of the meeting an action plan for the

Quarter was adopted by the PMT. The PMT also discussed at length the up-coming milestone monitoring activity which was scheduled to take place during the Capacity Building Training for Women and Political Party Representatives. The PMT expressed delight in attaining the project's objectives despite a few hitches.

b. Milestone Activity: Capacity Building for Women and Political Party Representatives: 23rd -26th June

A four-day Capacity Building Training for Women and Political Party Representatives was held from the 23rd – 26th April 2012, in Jenoi Agricultural Training Center, Jenoi, Lower River Region for 35 participants as well as the implementing partners, the Forum for African Women Educationalists, FAWEGAM and Pro Hope International, PHIN-The Gambia together with the focal points from the five regions. The training workshop brought together aspiring female candidates from the various political parties and members of the select committee from the different political parties to dialogue on the issue of low representation of women in decision-making processes and to plan the way forward.

Among topics and issues discussed during the training were; assessment of the National Assembly Elections; Gender and Governance; Mainstreaming Gender into Politics; Local Government Elections: National Legal Framework; Political Parties: Selection and Nomination Process. The participants who exchanged their ideas and experiences were also trained on various skills such as lobbying, resource mobilization, advocacy and networking skills. They took part in group work which gave them the opportunity to interact and work with politicians from other political parties. At the end of the four day training an Action Plan was developed.

c. PMT Sensitization and Monitoring Tour

The PMT conducted a five (5)-day sensitization and monitoring tour nationwide. A day was spent in each of the five regions respectively (WCR, URR, CRR, LRR and NBR). The tour brought together regional groups of women from different political parties as well as executives from the various political parties based in their respective regions. During the tour, awareness was raised on the issues typical of their locality and strategies to overcome them. Women expressed their encounters from their respective political parties during the nomination process by the male-dominated select committees; being the gravest factor that hinders women's participation in the political process.

The need to encourage female participation in politics was addressed; Men and women were also sensitized in the process with a unique focus on men to support women's involvement in the political process. The feedback was highly impressive and the recommendations to include more communities in the project were welcomed.

d. Second UNDEF/ UNDP Monitoring with UNDEF Implementing Agency and partners; 23rd – 26th April, 2012

The UNDEF project held its second monitoring visit during the quarter; the visit attended by the appointed UNDP representative was held as part of the monitoring and evaluation of the project upon the completion of the project milestone and the Capacity Building Training for Women and Political Party Representatives held during the quarter under review. The objective of the monitoring process was to ensure that WANEP-Gambia has reached its milestone within the timeframe and that the project is being properly implemented in the regions. According to the UNDEF appointed representative from UNDP, the activity that was implemented during the monitoring period was in line with the expected goals, outputs and outcomes that UNDEF has anticipated. The report by the UNDP monitors has since been compiled and submitted to UNDEF in New York.

With the end of the EUNSA project and the commencement of the final year of the UNDEF project the secretariat welcomed a new one year project supported by Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). The quarter witnessed the beginning of the new partnership which is geared towards, "Promoting Grassroots Democracy and Effective Decentralization". The project also aims at contributing to capacity strengthening of community-based organizations, groups and associations in the promotion of grassroots democracy. The project is targeting two regions of the Gambia: North Bank Region and Upper River Region. As part of the operationalization process of the AusAID project, a Project



Management Team (PMT) has been constituted and the first Quarterly Planning and Review Meeting conducted. Furthermore a consultative meeting has been successfully conducted in both regions.

