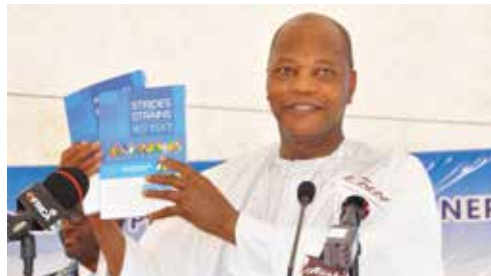




**WEST AFRICA NETWORK  
FOR PEACEBUILDING**

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE

# Annual Report 2017



“Repositioning  
...for Greater Heights  
and Efficiency”

# A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION WORKING ON COLLABORATIVE PEACEBUILDING

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**WEST AFRICA NETWORK  
FOR PEACEBUILDING**

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2017** REPOSITIONING FOR GREATER  
HEIGHTS AND EFFICIENCY



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# Abbreviations/Acronyms

<b>ACSC</b>	Africa Center for Security and Counter-Terrorism
<b>ADA</b>	Austrian Development Agency
<b>ADISS</b>	Accountable Democratic Institution Systems Strengthening
<b>APSA</b>	AU Peace and Security Architecture
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>CEWS</b>	Continental Early Warning System
<b>CRVA</b>	Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessments
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DANIDA</b>	Danish International Development Agency
<b>DMC</b>	Dialogue and Mediation Committee
<b>ECCAS</b>	Economic Community of Central African States
<b>ECOSOC</b>	Economic and Social Council
<b>ECOSOCC</b>	Economic, Social and Cultural Council
<b>ECOWARN</b>	ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>ECPF</b>	ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework
<b>ESR</b>	Election Situation Room
<b>ESUT</b>	Enugu State University of Science and Technology
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EWD</b>	Early Warning Directorate
<b>EWRS</b>	Early Warning and Response System
<b>GA</b>	General Assembly
<b>GCSP</b>	Geneva Center for Security Policy
<b>GPPAC</b>	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
<b>IDP</b>	International Day of Peace
<b>IWD</b>	International Women's Day
<b>IYD</b>	International Day of Youth
<b>JAES</b>	Joint AU-EU Strategy
<b>JFA</b>	Joint Financial Arrangement
<b>KAIPTC</b>	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
<b>KIIs</b>	Key Informant Interviews
<b>MARAC</b>	Central African Early Warning Mechanism
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding

<b>NAPE</b>	Non-violence and Peace Education
<b>NAPs</b>	National Action Plans
<b>NEWRC</b>	National Early Warning and Response Centres
<b>NEWRS</b>	National Early Warning and Response System
<b>NEWS</b>	National Early Warning System
<b>NNC</b>	National Network Coordinator
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>ONS</b>	Office of National Security
<b>PMC</b>	Peace Monitoring Center
<b>PNG</b>	National Gender Policy
<b>PRAPs</b>	Participatory Review and Analysis Process
<b>REWARD</b>	Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data in West Africa
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Development Agency
<b>SiLNAP</b>	Sierra Leone National Action Plan
<b>TMG</b>	The Mitchell Group
<b>UL</b>	University of Lomé
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Project
<b>UNMIL</b>	United Nations Mission in Liberia
<b>UNOCA</b>	United Nations Office for Central Africa
<b>UNOWAS</b>	UN Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WACSI</b>	West Africa Civil Society Institute
<b>WAJPRA</b>	West Africa Journal for Peacebuilding Research & Practice
<b>WANEP</b>	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
<b>WAPI</b>	West Africa Peacebuilding Institute
<b>WARN</b>	West Africa Early Warning and Response Network
<b>WARO</b>	West Africa Regional Office
<b>WGWPS-WA</b>	Working Group on Women, Peace and Security West Africa
<b>WIPNET</b>	Women in Peacebuilding Network
<b>WODI</b>	WANEP Organizational Development Index

# OUR NETWORKS





# ABOUT WANEP

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) is the leading regional civil society organization in conflict prevention and peacebuilding conceived in 1996, and officially launched in 1998 in response to the civil wars, instabilities and humanitarian crises that plagued West Africa in the 1990s. WANEP has succeeded in establishing strong National Networks in every Member State of ECOWAS, with over 500 member organizations working in peace and security across West Africa. WANEP has credibility and a wide recognition both internationally and locally due to its outstanding work in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the ECOWAS region. It is a key player in major global peacebuilding efforts.

In 2002, WANEP entered into a historic partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the implementation of a regional early warning and response system referred to as ECOWARN. A standing Memorandum of Understanding signed between WANEP and ECOWAS in 2004 guides this partnership and constitutes a major strategic achievement for WANEP and West Africa civil society as it offers the much-desired opportunity to contribute to Track I response to conflicts and policy debates.

In August 2015, WANEP signed an MOU with the African Union Commission to provide support to the Commission's Peace and Security Department in the implementation of the AU Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) including the gender mainstreaming of the architecture. WANEP is also a member of the Peace and Security cluster of the African Union's (AU) Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) and the ECOSOCC Adviser on Civil Society relations with African Governments and the Focal Point for Africa CSOs on the AU-EU Joint Strategy (JAES). At international level, WANEP has a Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is the West Africa Regional Representative of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC). WANEP provides professional courses in conflict prevention and peacebuilding informed by several years of practical experience

*WANEP's vision is a "West Africa region characterized by just and peaceful communities where the dignity of the human person is paramount and where the people can meet their basic human needs and decide their own direction".*

to governments, businesses, and practitioners throughout the region and beyond. Underlying its work is a commitment to professionalism and a dedication to a world of mutual respect, tolerance and peace.

## Vision

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

## Mission

To enable and facilitate mechanisms for cooperation among civil society-based peacebuilding practitioners and organizations in West Africa by promoting cooperative responses with State actors to address the root causes of violent conflicts; providing the structure through which these practitioners and institutions regularly exchange experiences and information on issues and influence policy on peacebuilding and conflict transformation; and promoting West Africa's social and cultural values as resources for peacebuilding.

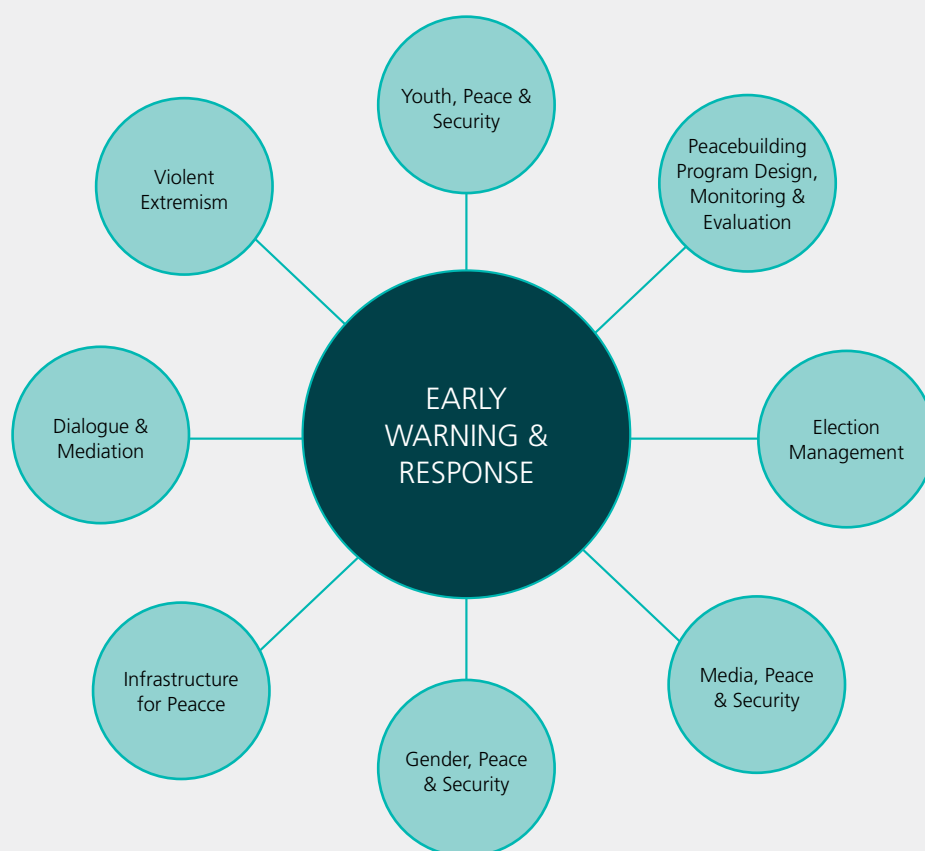
## Operating Principles and Values

- Belief in mutual respect for one another;
- Transparency and accountability;
- Gender equality and zero tolerance to discrimination (sex, tribe/ethnicity, race, HIV-AIDS status, etc.);
- Collegiality, teamwork and dedication to duty;
- Tolerance and respect for diversity;
- Justice for all;
- Quality delivery;
- Collaboration and consultation

## OUR FOCUS

### Our Approach

WANEP is a Think Tank, training and research-based advocacy organization with the undergirding principle of collaborative approach to peacebuilding. Instead of adopting an activist approach, WANEP functions as a professional partner of state, interstate and international actors to develop, implement and evaluate peacebuilding and conflict prevention approaches and instruments.



### What We Do

**WARN** seeks to enhance human security in the region by monitoring and reporting on socio-political situations that could degenerate into violent conflicts.

**The NAPE** program seeks to promote a culture of non-violence as a platform for achieving sustainable peace in the region. It is specifically focused on children and youth in-school and in informal sector.

**WIPNET** is a platform to support women and build their capacity in the promotion of peace and human security in the region using international instruments including the UNSCR 1325, African Union gender mainstreaming instruments and the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) as guide and reference

**The CSDG** Program provides a platform to engage with diverse stakeholders in promoting peaceful democratic transitions, and partner with other civil society organizations to monitor and mitigate election-related conflicts, promote dialogue towards the attainment of peaceful elections.

