



WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

APRIL - JUNE 2016



WANEPs 2ND QUARTER 2016

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 – APRIL TO JUNE, 2016:

Political Situation: In *Burkina Faso*, the clash between opposition political parties and the ruling Movement of the People for Progress (MPP) party over the choice of mayors in the municipal elections led to four deaths, with many injured and destruction of properties in some provinces in the country. Also in *Cote d'Ivoire*, the Constitution review process has been generating a lot of controversy. Despite the complaints by the opposition Popular Ivorian Front (FPI) over the procedures for the Constitutional review by President Alassane Ouattara, the Independent Electoral Commission has scheduled the referendum on the new Constitution for 30th October 2016. Ahead of the December 2016 elections in *Ghana*, the political landscape witnessed some tensions relating to alleged inflammatory statements by political actors on the Electoral Commission's implementation of a Supreme Court ruling on revision of the Voters Register in May 2016. The ruling followed a suit filed by Abu Ramadan, and Evans Nimako, who in 2014 won a lawsuit that, barred the use of NHIS cards for registration of potential voters. Their suit requested that the current register be declared inappropriate for the 2016 polls.

In other developments, crisis between the *Sierra Leonean* ruling All People's Congress (APC) and the opposition Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) degenerated into violent clashes in April with 59 SLPP supporters allegedly arrested during the SLPP 65th anniversary celebrations in Freetown. In *The Gambia*, the relationship between the ruling party, Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC) and the main opposition political parties has become more strained in the wake of protests demanding the resignation of President Yahya Jammeh. The situation was further compounded by the death in custody of a United Democratic Party (UDP) official following the arrest and detention of several UDP executives. In a bid to address the current tensions, all political parties have agreed to the establishment of an ad hoc Inter-party Committee to dialogue with civil and security authorities to find lasting solutions to the impasse.

In *Guinea Bissau*, following the persistent tension

between the President, Prime Minister and the People's National Assembly (PNA), President José Mário Vaz dismissed Prime Minister Carlos Correia on May 12 2016, dissolved the Cabinet and placed Ministries under the control of the security forces, on grounds that the Cabinet had proved incapable of managing a month-long political crisis. The dismissal of Carlos Correia and subsequent appointment of Baciroté Djá as the Prime Minister on May 26 2016 via a presidential decree triggered demonstrations by members of the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde (PAIGC) and opposition around the presidential palace in Bissau, with two people reportedly sustaining injuries¹. Despite the swearing in of a new cabinet by Prime Minister Baciroté Djá on June 2 2016, members of the deposed government and the ruling PAIGC are threatening to embark on large-scale demonstrations to cripple the economy.

Security Situation: The ongoing offensive by the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against the seven-year old insurgency by Boko Haram recorded significant strides including the arrest of an Ansaru leader in Kogi State, while several suspected Boko Haram members have reportedly surrendered in Nigeria. As part of efforts to fully reintegrate and rehabilitate the repentant insurgents, the Defence Headquarters in Nigeria established a rehabilitation camp dubbed Operation Safe Corridor. However, at least 23 people were feared killed in series of attacks launched by suspected Boko Haram members in Niger and the northeastern region of Nigeria. Also, several attacks by extremist were recorded in northern Mali against United Nations Peacekeepers. Furthermore, violent confrontations were recorded between security officials and members of the pro-Biafra groups across states in the southeast, Delta, Rivers and Cross River States of Nigeria. Following the clashes, an estimated 202 pro-Biafra members were arrested at different locations in Enugu, Imo, Ebonyi, Delta, Abia, Anambra and Rivers state by security agencies and subsequently charged to court for taking part in an unlawful assembly.