The project provides the Network with another window of opportunity to intervene in the lives of grassroots citizens in

the Gambia by enhancing their involvement and participation in Gambia's democratic processes for the ultimate goal of sustainable peace. Following successful negotiation and signing of the one year project, WANEP Gambia the implementing agency, set out to lay the ground work for the effective implementation of the activities in collaboration with the seven member Project Management Team: National Network Coordinator, WANEP-Gambia; Admin and Finance Officer, WANEP-Gambia; AusAID Project Coordinator, WANEP-Gambia; a focal point from each of the two target regions; a representative from the Women's Bureau and a representative from the Ministry of Regional Administration, Lands and Traditional Rulers (MORALTR), formerly known as Ministry of Local Government and Lands (MOLGL).

a. Pre-Implementing Phase: Operationalisation of the AusAID project

The preliminary activities to operationalise the project constituted a number of activities and these include; setting up the project management team; paying courtesy calls at the regional level to the governors of the two target regions, considered to provide leverage on the project implementation process and results and to brief them on the AusAID project, its objective, scope, activities and outcome and at the same time solicit their unflinching support and guidance in the course of the project. As this project is geared towards addressing the issue of grassroots democracy and decentralization, it is indeed a move in the right direction as far as governance and democratization process of the Gambia is concerned and particularly in light of the up-coming 2013 Local Government Election.

b. PMT Quarterly Review and Planning Meeting: 6th June

The AusAID project held its first quarterly review and planning meeting with members of the seven member Project Management Team. With a brief background and introduction of the project and its activities by AusAID Project Coordinator, the strategy for implementation was discussed and four activities were scheduled for the AusAID project for the first quarter which runs from June – August 2012: the Quarterly Planning and Review meeting which served as the first activity of the project, advocacy and courtesy call visits, consultative meetings and a training of trainers' workshop.

Members of the PMT together discussed upcoming activities and validated the project work plan. An agenda and criterion were drawn for the selection of participants for the consultative meeting. The Admin and Finance Officer presented the budget to the PMT which was also approved and validated by the team.

c. Consultative Meetings: 19th – 22nd June

A two-day consultative meeting was held in the two

targeted regions; 19th – 20th June in Basse, Upper River Region and 21st – 22nd June in Kerewan, North Bank Region for 35 participants including the focal point in each of the two respective forums as well as members of the PMT. The aim of the consultative meetings was to introduce the project, share opinions of all stakeholders on the Local Government Decentralization Process and get feedback and reaction. The meetings brought together leaders of Community Based Organizations (CBOs), women's groups, traditional groups such as kafos and kenelengs, traditional councils, Village Development Committees (VDCs), Ward Development Committees (WDCs) and representatives from the Local Government Authority (LGA).

Both meetings were successful and participants expressed their delight for their region being chosen as part of the two targeted regions.

Useful feedbacks and reactions were derived from the meetings and they will be utilized to better inform the curriculum of the capacity building exercises as well as other activities of the project.

OTHER PROJECTS

The quarter under review witnessed the implementation of International Women's Day (IWD) under the WIPNET Programme.

SIDA WIPNET Conference: 27th April 2012

In commemorating International Women's Day 8th March 2012, WANEP Gambia and its partners on the 27th April 2012 held a one day conference on the theme "Women in Decision Making". This conference amongst others contributes to WANEP-Gambia and its Partners commitment to ensuring the empowerment of women for sustainable development and peace building in the Gambia and also encourages women's representation and participation in decision-making processes as crucial to the overall advancement of women. To ensure the involvement of every region and to decentralize the celebration, WANEP Gambia takes the celebration to a different region every year.

The meeting brought together participants from middle and senior secondary schools, health workers, government and non-governmental agencies, community based organisations and development workers, chiefs and representatives of women's groups; a total of 35 participants: 10 men and 25 women.

The conference availed WANEP-Gambia, its local partners, participants and the regional authorities an opportunity to reflect on the status of women in the world particularly the Gambia. The activity highlighted the plight, contributions, achievements as well as limitations in terms of promotion of gender equality and empowerment at all levels. International Women's Day as unanimously agreed among speakers during the conference is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women

in the past, present and future.

Staff Appointment: WANEP-The Gambia during the quarter welcomed a new Acting Project Coordinator for the UNDEF Project and an Intern who will be supporting all departments of the secretariat.