**Responding to conflict through Dialogue and Mediation** enables WANEP involvement in the search for a peaceful settlement of crisis especially at its nascent stage, promote inter and intra communal dialogue, enhance and mediate capacities of communities and other relevant state and inter government bodies.

**WAPI** seeks to increase knowledge base and enhance the expertise and skills of individuals, organizations and businesses in the area of conflict prevention and

peacebuilding. It also seeks to increase the number of competent, active peacebuilding practitioners in West Africa.

In addition to WANEP core programs, there are other cross cutting programs that respond to context-specific peace and security issues across the region and continent. One such program is the Human Security project in Mali, which through nationwide consultations developed a civil society human security strategy for Mali and the support WANEP is providing to the ECCAS in the operationalization of CSO components of MARAC (Central Africa Early Warning Mechanism).

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

AVM Edem Kobla  
Dovlo (Rtd)



When I began to compose this message on behalf of our Board, I realized how quickly the first year has passed since I took over the Chair of the Board. It has been a year of many rewarding moments, as well as some challenges. Though a year of transition, we made solid progress on many fronts, building on previous works especially towards attaining the goals we set for ourselves in our 2015 – 2020 Strategic Plan, strengthening our core partnerships and establishing new ones. Our deepening relationship with ECOWAS and the AU indeed present model partnerships that contribute significantly to raising the relevance and credibility of Civil Society on the continent. The cascading effects of these engagements has seen WANEP become an authoritative voice for member states seeking the inputs of civil society in peace, security and state-building processes. Significant among these is the recognition during a conference of ECOWAS Ministers of Education, of WANEP's crucial and essential role in developing and integrating 'Countering Violence Extremism into Peace Education' programs in West Africa.

As the Regional Board, we have fulfilled our governance obligation by ensuring a rigorous oversight over the management of the organization at both regional and national levels. In particular, the Board supported the Regional Management team in implementing the various policies towards the harmonization and professionalization of National Boards across the region. Today, I am pleased to report that all the 15 National Networks have professionalized their Boards. The next phase in 2018 is to ensure a successful completion of the harmonization of all WANEP policies across our National offices and strengthen our integrated financial management procedures. This is to ensure uniformity and conformity in the efficient management of our organization and to build a common corporate image and brand identity that encourage best practice across the network.

In this regard, we decided that our next Participatory Review and Analysis Processes (PRAPs) in 2018 which is themed "Harmonization and Institutional Reforms processes: Repositioning

WANEP to meet Current and Emerging Challenges" will be dedicated to reflections on organizational challenges and harnessing the collective efforts of all parts of the organization (National, Regional and Liaison offices in ECOWAS and AU) in consolidating the gains made in implementing WANEP's Strategic Plan so far. This will enable us to strategically reposition our organization in line with the peace and security agenda of our continental and regional partners, the African Union and ECOWAS.

Though the peace and security environment remained challenging and demanding, particularly for Civil Society actors, WANEP continued to demonstrate resilience and determination in its approach to the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the organization. We are proud of our humble achievements, but are however not resting on our oars as our region and continent still faces myriads of peace and security challenges which we must ensure we have the right systems and programs in place to address.

*"Though the peace and security environment remained challenging and demanding, particularly for Civil Society actors, WANEP continued to demonstrate resilience and determination in its approach to the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the organization."*

As a Board, we will continue to ensure a sustainable growth to enhance WANEP responsiveness to and impact in the mutating peace and security context. In view of this, we pledge to work to create more opportunities and space for WANEP to achieve its strategic mandate as a key civil society partner to ECOWAS and the Africa Union. As we approach the mid-point of our Strategic Plan implementation, the review process we approved will enable the Board, provide guidance in ensuring that our strategy is repositioned toward achieving the set goals and the future envisioned.

I am truly honoured and very humbled to lead an incredibly talented and dedicated team who work for WANEP both at the level of the Board, staff in all our offices in West Africa and in the field and I take this opportunity to thank the entire Board and all staff for the tremendous commitment and sacrifices made during the year and wish us God's peaceful blessings in the years ahead. May PEACE reign in our lives!

# WANEP REGIONAL BOARD MEMBERS



*Front row: new Board Chair, AVM Christian Edem Dovlo (Rtd) (right), Vice Chair, Madame Lucky Antoinette Mbrou (middle) and Mrs. Salamatou Hussaini Suleiman (left). Back row: (L – R), Professor Patricia Donli, Madam Dao Gabala, Professor Oumar Ndongo and Rev. John Nkum*



# MANAGEMENT REPORT

Dr. Chukwuemeka  
B. Eze



Our global community is in continuous turmoil with Africa and indeed West Africa appearing to be the epicenter of either the skirmishes or the effects of it. Protracted political conflict in Guinea Bissau, skulking tensions in Sierra Leone ahead of its general elections, renewed ethnic agitations including secession threats in Nigeria, constitutional debate and ensuing anxieties in Togo, effects of climate change and governance challenges coupled with the activities of extremists and infrastructural deficits, remain a challenge in actualizing the ECOWAS integration agenda. Yet I make bold to say that West Africa by many objective indicators is more stable, peaceful and prosperous compared to 20 years ago, when consultations over the formation of WANEP was ongoing across the region. We have more stable democracies, predictable electioneering cycles and increased voices of citizens in governance.

*"Despite the challenges associated with managing large networks including in harmonization of operational instruments and institutional reforms, WANEP networks continue to play critical roles and demonstrate collective capacity in supporting ECOWAS member states' peace and security architectures."*

Over the years, WANEP has evolved to meet changing and challenging dynamics of conflicts in Africa and repositioned itself to deliver on the expectations of its communities and states. 2017 was another milestone in the annals of the institution with a transition in the leadership of the Board – ending the leadership of Professor Isaac O. Albert and ushering in AVM Christian, Dovlo (RTD) as the new Board Chair. In addition, WANEP welcomed two new Board Members (**Hon. Salamatou Hussaini Suleiman, former ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace & Security, and Professor Oumar Ndongo, former Secretary General of West Africa Civil Society Forum**) whose diverse expertise, accomplishments, unshakable

commitment and compassionate promotion of peace, will ensure WANEP's continued growth and vivacity.

It was also a year that witnessed WANEP's relocation and unveiling of its permanent headquarters and the landmark launch of the documentation of WANEP's decades of peacebuilding experience in a book titled "Strides and Strains of CSOs in West Africa – the WANEP Story". The President of ECOWAS Commission, His Excellency, Marcel **Alain de Souza** and the United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative to West Africa and Sahel, **His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas** were the Chair and keynote speakers respectively at the event and paid tributes to the WANEP trajectory in peace and security. They further commended WANEP for its contributions in redefining the landscape of peace and security in West Africa and ensuring citizens' influence to the decisions of the states.

In addition to our growing influence and footprint in West Africa peace and security arena, we are expanding our work at the continental level and contributing to addressing African challenges. WANEP, on the invitation of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and United Nations Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), is providing support to the region's effort in building its peace and security architecture and especially

in bridging the gap between CSOs, intergovernmental organizations and the states. Similarly, in line with the extant provisions of the MoU between WANEP and the African Union Commission, we have seconded a staff to the Peace and Security department of the Commission. The staff will operate from the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) unit of the Commission and provide the linkage between regional and continental early warning mechanism while mainstreaming CSOs contributions to peace and security on the continent. We have not only the capacity but also the responsibility to foster these kinds of platforms leading to cross fertilization of ideas that cut across borders and boundaries of Africa. We are committed to expanding the horizon and sharing our knowledge with other Regional Economic Communities and CSOs across the continent.

We continue to leverage on our partnerships and the growing expertise of our staff in developing innovative strategies that enable us remain relevant to the communities we serve. The 2017 WANEP Organizational Development and Sustainability Index (WODI) clearly shows a phenomenal growth in the key areas of governance, advocacy, program planning and implementation, financial management and accountability and adherence to the organization's strategic direction. Despite the challenges

associated with managing large networks including in harmonization of operational instruments and institutional reforms, WANEP networks continue to play critical roles and demonstrate collective capacity in supporting ECOWAS member states' peace and security architectures.

In the year under review, we upgraded our early warning system (NEWS) to respond to critical demands and needs of our stakeholders. The system is now able to capture emerging peace and security challenges, including violent extremism and transnational organized crimes, electoral violence and key dynamics relating to women, peace and security. It is calibrated to annually perform country risk assessments of each country in West Africa using standardized structural and vulnerability indicators. It also provides periodic comparative analysis of the peace and security conditions and trends of the 15 ECOWAS member states.

Across the 15 national networks, we have repositioned our Peace Education program in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 and African Union agenda 2063. In this regard, we organized a regional conference themed **"UN Security Council Resolution 2250 Discourse: Opportunities and Challenges for rethinking Peace Education in West Africa"** in partnership with ECOWAS to harmonize perspectives and mainstream the Peace Education program along these resolutions and other regional instruments. A key highlight of the program is the invitation of WANEP to participate and speak at the ECOWAS Ministers of Education conference organized in Lomé, Togo and the commitment of the member states to continue working with WANEP towards

sustaining and institutionalizing peace education. WANEP is also supporting the establishment of Peace and Conflict studies program at the Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Nigeria aimed at producing peace practitioners and experts that would contribute to addressing the growing agitations and tensions in the South East region of Nigeria and beyond.

*"Over the years, WANEP has evolved to meet changing and challenging dynamics of conflicts in Africa and repositioned itself to deliver on the expectations of its communities and states... We continue to leverage on our partnerships and the growing expertise of our staff in developing innovative strategies that enable us remain relevant to the communities we serve."*

We are making inroads and influencing policy debate and dialogue processes. In the year under review, WANEP conducted a research entitled **"Current Dynamics and challenges of violent extremism in West Africa"**. This research partly sought to discuss the gender dynamics and dimensions of violent extremisms with a view to contribute to on going efforts in countering violent extremism. This is in line with WANEP's policy on engendering peace practice and applying the United

Nations Security Council Resolution 2242. The findings of the research will inform WANEP's proposals and support to ECOWAS and AU Counter Terrorism Strategy as well as contribute to the literature on the role of women in countering violent extremism in West Africa.

