

WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2014



WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Bombande displays the signed MOU for the press.

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 Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) continued unabated in West Africa with at least 3,000 reported deaths, as many as 6,000 infected persons and several children orphaned in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, where the virus has had enormous impacts. Selected cases of Ebola in Nigeria and Senegal led to desperate measures including closure of borders, flight cancellations and ban on regional conferences in a bid to contain the spread, a situation that further threatened the regional integration agenda of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). On August 8, 2014, the World Health Organization, WHO declared Ebola an International Public Health Emergency and issued a roadmap to scale up international response in the worst affected countries. In this regard, a United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) was established on September 19 using Ghana as the base for distribution of supplies and posting of personnel to countries affected by Ebola.

Burkina Faso: As the country prepares for presidential elections in November 2015, political tensions have increased over alleged plans by President Blaise Compaore to review Article 37 of the constitution in order to elongate his tenure in office. Tension is expected to escalate especially with the series of political cross-carpeting in the country; for instance, a faction from the opposition People's Movement for Progress (MPP), a party that split from the ruling Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP) in January 2014 resigned from MPP and have declared intention to return to the ruling party.

Ghana: In the quarter under review, cholera outbreak claimed at least 100 lives and over 5,000 confirmed cases reported. This dire situation including Ebola preventive measures has stretched and overwhelmed the capacity of health institutions to respond effectively to these threats. The stability of the country was further tested by series of demonstrations in July led by the Trade Union Congress demanding immediate solutions to the depreciation of the

Cedi and the harsh economic conditions which if not addressed, portends danger to Ghana's economy often regarded as one of the fastest growing in Africa.

Mali: Malian government and the insurgents in northern Mali commenced peace negotiations in Algiers, Algeria on July 16 aimed at reaching a sustainable agreement to meet the aspirations of all Malians. In spite of these efforts the rebels launched some offensives killing French, Chadian, Cambodian and Nigerien soldiers in separate attacks on military formations in the country. Similarly, a devastating plane crash in eastern Mali, which claimed 119 persons on board Air Algerie (AH 5017) travelling from Ouagadougou to Algiers aroused suspicion over possible terror attack¹ on grounds that the rebel groups are hostile to Western interests.

Nigeria: The Boko Haram insurgents' stranglehold on the Nigerian state continued in the reporting period with fresh attacks on communities and state infrastructures. More worrisome is the emerging trend of declaring seized territories as Islamic Caliphates. The group is now exhibiting characteristics of a conventional army; which depicts a change in tactics and a clear departure from their hitherto terrorist phase. The Nigerian government through the military has also become more resolute in clamping down on the insurgents in a bid to recapture the seized territories and restore normalcy to the troubled regions.

¹ www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2706082

1.0. HIGHLIGHTS FROM REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING PROGRAMME

WANEP NETWORKS UNITE AGAINST EBOLA

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP through the Women in Peacebuilding program (WIPNET) supported the national networks across the 15 ECOWAS member states to carry out series of sensitization activities as part of its contributions to the fight against Ebola. The sensitization activities including panel discussions on radio and television, phone-in programmes, public outreaches as well as distribution of Information, Educational and Communication (IEC) materials greatly contributed to ensuring that the public has the right information to prevent and respond to the Ebola outbreak. A major challenge in the fight against Ebola is the lack of basic commodities and the requisite resources for preventing and responding to the pandemic. Thus, the provision of hand washing items and sanitizers is to promote sanitation measures that will enable the populace to practice healthy lifestyles to protect themselves and their families from the virus.

RESPONDING TO CONFLICT THROUGH DIALOGUE, MEDIATION & RECONCILIATION

SEMINAR ON TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION IN NAIROBI



The Nairobi Peace Initiative – Africa (NPI-Africa) in partnership with WANEP and supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) organized a Seminar on **“Roles, Lessons and Challenges of Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in Africa's Transitional Justice,”** on August 7, 2014 at the Desmond Tutu Conference Centre, Nairobi in Kenya. The Program

Director of WANEP, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze in his address reiterated that solving African problems by Africans could only be achieved by establishing concrete mechanisms for the application and operationalization of indigenous African solutions.

The seminar brought together high level participants drawn from civil society, academia, development partners among others and also provided the platform to launch a publication titled **“Stretching the Truth: The Uncertain Promise of TRC's in Africa's Transitional Justice”**, authored by George Wachira with Prisca Kamungi and Kalie Sillah.

CIVIL SOCIETY COORDINATION AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE (CSDG)

WANEP STRENGTHENS ELECTION MANAGEMENT BODIES (EMBS) CAPACITY FOR EFFECTIVE DISPUTE MANAGEMENT



Under its Civil Society and Democratic Governance (CSDG) Program, WANEP organized a 3-day training workshop on Election Dispute Management for high-level representatives of EMBS comprising participants from the Nigeria Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in the six geo-political zones and Abuja, the Ghana Election Commission and from the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Unit of INEC. The training which held from July 1 to 3, 2014 in Enugu, Nigeria is the third in the WANEP capacity building series as part of its contribution to the overall democratic stability in the region.

Professor Abubakar Momoh, Director General, The Electoral Institute, Abuja in a Keynote address titled Challenges of managing Electoral Processes in West Africa: The Role of INEC identified lack of independence and professionalism, inefficient funding and logistics and overbearing influence of 'political gladiators,' as major challenges to the effective management of electoral

processes in West Africa. In addition, he cited other challenges such as the nature of appointment of EMB Commissioners, lack of professionalism and the civil service mentality of the personnel as part of the internal and external factors influencing electoral dispute resolutions in the region and recommended the ADR process as an option for redress.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

ECOWAS AND WANEP SIGN ANOTHER 5-YEAR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and



the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) signed another five-year Memorandum of Understanding, MOU in August 2014 for the sustenance of the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network, ECOWARN. The MOU was formalized in a symbolic signing ceremony at a press conference held to mark the event on September 4, 2014 at the WANEP Regional office in Accra, Ghana.

Key partners including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana, Kofi Annan



International Peacekeeping Centre (KAIPTC), and members of the print and electronic media attended the press conference. Ms. Boateng speaking on behalf of the Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Hannah Tetteh, congratulated WANEP on the renewal of the MOU, which she said was in recognition of the organization's giant strides in the promotion of peace and security in the region. Based on this recognition, Ms. Boateng urged WANEP to take the lead in the development of a national early warning system for Ghana following on the approval by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS for the development and implementation of a National Early Warning Mechanism (NEWMS) in all member states.

WANEP CALLS ON THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NIGERIA INEC

The Board and Management of WANEP-Nigeria paid a courtesy visit to the Chairperson of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Attahiru Jega in his office at INEC Headquarters, Abuja, Nigeria. The visit is in line with WANEP's mandate of engaging with relevant stakeholders in promoting peace and security in the region and followed on the heels of the seminar on Managing Electoral Disputes in 2015 General Elections organised by WANEP-Nigeria in partnership with the United States Institute for Peace, USIP. This is a step in the right direction aimed at strengthening the relationship between INEC and WANEP. An output of the meeting is the willingness of INEC to work with WANEP in harmonising a



broad based standard framework for monitoring and analysis of violent threats to the general election.

KEY MEDIA INTERACTIONS

WANEP SHARES THOUGHTS ON GLOBAL INSECURITY

The Executive Director, WANEP, Mr. Emmanuel Bombande participated in a panel discussion on Global Security

featured on Joy News Channel on Multi TV (a Ghanaian television network) on August 19, 2014 where he was a panelist with other notable experts including international expert, Dr. Vladimir Antwi Danso and Irbard Ibrahim, an International security analyst. The discussions centered on global security and the growing threats to peace and security in the West African region.

Mr. Bombande in his submission attributed current conflicts to a global systemic problem resulting from slave trade, colonialism, imperialism and violent extremism, which are often premised on religion and sectarian divisions, whether ethnic or geographical. He said the global architecture made up of the IMF, World Bank, World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other pillars are not responsive enough to meet the challenges of today and commended the increasing role of regional organisations such as ECOWAS in tackling insecurity in the region.

Speaking further, Mr. Bombande reiterated that 'African problems require African solutions,' and called on African countries to employ preventive diplomacy in potential conflict situations by setting up the architecture to deal with national and regional security and the chronic developmental challenges to economic growth and job creation.

“SHUTTING BORDERS WON'T BAR EBOLA FROM RE-ENTERING NIGERIA”

The Program Director of WANEP, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, in an interview on Channels Television in Nigeria on the sunrise programme reiterated that any plan by Nigeria or other West African countries, to close borders, as a means of reducing its exposure to the Ebola Virus Disease, would be ineffective. The Ebola Virus Disease, he said, has reinforced the “fact that borders in West Africa are merely artificial and that even if you close your borders, there are lots of people who do not understand what it means to close your borders.” Making reference to a border town between Togo and Ghana, Mr. Eze noted that many residents are not conscious of their nationality, as they have lived together, without restrictions, for many years.