University Student Visit: During the quarter under review, the secretariat on 5th June 2012 received 25 students and 2 teachers from Juniata College, Pennsylvania, USA and California State University-Chico, California, USA as part of their Peace Studies, study abroad programme. They were welcomed by the National Network Coordinator and staff of WANEP-Gambia and were taken through the work of the secretariat and general discussion by the NNC. The team expressed their delight over the warm welcome bestowed on them and also shared their experiences with the WANEP-Gambia team. Most of them confessed that prior to their visit, they were quite apprehensive as they have never visited the African continent and were unsure of what to expect. It was a great relief to visit the Gambia where they felt safer than they do when at home. WANEP-Gambia materials such as brochures and project training manuals were shared with the group for their perusal.

WANEP-GHANA

1. YIEL project: meeting political party youth organisers in Accra

A-One day meeting sponsored by STAR-Ghana was held with National Youth Organizers of the four political parties that have representation in parliament. It was held to introduce to them the Youth in Election (YIEL) project which



is being implemented in some parts of the country and to seek their opinions on ways by which they can use their positions as role models to their party youth to ensure a peaceful election.

The participants admitted the fact that the level of impunity in the country was too much and as such, focus should not only be on the youth but also on those who incite them to cause the violence. They recommended a project of this nature should not only be implemented during election years but should continue even in non-election years because people's attitudes and behavior do not suddenly change. It was also clear from the deliberations that majority of the people do not even know the manifestoes of some of the political parties. A participant was of the view that it is time parties stopped referring to deeds in the past and rather focus on ways of dealing with the challenges confronting the country now. A communiqué was issued by the youth organizers at the end of the meeting.

2. IPYDC quarterly meetings and implementation of action plans

With sponsorship from Christian Aid, GIZ, STAR-Ghana, Ibis, British, Canadian and Australian High Commissions, the Inter Party Youth Dialogue Committee (IPYDCs) of Bawku, Tamale, Bolga, Wa, Gushegu, Yendi, Buipe, Bimbilla, Sunyani, Takoradi and Ho held their quarterly meetings. The meeting reviewed and discussed the activities, successes, challenges, lessons learnt, identification of emerging issues in their communities and the development



of action plans for the ensuing quarter.

The biometric voter registration exercise disrupted planned implementation of activities because most of them served as observers for their political parties. Nonetheless, a number of the disturbances at some of the centers were reported by them to the Early Warning Centre (EWC).

Some of the activities that were implemented included radio discussions, visits to some senior high schools to educate them on biometric registration, the dangers of minor and double registration, and meetings with party youth.

3. MEDIA Responsibility Project (MEREP)

The project seeks to promote responsible journalism in local media in Ghana in order to promote peace in the country and non-violence in the run up to elections in 2012. The project is being implemented in 7 regions with sponsorship from World Association of Christian Communication (WACC) and the German Embassy in Ghana.

For the quarter under review, meetings were held with journalists, editors, radio hosts, programme directors and CEOs of media houses to discuss their role in ensuring that there is peace in the country. Some of the challenges they mentioned were the numerous untrained journalists and radio hosts, editors etc. who produce stories without cross checking their facts, poor remuneration, over-commercialization of the air waves etc. They recommended that the National Media Commission and the Ghana Journalists Association need to put in place mechanisms ensure that media houses are professional and work for the interest of the public.

Consequently, as part of the efforts to ensure the media plays a vital role in promoting peace in Ghana, particularly before, during and after the December polls, a two day training workshop was organized for media personnel from the Upper East, Upper West and Northern Regions in Tamale. Topics that were treated included concepts in peace and conflicts, the media and mediation processes, fundamentals of journalism, promoting responsible journalism, peace journalism and the media and early warning.

4. Promoting Women's participation in Peace project

With sponsorship from Ifa/Zivik, a German Organization, the project seeks to promote women's participation in peace building processes in eight selected districts in the Northern Region. The project, currently on a pilot phase, has held consultations with local governments, traditional leaders, women's leaders, queen mothers, Department of Women etc. to select five women from each of 8 most conflict prone districts to form the core of WIPNET in the northern region. The first quarterly review meeting for 40 women was held in Tamale.