Furthermore, tensions between farmers and herders in *Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire*

¹ <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/president-of-crisis-hit-guinea-bissau-names-new-pm-triggering-protests-20160527-2>

increased in the quarter. In Nigeria, an estimated 91 deaths were attributed to agro pastoralist conflicts in Delta, Bayelsa, Benue, Nassarawa, Adamawa and Ogun states². Similarly, communities in the Ashanti, Eastern, Brong Ahafo and the Northern regions of Ghana have demanded the eviction of herders due to these tensions. **Benin Republic** was reportedly on high alert since June as citizens resorted to mob justice in the face of increased armed robbery incidences. This act of jungle justice has claimed the lives of 10 people suspected to be armed robbers and if left unchecked, more innocent lives maybe lost due to personal vendetta disguised as criminal acts. Highway robbery in **Cote d'Ivoire** along the Nassian-Bondoukou highway in the Gontougo region also resulted to one death while several people sustained diverse degrees of injuries.

Socio-Economic Situation: In the quarter under review, **Nigeria** recorded significant reduction in the production of crude oil following persistent attacks on oil installations by suspected Niger Delta Avengers. In addition, Nigeria and other West African countries faced currency depreciations which resulted to sharp

increase in prices of basic commodities, a situation that resulted in demonstrations by diverse sectors of the economy. For instance, a nationwide demonstration was instigated by the bakers' association of **Burkina Faso** against their deplorable living conditions and the phenomenon of "Koglweogo" a self-defense group.

Humanitarian Situation: In May, inter-communal clashes in Menaka town in northern **Mali** left about 67 people dead and more than 13,000 others displaced. Another clash between the Bambara and Peulhs/Fulani groups in the Mopti region reportedly claimed 30 lives and left many others injured. Sporadic attacks on remote villages and Internally Displaced Persons camps in Zinder, Bosso and Diffa regions of **Niger** by Boko Haram insurgents resulted to massive rural – urban migration of an estimated 500,000 people mainly from Bosso and its environs.

² Ibid, zone iv, p.3, June 2016

³ <http://news.abamako.com/h/128957.html>

⁴ <http://www.maliweb.net/insecurite/tenenkou-affrontements-intercommunautaires-entre-peulhs-bambaras-quinzaine-de-morts-1563942.html>

⁵ WANEPE monthly peace and security report, zone II, p.5, June 2016

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

1.0. ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING ELECTORAL SUPPORT THROUGH NEWS

1.1. Launch of Election Situation Room (ESR)



Launch the Election Situation Room (ESR)

Worried by the evolving political scenario in Ghana with regards to the 2016 general elections, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) held a two-day consultative meeting at the Mensvic Hotel, Accra-Ghana on May 17 and 18, 2016, themed: “Election Situational Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation Project: Platform for Mitigating Electoral Violence in the 2016 General Elections in Ghana.” The meeting held under the Election monitoring, analysis and mitigation (EMAM) project to discuss modalities for the operationalization of a National Election Situation Room (ESR) in preparation for the Ghana 2016 elections. The EMAM project was launched during this meeting by Honorable Prosper Bani, Ghana's Minister for Interior.

High profile stakeholders from government and inter-governmental organizations, International Development partners and the media attended the meeting. Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Asante, Chairman of the National Peace Council delivered the keynote address titled; The Imperative of Peaceful Election in the Consolidation of Ghana's Democratic Credentials: The role of the National Peace Council. The stakeholders commended WANEP's initiative and committed to support and ensure the success of the Situation Room. The Mitigating Electoral Violence project is inspired by WANEP's desire to contribute and commit to the sustenance of peace during the elections and based on WANEP's past intervention

experiences. In the 2008 and 2012 general elections, WANEP in collaboration with other stakeholders played a key role to promote a peaceful outcome in the 2012 elections.

1.2. Benin Electoral Platform: The Electoral Platform of CSOs in Benin coordinated by WANEP - Benin held a workshop to evaluate the role of the platform in the electoral process, identify strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations for improvement. The workshop also critically assessed the contribution of civil society during the presidential elections of March 2016. As part of its intervention for the passage of the access to information bill, the network organized a workshop for 25 bloggers to build their capacity and equip them with the skills to advocate for the adoption of the access to public information law in the country.