He also said that closing the borders is an impediment to ECOWAS trade and integration agenda stating; “We want free movement of people; free movement of goods and services within the region”, and noted that “even in countries, where they are asking for resident permit, ECOWAS is saying no to that, so that the community becomes one community.”

2.0. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES FROM NATIONAL NETWORKS

CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP ON STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR WANEP-GHANA NETWORK MEMBERS

As part of its institutional and capacity development strategy, WANEP-Ghana held a strategic planning workshop for network members from the six regions of Ghana to discuss the strategic direction of the network for the next 5 years. A key outcome of the workshop was the development of an action plan for the implementation of the next strategic plan of WANEP-GHANA (2010-2015), which is also in line with the 5-year strategic direction of WANEP-Regional Secretariat. In order to ensure synergy and complement efforts of different peace actors, the draft plan also took into consideration the strategic directions of the National Peace Council. The plan is focused on strengthening early warning and response, implementation of UNSCR 1325, coordination of peacebuilding activities and effective collaboration with relevant stakeholders among others.

WANEP COTE D'IVOIRE STRENGTHENS ITS FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

WANEP Cote d'Ivoire in the quarter under review appointed a Finance and Administrative Manager as part of its institutional strengthening process started earlier in the year. As part of the process, an administrative and accounting manual is being developed. A monitoring and evaluation unit has also been set up to closely monitor its activities and proffer feedback on the implementation and impact of its contribution to peace and security in the country.

WANEP SENEGAL ELECTS A PROFESSIONAL BOARD

WANEP-Senegal in the review quarter elected a new board of directors at an Extraordinary General Assembly to provide direction and coordinate activities of the network. In this regard, the new board is expected to work closely with the secretariat to undertake an institutional and programmatic review of the network to ensure conformity to the tenets of the organisation, including the professionalization of the board in accordance with national laws. The board is also expected to support the secretariat in strengthening existing programs and in developing new projects.

WEST AFRICA EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE NETWORK (WARN)

THE IVORIAN GOVERNMENT COMMENDS WANEP FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE IN COTE D'IVOIRE

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire to the United Nations (UN), His Excellency Monsieur Youssoufou Bamba has commended WANEP for its contribution to peace and security in the country and the region as a whole. The commendation came in a speech he delivered at the 68th Special Session of the UN General Assembly held in New York on September 8, 2014.

Monsieur Bamba commended WANEP for "the outstanding work done by the Ivorian chapter of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP-CI, The NGO (WANEP-CI) should be better supported with substantial resources to increase its effectiveness." The Ambassador specifically mentioned the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS), which he said, has provided an effective platform for preventing conflict and promoting peace in Cote d'Ivoire through the collation of appropriate data and dissemination of quality reports on human security. He also congratulated the Ivorian Civil Society actors for their efforts at contributing to conflict prevention initiatives in the country.

WANEP-GHANA HOLDS REFRESHER TRAINING FOR WOMEN

WANEP-Ghana in the quarter under review organised refresher training on Mediation, Negotiation and Early Warning for 15 selected women through the WIPNET programme. The training was aimed at building their capacity on conflict handling mechanisms including mediation and negotiation to effectively mediate in conflict in their various communities and also provided opportunity for knowledge and experience sharing. With the requisite skills, the women are expected to serve as mentors to other women and participate in peace processes in their respective communities.

WANEP-SIERRA LEONE CONDUCTS ADVANCE TRAINING FOR LOCAL PEACE MONITORS

WANEP-Sierra Leone conducted training for 75 peace monitors comprising 30 women and 45 men drawn from five districts of the country on the National Early Warning System, NEWS. The training covered the basic concepts of early warning and conflict prevention, conflict analysis, monitoring and reporting on early warning indicators.

WANEP-THE GAMBIA HOLDS A STAKEHOLDERS ROUNDTABLE ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

WANEP-The Gambia organized one-day Stakeholders Roundtable on August 14, 2014 to mark the fourth

anniversary of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The goal of the roundtable was to fast track the adoption of the Convention and to solicit government support to ratify the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT), Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the Cluster Munitions Convention (CMC). The meeting brought together stakeholders from the national assembly, various ministries, civil society and the press and provided the medium for stakeholders to dialogue and brainstorm on strategies to accelerate the ratification process. As an outcome of the meeting, a Technical Committee was set up with the Ministries of Defence and Justice as the lead organs.

As part of the celebration, the network in a press release on August 1, 2014 raised awareness on the anniversary of the entry into force of the convention, and the problems caused by cluster bombs. The release was widely publicized in the print and electronic media.

WANEP-THE GAMBIA VISITS MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

WANEP-The Gambia on 31st July 2014 paid a courtesy call to the Ministry of Defence to solicit their support in the ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT), Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the Cluster Munitions Convention (CMC). The network has been in the forefront in advocating for the ratification of these instruments by the Gambian government. The Ministry has since forwarded the CMC file to the Head of State for consideration.

WANEP-NIGERIA CONFLICT PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Situation Track Analysis Reporting

Three Situation Track Analysis Reports with focus on the threat to Nigeria's Sovereignty from Boko Haram's violent activities in Gwoza and 7 other LGAs of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states were produced and circulated to respective stakeholders in the review period. The reports were acknowledged and commended by UNHCR, UNICEF and Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR). The report was also posted on a research group on LinkedIn called "Nigeria: Boko Haram Research Group."

MONTHLY COUNTRY EARLY WARNING REPORTING AND CONFLICT CENSUS

Three Reports under the Monthly Country Early Warning Report and Conflict census were produced and sent to the WANEP/ECOWAS Liaison Officer. The reports highlighted the political, economic, social risk factors in the country. The report revealed that activities of Boko Haram members and public insecurity in Northern Nigeria accounted for the highest risk indices for the quarter.

STRENGTHENING HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION PROJECT IN THREE STATES OF NIGERIA

As part of the process for effective implementation of the project supported by Oxfam Novib titled, "Strengthening Humanitarian Coordination Project in Three States of Nigeria", Validation meetings were held in the three focal states of Oyo, Cross River and Enugu States. The draft multi sector/hazard contingency plan was validated by lead sector from relevant government and non-government organizations. The State Emergency Management Agency in the three states has adopted the draft contingency plan in preparation for its presentation to critical stakeholders in the state as the states' official document.

ELECTION SITUATION BRIEF

In expanding its work on election monitoring, WANEP Nigeria has developed an Election Situation Brief. During the quarter, data from 18 hot spot states for election violence along developed context specific election monitoring indicators were analysed to produce the Election Situation Brief. This maiden brief was circulated to over 400 critical actors at governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental level in Nigeria and in the sub region.

JOINT PLANNING WORKSHOP ON PREVENTING ELECTORAL VIOLENCE IN 2015

WANEP-Nigeria held a Strategic Joint Planning Workshop on Preventing Violence in Nigeria's 2015 General Election in Abuja. The meeting is part of WANEP Nigeria's contribution to a free, fair and violence free electoral process and was facilitated by the United States Institute for Peace (USIP). A major output of the meeting was the formation of a **Coalition for Non-violence Elections in Nigeria (CONEN)** comprising government and non-governmental institutions working in elections for 2015. The coalition has committed itself to the nationwide sensitisation of non-violent participation of youths in the general elections.

The network paid an advocacy visit to the newly appointed Director General of Nigeria's Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, IPCR geared towards strengthening the relationship and commitment of both institutions for peace. The two organizations have resolved to develop a mutually workable Memorandum of Understanding and work towards the successful implementation of peace education in primary and post primary schools in Nigeria.

WANEP TOGO MEETS WITH TOGOLESE PRIME MINISTER

On 18th August 2014, WANEP Togo and Representatives of Citizens Platform for Truth, Justice and Reconciliation met with the Togolese Prime Minister to intimate him on the workings of the platform. The team also discussed the



socio-political situation in the country especially concerning the rejection of the citizens of the on-going proposal to amend the constitution to remove the presidential term limit.

NON-VIOLENCE AND PEACE EDUCATION

WANEP-GHANA HOLDS YOUTH FORUM IN KPEMALE-NAKPANDURI

A youth forum was organised by WANEP-Ghana in Kpemale for 60 youth comprising 21 female and 39 male from Konkomba and Bimoba communities to complement on-going peace initiatives in the area. Other stakeholders such as chiefs, district security committee, development partners, and residents of the area were also in attendance. The forum provided a platform for the youth from Konkomba, Bimoba and Mamprusi to interact with each other towards finding a lasting solution to the protracted crisis in their communities. Youth leaders from the conflicting factions pledged to eschew violence and not to be used by opinion leaders to perpetuate violence or engage in violent acts. There were solidarity messages from the chiefs, security committee members and religious leaders. The inter-communal forum has contributed significantly to the return of normalcy in the area as evident in the restoration of economic activities and social interactions among community members.

WANEP-THE GAMBIA UNDERTAKES NATIONWIDE MONITORING VISITS TO SCHOOLS

WANEP-The Gambia from July 1 – 7 conducted monitoring visits to 27 schools across the nation, which benefited from the Peace Education training workshops held in 2012 and 2013. The main objective of the monitoring visits was to measure the success or lack thereof of the established Peace Clubs. The visits were timely and needed as they provided the medium for sharing and exchange, required to develop a strategic road map for the way forward of enhancing the students capacity in conflict resolution skills

and peer mediation.

WANEP BENIN PUBLISHES A RESOURCE ON PEACE EDUCATION

WANEP-Benin published a pamphlet on Non-violence and Peace Education in the reporting quarter. The document looks at the realities of peace and education in the country and proposes policy option for the integration of peace values in the curriculum from kindergarten to University. The pamphlet was launched with support from GIZ, and 500 copies have been disseminated to schools and relevant institutions. In the same vein, the network edited and published 11 different learning materials on peace and non-violent skills with funding from the governments of Sweden, Denmark and Austria. The publications are part of strategies to inculcate the values and culture of peace in schools and are specifically for teachers and principals in primary and elementary schools.

MITIGATING THE PROLONGED CULTURE OF YOUTH-LED VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA

In order to mainstream peace education into the curriculum of schools', WANEP Nigeria initiated the project *"Mitigating the Prolonged Culture of Youth-led Violence in Nigeria through Peace Education"*. The project funded by the Journalist and Writers' Foundation (JWF) under its Peace Projects Grant Program commenced with a meeting with key network members of WANEP from the South West Zone to deliberate on effective strategies for a successful implementation of the project in Ogun State. A key output of the meeting is the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with project implementing member organisations in the zone to spur commitment and achievement of project objectives.

A follow up implementation planning meeting with key educational stakeholders in Ogun State was organised to further discuss the modalities of the project. The meeting provided a platform to assess the available educational policy in the state and put forward strategies for the inclusion of peace education into the primary and post primary school curricula. This becomes a significant outcome giving the fact that the key stakeholders in charge of curriculum development at state level were present at the meeting. Sequel to the meeting, the project team embarked on an advocacy visit to the Executive Secretary of Tertiary Educational Trust Fund (tetfund) who pledged the agency's support to the process of mainstreaming peace education into curriculum of schools.

WANEP-TOGO PRESENTS PEACE EDUCATION REPORT

WANEP-Togo under the Non-Violence and Peace Education program paid advocacy visit to the Inspector General of

Education (IGE) in Lomé Golfe and the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education on August 20 and 28, 2014 respectively to solicit their support for the peace education activities of WANEP in the country. Following on the visit, the network presented results of the third phase of the non-violence and peace education programme in pre-school and primary schools to 50 Education inspectors in Kpalime district and Lomé municipality on September 9, 2015.

WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING PROGRAMME

LIBERIAN WOMEN HOLD DOOR-TO-DOOR SENSITIZATION

Concerned with the growing threat of the Ebola virus and given the fact that women are worst affected, Liberian women organized a door to door campaign to enlighten the populace on the dangers of Ebola and its attendant consequences. The campaign was spearheaded by WANEP-Liberia through the Women in Peacebuilding program (WIPNET) and with support from WANEP Regional Office, Accra. The door-to-door campaign was also an attempt to dispel the myths and misconceptions surrounding the virus in order to prevent new infections and curtail its spread. Other intervention efforts carried out by the women included an open inter-religious prayer and fasting sessions held from August 1 – 14 across the country to seek divine intervention for the virus which has so far claimed a total of 598 lives according to the Liberia Ebola situation report No 96 released on August 19, 2014.

WANEP Liberia is also collaborating with the Civil Society Task Force on Ebola to create awareness on the virus and managing the Ebola situation room where current data on the outbreak is analyzed and disseminated. Although these efforts have been highly endorsed by the citizenry, there are still a lot of myths and misconceptions and denial surrounding the existence of the virus leading to increased hostilities and violence in host communities where the isolation centers are established.

WANEP-SIERRA LEONE HOLDS AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN ON SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT (2012) RAISES AWARENESS

WANEP-Sierra Leone conducted nine outreach sessions in nine selected schools across the country to raise awareness on the Sexual Offences Act (2012) including Sexual Gender-based Violence and sexual exploitation. A total of 900 student/pupils (100 per school) and teachers participated in the events, which were jointly facilitated with representatives of implementing partners and from the Family Support Unit/Sierra Leone Police (SLP/FSU). The

outreach was meant to raise awareness and understanding on early GBV and sexual exploitations prevention in schools.

MONTHLY RADIO PROGRAMMES

WANEP - Sierra Leone also utilizes monthly radio programs to raise public awareness on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Violence against Women (VAW) especially the increase of the Ebola scourge and its impacts on women and children in remote communities. Three community radio discussions and phone-in programs were held in the Moyamba District in the quarter.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN CSO MANAGEMENT

In July, WANEP Benin with support from GIZ held a capacity building training for 25 participants (11 women, 14 men), from 21 member-organisations. The objective of the training was to strengthen the capacity of the participants on mainstreaming gender in the management of civil society organisations.

WANEP BURKINA FASO EMBARKS ON A TREE-PLANTING CAMPAIGN

Through its Women in Peacebuilding Programme, WANEP Burkina Faso embarked on a tree-planting and



reforestation campaign in the Yagma district. The campaign dubbed "Tree of Peace" is to contribute to reforestation efforts of the country, which is severely affected by desertification thus worsening human security situation.

COMBATting VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS FOR WOMEN

Under its *Livelihood improvement project and combatting violence* against women project supported by the Government of Australia, WANEP Cote d'Ivoire organised 30 mass sensitization campaigns in 30 villages reaching 1053 people, 792 of whom are women. Until 11th July

2014, 10 women groups from 8 villages have benefited from loans to support their income generating activities to help them become financially autonomous.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE NEW ELECTORAL LAW OF COTE D'IVOIRE

WANEP-Cote d'Ivoire with support from Urgent Action Fund undertook an advocacy campaign for gender mainstreaming into the revised law of the New Independent Electoral Commission. This led to the appointment of four women to the new commission making 26%. WANEP-CI further edited and published 5000 copies of the new law into basic French to make it easily accessible to the general public.

WANEP AND STAKEHOLDERS DEVELOP A STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO THE IMPACT OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM ON WOMEN



WANEP and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and relevant gender experts held a stakeholders workshop in Abuja, Nigeria as part of concerted efforts to respond to the crisis in North East Nigeria. The workshop was under the platform of the Steering Committee on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and was geared towards designing a strategic National Action Plan that will inform gender based response to growing negative impact of extremism on women and girls in Nigeria.

SUPPORTING RURAL WOMEN AND STRENGTHENING THEIR MEANS OF LIVELIHOODS

WANEP Nigeria through its Women in Peacebuilding Programme (WIPNET) has engaged CODEP (Community Development Partners) as consultant to conduct a Needs Assessment in the Niger-Delta region as part of the implementation of the project "Strengthening Women Social Networking for Effective Participation in Peace and Human Security in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria". The assessment exercise became necessary as part of measures

to address the attendant effects of conflict on women, who are often the most vulnerable group in conflict situations. The assessment exercise is expected to identify the needs of rural women in these communities and explore strategies for strengthening their means of livelihoods. Fourteen (14) communities were selected from Akwa-Ibom, Edo State, Cross-River State, Rivers State and Delta State for economic empowerment, as this is crucial for the development of any society. The assessment report was subsequently validated by stakeholders from the target communities, which will inform the nature of livelihood support that will be provided to the women from the project as well as to interested institutions within the region.

WANEP-MALI SENSITIZES DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS ON EBOLA VIRAL DISEASE



WANEP Mali through its WIPNET programme on 13th September 2014 carried out sensitization campaigns for drivers and passengers as well as the general public at the



Djiroconi Para lorry station on the dangers of the deadly Ebola viral disease. The campaign dubbed "Let's all stand for an Ebola free Mali" was organized in collaboration with the Malian Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene with technical support from WANEP Regional Secretariat. The guest of honor at the opening ceremony of the campaign was Dr. Lamine Diarra, Technical Advisor at the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene. The thrust of the campaign was on best hygienic practices and preventive measures. Also present at the event were representatives from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF.

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325

WANEP-Niger facilitated the presentation of the draft National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 to the Minister for consideration by Government. The presentation was coordinated by the drafting committee of the National Action Plan under the auspices of the Ministry of Women Affairs in collaboration with WANEP Niger. All organisations working in the area of peace and conflict prevention participated in the activity and WANEP Niger's involvement was greatly commended as a leading peacebuilding network in the country.

