



Apr – June, 2019

Report of WANEP Events and Activities

OVERVIEW OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA – APRIL TO JUNE 2019

CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM: The second quarter of 2019 witnessed increasing insecurity in Burkina Faso as a result of terrorist, extremist and armed insurgencies in the communities. The critical concern has been the southward spread of attacks and its implications for coastal areas, particularly Benin, Ghana and Togo. Additionally, Mali, Niger and Nigeria continued to suffer terrorist and violent extremist attacks on security positions, farming communities, schools, religious places and markets among others. Data generated from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) recorded a combined figure of 245 extremist attacks with 1472 fatalities and 391 injuries in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria within the first half of 2019¹. The current surge in attacks in these countries have resulted in a cocktail of humanitarian crises reflected in influx of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The second quarter has also seen inter and intra community and ethnic violence prominent in north-east Nigeria, northern Ghana and central Mali. Spate of crime including kidnapping, armed robbery, rape and other gender and sexual-based violence (SGBV) were also recorded across the region.

GOVERNANCE: Increased protests, labour agitations and political uncertainties were recorded in Togo, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Nigeria in the review period. The introduction and implementation of the *certificate of conformity* in Benin led to significant reduction in political participation in the legislative election held on April 28, 2019 thus contributing to rising political tensions and violence in the country. State-citizens relations has waned as a result of dwindling public trust and confidence in the capacity of institutions of States to respond to the socio-economic and political concerns of the citizenry in the aforementioned countries. Persistent citizens' protests, agitations and discontent with weak Government responses to basic needs, especially through social media further undermined States' stability.

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY: The environmental security landscape of the region is also fraught with cases of plastic waste disposal in water bodies, illegal mining, illicit logging, especially rosewood and mangroves, predominantly in Ghana, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Senegal and Guinea. Additionally, cases of flooding, windstorm, thunder and lightning were recorded in Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Mali among others. The consequences of this is reflected in pollution of water bodies which support community livelihoods, depletion of biodiversity, deaths, injuries, internal displacement and health hazards in communities.

¹WANEP NEWS (January – June 2019). Available at: www.wanep.org

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

1.0. ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING ELECTORAL SUPPORT THROUGH NEWS

1.1. Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM)

WANEP's support and contribution to ECOWAS and AU's efforts in entrenching free, fair and credible elections in the region is encapsulated through the Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) project. The project is particularly designed to strengthen the WANEP National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) and also aimed at enhancing the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and relevant state institutions to promote human security, conflict prevention and peacebuilding to complement the broader framework of the ECOWAS Early Warning Mechanism (ECOWARN) and the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF). WANEP is currently implementing a three-year (2018-2021) EU funded EMAM project in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Senegal, Togo. Below are some of the activities carried out in the reporting period under EMAM;

1.1.1. Launch of EMAM Project: On June 21, 2019 the EMAM project was officially launched in Dakar, Senegal attended by 33 participants including 12 women. The participants comprised representatives of the implementing partners drawn from WANEP, EU FPI and UNOWAS. Others included the media and civil society organizations. The launch was an official public presentation of the Project to the media and other key stakeholders in order to increase awareness and ensure local ownership of the Project. Following on the launch, a national lessons' learnt workshop held to debrief participants and evaluate the impact of the project on the 2019 presidential election in Senegal. The partners congratulated WANEP-Senegal for the progress made in the implementation of the project so far. The meeting also agreed on a road map for the local elections using the EMAM platform.

1.1.2. Multi-actor self-assessment meeting: This meeting held from April 10 to 11, 2019 in Guinea Bissau and brought together 11 participants (5 male, 6 females), under the auspices of the EU funded EMAM project. The meeting was aimed at developing a roadmap in support of the 2019 presidential election in Guinea Bissau. Major outcomes included the agreement of a common portfolio by the partners with regards to their specific activities. A steering committee that will be responsible for the implementation, as well as monitoring of the agreed road map was composed with detailed roles and functions.

1.1.3. Joint Consultative Meeting: A joint consultative meeting of the EMAM partners held on June 20, 2019 in Dakar Senegal with 17 participants from WANEP, UNOWAS, EU FPI, aimed at clarifying the roles of different partners of the project. The CSO beneficiaries of the project used the platform to share lessons and progress made in the implementation of the project in their different localities. The meeting unanimously agreed to adjust some planned activities in accordance with current dynamics in Guinea and Togo as well as expand the outlook of the project in order to capture other human security issues beyond electoral violence. WANEP and EU delegates also met in Lomé, Togo on June 24 where a decision was reached to kickstart the implementation of EMAM in Togo from July 15th after the June 30 local elections in the country.