A radio discussion was also held by the women to call for decent campaigns and violent free elections. This was followed closely with a women's peace march through the principal streets of Tamale amidst pouring rain to advocate for peace in the region and the country in 2012.

WANEP-GUINEA

In keeping up with its mission of promoting peace in the country, WANEP Guinea carried out several activities both at the national and sub-regional level, among which are:



- Development and submission of a proposal for the official launching in Guinea of the Election Disputes Management Practice Guide for West Africa. The proposal developed in partnership with ACORD and CAPADEC was submitted to UNDP.
- Training of mediators on indigenous mechanism for election dispute management and conflict prevention.
- Review of the indicators of the National Early Warning System (NEWS)
- Submission of 14 incidents and situation reports for the ECOWARN
- Participation of the National Network Coordinator in the stakeholder consultation on the cross-border project in Sierra Leone
- Board meeting

WANEP-GUINEA BISSAU

In the mist of the political conflicts that continue to plaque the country, WANEP Guinea Bissau in the quarter under review carried 2 main activities:

Civil Society engagement in the Mediation efforts after the coup d'état on 12th April 2012 which led to the cancellation of the second round of the presidential elections which was scheduled for 22nd April 2012. During the political turbulence that ensued after the coup d'état, civil society organizations including WANEP Guinea Bissau and its partner organizations INTERVENTION FEMININE, PLACON-GABU and Justice and Peace actively engaged in the mediation process that sought to restore calm and peace in the country.



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WANEP-NIGERIA

1. A 2-Day Training workshop for women leaders on Community conflict monitoring and early response to community conflict and disaster in Kwande, Benue State and Jos, Plateau State.

A 2-day workshop in accordance with Humanitarian Emergency Response and Development (HERD) phase 3 was organised for community women leaders in Kwande LGA of Benue state and Jos in Plateau state.

Though previously trained on conflict resolution by the WIPNET program, the two-day workshop training brought together 20 women leaders, who were trained on community conflict monitoring, early warning and on working with the existing WANEP structure for early warning and response for conflict and disaster prevention/mitigation in the respective states.

The training enhanced the participant's knowledge on the components of early warning and response as well as their roles to ensure the prevention and mitigation of conflict and humanitarian disaster.

2. The implementation of HERD Zonal activities in 12 selected states.

Work continued with the selected states implementing the zonal activities. The activities include advocacy visits to Local government authorities (LGA) at the state and LGA levels to sensitize the leadership on engaging LGA officials in data gathering for the national early warning system of WANEP-Nigeria; training of the Community Development Department officials of all the LGAs on conflict monitoring /early warning and early response; consultative meeting with critical state institutions with the capacity to respond to issues of conflict and disaster at the state level. Plateau state concluded the implementation of the first phase of the activities, while Akwa-ibom and Kaduna state concluded the project.

3. Action plan with National Emergency Management Agency

The department in the bid to improve its working relationship with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) finalized the development of a joint action plan for the prevention and mitigation of conflict and disaster in Nigeria. A draft of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed by WANEP and NEMA has also being developed and sent to NEMA.

4. Capacity building for Farmers on Climate Change Adaptability in Agriculture Project.

In the quarter under review, the department working as the implementation partner of OXFAM GB in the implementation of the above project developed by OXFAM GB and funded by the UNPD developed the operational implementation plan and budget for the implementation of

the project scheduled to start at the end of this month. The project is to build the capacity of farmers on adaptation skills to mitigate the negative impact of climate change on farming.

Evaluation of HERD Phase III project

A consultant was engaged to evaluate the implementation of the third phase of HERD Project which the department is currently implementing. The department presently awaits the report of the evaluation for onward submission to OXFAM Novib.