In 2018, our institution would have recorded 20 years of active peacebuilding practice in Africa. We have contributed and supported African states and communities in preventing, mitigating and responding to peace and security challenges. I can scarcely recall a time when the peace and security landscape was more crowded or complicated, the stakes more profound, and the thirst for thoughtful analysis and informed policy recommendation more acute. While I see several challenges ahead, the successes of the past years give me hope and optimism that the change and freedom we desire and deserve is within reach. As we look forward with a lot of enthusiasm to our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, WANEP will continue to make strategic contributions and influence today's dialogues that inform the African dreams of tomorrow. In all these efforts, we are very fortunate to have the support of our development partners, a highly professional Board, dependable members and well-informed and committed staff. Working together, I am confident that we can keep the vision of our institution alive, advance the cause of peace in the decades ahead and return the full dignity of Africans.

# WANEP MANAGEMENT TEAM



*WANEP Management Team: (Left to Right): Mrs. Gisele Vedogbeton Dovlo, Finance Manager; Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah, Program Director/Deputy Executive Director; Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze, Executive Director and Mrs. Esther Gordon-Mensah, Administrative Manager*

# WANEP 2015–2020 Strategic PLAN at a Glance

Strategic Priorities	Our Focus	Our Goal
<b>National Early Warning and Response Systems are functional in all Member States and linked to ECOWAS Early Warning and Response System</b>	Strengthen national early warning and response systems in the region	An established and functioning early warning and response system in all the 15 ECOWAS member states leading to improved links between early warning and early response at the national and regional levels
<b>Citizen capacity is developed and deployed in peacebuilding and conflict prevention interventions at community, national and regional levels</b>	To build/develop citizens' capacity in peacebuilding and conflict prevention to handle local level responses; and report promptly to NEWRS and ECOWAS-EWRS	<p>WANEP's partnerships and relationships are formalized in addition to its traditional competence as a professional and implementing partner to ECOWAS in the ECOWAS early warning and early response mechanism;</p> <p>Peacebuilding and conflict prevention structures established in collaboration with other CSOs and local authorities including national governments, intergovernmental organizations, traditional rulers and faith-based organizations</p>
<b>Research results are utilized in policy advocacy to promote peace and security</b>	WANEP's research capacity is enhanced and formalized with notable think-tanks, academia and research institutes to promote the utilization of research for peace and security	The organization transforms into a Think-Tank and Research Advocacy resource in the region to influence policies and contribute to global discourse in peace and security especially in the African continent
<b>Gender capacity in peacebuilding and conflict prevention is developed and deployed at community, national and regional levels</b>	Mainstream gender in peacebuilding and conflict prevention especially in the context of the UNSC Resolution 1325 at regional, national and local levels to address the peculiar needs of women in conflict	Gender policies are adapted and mainstreamed into national peacebuilding and conflict prevention programs
<b>Institutional and financial sustainability of WANEP (National Networks &amp; Regional Secretariat) ensured</b>	Put in place an innovative Business Plan to guide WANEP's transformation from a Project Driven Organization to a Vision Driven one	WANEP is transformed from a project-based organization to a sustainable vision based regional organization



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The undergirding principle of WANEP's approach to peacebuilding and conflict prevention is the attainment of just and peaceful societies, where the dignity of citizens are paramount and where they can meet their basic needs and decide their destiny in a conducive environment. This vision is encapsulated in the WANEP's 2015 – 2020 Strategic Action Plan which has the overall goal to collaborate with the ECOWAS Commission, member states, and civil society organizations, research institutions, AU, UN and other international partners. Building on the strong foundation and successes achieved in 2016, WANEP's Program focus in 2017 was on sustaining the gains of the previous years and repositioning for greater heights and efficiency in the years ahead. In this wise, significant progress were recorded in all program outputs specifically through capacity building, policy and advocacy initiatives, democratic governance and peace education. Other areas of notable progress was in promoting women and gender-focused initiatives, enhancing community involvement in dialogue and mediation. In line with the focus of the strategic plan, institutional strengthening also received a boost through improved financial management, professionalization of Board as well as enhanced partnerships and collaborations.

*"Through the WIPNET program of WANEP, women across the region recorded increased presence and participation in the political arena, peacebuilding platforms and community leadership. These efforts made positive impacts on the Women, Peace and security agenda recording significant reductions in situations that put women in vulnerable positions such as rape and other sexual gender-based violence."*

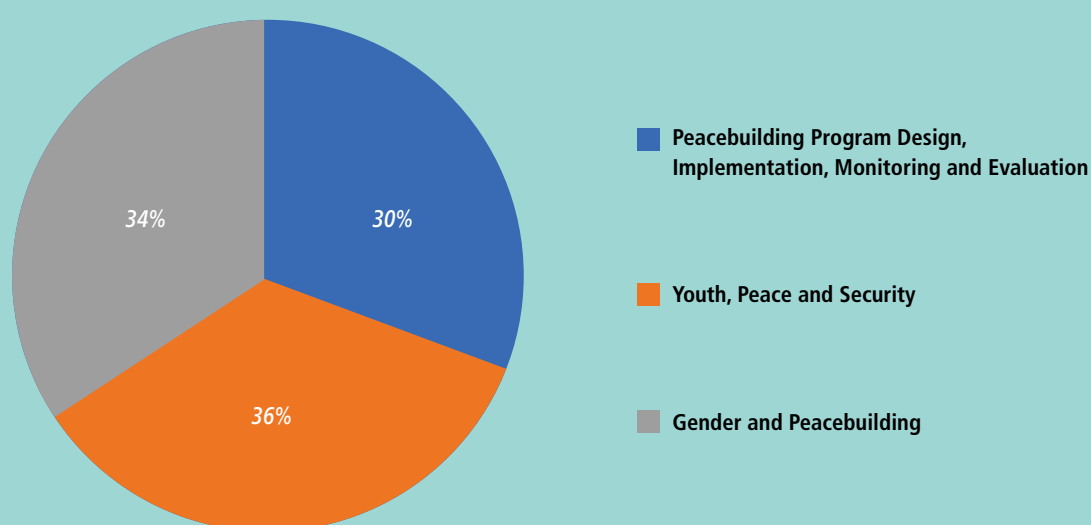
As democratic transitions remain a challenge to peace and stability in West Africa where election disputes are often marked by spates of violence, WANEP provided electoral support and undertook several interventions in The Gambia, and Liberia which contributed significantly to a peaceful electoral process in those countries. Under the USAID funded project on Mitigating Election Violence

through the National Early Warning System (NEWS), WANEP is engaging critical partners to ensure a smooth electoral process in the upcoming March 2018 elections in Sierra Leone. Further, the high quality/evidenced-based data generated from WANEP's highly developed NEWS platforms across the networks and coordinated through the well-equipped Peace Monitoring Center (PMC), informed the production of various Early Warning outputs, which provided succinct policy recommendations for leaders, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders in the region and beyond.

WANEP under its flagship capacity building program, the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) in collaboration with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPCT) trained 53 peace actors towards improving their state of readiness to prevent conflict and implement peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction measures. The unique value of WAPI now in its 16<sup>th</sup> Session lies in bridging the gap between theory and practice in order to meet needs that cannot be adequately addressed by conventional peacebuilding training. A breakdown of the training shows that 30% of the participants

were trained in peacebuilding program design, 34% in gender and peacebuilding and 36% in youth, peace and security. Aside from WAPI, another 1,708 people received various levels of trainings facilitated by the networks in Early Warning, Countering Violent Extremism, Peace Education, Dialogue and Mediation, Community Conflict Management as well as Leadership and Communication among others. Internal capacities were greatly boosted in the year with a number of WANEP staff benefitting from numerous trainings and capacity building initiatives in line with WANEP's staunch belief that improving the knowledge and skills of staff leads to productivity and efficiency. This deliberate strategy of continuous staff capacity development places WANEP as the leading peacebuilding civil society organization in the region whose expertise and professionalism is well sought after.

### WAPI 2017: Breakdown of Participants per course



WANEP remains committed within the mandate of its Peace Education Program to the philosophy of a culture of peace and non-violence, which is in tandem with the ECOWAS Peace Education policy. WANEP through its national offices strengthened the existing peace education/peer mediators clubs, and facilitated the establishment of new ones. A National Guide to Education for Peace and Non-Violence in Preschools in Togo was produced and validated and now serves as a resource in the teaching of peace education at the primary and kindergarten levels.

As part of its contribution to the realization of the spirit of the UNSCR 1325 as well as its deliberate efforts to ensure that women's contributions are fully recognized, WANEP enhanced capacities of women across the region to position them for effective participation in leadership and decision-making

at all levels of peace process. Relying on its expertise in research, WANEP produced high quality publications within the year that serves as useful resource to critical stakeholders. A key publication this period was the WANEP Book titled; Strides and Strains of Civil Society Organizations in West Africa: The WANEP Story. The book is a reference document and guide for the professional management of CSOs and also provides the onerous opportunity for the story of WANEP to be told. Other publications were: MEDIATING COMPLEX COMMUNITY CONFLICTS: Lessons from Jos, Plateau Nigeria and Bawku, Upper West Ghana, which documents the organizations practical interventions and contributions to dialogue and mediation and a thematic report on countering violent extremism. WANEP's desire of establishing a strong and sustainable institution able to deliver on its core

mandate of promoting peace in the region was further enhanced within the year with the institution of professional Boards in Burkina Faso, Mali, Togo, Benin and Niger. At the Regional level, WANEP held its General Assembly, welcomed new Regional Board members and unveiled a new secretariat.

This annual report presents WANEP's key achievements in 2017 and is a product of a number of participatory review processes at the Regional and National offices. It chronicles WANEP's programmatic focus and contributions to the peace and security agenda in the ECOWAS region. The report is segmented into organizational profile, Management/ Board level efforts, major achievements by Strategic Objectives, and a conclusion detailing challenges and constraints and lessons therefrom.