WORKING GROUP OF WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA AND WANEP JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST EBOLA

The Working Group of Women, Peace and Security in Africa joined WANEP Senegal in its sensitization campaign against the spread of the deadly Ebola viral disease. A visit was paid to the Ministry of Health to discuss areas of partnership for a coordinated response to the disease. The Ministry responded positively and agreed to support the campaign and any actions that seek to deal decisively with the virus.

CIVIL SOCIETY COORDINATION AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE (CSDG)

WANEP-SIERRA LEONE LAUNCHES 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2014-2018) FOR PARAMOUNT CHIEFS IN SIERRA LEONE

WANEP-Sierra Leone under the UNDEF funded project supported the National Council of Paramount Chiefs (NCPC) to develop a 5-year (2014 – 2018) comprehensive strategic plan. The plan provides new focus and direction for chiefs/traditional leaders in their drive to be responsive and accountable to the needs and rights of their people as well as contribute to sustained peace, security and development in Sierra Leone. The plan was officially launched on August 19, 2014 by the Minister of Local

Government and Rural Development, Mrs. Finda Diana Konomanyi-Kabba. The Minister expressed satisfaction over the availability of a Strategic Plan noting that it was a very big achievement as it underscored Government's support and effort to give the institution of Chieftaincy a Strategic direction in the performance of its duties. The Minister pledged her ministry's fullest support to the implementation and monitoring of the strategic areas.

PRE-VALIDATION MEETING ON ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION BILL IN BENIN



WANEP-Benin on July 29 organised a pre-validation meeting regarding the bill on ***"Access to Public Information in the Republic of Benin."*** 19 experts including 6 women took part in this activity within the framework of the implementation of the project ***"Towards the adoption and implementation of an advocacy strategy for the enactment of a law on access to public information in Benin and Côte d'Ivoire"*** funded by Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA).

WANEP-BENIN DISTRIBUTES FREE COPIES OF THE ELECTORAL CODE OF BENIN

WANEP-Benin on August 26 officially launched the Law No. 2013-06 of 25 November 2013 on the electoral code of Benin, which was printed with funding from OSIWA. The launch was climaxed with the free distribution of 1,450 copies of the publication. 101 participants including 29 women took part in the ceremony presided over by Mr. Emmanuel TIANDO, Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENA). Due to the high demand for the publication, WANEP-Benin funded the printing of



additional 300 copies to meet the huge demands.

As part of the democratic consolidation process in Benin, 59 participants including 20 women were trained on 26 and 27 August on the ownership of the electoral code under the scope of the advocacy project. .

MEDIA INTERACTIONS

On September 28, Mr. Julien OUSSOU, the National Network Coordinator of WANEP-Benin was a special guest on Radio Tokpa (104.3 FM), on "Special Platforms" programme, to discuss issues bordering on the threats to the organization of local government elections, municipal and legislative in Benin. About three thousand listeners were reached.

CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM FOR TRANSPARENT ELECTION IN 2015 IN COTE D'IVOIRE

At the initiative of WANEP-CI, a platform of civil society for transparent elections in 2015 called ***"ELECT FOR-2015"*** Networks and Coalitions composed of CSOs (WANEP-CI, RAIDH COSOPCI, COFEMCI-NCEP, WACSOFCI, and REPSFECO-CI) was established. This platform will serve as a mechanism through which civil society organisations will campaign for, and support the nation and relevant stakeholders to work towards ensuring a credible election in 2015 as well as contribute to peace and stability and reconciliation of the Ivorian society.

WANEP COTE D'IVOIRE TO SET UP AN ELECTION SITUATION ROOM

WANEP-CI through the support of Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) under the project "Barometer for democratic and Peace Elections 2015" has begun the process of establishing an election situation room. The Election Situation Room will support the democratic process especially in the upcoming 2015 elections through monitoring of the electoral process, data gathering and formulation of timely policy response throughout the electoral period.

RESPONDING TO CONFLICT THROUGH DIALOGUE, MEDIATION & RECONCILIATION

WANEP-GUINEA BISSAU FACILITATES DIALOGUE AND MEDIATION BETWEEN RIVAL FACTIONS

WANEP Guinea Bissau as part of its cross-border programme initiated a mediation and reconciliation process between rival groups of Movement of the

Democratic Forces of Casamance, MFDC. The rivalry between the groups has undermined the peace and stability in that region. In view of this, the National Network Coordinator led a team to meet with leaders of the groups Mr. Ibraima Compasse and General César Atoute Badiate respectively to discuss the need for reconciliation in order to assuage the suffering of the population.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

WANEP GUINEA MEETS WITH PARTNERS

As part of its strategy to explore new partnership opportunities and expand its funding base, WANEP Guinea in the quarter initiated series of meetings with potential partners to discuss new ways of collaboration and funding of its programmes. Organisations met included Catholic Relief Service (CRS), Chid Fund and UNDP. A key outcome of these meetings is that WANEP Guinea and Chid Fund are in the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding to consolidate their collaboration.

THE WORLD BANK VISITS WANEP MALI NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

In the quarter under review, a representative from the Department of Fragility, Conflict and Violence of the World Bank paid a visit to WANEP-Mali. The discussions focused on risk assessment of the post-conflict reconstruction and development of Northern Mali. WANEP made a presentation on its initiatives and intervention through its various programmes mainly Peace Education, WIPNET, the Human Security project and the National Early Warning System (NEWS). The representative showed particular interest in the Human Security project as well as NEWS and indicated the department's plan to collaborate with WANEP-Mali.

WANEP NIGER PARTNERS WITH GOVERNMENT

On 28 August 2014 WANEP Niger signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace (HACP). With this MoU, WANEP is to support the Government and its relevant agencies in their peace consolidation efforts in the country.

OTHER EVENTS

WANEP Sierra Leone in a press release issued at a press conference called attention to the devastating threat of Ebola and proffered recommendations to the Government, the International partners, civil society and the media for the speedy prevention and restoration of human dignity in



the face of the Ebola menace. The press conference was climaxed by **the distribution of copies of the African Union Decision on the Ebola Viral Disease (EVD) dated 8th September 2014 and the ECOWAS/World Health Organization communiqué dated 2-3 July 2014**, which called on African Governments to support the affected countries with adequate material and financial resources as well as qualified health personnel to help quell the spread of the EVD.

WANEP-The Gambia in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) on Saturday 27th September 2014 conducted an Ebola Sensitization and Awareness Campaign during the 'Nawettan' football match at the O.A. Semega-Janneh Football field in Buffer Zone. The 'Nawettan' Football match, a famous gathering is conducted annually across the country during the rainy season. This gathering provided an ideal platform to meet a cross-section of the population to sensitize them on ways to prevent and contain the virus. The meeting attended by representatives from the MOHWS, Network members and the media was to ensure the populace is aware on preventive measures to take against Ebola.

Ebola signs and symptoms were boldly displayed on banners and placed at strategic points while volunteers demonstrated how to wash hands properly. Drums filled with bleach were stationed at every corner of the field to kick start the process of keeping safe. At the end of the sensitization exercise, t-shirts were distributed to attendees. WANEP-The Gambia will continue with the Awareness and Sensitization Exercises in other regions.

WANEP Guinea Bissau undertook a radio sensitization

campaign in 10 local languages on the dangers of the Ebola viral disease. The messages also included guidelines for the strict observation of hygienic conditions to prevent the spread of the disease.

EU VISITS WANEP-THE GAMBIA SECRETARIAT

On 20th August 2014, a representative from the European Union Non-State Actors Programme paid a working visit to the WANEP-The Gambia Secretariat to discuss areas of possible collaboration. The EU assured the network of its support to its peace and security efforts in the country.

WANEP-THE GAMBIA CELEBRATES THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

WANEP-The Gambia in view of promoting a culture of peace and encourage all organizations and nations to undertake practical acts of peace, issued a Press Release to mark of the International Day of Peace. The release also highlighted WANEP's work in promoting a culture of peace especially in raising awareness on the viral disease Ebola that has become a threat to peace and human security.

WANEP TOGO CELEBRATES THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

WANEP Togo celebrated the International Youth Day on 29th August with a panel discussion with 25 young men and



women at its offices in Lomé on the theme, "How to speak in public" and "what to know about Ebola".

WANEP TOGO CELEBRATES THE AFRICAN WOMEN INTERNATIONAL DAY

WANEP-Togo in collaboration with market women in Adidogomé and Tsévié marked the African Women International Day from 25th to 26th August with a workshop on the theme, "*The Psychology of Women and Children's Education.*" A total of 77 persons attended the workshop.

Building Relationships for Peace

For more Information log on to www.wanep.org

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