1.3. Liberia Election Coordinating Committee: WANEP-Liberia serves on the Steering Committee of the Election Coordinating Committee, a civil society platform comprised of seven civil society organizations. In preparation for the presidential and general elections in 2017, the platform has launched several initiatives including revising its Strategic Plan and has commenced strategic engagement with the Election Body (NEC) in recruiting, training and deploying of 2000 election observers. The platform also hopes to operate a Situation Room as well. Additionally WANEP-Liberia has applied for official accreditation from NEC to enable it conduct civic and voters' education as well as observe the 2017 elections.

1.4. Justice and Security Dialogue: WANEP-Nigeria held a three-day Survey Workshop with the theme “Collaborative Approaches to Addressing Security Issues affecting Plateau State” in Jos North Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau State, Nigeria. The workshop is part of a larger project implemented by the United States Institute for Peace (USIP) in communities in six countries in the Maghreb and Sahel regions, with the aim of promoting trust-building and collaborative problem solving between security services and the target communities. The three-day workshop was specifically held to identify and discuss high-priority peace and security challenges in the LGA and share knowledge on community policing and

collaborative problem solving processes. It also provided the platform for evaluating the current and



WANEP team with the Seriki Hausawa Jos North LGA

emerging security threats in the LGA, build capacity of local level actors to manage and mitigate these risks using available local resources.

1.5. WANEP-Senegal held its quarterly “Tribune” to discuss and analyze the impact of the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) to peace and security in the country. The meeting brought together peacebuilding experts including representatives of national networks of Benin, Togo, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire and members of civil society organizations. The Tribune is a platform for discussing topical issues that affect the peace and stability of Senegal and the entire region and proffer collective strategies for response. This quarter's Tribune was an avenue for experience sharing with other colleagues and laid the foundation for new partnerships for WANEP-Senegal.

1.1.6. Public lecture on countering violent extremism: WANEP-Togo with technical support from the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection organized a public lecture to discuss issues of violent extremism and terrorism on May 31, 2016. The meeting was specifically to raise awareness of the public about terrorist threats prevalent in the West African region including citizens' roles and responsibilities. About a hundred people drawn from all sectors of the society attended the forum. An immediate outcome of the forum was a live radio discussion facilitated by the network to further publicize recommendations reached at the conference in order to raise awareness on citizens' responsibility in the fight against violent extremism and terrorism. Furthermore, the network's Program

Officer for Early Warning was a panelist in a workshop on the importance of insider mediators in the consolidation of national peace architecture and shared WANEP's perspectives and lessons learned in the support for the establishment of a peace architecture.

2.0. STRENGTHENING CITIZEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

2.1. Organizing Youth/School Clubs in Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention

The networks carried out various activities in the quarter as part of strategies to empower the Peace Clubs and position them to be functional and effective in propagating the culture of peace in the schools as reported below;

- **WANEP-Benin** carried out 69 awareness-raising sessions in 30 schools reaching over 12,000 people including 2,211 girls. These activities have helped to promote and maintain a culture of peace in the schools.

- In **Burkina Faso**, 30 teachers from 15 secondary schools in Ouagadougou were trained in leadership and nonviolent conflict management.

- **WANEP-Guinea** conducted sensitization and social mobilization campaigns from June 8 to 21, in 34 districts to support the process of national reconciliation and also participated in the development of an awareness skit on national reconciliation together with the Interim Commission of National Reconciliation.

- Sensitization sessions on Culture of Peace carried out in 129 peace clubs facilitated by **WANEP-Togo** in Kpalimé, reached an estimated 903 children and 258 educators. The exercise helped to imbibe the culture of peace and non-violence among the students and adopt non-violent behaviors and attitudes of peace. This awareness has also



Sensitization activities facilitated by WANEP-Togo

contributed to social cohesion in families and schools.

▪ **WANEP – Guinea Bissau** held training sessions for fathers of peace club mediators in three schools and also celebrated the international day against drugs with funding from OSIWA. After the training, the



WANEP-GB celebrating International Day against Drugs.

school principal approved the involvement of the mediators' fathers in resolving dispute among the students in the schools.

2.2. Educating the Public on Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention :

2.2.1. WANEP-Senegal: The role of parents in educating their children on conflict management was the central theme of the Peace Education discussion sessions organized by WANEP-Senegal in the quarter. Other issues tackled included different types of conflict, qualities of a good mediator and how parents can help their children face the rise of radicalism and violent extremism. These exchange and sharing sessions have contributed to building skills of the

students in mediation and helped them to understand the various conflict issues in the region as well as imbibe the culture of peaceful coexistence.

2.2.2. WANEP –Cote D'Ivoire facilitated peace competitions among the peace club members to select the best school and peace club. The winning club from the Kennedy School received a plaque provided by the Network. Through the frequent monitoring and interactions with the clubs, the supervisors and

students are notably involved in actions that promote non-violence in their schools and tackling conflictual issues such as the increasing rate of school dropouts. The Network also participated in a workshop organized by the Education Center for Sustainable Society (ESD) on May 26, 2016 at the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Cocody to brainstorm on how to manage conflicts in the academia. The Network shared information on important conflict managing tools such as mediation and negotiation during the meeting. A key outcome of the meeting was the agreement to set up an alert committee that will work with WANEP-CI.

2.2.3. WANEP-Togo also held sessions with 71 parents of the peace club members from April 12 to 15 2016 on the rights and duties of the child: the parents' responsibility and stages of psychological development of the child. The sessions have helped to raise awareness and understanding of parents to the rights and responsibilities of the child and how best to protect these rights. The parents as a result of these sessions are able to recognize early warning signs of behavioral problems in the children.



WANEP-Togo Peace Club with copies of the education guide

2.2.4. Validation of peace education guide for preschoolers: In the quarter, WANEP-Togo brought together key stakeholders from various sectors to validate the Educational Guide to Peace and Non-Violence in the pre-school level. A total of 34 participants made up of 24 women and 10 men drawn from the education authorities, the Regional Directorate of Education Plateaux, the Director of Pre-school and Primary Teachings of Togo and the Secretary General of the National Commission of UNESCO-attended the workshop. Some sections of the guide were amended and unanimously validated by the participants. The Guide will serve as a resource for teaching peace education at the pre-school level.

2.2.5. WANEP-Mali in partnership with Alikou Blen private school located in Faladjé Sokoro district and the Police, organized a one-day awareness on culture of non-violence in schools on May 11, 2016 under the theme "Education for Peace and Non-violence in Schools." The event had in attendance 60 participants and was chaired by the Commissioner of Police in Bamako. The awareness created has led to trust building between the security forces and the local population, while the students were familiarized with the security situation in the school environment.

2.2.6. WANEP-Niger provided technical and financial support to students in the Tahoua Region to celebrate the 21st National Day of Unity on April 24, 2016. The National Day of Unity was established to commemorate the peace agreement signed on April 24, 1995 between the Nigerien Government and Organization of Armed Resistance (ORA) to end the

four-year rebellion in the country. The theme of this year's National Unity Day was the "Place and Role of Youth in Peacebuilding in Niger." The conference also discussed the looming threat of violent extremism and its consequences on the youth and on the country. Participants unanimously agreed on the need to build resilience within the community, create jobs and sustain awareness on the issue as strategies to counter violent extremism among the youth. Several activities were also carried out to promote peace and unity such as debates, cultural and sports competitions.

2.3. Strengthening Community Peacebuilding Initiatives:

2.3.1. Consultative Meeting on Human Security held in Mali

WANEP-Mali in collaboration with the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and the Human Security Collective (HSC) held a one day regional consultative meeting on Human Security in Mali on May 31, 2016. The regional consultative meeting with the theme; "Defining Regional Approaches for the Promotion of Human Security; collective actions to deal with common threats" brought together major stakeholders in peace and security, development partners, Malian civil society as well as representatives of WANEP from Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Niger and from GPPAC and HSC. The meeting deliberated on the important role civil society can play in the fight against violent extremism, and in seeking appropriate solutions to the human security threats in Mali and its neighbors. Highlight of the meeting was the commendation of WANEP's work in peace and security in the region by the Commissioner for Security Reforms at the Office of the Prime Minister, Republic of Mali, Inspector General Ibrahima Diallo, who was also the guest speaker at the meeting. Mr. Diallo, congratulated WANEP for the initiatives they have taken in responding to the challenges of human security in Mali and in the region and reiterated his continuous support to the process as well as supporting WANEP Mali in its engagement with the State.