# DELIVERING ON 2015 - 2020 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

## SO1: National Early Warning and Response Systems are Functional In All Member States and Linked To ECOWAS Warning and Response System

### 1.1. IMPROVED QUALITY AND TIMELINESS OF EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE MECHANISMS

#### 1.1.1. Strengthening linkages between warning and response



*WANEP Program Officer, Early Warning, Ms Edwige Mensah facilitating a session during the NEWS Managers training*

The West Africa Early Warning and Response Network (WARN) is WANEP's flagship program with the primary objective to provide Early Warning information and design timely responses to prevent the outbreak or mitigate the escalation of conflict. WARN is the most viable tool for prevention of violent conflicts and generally informs WANEP's program designs and interventions. WARN has been of immense value in the

promotion of peace and security in the region since inception.

In the reporting period, WANEP further strengthened this system through training of the National Early Warning System (NEWS) Managers, and reviewed NEWS indicators to reflect current dynamics and trends in peace and security in the region. As a result of these trainings, the quality and timeliness of

warning and alerts have significantly increased at the regional and continental levels while the WANEP NEWS Managers are now submitting reports to the AU African Reporter platform in support of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS). As the civil society partner to ECOWAS in the operationalization of the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN), WANEP collaborated with ECOWAS to build the capacities of WANEP, ECOWAS and AU analysts to position them to deliver on the new ECOWAS thematic areas of Crime, Security, Political, Health and Environment. Through this training, the WANEP Analysts are conducting high-level conflict analysis and producing high-level reports to support informed decision-making at policy levels.

In addition, WANEP also strengthened the linkages between warning and response by consolidating the institution of National Early Warning and Response Groups within the WANEP Election Management Framework. The Group was mandated to monitor, deliberate and recommend response strategies to violent threats to the elections and report to the relevant agencies/bodies for immediate action. In Liberia, the Group was chaired by the ECOWAS Special Representative in Liberia with the National Peace Ambassador in Liberia as the Vice Chair. In The Gambia and Liberia, the Election Response Groups engaged in preventive diplomacy during the polls by undertaking several interventions geared

towards maintaining peace and stability during the voting process. Some of these interventions included; visiting the polling centers to assess the general conduct of the elections, regular interactions with the media to provide situational reports before, during and after the elections and generally appealed for calm and respect of the electoral process.



Participants at the Analysts Training Workshop pose with Dr. Lat Gueye of ECOWAS (sitting left), Professor Patricia Donli, WANEP Board member (middle) and Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze, WANEP Executive Director, (Right)

### 1.1.2. Contribution to mitigating election violence

WANEP also facilitated the operationalization of an Election Situation Room (ESR) in The Gambia and Liberia whose elections held within the year. The Situation Room was uniquely designed to monitor, report, analyze and facilitate response to violent threats to the peaceful conduct of elections, including tracking social media postings and compliance to electoral code of conduct at the polling stations. This was necessary to ensure that the ethics and integrity of the elections are maintained. In Nigeria, WANEP's electoral support sought to contribute to effective monitoring of gender-based violence by enhancing the capacity of 15 Women Election Observers/Analysts in the Niger Delta region of the country. In The Gambia, the ESR was effectively coordinated through the CSO-Coalition on Elections spearheaded and coordinated by WANEP-The Gambia with funding support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and European Union (EU). In Liberia, the ESR was supported by WANEP JFA partners namely ADA, SIDA and DANIDA and UNMIL.

Prior to the elections, 30 community monitors and 43 observers were trained and deployed in prioritized risk areas based on hot spot mapping analysis across the 15 counties of Liberia. The Gambia trained and deployed 30 community conflict monitors and 200 domestic observers, recording the biggest observation mission in the country. The monitors were responsible for reporting threats and incidents of violence at the community, district and regional levels throughout the electioneering process to the Election Situation Room. The report was based on the pre-determined, context specific indicators developed and validated by critical stakeholders including development partners, civil society and the media prior to the elections.

Going by the level of commitment and preparations in place, WANEP is poised to repeat this string of successes in the upcoming March 2018 general elections in Sierra Leone under the WANEP/ USAID project on Mitigating Election Violence through the National Early Warning System (NEWS). The project was launched in Sierra Leone in October 2017 witnessed by the United States Ambassador to Sierra Leone H.E. Maria Brewer and the Interior Minister who performed the launch. Also in attendance were representatives of the UNDP, civil society organizations, security agencies, the electoral commission, and the media among others.



H.E. Maria Brewer, US Ambassador to Sierra Leone, reading her speech at the launch of the USAID/ WANEP Project on Mitigating Election Violence through NEWS in Sierra Leone. The Ambassador was the Guest Speaker at the occasion.





*The Ambassador with members of the high table at the inauguration of the District Election Response Group (DERG) in Kono.*

All stakeholders committed to work together towards ensuring peaceful elections in the country before, during and after the 2018 elections. WANEP Executive Director, Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze speaking at the occasion said *“WANEP’s support to peaceful elections is inspired by its vision and conviction for stronger democratic principles and ethos. It is borne out of our desire to contribute, to support and to complement the efforts of official actors and other civil society counterparts, knowing fully well that every little contribution counts.”*

In preparation for the 2018 general elections in Sierra Leone, WANEP and its stakeholders inaugurated an Election Response Group at the national and district levels. To ensure success of the electoral process, the Groups have been meeting monthly to discuss, deliberate and proffer solutions on the potential threats to the elections as captured by the WANEP-Sierra Leone National Early Warning System (NEWS) platform. They have also created several communication platforms geared towards improving the Group’s communication, networking and interventions. Recommendations from the Response Group is utilized by grantees of the USAID/REWARD (Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data in West Africa) program, who have

representation in the Response Group, to respond to the identified threats.

## 1.2. WANEP CONTRIBUTES TO POLICY DISCOURSE THROUGH EARLY WARNING PRODUCTS

### 1.2.1. Production and dissemination of analytical early warning outputs

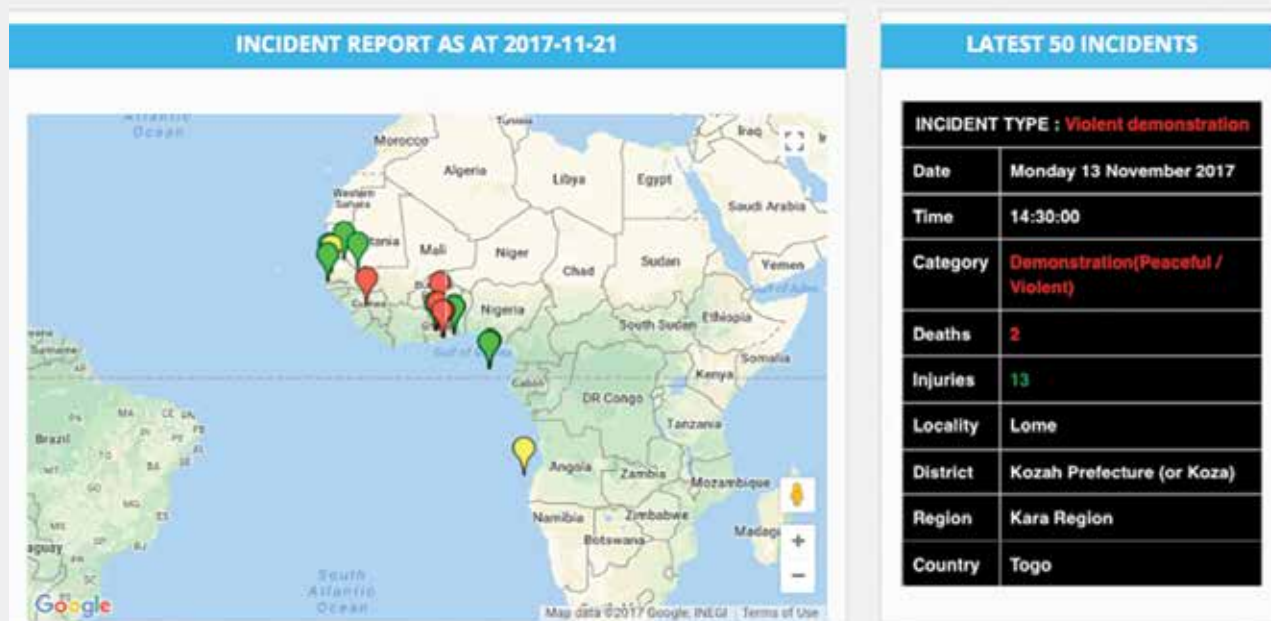
WANEP generates high quality, evidenced-based data from its highly developed National Early Warning System (NEWS) across the networks and coordinated through its Peace Monitoring Center (PMC)<sup>1</sup> at the regional office. The data from the Early Warning System informs very intuitive analysis leading to the production of various Early Warning outputs in the form of monthly peace and security reports, conflict census reports and policy briefs depicting major incidents that impacted human security. These products, which provide succinct policy recommendations for leaders, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders to consider in conflict prevention and mitigation are widely disseminated to a variety of stakeholders across the continent and beyond.

State and non-state actors and international partners relied heavily on WANEP’s analytical early warning products as a guide for their project interventions on security threats and conflict prevention in the region. For instance, data from WANEP-Sierra Leone NEWS platform informs the responses of the Office of National Security (ONS) in Sierra Leone to identified threats that has the potential to mar the 2018 election process. Also, WANEP’s evidenced-based conflict analysis was part of the information utilized by the ECOWAS President to respond to the crises in Cote d’Ivoire. The early warning analytical reports provide additional information and support ECOWAS engagement in Togo with the ruling party, key government actors and opposition during the crisis while the ECOWAS ambassador to Liberia and UNMIL utilized WANEP early warning outputs for their response actions that helped to mitigate the threats with the potential of marring the October elections in Liberia.