1.2. Strengthening Early Warning Reporting and Response

1.2.1. Operationalizing the Election Situation Room (ESR): In the reporting period, various activities were undertaken in preparation for the establishment of an election situation room (ESR) in Benin. To this end, the Steering Committee of the CSO Electoral Platform met regularly to fine tune strategies for achieving peaceful elections in the country. Notable activities implemented included the training and deployment of 738 Monitors for the legislative elections, reorientation of members of the CSO Electoral Platform and advocacy sessions with resource persons and institutions. 4500 copies of the Electoral Code were published, distributed and disseminated in the 12 departments of Benin to enlighten citizens and a further 300 copies of the Digital Code were also published and distributed. Several press conferences were held to call on government to ensure inclusive legislative elections and adhere to the constitutional deadlines.

1.2.2. Training of community monitors/capacity building activities: In line with its mandate of promoting just and peaceful communities, WANEP regularly trained and retrained its community monitors to equip them with basic skills for quality reporting and analysis. In the quarter under review, 30 community monitors and focal points were trained in Niger, 20 in Senegal. Nigeria trained 37 community monitors (25 male and 12 females) through an E – Training platform. The trained monitors now provide quality and timely report of political, social and economic issues in their countries while these trainings have led to improved quality, timely and reliable early warning outputs to state and non-state actors for response. In another development, a workshop was held in Guinea to map potential hotspots and conflict areas with a total of 335 participants including 86 women. Participants reviewed and updated the conflict map and identified 66 potential conflict areas. In Guinea Bissau, gender-sensitive election indicators including indicators related to accessibility issues for people living with disability were developed in preparation for the November 24, 2019 presidential elections.

1.2.3. Production and dissemination of Early Warning Outputs: WANEP continues to produce timely, effective and evidenced-based early warning and response outputs from its highly developed National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) platform across the networks. State, non-state actors and international partners rely heavily on WANEP's highly analytical early warning products as a guide for their project interventions on security threats and conflict prevention. Some of the outputs produced in the reporting quarter included;

- Policy Brief: Current peace and security dynamics in perspective
- Renforcer la cohésion sociale et processus de réconciliation : une voie pour les élections apaisées en 2020
- Other early warning publications can be found in links below;²

² <https://www.blueprint.ng/wanep-urges-stronger-synergy-among-security-agencies-to-tackle-banditry/>
<https://www.globalsentinelng.com/2019/05/22/banditry-wanep-seeks-strengthened-community-policing-in-nigerias-north-west/>

2.0. STRENGTHENING CITIZEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

2.1. Organizing Youth/School Clubs for effective Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention

2.1.1. WANEP-Nigeria sensitized 28 female pupils of public primary schools on the harmful effects of violence in order to equip them with skills to be peace advocates. The network is actively lobbying Legislators in Lagos State house of assembly for the passage of a bill on the inclusion of Peace Education into Schools curriculum in the state.

2.1.2. WANEP-Sierra Leone facilitated peace talks in two secondary schools in western Sierra Leone to sensitize them on strategies for preventing violence among students and the modalities for response.

2.1.3. WANEP-Benin trained 49 teachers from 15 pilot schools in Porto-Novo and Comé, on innovative methodologies for implementing the peace education curriculum. A further training was held for 45 members of the Safe Schools Committees to equip them with skills to provide psychological support to victims of school violence. In addition, sensitization of students against school-based violence reached 300 students.

2.1.4. WANEP-Burkina met with heads of peace clubs to discuss ways of improving and strengthening the clubs in order to ensure club efficiency. Regular monitoring visits to the peace clubs helped to identify and promote good practices especially in relation to gender relations. Similarly, 150 girls from three high schools were sensitized on political participation of women to inspire them to seek careers in politics in future.

2.1.5. WANEP-Guinea: A total of 660 young leaders and young Peace Ambassadors were trained and mentored to enhance their commitment to non-violence and improve their skills for conflict prevention, mitigation, conflict management and peer engagement. The trained Ambassadors are currently mobilizing and mentoring their peers.