Monthly Early Warning Bulletin: The department continues to upload monthly publication "Early Warning Bulletin" on WANEP-Nigeria's website for the use of state and non-states actors responding to conflict and disaster in Nigeria. The Bulletin presents the analysis of the data feed into the system by the state monitors reporting on proximate issues that may cause conflict, disaster and humanitarian crisis across the 36 states and the FCT Abuja.

Weekly Highlight

In a similar manner, the production and wide circulation of the weekly highlights have continued. The weekly highlights made available to both local and international stakeholders able to respond to the issue of conflict and natural disaster in Nigeria.

A. WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING DEPARTMENT

From April to June 2012, the Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) carried out the following activities namely:

Two -Day Strategic Planning Meeting for the states in the Niger Delta

Sequel to the Review/Experience sharing meeting, the Strategic Planning Meeting was held to meet with State, Non State Actors and stakeholders in the Financial Sector to analyse and deliberate on the sustainability and structure of the Women Social Networks (WSN). The meeting was in relation to how they can apply their potentials and new capacities to address peace and security needs within their communities and states. The meeting facilitated by NIPRODEV (an Oxfam Novib partner) based on the experience and technical capacity on Livelihood. The meeting highlighted context specific strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats towards developing a plan of action that sustains the viability, relevance, recognition, and involvement of these groups in decision making and developmental processes in the region.

II. Advocacy Visits to Strategic Stakeholders

Advocacy visits were carried out on the 23rd and 26th of April, 2012 to strategic stakeholders such as the chairman

of Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area, Ministry of Women Affairs/Social Welfare as well as the Bureau of Cooperatives in Akwa Ibom and Edo State respectively. The visit in Akwa Ibom was planned to meet with stakeholders in the state to further deepen the relationship WIPNET has established with the state actors and to get more stakeholders who were not responsive in the year 1 of the project to be more committed and proactive in the second year as one of the milestones. The stakeholders pledged their continuous support for the WIPNET project in the region.

III. Memorandum of Understanding with NIPRODEV:

In achieving some of the stated objectives of the project on **“Strengthening Women Social Networking for Effective Participation in Peace Processes in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria”** the WIPNET desk entered into a formal agreement with NIPRODEV, an NGO with expertise on Livelihood issues to facilitate the aspect of the Livelihood trainings/activities for the selected women leaders on the Phase two of the project.

IV. Design of Action Plan on Livelihood: The WIPNET desk in partnership with NIPRODEV as a follow up to the MOU developed a three- month Action plan to facilitate the Livelihood component of the current WIPNET project in the Niger Delta Region.

V. Gender Expert Meeting on the Development of a Framework for National Action Plans for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in West Africa:

The WIPNET desk hosted a Gender Expert Meeting on the **“Development of a Framework for National Action Plans for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in West Africa”** facilitated by the WANEP Regional office at ELOMAZ Hotels on the 10th and 11th of May, 2012. The meeting comprised of selected Gender Experts in the West African Region to produce a guideline to provide directions for countries who are yet to develop their National Action Plans according to the Security Council Resolution 1325 passed in the year 2000. Resolution 1325 calls for involvement of women in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolutions giving women pivotal roles in conflict transformation in the society instead of just being seen as victims of conflicts.

WANEP-SENEGAL

WANEP Sénégal is still engaged in re-launching the network into a more dynamic and functional civil society organization. The national secretariat thus, in this second quarter of the year continued with its funds mobilization both at the national and regional levels. Key activities carried out included:

1. Institutional level:

- WANEP Senegal after receiving its certificate to officially commence business embarked on a working tour to formerly introduce the Network to strategic partners.
- Project proposals developed and submitted to OSIWA and other partners
- Updating of the WANEP Senegal website.

2. Programme Level

ECOWARN

Review of the indicators for ECOWARN and NEWS.