In a related development, a key Policy Brief titled “Boko Haram, Women and Terrorism: Emergent threat of Female Suicide Bombers in Nigeria’s Northeast region” produced by WANEP-Nigeria has been an important reference document among peace and security stakeholders. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria utilized the incident report generated by the network on kidnapping for their project implementation on security threats in Nigeria while the reports on disaster risk reduction has contributed to institutionalizing a weekly environmental sanitation in markets and residential areas to reduce the impact of flood disaster in Lagos state. In Guinea, regular update on road traffic accidents received wide visibility and acknowledgement by the Guinean transport sector.

<sup>1</sup> The WANEP Peace Monitoring Center is the most advanced CSO led early warning coordinating platform in Africa

### 1.2.2. Building Sustainable and Functional NEWS Platform



#### THE NATIONAL VARIABLES

EMERGING ISSUES
PROXIMATE CAUSES / ISSUES
IMMEDIATE CAUSES OF CONFLICT /
ROOT CAUSES / LATENT ISSUES

The WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) platform was upgraded in the year to capture current peace and security challenges in West Africa and also to make the NEWS more user-friendly. As part of the upgrade, a new feature was created to map risks, which allows WANEP and its partners to understand the level of risks in the 15 ECOWAS member countries in accordance with WANEP thematic areas (**Women, peace and security; Democracy and governance; Crime and extremism and Environment**). Additionally, specific indicators on violent extremism and gender based violence were added to the system. An online version of the WANEP

PMC, which hosts the NEWS platform was created and updates on incidents that occur across the region<sup>2</sup>. The requisite skills acquired has helped to enhance the quality and quantities of early warning outputs from the Analysts culminating in the production of an online thematic report titled; “Violent Extremism: Armed Violence and Human Security in West Africa.” The report provides specific analysis and interpretation of violent extremism and organized crime in the region relying on data collated from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) with inputs from the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN).

<sup>2</sup> See [www.wanep.org/pmc](http://www.wanep.org/pmc)

## SO2: Citizen Capacity Is Developed and Deployed In Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention/Interventions At Community, National and Regional Levels

### 2.1. IMPROVING PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION CAPACITIES

#### 2.1.1. The West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI):

WANEP's capacity building strategy is tailored towards increasing peacebuilding knowledge base in West Africa by enhancing the skills and expertise of ECOWAS citizens and Commissions' staff, organisations and businesses in the area of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. WANEP actualizes this laudable mandate through its official training platform, the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI), which holds every year in partnership with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC). The 16<sup>th</sup> Session of WAPI held from September 4 to 22, 2017 with 53 peace actors comprising 23 males and 30 females further disaggregated into 27 Francophones and 26 Anglophones in attendance. The participants came from Civil Society Organizations, corporate institutions, governments and Inter-Governmental Organizations including ECOWAS, AU and UN. WAPI Alumna's have gone on to utilize their trainings in making meaningful interventions in their localities.



Participants engage in a group working session at WAPI 2017

Over the years, WANEP and its main partner KA IPTC have regularly reviewed the WAPI curriculum as part of strategies to diversify approaches to reach potential peacebuilding practitioners and existing practitioners. WAPI's unique value lies in bridging the gap between theory and practice in order to meet needs that cannot be adequately addressed by conventional peacebuilding training. As a means of widening the reach and

spread of contextualized peacebuilding trainings, modalities are already in place to commence in-country trainings across the Region in collaboration with partner Academic institutions like the University of Ibadan, Nigeria and the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. The first of these trainings will commence at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria in the first quarter of 2018.



**Mylene Epse SORO:** *This WAPI has been a great learning experience for me, especially concerning gender mainstreaming. Now I know that gender is not only about taking into account women aspirations. It is a way of thinking that involves taking men and women issues into account.*



**Christophe Nyaku Mensah:** *WAPI-2017 was for me a moment of discovery and acquisition of knowledge.... I shall be eternally grateful to WANEP for this opportunity.*





**Vivian Njideka:** *The experiences I had was such that I have never had in my life. The courses and the facilitators addressed my need in that aspect. Thank you so much organizers of WAPI for this great opportunity.*



**Kamiel Mesie:** *I have benefited greatly from the experience and the excellent course content that WAPI provided. The setting in the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KA IPTC) in beautiful Ghana, the contributions and the experience shared by participants from all over West Africa and the relentless efforts from all staff, were a big added-value for me.*

WANEP emphasizes ownership and bottom-up approach to peacebuilding practice which enables the National Networks to carry out interventions that reflect the peculiarities of human security issues in their various countries. In 2017, WANEP provided capacity building at community, national and regional levels on various thematic areas such as violent extremism, dialogue and mediation, conflict sensitive reporting, Civil Society Mobilization, etc. WANEP – The Gambia trained journalists on Conflict Sensitive

Reporting and Transitional Justice with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the ‘*Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Initiative in the Foni*’ Project. The training was specifically to prepare them for the changing times as the country is still reeling from the political crisis of the 2016 elections, which led to the ousting of President Yahya Jammeh. Aside from WAPI, WANEP also trained a total of 1,708 people across the region in Early Warning, Countering Violent Extremism, Peace Education, Dialogue and Mediation, Community Conflict Management as well as Leadership and Communication.

## 2.2. DEPLOYING PEACEBUILDING INTERVENTIONS

### 2.2.1. Contribution to UNSCR 2250 Discourse:



Management and Staff of WANEP with facilitators and participants at the Peace Education conference on UNSCR 2250

Within this framework of building citizens capacity, a core program instituted in 2002 is the Active Non-violence and Peace Education (NAPE) Program, which seeks to contribute to a culture of non-violence and social responsibility among young people in West Africa. The program derives its legitimacy from the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) and buttressed by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers of Education report that calls for the adoption of peace studies in school curriculum in the West Africa region. In this regard, WANEP in partnership with ECOWAS organized a Conference themed “Opportunities and Challenges for rethinking Peace Education in West Africa” from July 27 to 28 2017. The meeting was specifically aimed at developing strategies for the greater involvement of youth in decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels. A key outcome of this conference was the invitation of WANEP to present the action plans and recommendations from the conference at the meeting of Ministers of Education of Member States in Lomé in September. WANEP’s participation afforded the opportunity to deepen the engagement with the Ministers at the meeting and get their commitment to engage with the WANEP National Offices across West Africa in institutionalizing Peace Education in West Africa. As a result, the Member States committed to support WANEP’s plan to integrate the eradication of violent extremism into Peace Education within Member States, particularly through the African Centres of Excellence in West Africa.



### 2.2.2. Facilitating academic contributions to peace and security in West Africa:

WANEP under the NAPE Program has been working with Education Administrators and regulators to design and integrate effective Peace Education Programs into the Peace Studies curriculum of Tertiary Institutions in order to bridge the gap between theory and practice. Towards the actualization of this mandate, WANEP provided support to the establishment of the first Peace and Conflict studies program at the Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), south eastern Nigeria. This support was borne out of the need to build the capacity of peace actors across the region for effective delivery of practice-oriented peace studies at the tertiary level. WANEP through its Executive and Program Director as well as its offices in Nigeria provided technical support to the Institution for the development of the Peace Studies Curriculum. WANEP also initiated and facilitated the development of a West Africa Journal for Peacebuilding Research and Practice (WAJPRA) in collaboration

with peace Practitioners and Educators from Academic institutions in West Africa and trained research academic staff from three Universities in Ghana and Nigeria at WAPI. WAJPRA is a biannual multidisciplinary Journal published (in print and online) with the aim to provide a credible platform for reporting high-quality empirical, methodological, and theoretical articles in Peacebuilding and related fields of study among others.

WANEP through its JFA partners also provided support to the Society for Peace Studies and Practice's (SPSP) annual conference on the theme; "Collaborating for Sustainable Peace and Security." The outcome of the program was a closer relationship between the peace practitioners and WANEP. In a letter signed by the National President of SPSP, Dr. Nathaniel Danjibo and the Secretary-General, Dr. Adeola Adams, the institution expressed appreciation to WANEP for the gesture and committed to further collaborations in promoting the peace and security agenda in the region.

## 2.3. PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE

### 2.3.1. Improving Functionality of Peace and Peer Mediation Clubs:

WANEP facilitated the establishment of peace and peer mediation clubs as a platform for a holistic analysis of issues that promotes values of compassion, equality, interdependence, and nonviolence. To ensure sustainability, the networks conduct monitoring visits to the clubs and regularly build capacities of the members through trainings and sensitization activities on preventive peacebuilding initiatives to enhance their skills for effective peer mediation. The clubs have utilized these skills to initiate creative ways of reaching out to their peers with peace messages geared towards inculcating a culture of peace in the schools. For instance, Peace club members in Guinea created an animated Facebook page to educate and sensitize the youth on the culture of peace and nonviolence; a School Peace Club donated 100 blood bags to the National Blood Transfusion Center in Burkina Faso. Further, with the success of the clubs in pilot schools, more and more schools have joined the bandwagon thus increasing the number of the peace clubs at the national level. In The Gambia, WANEP has initiated talks with school administrations to solicit for the introduction of peace education into the curriculum of target schools. Key stakeholders in Togo validated the Peace Education Guide aimed at promoting the culture of Peace and Non-Violence in Pre-schools.