2.3.2. UNMIL Draw Down: WANEP-Liberia in collaboration with the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) and the Traditional Communicators of Liberia held series of activities from June 25 to July 2 in celebration of peace and development in Liberia through the sustained efforts of the United Nations



Football competition to mark the National Day of Unity.
WANEP-Niger Board Chair doing the Kick off

Mission in Liberia (UNMIL- September 2003 to June, 2016). The group held prayer vigils, thanksgiving service and a peace caravan. WANEP-Liberia in a press statement acknowledged the contribution of UNMIL to the stability and peaceful environment enjoyed in the country. The statement called for continuous maintenance of peace in Liberia in the absence of UNMIL and urged the Government to address some of the conflict generating issues such as managing agriculture and extractive industries as well as striving to meet citizens' expectations particularly in the electoral process. UNMIL officially handed over to the Liberian Government in a ceremony that brought together major stakeholders and key partners.

2.3.3. Ebola Community Action Platform: WANEP-Liberia in the quarter ended the Ebola Community Action Platform (ECAP-2) project funded by USAID through Mercy Corps. The project which ran from October 2015 to May 2016 sought to build community preparedness at the grassroots against a possible and future outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and other diseases with similar symptoms. It was implemented in 50 communities across three health Districts in Maryland County reaching an estimated 10,000 people. As a result of this project, there was increased awareness on good health practices including high clinic usage leading to massive reduction in common diseases; institutionalization of clean-up campaigns and increased polio campaigns and vaccinations. Also, the continuous trainings, coaching and mentoring empowered the community members to mobilize local resources for the

rehabilitation of bridges, health facilities and facilitated smooth drugs supply at two clinics.

2.3.3. Community Initiatives: Under the project on Facilitating Dialogue Approach, WANEP –CI facilitated several dialogue sessions between communities and agricultural officials. These sessions have helped to increase awareness among communities in 58 villages to understand the Rural Land Act and to proceed with the registration of their land. The project focuses on advocacy and conflict management between communities that enables the reintroduction of dialogue between them. The project was as a result of insecurity generated by the Ebola crisis in the border areas of the Maho River Union. Through these interventions, the community has succeeded in the peaceful reconciliation of six conflicts and reconciled the conflicting parties.

2.3.4. WANEP-Guinea in collaboration with the Ministry of National Unity and Citizenship held a training workshop on 16 and 17 June 2016 to discuss non-violent methods for conflict resolution and management. A key outcome of the workshop was the establishment of a platform of CSOs to raise awareness on non-violent methods of conflict resolution. The platform will identify local conflicts and develop strategies for managing such before it escalates to violence.



In Kablaken, a town bordering the Ivory Coast, little Esther tells her story of how happy she and her friends are in the absence of Ebola: "We play and touch one another freely because there is no sickness call Ebola again"
– Esther Alison, age 12 – Maryland County.

3.0. PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH RESEARCH

3.1. Utilizing Research Results for Policy Advocacy

3.1.1. Review of Civil Society Core Group on R2P Norms: Following the launch of the R2P Research report titled: "Institutional Capacity for the

Implementation of R2P in West Africa: A case study of Ghana.”, WANEP-Sierra Leone has been approached for collaboration by some organizations working on R2P related programs to synergize and promote the ideals of the R2P norms in the country. So far, a number of meetings have been held and draft Terms of Reference (ToR) developed to guide the partners in the coalition as well as lay the road map for effective engagement with state and non-state actors on the R2P norms.

3.1.2. WANEP-Mali under the “Learning by designing project” implemented by the consortium of WANEP, GPPAC, and Hague Institute for Global Justice (THIGJ) with funding from the Dutch Research Institute conducted surveys in three regions of Mali (Kayes, Mopti and Timbuktu) and the Bamako district between March 15 and May 15, 2016. The aim of the survey was to gather data from 40 civil society organizations working in the field of human security for the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Human Security Strategy in Mali. The strategy has been developed and is currently undergoing a robust peer review. It will be launched in Bamako, Mali in October.

developing NAPs in the country. In this wise, the Network facilitated a meeting of the NAPs development committee to draw up a roadmap for the process and validated the terms of reference for the recruitment of consultants for the process.

4.2. Survey on Gender Based Violence: As part of its contribution to the Working Group of Eight (WG8) on preventing Gender Based Violence, WANEP-Nigeria conducted a survey targeting male students, artisans and professionals to assess their awareness on gender-based violence and provisions to redress and prevent it in Lagos State. Preliminary findings showed a general low-level of awareness on GBV. To this end, generating more awareness on the issue and measures by the government to tackle GBV will be incorporated into the next phase of the project. The findings of the survey were also used in carrying out advocacy visits to government institutions working on women and justice sector and security services in the State.

4.3. Reduction in Gender Based Violence (GBV): WANEP-Liberia under the “Ending Sexual Gender Based Violence” (SGBV) project funded by Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK) in 22 communities, held several community dialogues and outreach activities to create awareness and educate the community members on issues of SGBV. The dialogue forums emphasized the benefits of men partnering with women to eradicate SGBV. Since WIPNET's intervention, men now understand that women need to be respected and given the space to participate in peace negotiations, community meetings and leadership roles. This new perspective is believed to have considerably reduced

4.0. ENHANCING GENDER/WOMEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING

4.1. Support to Development and Implementation of UNSCR 1325: As part of its support to the development and implementation of the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans (NAPs), WANEP through the WIPNET Program has been carrying out various activities to actualize this objective. WANEP-Benin is leading advocacy to restart the process for



the rate of SGBV in the project communities.

4.4. Increasing women's participation in politics:

WANEP-Mali in partnership with the House of Women and Children's right (MFE/DR), organized a conference to discuss strategies to accelerate and increase participation of women in political life chaired by the Minister of Women, Family and Children. The main objective of the conference was to provide a platform to discuss the critical issues hindering women's participation in political processes and brainstorm on the way forward. Participants discussed the cultural practices militating against women and agreed that empowerment of women in all spheres is critical in order to give them the confidence to participate in politics and in other sectors.

5.0. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1. Sustaining Institutional and Financial Stability

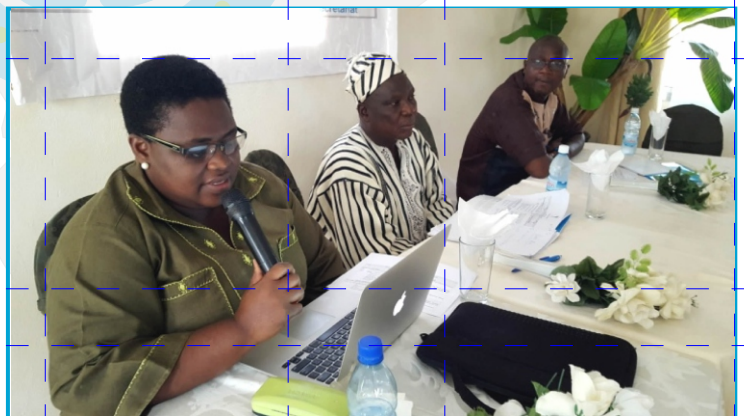
5.1.1. Staff Capacity Building: In recognition of WANEP's contribution to women, peace and security in Nigeria, WANEP-Nigeria's Program support for the Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET) program Ms. Patience Obaulo-Stephen was nominated by the Global Network for Women Peace and Security as the first fellow of the one-year Cora Weiss Fellowship. She is currently at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

- The **WANEP-Senegal** Program Officer WIPNET received a training grant from the International Centre for Education in Human Rights (EQUITAS) to attend a training from June 5 to 24, 2016, at the Institute of Human Rights, Canada

5.1.2. Network Capacity Strengthening: As part of strategies to build capacity of member organizations in order to position them for effective program implementation, WANEP-Cote d'Ivoire conducted monitoring visits to its member organizations to evaluate their progress. The main purpose of the evaluation exercise was to strengthen their capacity in managing projects as well as networking, particularly with regard to problem solving. These visits have helped to identify and address relational issues and strengthen the relationship between the Secretariat and the member organizations.

5.2. Strengthening Governance Structure

5.2.1. WANEP Sierra Leone held its 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 20 and 21, 2016 with over 50 members in attendance. The meeting provided a platform for the network members to unanimously ratify and adopt a professional Board comprised of three males and two females who will oversee the affairs of the network for a two year-tenure renewable twice. Significant outcome of the meeting included the amendments and adoption of the Constitution and policy recommendations on finance and institutional matters. The forum was climaxed by the presentation of plaques to the outgoing Board members in appreciation of their



Program Director, WANEP, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah addressing the AGM

diligent services to the Network. A plaque was presented to the Program Director Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah in appreciation of the leadership and continued support provided by the Regional Secretariat. She was also crowned as Paramount Chief of Nongowa Chieftdom, Kenema District.

5.2.3. WANEP-Cote d'Ivoire Board in the quarter held its first meeting on June 4, 2016, to review progress of the network and its impact on peace and security in

the country. At the meeting, the Board reviewed the Secretariat's activities and commended them on their efforts in institutional and programmatic development and proffered suggestions for improving the quality of program reports.

5.3. Collaborations, Networking and Strategic Partnerships

5.3.1. Courtesy Visit to new ECOWAS PAPS Commissioner

In its capacity as the civil society partner to ECOWAS in the operationalization of ECOWARN, a high-level delegation from WANEP led by Mr. Chukwuemeka B. Eze, the Executive Director paid a courtesy visit to Honorable Halima Ahmed, the newly appointed Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) of the ECOWAS Commission. The delegation, which included Professor Patricia Donli, WANEP Regional Board Member and Mr. Alimou Diallo, the Coordinator, WANEP/ECOWAS Liaison Office visited the Commissioner on June 17, 2016 at the ECOWAS Commission, Abuja-Nigeria. While congratulating the Commissioner on her appointment, Mr. Eze also assured her of WANEP's unflinching support and underscored the opportunity given to civil society to input into the ECOWAS peace and security agenda through WANEP. Prof. Donli on the other hand, commended the Commissioner on the milestones ECOWAS has made in its effort to stabilize the region and guarantee economic integration and development. In her response, The Commissioner in turn commended WANEP for its longstanding partnership with ECOWAS within the framework of the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture. She entreated WANEP to continue to explore more opportunities for further collaboration with ECOWAS as a means of sustaining the ECOWAS Vision 2020 towards actualizing an ECOWAS of the People.

6.0. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- Lack of funding especially as member organizations have not been up-to-date with their dues
- Lack of collaboration opportunities
- To cope with the lack of human resource capacity within WANEP The Gambia Secretariat, interns have been requested from the Peace Corps and the University of The Gambia.
- The need to strengthen relationship with the media for adequate publicity and dissemination of WANEP resources.
- Security situation and instability in some of the countries that adversely affects program implementation.

7.0. CONCLUSION

Generally, program implementation in the quarter was slowed due to budgetary reductions and the relocation of the Regional office to a new location. However, most of the activities held as planned. Peace and security on the West African region continued to be challenged in the quarter with increased terrorism occasioned by activities of Boko Haram and other terrorists groups. These sporadic attacks had significant impact on program implementation, although WANEP's profile in the public domain have continued to rise.

For more Information log on to www.wanep.org