2.1.6. WANEP-Togo in collaboration with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education trained 122 teachers from the Ecole Normales de Instituteurs (ENI) in Togo (9 women and 113 men) from April 1 to 10, 2019. The training equipped the teachers with the pedagogical approaches to incorporate the values of peace and non-violence in the school environment and commitment to integrating these values into their training modules. Peace clubs are operational in the beneficiary schools while Club supervisors and school principals have testified to significant reduction in school-based violence and conflict in their schools.

2.2. Public Enlightenment and Awareness Activities

In the reporting quarter, the WANEP National Networks carried out sensitization and awareness initiatives as highlighted below;

2.2.1. WANEP-Nigeria marked the 2019 Environmental Day with one-day sensitization talks on water and sanitation enterprise development in two rural communities in the Niger Delta region. The event was to educate community members on the health benefits of sanitation and hygiene.

2.2.2. WANEP-The Gambia with representatives from government, UN and ECOWAS, undertook an awareness tour to Ghana to understudy the processes and mechanisms for the establishment of an independent peace architecture in The Gambia.

2.2.3. WANEP-Senegal embarked on several advocacy visits to government and security authorities to sensitize them on community policing and solicit their support to join the Community Oriented Policing Strategy (COPS) project. It was also to strengthen collaboration between the network, government and security authorities.

2.2.4. WANEP-Sierra Leone held town hall meetings with 40 representatives of Women, Youth and Persons Living with Disability, to sensitize them on triggers of violence and their role in maintaining sustainable Peace and Social Cohesion in the localities. Another 80 women mentors and mentees in Bombali and Bo districts were sensitized towards increasing women's participation in the democratic process.

2.2.5. WANEP-Ghana with support from OXFAM provided technical support to the Regional National Peace Council (RPC) to sensitize Regents and elders of Dagbong community on peaceful co-existence. They also met with 30 chiefs and elders of Cherepone and Saboba communities towards initiating a dialogue process with the two factions geared towards promoting peace. Similarly, the network under the RECLAIMS project and in collaboration with UMaT, sensitized the Sefwi-Nkatieso community on the activities of Small-Scale Miners in the Western Region to promote dialogue and tolerance among them in order to forestall natural resource-based conflict.

2.3. Building Citizen Capacity for effective peacebuilding

A number of capacity building activities took place across the national networks in the review period geared towards building effective local capacities for conflict prevention and promotion of peaceful co-existence in the communities. Below details the capacity building initiatives undertaken in the quarter;