### *WANEP is my second family!*

*"My name is Nabole Yacouba. As a peer mediator, the peace education training and non-violent strategies I received from the trainings organized by WANEP helped me a lot. Before the training, I was a troublesome student who liked fighting. I used to get angry easily. I was also unruly and selfish. But upon receiving the peer mediation training and my subsequent involvement in the peace*

*and peer mediation clubs in my school, I have learnt self-control and especially, in controlling my anger. I am now becoming very patient and have also learnt to think of others, of my friends and my family. In sum, since the training, there is an inward change that leads me to ponder about my existence, how to better manage my life and be useful to society. My mother gave birth to me but WANEP perfected me. WANEP is my second family."*



*Working together for peace: Pre-schoolers in Togo imbibe the culture of working together for peace*

### 2.3.2. Promoting Global Peace and Security Initiatives:

As part of promoting its peace and security agenda, WANEP regularly commemorates UN approved global events such as the International Women's

Day (IWD), the International Day of Youth (IYD) and the International Day of Peace (IDP), to name just a few. In the reporting year, WANEP Regional office provided support and guidance to the National Networks to mark these events

in accordance with their context. At the Regional office, WANEP commemorated the global events with press statements and participated in a live Television discussion program to contribute to the peace and security discourse on the theme of the events. The Press Statements received wide coverage in mainstream and social media platforms. Similar activities were held across the national offices. All across the networks, women's issues were brought to the front burner through various platforms such as sensitization activities, live panel discussions, roundtable meetings, art exhibitions etc., with wide coverage on all media platforms.<sup>3</sup> Particularly in Liberia, the Women's Day provided a platform to reflect on the 2003 Liberia Women Mass action for Peace, which was spearheaded by WANEP under the Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) Program. In acknowledgement of this crucial role, the WIPNET members of WANEP-Liberia were invited to share experience on this non-violent activism that helped to broker peace during the Liberia crisis. The Peace Day and Youth Day (IYD) activities followed the same patterns and received wide coverage in the media.



*Global events: WANEP Regional and National Offices held several activities to mark the 2017 Global events as captured in these pictures: Above (left) Regional office staff in pink attires to mark the IWD, peace parade in Guinea Bissau (right). Liberian 'peace dance' (below left), and (right) women of Jafouk and Jamong in the feuding Bunkprugu community of Ghana dance together as a sign of peace*

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5130KPPuh4&t=24s>

## 2.4. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDING AND SOCIAL COHESION INITIATIVES

WANEP's recognition of community led peacebuilding initiatives and emphasis of the use of non-violent strategies to resolving conflict was key to conflict prevention and resolution in the year under review. WANEP has been very instrumental in mobilizing and building the capacity of Civil Society Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and Community Based Organizations to work through collaborative strategies to resolve conflict and build peace. WANEP made immense contributions to conflict prevention and peacebuilding and played key roles in building capacity at community level to mitigate, manage, and resolve violent conflict. In Ghana, WANEP's mediation efforts in the age-long Nkonya/Alavanyo conflict in collaboration with the National Peace Council, as well as in Bimbilla,

Bunkprugu, Keta and Tarkwa chieftaincy and natural resource related conflicts has paved way for sustained dialogue between the conflicting parties. Also in Guinea and Nigeria, WANEP led community interventions contributed to the peaceful resolution of community conflicts and the peaceful settlement of the conflict between two women groups.

The monthly Tribune, initiated and facilitated by WANEP-Senegal as a platform for deliberating on critical security challenges in the country has led to the setup of four peacekeeping and monitoring committees in the border regions to mediate in communal conflicts. In The Gambia, several town hall meetings facilitated by WANEP in areas identified as hot spots during the Parliamentary elections helped to

promote peace and improved social cohesion in those communities leading to the creation of a Community Development Association. The consistent lobby and advocacy by WANEP Togo to relevant authorities contributed to the release of the students charged in connection with the University of Lomé (UL) crisis.

WANEP is also a strong advocate for National Peace Architectures as a national and decentralized mechanism for responding to conflicts and mitigating its effects on civilians. WANEP played a key role in the establishment of the peace architecture in Ghana and is providing technical support to Nigeria, Niger, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea. Currently, WANEP is working with the office of National Cohesion to commence the process of establishing a national peace architecture in Cote d'Ivoire.

# SO3: Research Results Are Utilized In Policy Advocacy To Promote Peace and Security

## 3.1. PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH RESEARCH

WANEP continued to deploy its competency and professionalism to conduct evidence-based research on peace and security and utilizes research results for policy advocacy. In the review year, WANEP commissioned a research on the trends and dynamics of violent extremism in Nigeria, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso with a view to contributing to the debate, knowledge and response strategies to tackle the identified threats. Preliminary findings of the research was validated by key stakeholders and major partners in September 2017. The research report is expected to serve as a great resource for inter-governmental bodies, governments, research and academic institutions, traditional authorities, religious and faith-based institutions, CSOs and other partners in providing deeper understanding on the violent extremism discourse.



*National Network Coordinator of WANEP-Mali, Boubacar Thera presenting WANEP's interventions in the human security situation in Mali at a high-level conference on human security and its contribution to Agenda 2030 in New York*



Through the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (WOSCAP) project and the Human Security Strategy Project that has been running in Mali, WANEP made significant contributions to national discourse at the level of the European Union (EU), the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU). At the invitation of the United Nations Human Security Unit, The National Network Coordinator (NNC) of WANEP-Mali represented WANEP at a high-level conference on human security and its contribution to Agenda 2030 in New York and made presentations on WANEP interventions in the human security situation in Mali. Stakeholders in Nigeria validated two research reports viz; Report on Civil Society Networks' Interventions in Peace Work in Nigeria (1999-2014) and the report on Climate Change Adaptation Frameworks and Policies in Nigeria (2013-2015). WANEP-Togo launched a study on gender-based violence in the university setting and its implications for development in order to provide an objective analysis of the phenomenon and its effects on the victims in the academic environment. The publications will provide the necessary resource and reference material in policy advocacy to relevant agencies.

WANEP's work and contribution to preventing violent extremism continues to gather momentum. In March, WANEP became a member of the GPPAC working group on preventing Violent Extremism. In April, WANEP participated in the workshop on strengthening Cooperation and Collaboration among Civil Society Networks around the PVE Agenda by the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP) in partnership with the Prevention Project. Proceedings of the workshop contributed to WANEP's research on countering violent extremism in West Africa. An online portal for the exchange of information on PVE was created at the end of the workshop while WANEP shared its research products and outputs during the meeting.<sup>4</sup>

### 3.2. KNOWLEDGE CAPTURE AND DISSEMINATION

WANEP utilizes evidenced-based research results to produce high quality publications that serves as resource to critical stakeholders. WANEP's role in dialogue and mediation which has become increasingly recognized and acclaimed by major stakeholders and key partners in peace and security was succinctly captured in a publication titled: **MEDIATING COMPLEX COMMUNITY CONFLICTS: Lessons from Jos, Plateau Nigeria and Bawku, Upper West Ghana.** The publication forms part of a series of publications tagged "From the Field," and documents the organizations practical interventions and contributions to peacebuilding practice.

**The WANEP Story:** In the review year, The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) released a new publication titled: **Strides and Strains of Civil Society Organizations in West Africa.** The Book provides the onerous opportunity for the story of WANEP to be told. It is an opportunity for the organization to share its experiences in peacebuilding, networking and organizational management; successes and challenges and legacy in the Civil Society sector. The WANEP Story documents evidence of strategies for civil society mobilization, constituency building and activism and contributes to the body of knowledge on understanding the role of civil society in peace, security and development for research and academic purposes. The publication is in English and French and can be found on <http://wanepresources.storefoundry.com>



A special online thematic report under the WANEP Early Warning Network and Response (WARN) Program titled; **Violent Extremism: Armed Violence and Human Security in West Africa** was also produced. The publication provides specific analysis and interpretation of violent extremism and organized crime for the period January to June 2017. It relied on data collated from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) with inputs from the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN). The publication can be accessed from the Resource page on the WANEP website.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <https://pveplatform.forumbee.com/>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.wanep.org/wanep/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1120thematic-report-jan-jun-2017-violent-extremism](http://www.wanep.org/wanep/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1120thematic-report-jan-jun-2017-violent-extremism)

## SO4: Gender Capacity In Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Is Developed and Deployed At All Levels

### 4.1. ENHANCING GENDER/WOMEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING

#### 4.1.1 Addressing Gender Issues:

WANEP is a staunch advocate of mainstreaming gender perspectives into peacebuilding and conflict prevention frameworks. In this regard, WANEP participated in the workshop on Engendering ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Systems held in Dakar-Senegal where it made a presentation on 'Perspectives of Civil Society on Gender and Early Warning.' WANEP also shared its Gender Analysis Tools and the framework on engendering early warning. WANEP regional and national offices have been promoting gender-focused programs geared towards addressing issues of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV). WANEP Nigeria mobilized support for the bill on Violence Against Women currently awaiting ratification by the Delta State House of Assembly. A total of 105 women trained in Liberia on psycho-social support are currently providing trauma counselling and psycho-social support to survivors and victims of SGBV in their respective counties. Through the Peace Huts facilitated by WANEP in Liberia, the women have been monitoring SGBV cases to ensure that victims get speedy

justice. As a result, there has been a significant increase in the understanding of SGBV among community members while some government agencies are now including gender components in their planning and service delivery.

#### 4.1.2. Increasing Women's political participation:

Women continue to be poorly represented in both formal and informal peace processes despite their contributions to informal peacebuilding and conflict resolution at the community level. In recognition of this gap and as part of deliberate efforts to ensure that women's contributions are duly recognized, WANEP has been enhancing capacities of women across the region in leadership and decision-making, mediation, and political participation among others. Across the national networks, WANEP is utilizing the interactive voices of women radio programs to advocate for women inclusivity and broaden the space for women's participation and engagement on peace and security issues. Through the WIPNET program, women in Liberia are now advocating for increased presence in political position and community leadership as well as for the passage of the "Affirmative Action Bill on Women's

Political Participation." In The Gambia, eight out of the 40 women trained by WANEP in partnership with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) West Africa Regional Office (WARO) contested in the April 2017 National Assembly elections in the country. WANEP-Sierra Leone facilitated a platform to articulate the role women can play in the 2018 electoral process and has been holding several capacity building initiatives to prepare them for hosting the proposed women's situation room during the 2018 elections.