WANEP-SIERRA LEONE

Preventive Action Training and Multi-stakeholders' Workshop in Freetown

A - One day Preventive Action Training and Multi-stakeholder workshop to promote synergy amongst ECOWAS, national CSOs, the AU and the UN to collectively act to prevent violent conflict, took place in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on June 18, 2012 under the auspices of



WANEP-Regional Secretariat and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed conflicts (GPPAC) with support from the Austrian Development Agency.

The meeting focused on conflict early warning and early response capacity in West Africa. It had 11 participants including Civil Society representatives from Liberia, Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, representatives with the WANEP Election Dispute Management Practice Guide for West Africa. Further discussions were on the validation of existing preventive action tools; review of the draft practitioners' guide for managing political dialogue and mediation developed by WANEP to draw the attention of the West Africa Preventive Action working Group to underpin the development of the preventive Action Training Pack.

The participants suggested that inter-party dialogue and the role of the media in preventing conflict should be included in the training manual to be developed by WANEP. The participants also expressed delight about the meeting and hoped to reintegrate the knowledge gained in their various countries.

A two-day National Consultative Meeting on Peaceful Elections in Sierra Leone – 20th – 21st June

A two day National Consultative Meeting was organised by WANEP regional. The meeting was geared towards identifying challenges that could confront the conduct of peaceful and credible elections in Sierra Leone in November 2012 with a view to collaboratively addressing



them through multi-stakeholders approach. The meeting was part of WANEP's contribution towards a peaceful election in West Africa anchored on our overall conflict prevention programme and was supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). Forty-five (45) participants were drawn from diverse stakeholders



including the political parties, media, CSOs and Religious and Traditional leaders.

At the end of the meeting, a communiqué was issued by the participants recommending measures to prevent and



mitigate challenges bordering on the Government/Stakeholders, Political Parties, and Civil Society Organization, International Development Partners, Business Community, Religious/Traditional Leaders, the Academia and Media. The participants also pledged commitment to play a significant role in ensuring credible and peaceful election in 2012.

Community Conflict Early Warning Monitors Trained in four chiefdoms in Sierra Leone

A Training of 160 local peace monitors including youth, women and people with disabilities (PWDs) on skills for community early warning monitoring and reporting was organized and has been completed in four targeted chiefdoms.

In Gbinleh Dixing and Bramaia border chiefdoms in Kambia



District – they were 40 participants per chiefdom with a total of 80 participants comprising 32 female including 4 PWDs and 48 male including 6 PWDs; and Zimmi Makpele and Sorogbeima in Pujehun District - 40 participants per chiefdom with a total of 80 participants with 35 female including 6 PWDs and 45 male including 2 PWDs.

The trained local peace monitors have developed and implemented plans for identifying and responding to early warning signs of conflict. For instance, by the end of April 2012, a total of 30 situation and 12 incident reports have been received and filed in the ECOWARN system for further analysis.

Table 1: Quarter Two 2012 performance indicators

| SN° | PROGRAMS | ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED | OUTPUTS / RESULTS | INDICATOR OF PROGRESS |
|----------|--|---|--|---|
| I | WARN (EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE NETWORK) | | | |
| | | <p>One -day meeting of ECOWAS and WANEP analysts under ECOWARN</p> <p>WARN Policy Brief on Sierra Leone</p> <p>A one-day Multi-Stakeholders Preventive Action Consultative & Review meeting in Freetown under the GPPAC Preventive Action programme supported by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)</p> <p>Cote d'Ivoire</p> | <p>Strengthened and sustained relationship between the EWD and WANEP early warning analysts</p> <p>A detailed Policy Brief on Sierra Leone analyzing the country's electoral history, past issues and current state of affairs with , predictable scenarios and concrete practical recommendations for actions by key stakeholders to make for peaceful electoral polls in November</p> <p>A Multi-Stakeholder proposal for the inclusion of the inter-party dialogue and the role of the media in preventing conflict in the training manual to be developed by WANEP under the project.</p> <p>Sustained submission of incidents and situation reports (110 and 14 respectively) as well as influencing policy decision in in the country with regards to the restoration of peace and social cohesion</p> | <p>ECOWAS has shown sustained confidence in WANEP's key role in the peace and security sector of the sub region.</p> <p>The policy brief was made one of the working documents during the national consultative meeting in June 2012. The Brief attracted attention from all stakeholders. Even the section of stakeholders (some political parties) who did not agree with the voting pattern illustrations in the brief, because they alleged, it sought to create division between north and south, highly commended WANEP and asked that another policy brief be developed before the election to and present recommendations to Government, election management bodies, political parties and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>There was commitment from participants to reintegrate the knowledge gained in their respective countries.</p> <p>The Ivorian Ministry of Defence has solicited WANEP CI's collaboration in its Early Warning Programme</p> |

| SN° | PROGRAMS | ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED | OUTPUTS / RESULTS | INDICATOR OF PROGRESS |
|-----|---|---|--|--|
| II | National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) | | | |
| | | <p>E C O W A R N - N E W S Consultations</p> <p>WANEP participated in an ECOWAS organized workshop on the West Africa Civil Society Organizations Forum (WACSOF) engagement in EWER in Lomé, Togo.</p> | <p>WANEP presents workplan to be adopted by WACSOF in the efforts of engaging more CSOs in EWER mechanism</p> | <p>WANEP, as founding member and leader for the Peace cluster of WACSOF continues to make its expertise available in EWER.</p> |
| III | RESPONDING TO CONFLICT THROUGH DIALOGUE, MEDIATION | | | |
| | | <p>Development of a Practitioner's Guide for Managing Political Dialogue and Mediation</p> <p>A two-day national consultative meeting for peaceful elections in Sierra Leone</p> | <p>Final draft of the Practitioner's Guide for Managing Political Dialogue and Mediation submitted by consultant</p> <p>A multi-stakeholders action plan and response strategies detailing the role of every relevant stakeholder to ensuring a free, fair, transparent and peaceful general elections.</p> <p>Report of the national consultative meeting published as reference tool</p> | <p>The final draft which is being reviewed for publication would serve as a multi-stakeholder tool for conflict prevention and be used as an additional resource to the Election Dispute Management Practice guide.</p> <p>WANEP Sierra Leone has been highly commended by the UNIPSIL for its consistent ability to bring around the table all relevant stakeholders to develop strategies for a peaceful and violence free elections. The Vice-President of the Republic of Sierra Leone through his Representative at the meeting stated: "WANEP as the prime movers of this 2-day Consultative Forum are conscious of the challenges that are implicit in conducting a free, fair and credible election..... Your presence is a clear sign that even though our interests and support may differ politically, there is a strong will to find a common ground in order to avert electoral mistrusts and violence in the forthcoming elections".</p> |

| SN° | PROGRAMS | ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED | OUTPUTS / RESULTS | INDICATOR OF PROGRESS |
|------------|---|---|--|---|
| III | RESPONDING TO CONFLICT THROUGH DIALOGUE, MEDIATION | | | |
| | | | | Due to the wide media coverage enjoyed by the consultative meeting, the Programme Director of WANEP was invited as guest panelist on the GOOD MORNING SIERRA LEONE TV programme together with the British High Commissioner in Sierra Leone, the Chair of the National Media Commission and the Public Relation Officer of the National Electoral Commission to discuss the upcoming elections. |
| IV | YOUTH AND PEACE EDUCATION | | | |
| | | Training of teachers in pre-school and Primary Schools in Cote d'Ivoire | 45 teachers (30 women & 15 men) have been assessed on democracy, human rights peace education to evaluate the level of skills that they are imparting on the school kids | <p>School communities especially in the project areas in the Abidjan district and Adzopé are reported relatively more peaceful</p> <p>The school children have become advocates of peace through the student government system that they have established in their schools and the wider community is exposed to their activities that promote peace and non-violence</p> |

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