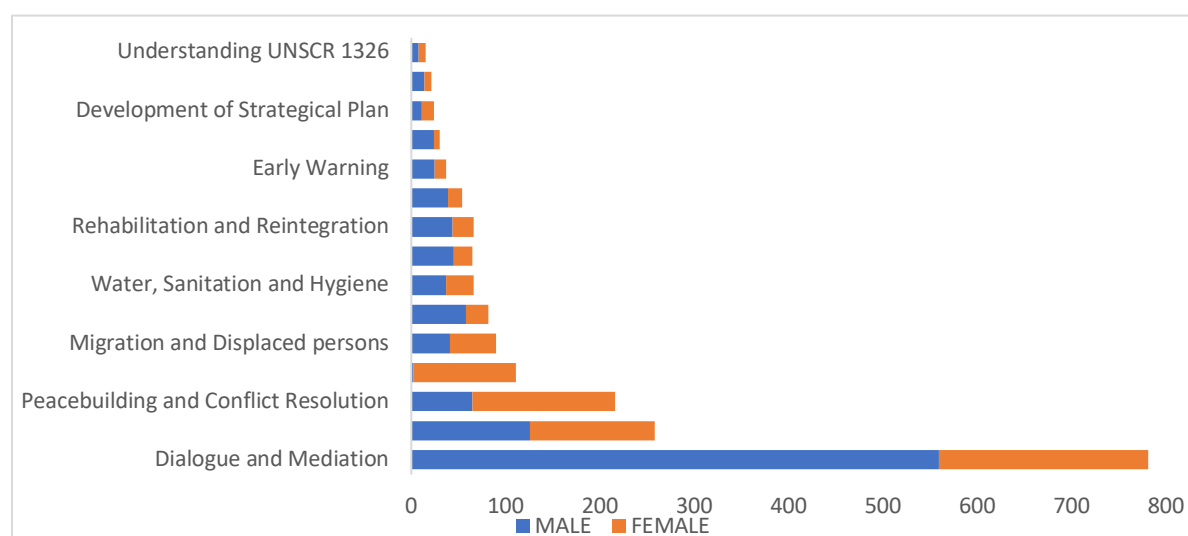


Figure 1: A breakdown of trainings across the networks in Quarter Two

2.3.1. WANEP The Gambia trained 50 traditional, religious and women leaders on peacebuilding and conflict resolution aimed at strengthening conflict resolution mechanisms that could complement national infrastructures for peace. The training was also geared towards equipping them with skills to mediate in communal disputes.

2.3.2. WANEP-Togo trained 46 religious leaders comprising 44 men and 2 women on peace, non-violence and social justice. The trained religious leaders have committed to sensitizing their followers on these values in order to promote peaceful co-existence in their communities.

2.3.3. WANEP-Ghana conducted alternative Dispute Resolution training for 75 Northern Ghana Governance Activity (NGG) project beneficiaries and members of the District Agricultural Multi Stakeholder Platform (DASGOP) to equip them with requisite skills and capacities to manage communal conflicts. The trained beneficiaries have developed action plans and mapped out strategies for mediating in natural resource/land-use conflicts. The network further trained 50 participants (32 males and 18 females) in the Upper East region on gender and conflict prevention among others. The participants included CSOs and networks of women groups involved in the CARE consortium project.

2.3.4. WANEP-Liberia built capacity of 60 youth on conflict resolution, conflict management and strategies for preventing Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV). The trained youth are raising awareness and educating other youths and women. Further, 60 women peace hut members benefitted from Adult Literacy and Numeracy activities in the reporting quarter.

2.3.5. WANEP-Guinea trained a total of 781 men, women and youth on dialogue and mediation, documentation, conflict prevention and management. A breakdown of the trainings are as follows; 166 (135 males, 31 females) elected and appointed authorities in Conakry and upper Guinea trained on conflict analysis and documentation of success stories; conflict mapping workshop held with 335 (249 males, 86 females); strengthened capacity of 55 women politicians and wives of political leaders on their roles and responsibilities as peace brokers during elections while 225 (175 males, 50 females) members of the conflict response platforms received training on effective dialogue and mediation.

2.3.6. WANEP-Togo built capacity of 39 motorcycle taxi drivers on promoting peace and non-violence behaviors under the EPNV-JS project. The activity aimed to reduce violent behavior among the drivers and passengers. Since the training, the motorcycle drivers have become role models and have been sensitizing their peers to adopt peace behaviors in their workplaces, reaching a total of 719 motorcycle taxi drivers in Kpalimé.

2.3.7. WANEP-Benin strengthened capacities of 24 (11 males, 13 females) on strategic plan development and effective work ethics. The training was aimed at enhancing good work ethics as a strategy for reducing work place conflict.

2.3.8. WANEP-Nigeria held series of peace and confidence building trainings for women politicians in Edo, Delta and Rivers states of Nigeria reaching a total of 111 women in order to build their confidence for effective political participation.

2.4. Strengthening Community Peacebuilding Initiatives

2.4.1. Security Sector Reforms and Governance (SSRG): In the review period, WANEP-Nigeria continued its strategic engagements with the security sector towards enhancing capacities of security institutions in order to make them more effective, efficient, and responsive to the security and justice needs of the community. Under the Justice and Security Dialogue (JSD) Project, the network carried out several capacity building initiatives and training workshops reaching 186 (114 males, 73 females) representatives of the security sector in Bauchi, Plateau and Nasarawa states of Nigeria. The training covered areas such as promoting collaborative approaches to security, rule of law, preventing /countering violent extremism, rehabilitation and reintegration among others. In addition, a JSD gender-based violence (GBV) toolkit was developed and presented to the media to create public awareness on the dangers of GBV and the availability of tools to tackle the menace. Trainings on the toolkit were held for Police, community leaders and women groups in Jos, Plateau state to ensure that service providers have a tool to respond appropriately to GBV. These interventions have led to improved coordination, synergy and multi-sector action on Justice and Security issues in the states and the establishment of a Police Gender Desk at the Nasarawa Gwong police division in Plateau state.

2.4.2. Regional Workshop on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE): A reflection workshop was held from May 13 to 16 in Bobo Dioulasso to discuss the concept, experiences and perspectives on CVE under the Promotion of Peace in the Sahel (PPS) Project. The workshop had participants drawn from Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, countries implementing the PPS project and was aimed to provide a better understanding of violent extremism, share experiences in the field and agree on perspectives. It provided WANEP the platform to share experiences and its contribution to preventing and combating violent extremism with relevant partners and key stakeholders. WANEP-Togo also facilitated a workshop on PVE initiated by the US Embassy in Togo and the Ministry of Security on 18 and 19 June 2019. The workshop was attended by 135 participants including the gendarmerie, police, public administration, village development committees, women and youth groups from seven prefectures in the savannah region. Participants were equipped with skills to monitor violent extremism indicators and identify potential sources of conflict and security threats in the region.

2.4.3. Promoting culture of peace in communities: In line with its quest to promote and sustain a culture of peace in the communities, WANEP-Niger trained 40 members of the Peace and Security Committee to enhance their capacities in promoting a culture of peace and conflict prevention in the communities. The training has led to effective involvement of the committee members and local authorities in the determining priority areas in the budgeting process.

3.0. PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH RESEARCH

3.1. Utilizing Research Results for Policy Advocacy

3.1.1. Voluntary National Review on SDG16+: WANEP and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) under the influencing policy working group, initiated a Voluntary National

Review (VNR) on the Sustainable Development Goal 16 and related goals, 4 and 5. The VNR was to assess Ghana's progress on the achievement of the SDGs especially on goal 16 and the role of CSOs towards accelerating its implementation. A total of 394 (222 male and 172 females) sample population were surveyed and preliminary findings from the review were validated by relevant stakeholders and key partners. The validated report has been presented at a preparatory meeting of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) held in Rome from May 27 to 29, 2019 and subsequently at the HLPF scheduled for July in New York.

3.1.2. Conflict and Development Analysis (CDA) 2018: The 2018 Conflict and Development Analysis (CDA) of the Gambia was reviewed and updated in the reporting period. The CDA is informing United Nations and Government's peacebuilding initiatives and interventions in the Gambia. Based on the findings of the CDA, UNDP will be working with WANEP-The Gambia to resolve land disputes in five regions.

4.0. ENHANCING GENDER AND WOMEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING

4.1. Support to Development and Implementation of UNSCR 1325: As part of ensuring the effective development and implementation of the UN Security Council (UNSCR) 1325 National Action Plans (NAPs), WANEP through the WIPNET Program provided technical support and carried out various initiatives in the quarter in this regard. These efforts included live radio programmes geared towards increasing public awareness on UNSCR 1325 and the women, peace and security agenda. In Nigeria, radio jingles were utilized under the "Enhancing Women's Participation in Human Security in Nigeria," project to achieve this agenda. These efforts have culminated to commitment by the Ministry of Women Affairs in the states to support the development of Local Action Plans on UNSCR 1325. WANEP-Benin facilitated outreaches and radio campaigns to popularize the Resolution and the Community Mediators Initiative, which resulted to the successful mediation in four conflicts. WANEP-Senegal commenced the process for the review of UNSCR 1325 NAPs and met with the relevant ministries to evaluate the previous NAPs and set out modalities for the review.

4.2. Reduction in Gender Based Violence (GBV): Efforts towards the reduction of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) continued to gather momentum across the national networks in the reporting quarter. Several advocacy campaigns by WANEP Nigeria to mainstream gender into the security sector led to the establishment and launch of a police gender desk at Nassarawa Gwong Police Division in Plateau State Police Command. A live weekly Radio program on Effective Response to GBV in Jos North was also initiated to help improve case management and specialized care for the survivors and increased reporting through toll-free hot-lines. These efforts are expected to strengthen synergy between the Police and the judiciary in ensuring accountability and access to justice for victims of gender-based crimes in the community.

WANEP Liberia continued to train the Peace Hut members on psychosocial support to enable them provide these services to SGBV survivors and victims. Due to the consistent monitoring of SGBV cases by the women, 75 out of the 163 rape cases recorded in the quarter were successfully prosecuted. The

trained women have also been gaining awareness on SGBV and the referral pathway at the communities. Community Radio programs are being utilized in Liberia and Togo as a platform for women to deliberate on issues of concern to women. WANEP Cote d'Ivoire collaborated with relevant partners and key stakeholders to develop IEC Gender Strategy that will aid the passage of the Gender Laws in the country and held several advocacy sessions with parliamentarians to solicit their support for the passage of the law.