#### 4.1.3. Women's role in Countering Violent Extremism:

Violent Extremism remains a contemporary threat to human security in the West African Region severely affecting the livelihoods of several communities and increasing the vulnerability of women and children in these communities. Between January and February 2017, WANEP in collaboration with UNWomen, held series of dialogue sessions with community women in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Chad to discuss the threat of violent extremism and strategize on how they can play a constructive role in curbing radicalization particularly from a gender perspective. Through these meetings, the women



WANEP Program Director/Deputy Executive Director, Mrs Levinia Addae-Mensah (sitting first left) with representatives of UNWOMEN at the Regional Workshop on Early Warning Mechanisms and Violent Extremism

formulated sub-indicators that have been migrated into the WANEP NEWS system for early detection of threats. Ms. Khady Ba Faye, Programme Manager of the UN Women Regional Sahel Programme on Peace and Security, said *“the partnership with WANEP in the implementation of the workshop was in recognition of WANEP’s well established expertise on Early Warning.”* In a related development, WANEP-Nigeria has been sensitizing women civil society organizations and students in Gombe and Borno states in North East Nigeria, the zone which is vulnerable to Boko Haram insurgency attacks on strategies for countering violent extremism and radicalization.

#### 4.2. STRENGTHENING UNSCR 1325 DISCOURSE

WANEP through the WIPNET program has been supporting the development and implementation of the National Action Plans (NAPs) of UNSCR 1325. In the period under review, WANEP-Sierra Leone initiated the process of reviewing the expired Sierra Leone National Action Plan (SiLNAP) on UNSCR 1325 with the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children’s Affairs, the lead agency in policy making on gender and women issues. WANEP-Mali has also opened talks with the National Gender Policy (PNG) and key Ministries, departments and parastatals

responsible for the management and implementation of the Resolution. In Ghana, WANEP facilitated a thematic session on Women, Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel in collaboration with selected civil society organizations on the platform of the Ghana Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in West Africa (WGWPS-WA) led by WANEP. WANEP is the convener of the Working Group in Ghana, which is a platform for exchange, coordination and harmonization of actions promoted by civil society organizations, UN Agencies and other stakeholders for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in West Africa.

#### Women Impacting Lives: Peace Births Development in Kévé Community



Kévé village is located about 50 km from Lomé, the capital of Togo. Kévé has three communities, namely Nyimé, Ataviépé and Itcha with one primary and one secondary school only. In order to facilitate the development of the village, a Development Committee was set up led by the traditional ruler of the community, Togbui AGBAKPLI III.

One will think the idea of having a Development Committee will be a welcomed idea by community members who will happily support the various development initiatives implemented by the Committee. Unfortunately, this is not the case! Since the setting up of the Committee, community members have opposed every idea suggested by the committee members. This show of intolerance and misunderstanding has considerably slowed down the development of the community and halted some of the development projects initiated.

This was the situation in Kévé until the intervention of WANEP-Togo through the activities of the Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) Program. WANEP-Togo under the WIPNET program held several sensitization and awareness activities highlighting the values of peace and the need for a peaceful coexistence in the community. These various activities helped to inculcate in community members the importance of tolerance and respect for each other’s opinion, thus helping them to support the leadership of the community through the development committee. Furthermore, they understood that without peace, there will be no development of the community and after the sensitization programs, many of the members confessed to being influenced by the peace messages.

WANEP-Togo has continuously propagated the message of peace in the community and this has had tremendous results. For instance, the women of Kévé have been applying these new ideas into their situation in the community and as a result, there has been a total transformation of the community. The relationship between the Development Committee and the community members is more cordial and they are collaborating with members of the development committee in ensuring that development projects are implemented.



## SO5: Institutional and Financial Sustainability of WANEP Ensured

### 5.1. STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES



*Ms Kesia-Onam Birch, (left), WANEP Program Officer for WIPNET/Peace Education receiving her certificate of participation in the advanced training in Negotiation and Mediation at the Clingendael Academy, Netherlands*

#### 5.1.1. Enhancing Staff Capacity for Optimal Delivery of Organization Goals:

Capacity building lies at the heart of WANEP's goal of enhancing the skills and expertise of its staff and member organizations in the area of conflict prevention and peacebuilding at community, national and regional levels. WANEP recognizes that improving the knowledge and skills of staff leads to productive and effective employees crucial for organizational development. WANEP adopts a bottom-up approach to program implementation which enables the national offices to carry out interventions which reflects the security situation in their countries while the Regional Secretariat provides oversight. WANEP staff at all levels are regularly exposed to various capacity building opportunities within and outside the region which helped to improve their skills towards the effective actualization of organizational goals.

- Two WANEP experts participated in the first ECOWAS Training of Trainers of the Dialogue and Mediation Committee (DMC) on the invitation of ECOWAS. The trainers have now been certified as instructors of the ECOWAS branded mediation tools as well as facilitators of mediation processes at tracks 1 and 2 levels.
- WANEP-Sierra Leone national staff were trained on basic monitoring and evaluation to prepare them for effective program evaluation.
- The Regional Finance Department provided refresher training to the finance departments of WANEP-Benin and Togo on the Tally Accounting system on request from the networks.
- WANEP Program Officer WIPNET and Peace Education attended advanced training in Negotiation and Mediation at the Clingendael Academy in the Netherlands. The trained participants have been included in the AU Roster of the FemWise and will be utilized for mediation across the continent.
- The WIPNET Program Officer of WANEP-Togo benefitted in a training course on "Basic knowledge of Peacekeeping Operations"
- WANEP Regional Finance Manager took part in the Financial Management and Grants Training organized by the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI).

Rank	National Networks	Score%	Remarks
<b>NETWORK IN CATEGORY "A"</b>			
1.	WANEP THE GAMBIA	95.40	↑
2.	WANEP NIGERIA	95.00	↑
3.	WANEP BENIN	91.55	↑
4.	WANEP COTE D'IVOIRE	91.04	↓
5.	WANEP TOGO	87.62	↑
6.	WANEP MALI	86.16	↑
7.	WANEP NIGER	84.19	↑
8.	WANEP SIERRA LEONE	82.28	↓
9.	WANEP GUINEA	81.46	↑
10.	WANEP GHANA	81.24	↑
<b>NETWORK IN CATEGORY "B"</b>			
11.	WANEP LIBERIA	79.76	↑
12.	WANEP BURKINA FASO	73.55	↓
<b>NETWORK IN CATEGORY "C"</b>			
13.	WANEP SENEGAL	59.56	↑
14.	WANEP GUINEE BISSAU	51.63	↓
<b>NETWORK IN CATEGORY "D"</b>			
NONE			
<b>NETWORK IN CATEGORY "E"</b>			
15.	WANEP CAPE VERDE	13.54	↑
<p><i>WANEP Organizational Development Index (WODI) evaluations for the period of 2016, which was reported in the first quarter of 2017 showed that 10 National Networks progressed into category A as compared to 7 the previous year. This result shows the continuous progress towards achieving institutional sustainability both at policy and programmatic levels.</i></p>			

### 5.1.2. Network Capacity Strengthening:

As part of continuous efforts to strengthen and maintain communication lines between the WANEP Regional and National Offices, the Executive Director, Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze undertook an official visit to WANEP national offices of Nigeria, Liberia and Sierra Leone in the year under review. These monitoring visits form part of WANEP Regional oversight functions and afforded the Executive Director the opportunity to witness first hand happenings in the network and the country in general. The Executive Director also utilized these meetings to meet with relevant partners in the countries to explore areas of future collaboration and advocate for strengthened relationship with WANEP.

### 5.2. PROVIDING TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

WANEP's deliberate strategy of continuous staff capacity development have yielded the desired results placing WANEP as the leading peacebuilding civil society organization in the region whose expertise and professionalism is well sought after. Key partners and major stakeholders rely on WANEP's expertise and professionalism for joint programming, workshop/training facilitation and paper presentations across the region and beyond. For instance, the ECOWAS chief analyst recommended the use of the WANEP report template for subsequent early warning reports for the National Early Warning and Response Centres (NEWRC) in Cote d' Ivoire.

### 5.2.1. Contribution to ECOWAS National Early Warning Centres:

In accordance with its partnership requirements, WANEP through its Liaison Coordinator at the ECOWAS Commission assisted the Early Warning Directorate (EWD) of ECOWAS to work with the Member States in creating National Early Warning Centres in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Mali. In addition to supporting the creation of a database of civil society for use by the Centres, WANEP drafted the Memorandum of Understanding that would guide the collaborative relationship between ECOWAS and the five pilot countries. Also, within the framework of the implementation of the National Centres for the Coordination of the Response Mechanism to early warning alerts, the EWD assigned WANEP to facilitate responses to low-



intensity conflicts while at the same time providing country-based information through its National Early Warning System (NEWS). The WANEP Liaison Office participated in the Internal Steering Committee meetings of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework in April and June 2017 to review the findings of a consultancy regarding the level of implementation and define priority areas of the 15 ECPF Components for the next four years. The WANEP Liaison Officer and National Office staff also contributed in designing the Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVA) tools and provided the exogenous political, social, economic and cultural factors prevalent in these countries that guided the questionnaires for the Key Informant Interviews (KIIs).

#### 5.2.2. *Support to AU/ECOWAS Mediation initiatives:*

WANEP provided technical support in the review of the draft ECOWAS Dialogue and Mediation Curriculum at the invitation of the Political Affairs Directorate of the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the ECOWAS Commission and led discussions on track two and three mediation. The Dialogue and mediation Curriculum is to be used by ECOWAS and peacebuilding practitioners across the region. WANEP also supported the Mediation Facilitation Unit of ECOWAS in the validation of the Mediation Manual.

#### 5.2.3. *WANEP/TMG/USAID Partner on Anti-Corruption:*

On the basis of WANEP's proven capacity and leading work in peacebuilding towards ensuring good governance and accountability, the organization was selected by The Mitchell Group (TMG), a USA based organization, to conduct a Mid-Term Performance Evaluation under the USAID/Ghana Accountable Democratic Institution Systems Strengthening (ADISS) project. In the selection of WANEP, USAID considered the *"organization's ability of building the capacity of local field researchers to conduct surveys using strong quality control and academic rigor."*

#### 5.2.4. *Support to AU/ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture:*

WANEP participated in the 51<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS as the civil society representative to the summit. WANEP also participated in other Statutory meetings that served as the preludes to the Summit including the Mediation and Security Council at the Ministerial level, providing insights from civil society perspectives in the various policy discussions, particularly regarding the political crisis in Guinea-Bissau and the management of the Gambia in the post-Jammeh period.