4.3. Increasing women's participation in politics: Towards increasing women's effective and meaningful participation in politics and the electoral process, WANEP The Gambia conducted nine-month Mentorship Program for 50 female politicians in the country. The aim of this program was to increase the number of female aspirants for the 2021-2023 electoral cycle as well as create a platform for experience sharing. In the same vein, WANEP Guinea trained 140 women politicians and wives of politicians in Conakry on their role and responsibility as peace brokers during the electoral period. WANEP Burkina on the invitation of the National Assembly presented a paper on the role of women in politics in the context of insecurity. The network is recognized as a partner and a reference point on the involvement of women on issues of peace and security.

Three WANEP national offices of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso in collaboration with members of the DRC-DDG Consortium organized start-up workshop on the Female Leadership Program (FLP) for Inclusive Security Governance in the Sahel from April 3 to 5, 2019. As part of the outcomes of the meeting, an appropriate guideline for the implementation of FLP activities in the three countries were agreed on. This included an updated action plan, which clearly spelt out shared responsibilities, budget allocation, communication lines and coordination mechanisms and clarified reporting lines.

5.0. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1. Sustaining Institutional and Financial Stability

5.1.1. Staff Hires and Reassignments: In its continuous quest of establishing a strong and sustainable institution, WANEP reassigned and recruited new staff at the Regional Office in the reporting quarter. The appointments align with the WANEP Strategic direction and current dynamics in the field of Peace and Security on the continent and is in tandem with WANEP's new strategic direction of transiting from project to vision-driven organization. The three new hires include; Mr. Romaric Samson recruited as Programme Officer to support the M & E and Network Development desks. Mr. Lawrence Ofori-Som, a BSc holder in Accounting and Information Systems Administration, hired as a Senior IT Officer and Ms. Josiane Sombo as Programme Officer for Youth and Peace Education.

The re-assigned staff were Mr. Osei Baffour Frimpong, formerly Regional Analyst on Environment, re-assigned as Regional Researcher, Mrs. Queeneth Tawo erstwhile Regional Coordinator, Corporate Communication and Capacity Building, now Regional Coordinator, Women, Peace and Security while former Programme Officer, Research and Capacity Building Ms. Beatrice Brew, has also been re-assigned Programme Officer, Corporate Communications and Capacity building. A memo on the new developments signed by the Administrative/Human Resource Manager, Mrs. Esther Gordon-Mensah stated that the exercise underscores WANEP's desire of ensuring professionalism and excellence

towards achieving its core mandate of promoting peace in the region. It said Management will continue to review roles and responsibilities within the organization and take decisions to respond to emerging needs accordingly.

5.1.2. Enhancing Staff Capacity for Efficiency: WANEP Liberia with support from Kvinna Til Kvinna held in-house training for finance staff on financial management procedures, reporting and liquidation. This was to improve the finance staff knowledge and understanding on accounting and financial management procedures to enable them to meet their financial obligations. Similarly, 14 staff of WANEP-Togo received training on basic M&E to enhance their skills in project monitoring and evaluation. Arising from the training, the staff are now documenting impact and project results in order to inform effective program planning.

5.1.3. Network Monitoring for Optimal Performance: In the reporting quarter, the Regional Coordinator Network Development in line with his mandate, undertook monitoring visits to the national offices of Guinea Bissau and Senegal between April and June. These visits provided the platform to learn about the network's efforts as well as share experiences on their challenges and constraints. The visits are critical towards identifying the type of context-specific support needed by the networks to improve their program delivery. Consistent monitoring of the national networks through physical visits or virtual medium is imperative in keeping abreast with the situation in-country and in providing quick responses to issues that may arise.

5.1.4. Improving Governance Structures: A key milestone attained in the quarter was the conduct of National Board meetings in Ghana, Benin and Cote d'Ivoire. The Board is the second highest decision-making organ of WANEP after the General Assembly and Board meetings are held to review progress of the networks and its impact on peace and security in the country. It provides a platform for the Board to assess the Secretariats' efforts in institutional and programmatic delivery and proffer suggestions for improvement.

5.2. Collaborations and Strategic Partnerships

5.2.1. WANEP Support to AU/ECOWAS: In line with provisions of the MOU with ECOWAS and the African Union (AU), WANEP provided technical support to these institutions in the reporting quarter. WANEP supported the AUC PSD to identify relevant CSOs, CBOs, especially women/youth led organizations active in the Lake Chad Basin under the Lake Chad Basin Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy (RSS) for the eight areas affected by the activities of Boko Haram. This initiative is being supported by AUC and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) in partnership with UNDP and GIZ and is expected to strengthen AUC engagement with WANEP especially with regards to WANEP interventions in those communities. WANEP also played a key role and provided professional insights in the analysis of human security threats in the region through the Early Warning Unit of AUC and participated in the review of the curriculum on gender mainstreaming in peace and security, organised by the AU Peace and Security Department (PSD).

5.2.2. Support to ECPF Review: WANEP Executive Director, Dr Chukwuemeka Eze was the lead facilitator at the ECOWAS meeting themed: A Decade of Operationalization of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework held on 22 - 24 May 2019 in Fraser Suites, Abuja, Nigeria. It was organized by the Directorate of Political Affairs and the Secretariat for the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF). The meeting was an opportunity to assess the achievements, challenges and lessons learned from ECOWAS conflict prevention initiatives over the past 10 years. Recommendations and outcomes of the Conference will serve as a rich resource to Member States, Civil Society and other regional actors.

5.2.3. Strategic Partnerships: WANEP Togo trained G7 members on the key themes of the ECOWAS roadmap particularly, the Constitutional and Institutional Reforms – Challenges and Prospects of Local Elections in Togo. Following on the training, the G7 members held public debates in three prefectures of Bas-Mono, Ogou and Kosah to generate awareness on the roadmap. In addition, 1250 copies of the G7 booklet on the ECOWAS roadmap was printed and distributed during the awareness sessions. In the same vein, WANEP Cote d'Ivoire in collaboration with other partners led the process for the reform of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Electoral Code. In view of this, advocacy meetings were held with international partners such as ECOWAS, NDI, USAID and the EU to solicit their support on harmonizing and deepening the proposals made to the government on the proposed reforms.

5.2.4. Council on Foreign Relations: A delegation from the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), Ghana visited the WANEP office on April 9, 2019 to introduce the Council and explore areas of possible collaboration. The delegation comprising its President, Ambassador Daniel K. Osei and the Secretary, Ambassador Tenkorang Asamoah met with the WANEP team led by the Executive Director, Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze. CFR is an independent Think Tank on foreign policy inaugurated by H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana in February 2019 and comprised of experts from various professional backgrounds. Dr. Eze, on behalf of WANEP expressed appreciation to the Council for considering WANEP as a potential partner. He welcomed the positive initiatives from the Council and highlighted areas of commonality and collaboration, especially in the area of fellowship as WANEP has instituted a Body of Fellows as a Think Tank on peace and security in the region and the continent.

5.2.5. WACSI delegates visit WANEP: Four Delegates from the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) viz; Mr. Frank Sombo, Jimm Chick Famujong, Ms. Perpetual Tindana and Mr. Joe Loua visited WANEP to discuss the WACSI initiated West Africa Civil Society Directory and explore opportunities for collaboration. The E-Directory, according to the team is a key tool for increasing CSOs visibility, provide access to information sharing and exchange as well as build networks and relevant partnerships. WANEP and WACSI have enjoyed several collaborations in the past and this initiative provides an avenue for further collaboration.

6.0. CONCLUSION

Peace and security on the West African region continued to be challenged in the quarter with increased terrorism occasioned by activities of Boko Haram and other terrorists' groups. These sporadic attacks had significant impact on program implementation, although WANEP's profile in the public domain have

continued to rise. At the programmatic level, program implementation in the quarter was slow due to late disbursement of funds. Despite these set-backs, WANEP continued to devise creative and innovative approaches to deliver its planned activities towards meeting organization's objectives. Some of these approaches included strengthened networking and collaboration with key partners and major stakeholders as well as providing technical and facilitation support in its areas of primary focus. WANEP also deployed its expertise and professionalism to wide audiences through paper presentations in high profile forums.