### 5.3. BUILDING AND SUSTAINING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

WANEP has credibility and a wide recognition both internationally and locally due to its outstanding work in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the ECOWAS region. The significance of this recognition is that WANEP attracts international strategic partners who support it to implement various programs of capacity building and real-time interventions in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

#### 5.3.1. *WANEP/ECCAS-ECOWAS Partnership:*

WANEP Executive Director, Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze participated in the ECCAS-ECOWAS Inter-regional workshop held in Abuja from September 11 to 13, 2017, where he shared experiences and good practices on early warning and conflict prevention, including the gender perspectives of early warning. WANEP is providing technical support to the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in the strengthening of collaboration between CSOs and ECCAS, specifically within the context of Central African Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC).

#### 5.3.2. *Exploring Partnership Opportunities:*

WANEP's proven expertise in peacebuilding continued to gain recognition as more and more critical stakeholders expressed interest to partner or collaborate with WANEP. During the year, WANEP Regional office played host to delegates from the Africa Center for Security and Counter-Terrorism (ACSC) and the United States Embassy in Ghana.

ACSC is interested in partnering with WANEP on the proposed project to fight cybercrime, human and sex trafficking in the West African region, especially in Ghana and Nigeria, in recognition of WANEP's role as a leading organization in peace and security in the region. WANEP-Togo organized an international conference on Human rights and democratization in Africa in collaboration with local and international partners where participants developed a draft national strategy to combat torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

### 5.4. ESTABLISHING INSTITUTIONAL AND GOVERNANCE PLATFORMS

WANEP's desire of establishing a strong and sustainable institution able to deliver on its core mandate of promoting peace in the region was further enhanced within the year in review with the institution of professional Boards in Burkina Faso, Mali, Togo, Benin and Niger. WANEP held its General Assembly in the year, unveiled a new secretariat, launched its new publication and welcomed new Regional Board members.

#### 5.4.1. *WANEP General Assembly:*

The 2017 WANEP General Assembly (GA) was held from January 30 to February 2, 2017 in Accra-Ghana under the theme: Consolidating the WANEP vision. The meeting was attended by delegates from all the WANEP national offices comprising National Board Chairs and National Network Coordinators, members of the WANEP Regional Professional Board, Staff of the Regional Office, Zonal Coordinators, and WANEP-ECOWAS Liaison Office. Also in attendance were representatives of ECOWAS, African Union, KAIPTC and other strategic partners. The GA is an opportunity for WANEP to take stock of activities in the previous years, evaluate its strategies for tackling emerging threats and provide stewardship to its constituency and stakeholders. WANEP holds a General Assembly every two years as part of strengthening its institutional and governance structure. Five National Networks successfully held their General Assemblies in the review year viz: Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Togo and Benin.

#### 5.4.2. New Board Members at Regional and National Secretariats:

The WANEP Regional Board had a smooth leadership transition with the emergence of a new Regional Board Chair and Vice Chair while two new members also joined the Board. The new Board Chair, retired Air Vice Marshall (AVM) Christian Edem Dovlo and Madame Lucky Antoinette Mbrou, the Vice Chair took over from Professor Isaac Olawale Albert (Chair) and Madame Fatoumatou Batoko-Zossou (Vice Chair) whose tenures ended on January 31, 2017. In addition, two new seasoned professionals namely; Professor Oumar Ndongo, a Professor of American Literature and culture at the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal and Mrs. Salamatou Hussaini Suleiman, a Nigerian national and immediate past ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security also joined the Board. At the national level, a professional board was put in place in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Togo and Benin and endorsed during the network's general assembly. The Board is the second highest decision making organ of WANEP after the General Assembly and is charged with the responsibility of providing governance and general oversight on behalf of the General Assembly and in line with the principles of transparency and accountability.



Above (Left - right): Rtd. AVM Christian Edem Dovlo (Board Chair), Madame Lucky Antoinette Mbrou (Vice Chair) and the two new members Professor Oumar Ndongo and Mrs. Salamatou Hussaini Suleiman

#### 5.4.3. WANEP Unveils permanent Secretariat, Launches new Publication:

On February 3, 2017, His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), officially unveiled WANEP's permanent Regional secretariat and launched its novelty publication titled: "Strides and Strains of Civil Society Organizations in Africa: The WANEP Story." The ground-breaking event was chaired by His Excellency Marcel Alain

De Souza, President of the ECOWAS Commission. Dr. Chambas described the epoch event as a **"demonstration that WANEP is a key actor in the frontline of conflict prevention."** ECOWAS President Mr. Marcel De Souza in his own words described the double event as a **"commendable African success story worthy of emulation!"** The highlight of the occasion was the presence of the two co-founders of WANEP; Dr. Sam Gbaydee Doe and Honorable Emmanuel Bombande who were the first and second Executive Directors respectively.



Above: His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas unveiling the WANEP permanent Secretariat with support from ECOWAS President, Marcel Alain De Souza. Below: Dr. Chambas launching the WANEP Book

## 5.5 STAFF RECRUITMENT AND REASSIGNMENTS

As the leading Civil Society Organization for peacebuilding in the region, WANEP has carved a niche for itself as the go-to-organization for those wishing to bridge the gap between theory and practical peacebuilding. Thus, in its continuous quest for ensuring professionalism and excellence towards achieving organizational goals, a number of recruitments and reassignments were undertaken in the period under review as follows;

#### 5.5.1. New Hires/Assignments

- A new National Network Coordinator (NNC), Dr. Isata Mahoi was recruited for Sierra Leone in May 2017. Dr. Isata replaced Mr. Edward Jombla who was reassigned to the Regional Office in Accra to serve as Regional Analyst on Crime and Violent Extremism. And in June, WANEP Cote d'Ivoire also welcomed a new NNC.

- Three WANEP staff were reassigned as Regional Analysts in the review period. They included Mr. Edward Jombla formerly NNC WANEP-Sierra Leone who now serves as Regional Analyst on Crime and Violent Extremism. Ms Alice Kambire former Zonal Coordinator is now Regional Analyst for Democracy and Governance while Ms Evelyn Avoxe who was formerly Program Officer, WANEP Peace Monitoring Center (PMC) now serves as the Regional Analyst for Environment
- NEWS Managers were recruited at the national offices of Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone
- Ms. Gloria Korang Owusu joined WANEP as Executive Assistant



*Mette Vestergaard; former WANEP Intern: "I did an internship program at the WANEP Regional Office and I really enjoyed being part of the WANEP family. The safe environment made it conducive for working together and learning. I have learned things about the peacebuilding field, the West African region and myself that I could never have learned back in Europe."*

### 5.5.2. Fellowship/Internships

WANEP fellowship and internship programs continue to be well sought after and attract participants desiring to enhance their skills in peacebuilding and conflict prevention. WANEP's Internship Application and Recruitment Process was reviewed to improve on internship application and selection processes and ensure the recruitment of quality personnel with the requisite capacity to deliver on WANEP goals, mission and vision. WANEP hosted four interns and welcomed two members under the Ghana National Service Scheme in the year.

## 6.0. CONCLUSION

WANEP made significant strides in achieving its planned activities, goals and objectives. Based on its collaborative approach to peacebuilding, WANEP joined forces with key partners and major stakeholders to carry out several interventions as part of its contributions to the promotion of peace and stability in the region and continent. Significant progress in program delivery and institutional enhancement was made, albeit maintaining visibility in the public domain. The global events such as the International Women's Day, The Youth Day, International Day of Peace, and Day of non-violence were all celebrated across WANEP Regional secretariat and national networks and resulted in increased coverage and publicity for WANEP.

Despite the milestones recorded, evidence-based data from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) in the year under review, revealed that the West Africa Region continued to witness serious threats to peace and security in the form of ethnic and communal clashes, political violence and heightened rate of violent extremism among others. Torrential rainfall resulting to massive flooding and mudslides claimed scores of lives and destroyed properties in Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Guinea causing forced displacements with devastating consequences on food security. Activities of extremists in West Africa and the Sahel countries took a deadly toll on lives and livelihoods thus increasing the humanitarian situation in the region. This precarious situation was further exacerbated by the political crisis in Togo and the inconclusive elections in Liberia, all of which heated up the political sphere in the region.

WANEP continued to grapple with these conflict fluidities and the challenges and complexities of managing a network as well as partnerships. While WANEP made significant contributions in mitigating and preventing violent conflicts and indeed the region witnessed drastic reduction in conflicts, the above issues are of concern to the organization even amidst dwindling funding opportunities. The coming year is therefore a period for reflections and repositioning the institution for greater heights and efficiency.





### Executive Director and NNCs

00. Chukwuemeka B. Eze - Executive Director

01. Boris SOME - NNC WANEP - Burkina Faso

02. Alfred GOMIS - NNC WANEP - Senegal

03. Issac Kabou - Ag. NNC WANEP - Guinea Bissau

04. AMEDZENU-NOVIEKOU P. Da-do Y. Nora - NNC WANEP - Togo

05. Clement K. GBEDEY - NNC WANEP- Niger

0.6 KAMARA D. Mylène Epse SORO - NNC WANEP - Cote d'Ivoire

0.7 Isata Mahoi. PhD - NNC WANEP - Sierra Leone

08. Chief Bridget Osakwe - NNC WANEP - Nigeria

09. WANEP - Cape Verde

10. François Fadoua TOLNO - NNC WANEP - Guinea

11. Julien N. OUSSOU - NNC WANEP - Benin

12. Boubacar THERA - NNC WANEP - Mali

13. Anna Jones - NNC WANEP - The Gambia

14. Victoria W. H. Wollie - NNC WANEP - Liberia

15. Albert Yelyang - NNC WANEP - Ghana

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**WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING**  
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE