



July – September, 2019

Quarterly Report

OVERVIEW OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA- JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2019

ORGANIZED CRIMES AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Extremists and terrorists attacks continued unabated in the third quarter of 2019 particularly in Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Burkina Faso. These attacks portend insecurity in the region especially, the spillover attacks and the resultant effects in countries such as Benin, Ghana and Togo. Reports from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) revealed that Burkina Faso recorded 59 attacks between July and September in eight regions of the country¹ resulting in 233 deaths, 40 injuries with 5 kidnapped persons and 11 missing soldiers². This current situation has contributed to an estimated 290,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The situation portends very dire consequences on critical sectors of the economy such as health, education and safety/security with increased vulnerabilities, particularly women and children. In addition, a 31% increase in IDPs was recorded over the three-month period³ with further implication for peace and security not only in the country, but also for neighboring States in terms of influx of refugees and migrants, infiltration of extremist, terrorist and organized crime groups to expand their operations.

GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY: Tensions were recorded in Togo, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Nigeria over governance and dividends of democracy. In Benin, following the boycott of the April 2019 legislative elections, as a result of the introduction and implementation of the "*Certificate of Conformity*", talks between the president and opposition leaders broke down as opposition parties remain discontented with the processes to acquire the *Certificate of Conformity*. A ray of hope was recorded in Sierra Leone as the opposition party and the incumbent government seem to have committed to support and strengthen State institutions to foster peace, stability and democratic governance. A move that has been widely applauded by the citizenry, CSOs and the international community as an important initiative to enhance peace and cohesion in the country. In The Gambia, the ongoing Truth, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission (TRRC) has been hailed as a positive stride towards consolidating reconciliation in the country and a process that would facilitate healing and foster social cohesion in the country.

GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY: In the quarter under review, significant progress was recorded in the gender, peace and security agenda. Sierra Leone has amended the Sexual Offences Act (2012) to include new provisions such as life imprisonment for rape of a child, establishment of sexual offenders register and law against solicitation by a person of authority. The National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire has also passed a law on 30% quota for women representation in governance while Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has joined the call for speedy passage of the Gender, Equity and Opportunity Bill that seeks to promote gender equity in all spectrums of governance in Nigeria. At the Continental level, African First Ladies, through their campaign *Hands off Our Girls* are advocating for a ban on early child marriage and elimination of sexual violence against women and girls on the continent. Similar efforts are being made at the Regional level where the ECOWAS First Ladies also organized high level meeting to draw attention to the prevalent rate of child marriage and its consequences.

¹WANEP NEWS Burkina Faso (July-September 2019). Available at: www.wanep.org (Accessed on 24/09/2019).

²Ibid.

³ WANEP, *West Africa Peace and Security Report (Second Quarter, April – June 2019)*. Available at: www.wanep.org (Accessed on 15/09/2019).

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY: Environmental security continues to be challenged by growing concerns over climate change and its associated threats to biodiversity that supports community livelihoods. While countries like The Gambia recorded low rainfall in a period which was their usual rainy season (July to October), countries like Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Togo experienced prolonged periods of rain which led to flooding and contributed to loss of lives, property and livelihoods. Both situations portend hardships as a result of the implication on food, economic and environmental security. Between July and September 2019, a combined total of 76 incidents of flooding were recorded by WANEP NEWS with a death toll of about 160 people. Nigeria alone accounts for 50 incidents recorded across 12 States with 76 deaths as well as more than 6,600 internally displaced persons. In Niger, two incidents of flash floods caused by heavy rains and rise in water levels in August claimed 57 lives and affected more than 210,000 people leaving in low lying areas of the country. Mali recorded five incidents in four regions affecting more than 6,500 people. Sierra Leone also recorded three flooding incidents in Freetown with nearly 5,300 people affected.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS IN QUARTER THREE

1.0. ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING ELECTORAL SUPPORT THROUGH NEWS

1.1. Election Monitoring, Analysis and Management (EMAM): The Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) project provides the platform for WANEP's support and contribution to ECOWAS and AU efforts in entrenching free, fair and credible elections in the region. 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 and Togo. In the reporting period several activities were undertaken under this project as captured below;

1.1.1. Launch of EMAM Project in Togo and Guinea: The EMAM project was officially launched in Guinea and Togo in the reporting period. Preparatory to the launch, the Regional Working Group held a one-day briefing with ECOWAS, EU and UNOWAS on September 9, 2019 in Conakry-Guinea and on September 23 in Lomé, Togo to discuss the pre-election situation in those countries. The partners also brainstormed on possible areas of intervention in the context of the challenges to be encountered.



Above left): Members of the high-table during the EMAM Launch in Togo. (Above Right): Crossection of participants at the EMAM launch in Guinea

1.1.2. Electoral Dispute Management Training: A two-day electoral dispute management training was held for the Expert Clusters of the EMAM CSO platform in Guinea with 12 participants on September 10-11, 2019, Conakry. The training was specifically to strengthen the CSO leaders' capacities on Electoral

Dispute Management in preparation for the upcoming elections in Guinea. A similar training was also organized in Togo with 10 participants from September 24-25, 2019 in Lomé, Togo to build capacities of the CSO leaders on the EMAM platform for effective contribution to the project.

1.1.3. Validation of hotspot mapping and indicators: The expert clusters and other relevant stakeholders participated in a two-day workshop to validate the hot spot mapping, stakeholders' matrix and the election indicators. The activity held in Guinea from September 11 to 12 where a total of 46 indicators were validated and in Togo from September 25 to 26 with 49 election indicators validated.

1.2. Strengthening Early Warning Reporting and Response

1.2.1. Training of Community Monitors: WANEP regularly trained and retrained its community monitors to equip them with basic skills for quality, timely reporting and analysis of socio-political and economic issues in the country. In the reporting quarter, a total of 150 community monitors were trained in Guinea Bissau under the EMAM project and will be deployed to monitor and report on electoral threats and violence to inform the deployment of effective mitigating strategies. Further, 35 community monitors received training in Nigeria and a WhatsApp platform created for the trained monitors has enhanced communication for quality reporting on NEWS and related early warning interventions, particularly in Cross River and Taraba States. The Gambia also trained 13 monitors comprising women and youth in the review period. These trainings have led to improved reporting and the production of timely and reliable early warning outputs submitted to state and non-state actors for response.

1.2.2. Production and Dissemination of Early Warning Outputs: The high quality evidenced-based early warning outputs churned out from the WANEP National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) platforms continue to make significant impact in the review period. Some of the outputs published in the review quarter were;

Thematic report: La démocratie en Afrique de l'Ouest: l'ère de réformes électorales à risques?

NEWS Situation Tracking: Les Violences politiques en Guinée, de Janvier à juin 2019

Policy Briefs: Renforcer la cohésion sociale et le processus de réconciliation: une voie pour des élections apaisées en 2020 (Burkina Faso)

NEWS Quick Update: Attaques Terroristes contre un Camp Militaire à Inates/ région de Tillabéry (Niger)

These outputs made significant impact across the region as follows;

- The reports produced by WANEP-Gambia are being utilized by government officials and development partners for security analysis.
- In Senegal, the early warning outputs are being utilized as key resources to support the establishment of mediation and conflict management committees to ensure stability and peaceful coexistence in the localities.
- Togo provided policy recommendations in the early warning alerts to address the persistent robbery incidents in the country, which has led to the deployment of security patrols in various neighborhoods in Lomé at night to deter the robbers.

- In Cote d'Ivoire, the continuous monitoring, reporting and analysis of conflict early warning indicators contributed to the identification of land disputes in the Kouto locality of Bagoue region. Subsequently, a dialogue platform headed by the sub-prefecture of the area was set up to mediate between the protagonists and local authorities so as to avert escalation of the dispute into violent conflict.

2.0. STRENGTHENING CITIZEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

2.1. Public Enlightenment and Awareness Activities: In the reporting quarter, WANEP Regional Office and National Networks marked the International Day of Peace and carried out series of sensitization and awareness initiatives. The theme for 2019 Peace Day is “Climate Action for Peace,” derived from the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. More specifically, the 2019 theme draws attention to the importance of combatting climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world. WANEP also marked the International Youth Day 2019 with a press statement calling for inclusive and equitable quality education for all in a peaceful environment. Below detailed activities carried out by Regional and National Networks in commemoration of the global event.

2.1.1. WANEP-Regional created peace posters asking the question; “What is your vision of sustainable peace in Africa?” which drew on the principle of leaving no one behind.



The posters generated significant interest on the social media platforms using the hashtags: #climateaction #womenmakingpeace #peaceday2019 #SDGs #youth4peace. The publicity once again raised WANEP’s profile in the public domain. Posters were also made to commemorate the International Youth Day.



WANEP Regional Staff Commemorate International Youth Day 2019



2.1.2. WANEP Cote d'Ivoire in collaboration with REPSFECO-CI and GTFJPS-AOS / Côte d'Ivoire commemorated the 2019 Peace Day with a one-day event tagged: "The women of Ivory Coast want peace" in Abidjan Plateau, ex-Sorbonne area. In attendance was the Representative of the Minister of Women, Family and Children, Cote d'Ivoire.

2.1.3. WANEP Benin partnered with GIZ to hold a Dialogue with students of the University d' Abomey-Calavi on the theme; "Act together for a peaceful campus." This was to ensure that the students have better understanding of the necessity of ensuring and having a "peaceful Campus". A set of recommendations towards achieving this objective was developed during the dialogue session. The network also organized a sensitization and advocacy campaign to ensure buy-in and deepen understanding of the new electoral code as part of efforts to enhance citizen participation in the country's democratic process.

2.1.4. WANEP-Togo created awareness on the UNSCR 2250 for 94 young Togolese during the sub-regional youth forum for human rights, peace and security organized by ACDIEF from September 5-6, 2019.

2.1.5. WANEP-The Gambia organized an Inter-generational Dialogue on the theme "Climate Action for Peace" in collaboration with the National Youth Council, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Women's Bureau and other CSOs. The dialogue engendered social harmonization and cohesion on climate action as well as increased national awareness on climate change.

2.1.6. WANEP-Togo: As part of measures to reduce violence especially among children and young adults, the network in the period under review advocated for the removal or reduction in the broadcast of violent movies, series and cartoons from the electronic media. Two TV stations complied stopping outright the airing of violent cartoons while other TV and Radio stations have also agreed to the reduction.

2.1.7. Media Visibility and Publicity: WANEP's visibility in the social and regular media platforms increased significantly in the review period. Events and activities of WANEP were well publicized and WANEP staff participated in various media activities serving as panelists, discussants or contributors to current peace and security issues. As the leading peacebuilding organization in the region, WANEP's perspectives are well-sought after and has contributed immensely to the body of knowledge in areas of early warning and early response, dialogue and mediation, gender, women, youth peace and security as well as election management. WANEP Executive Director, Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze made several media appearances in the quarter including a high-profile interview by Africa Peace Network (APN), where he shared insights on securing peace and stability in Africa. Similarly, Ms. Levinia Addae-Mensah, Program Director and Deputy Executive Director was interviewed by AllAfrica and spoke on her role as a peacebuilder and why empowering women to be decision-makers in this sector is key!

2.2. Strengthening Community Peacebuilding Initiatives

2.2.1. Conflict Prevention and Management Training: As part of efforts to promote community cohesion and peaceful co-existence at the community level, WANEP Burkina Faso trained representatives from communities affected by violent community conflicts on conflict prevention and management. Following on the training, there has been a significant improvement in relationship between the targeted communities in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. The network also held a workshop for selected participants including members of the Burkinabè Justice Sector in the Hauts Bassins region. The workshop was mainly to jointly identify conflicting issues in the justice system in order to ensure an inclusive Justice delivery process.

2.2.2. Community Conflict Resolution: WANEP-Guinea trained members of seven community peace platforms in data collection, analysis and response to ensure effective conflict prevention mechanisms were operational in the various localities. Based on this training, forty community conflicts related to lack of basic social services such as; water, electricity, garbage management and other forms of conflicts associated with land, mining among others have been peacefully resolved.

2.2.3. Round-Table on Conflict Prevention: WANEP-The Gambia held a round table discussion with National and International Partners to discuss Synergies and Collaboration for Establishing an Infrastructure for Peace (I4P). Discussions centred on the extent of peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts by different stakeholder in the country towards understanding the current situation and its challenges, and how these can be collectively addressed. The meeting provided an avenue to secure buy-in and commitment from the partners. In this regard, a Taskforce has been created with selected members to develop a roadmap on how to galvanize and strengthen local and national capacities for building resilience and preventing violent conflicts in the country.

2.2.4. Community Advisory Committees Established: WANEP Senegal established community advisory committees in four municipalities under the community policing project. The setting up of the committee was a result of outcomes of the mapping of security institutions in the country which highlighted the need for interagency collaboration as well as collaboration with the public in ensuring better results in community safety management. The committees have already initiated pilot projects with detailed implementation plans and have initiated conciliation efforts with relevant security agencies and services. Following the stakeholder mapping, the Network organized a consultative meeting which provided a platform for security actors comprising the public, security actors and local administrators to discuss negative prejudices, identify overlaps and potential areas of collaboration to improve community safety.

2.2.5. Support to Committee on PVE: WANEP Togo in the review period provided technical support to the Inter-ministerial Committee for Prevention and Fight against Violent Extremism in its capacity building workshop from September 5 to 7, 2019. The network facilitated the development of workplans of the committee in the training, which was funded by the US Embassy in Togo and technically supported by the ISS in Dakar. Additionally, WANEP-Togo also facilitated the activities of the Group of 7 Civil Society Organizations and contributed to the development of an Analytical Document on the process of the 27th Dialogue and the Implementation of the ECOWAS roadmap. The document was presented to the public on August 29, 2019.

2.2.6. Building and sustaining community cohesion: Consistent efforts undertaken by WANEP Ghana to promote community dialogue towards achieving sustainable peace among the mining communities have yielded results. In the reporting quarter, it was noted that there has been a significant reduction in the tension that existed between two conflicting mining companies operating in the mining community. In this regard, it was agreed that the community will henceforth sign a Memorandum of Understanding with mining companies in future to avoid future tension. WANEP Ghana's interventions in the chieftaincy tussle in Dagbong community in collaboration with the Regional National Peace Council (RPC) has created opportunities for dialogue between the conflicting parties in the community. The chiefs have now committed to unite and embrace dialogue to prevent further violence. Additionally, the peace process initiated to tackle land dispute between the Saboba and Chereponi ethnic groups are on

course while the Peace Committees set up by the network have contributed significantly to managing and mitigating imminent threats of violence in the community. WANEP Ghana also led the peace process between the Chokosis and Konkombas, which has resulted to a formal declaration of end of hostilities between the two ethnic groups.

2.2.7. Community peace mediators: WANEP-Benin in partnership with GIZ organized a sensitization meeting for local councils in Godomey and Ouando on August 6, 2019. The meeting was aimed at sensitizing the community on the services of the community mediators and how they can access mediation services. Since the sensitization, community members have not only gained awareness but are also demanding for more services from the community mediators. The network also employed live Radio platforms to sensitize the community on the community mediator's initiative and what is expected of them. Consequently, citizens are more aware and are demanding more services from the community mediators.

2.3. Supporting Youth, Peace and Security Agenda for effective Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention

2.3.1. Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue: From September 4 to 6, 2019, WANEP in collaboration with the Baywood Foundation, ECOWAS and AU with financial support from GIZ and the European Union convened a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue tagged; 'Reinventing Youth Energies and Capacities for Peace and Nation Building in Nigeria'. The event, which held in Nigeria at the Wells Carlton Hotel, Abuja, aimed to interrogate the underlying factors of violent conflicts and harness youth capacities to transform the conflicts. WANEP Regional represented by Josiane Sombo, the Youth and Peace Education Program officer made a presentation on "Promoting a Culture of Peace among Youth, Peace Education and Nation Building," which focused on WANEP's experience in peace education. The meeting brought together youth leaders from each of the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory, leaders and representatives of the WANEP, Baywood Foundation, National Youth Council, GIZ, ECOWAS and the AU.

A key outcome of the meeting was the collective development of a position paper to promote and foster national unity, peace and socio-economic transformation that reflect the Nigeria young people desire. Participants also agreed to create a platform on Youth, Peace and Security to foster discussions and advance the UNSCR 2250 implementation agenda. Some recommendations included; the development of a national action plan on UNSCR 2250, need to institutionalize a youth development fund on governance and peacebuilding and a dedicated and inclusive budgeting process and timely release of funds for programme implementation among others.

2.3.2. WANEP-Benin convened a sensitization and mobilization meeting for staff of the Central Directorates of the ministry of Nursery and primary school and other social actors on the early warning mechanism and strategies to prevent sexual violence in primary schools. The meeting ensured that the managers and officials of the Ministry of Primary Education had better appreciation of early warning mechanisms and sexual violence prevention in primary school in order to garner support for implementation.

2.3.3. WANEP-Burkina Faso trained teachers in basic and high schools on learning pedagogies and non-violent communication. In the quarter under review, some schools have reported improvements in the pedagogical approaches as attested to by the headmaster of the Pabré high school. The headmaster testified that the school councils have been peaceful since the training, stating that the trained teachers

are now able to engage in non-violent communication with their supervisors while the teachers and instructors have significantly improved their interaction and response to pupils. In addition, the continuous training and engagement of Peace Clubs in the country has contributed to relative peace in the schools and the trained students are also engaging their peers in conflict resolution in various communities across the country. The 'Listening Circles' created by the Network in collaboration with Social Action to tackle Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) has yielded results. The purpose of the Listening Circle was to ensure that adequate support is provided to female victims of violence and also ensure gender considerations in the activities of the peace clubs. In the quarter under review, students/beneficiaries of the peace clubs have demonstrated positive conflict transformation and are actively engaged in peer mediation. Three out of the six peace clubs in the targeted schools have female club presidents.

2.4. Improving Capacities for effective conflict prevention

2.4.1. Workshop on Terrorism Preparedness and Awareness: On July 24, 2019, WANEP held a training workshop for selected stakeholders on Terrorism and Preparedness and Awareness at the Regional

Office in Accra-Ghana. The aim of the training was to equip participants with the requisite knowledge and skills to prevent, anticipate and disrupt potential terrorist attacks against their institutions. It was also geared towards equipping participants with the requisite information to anticipate threats, risks and vulnerabilities to terrorism. Specifically, the training came at an opportune time when parts of West Africa and the Sahel is embroiled in terrorism and violent extremism with devastating



consequences on the lives and livelihoods of the citizens. Some of the areas covered included; overview of terrorism, violent extremism, radicalization and cybercrime, Radicalization and de-radicalization processes as well as strategies for building effective Early Warning Systems to anticipate attacks among others.

2.4.2. WANEP- Guinea trained and mentored 280 young peace ambassadors comprising 104 girls and 176 boys to promote a culture of non-violence. As a result of this training, the young peace ambassadors in the Suigiri prefecture have set up community-based organizations (CBOs) and have received their first funding to support the promotion of peace in the locality.

2.4.3. WANEP-The Gambia trained 25 multi-stakeholders under the National Training of Trainers course on early warning and peacebuilding to augment step down trainings at regional and community levels.

Since the training, participants have been able to utilize dialogue and mediation in resolving disputes in their communities.

2.4.4. WANEP-Liberia trained youth on advocacy strategies to equip them with skills for engaging in advocacy on issues of concern to them in their communities.

2.4.5. WANEP-Niger facilitated capacity building initiatives on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) for border communities neighbouring the Lake Chad region. A total of 87 participants comprising 47 male and 40 females were trained in the two sessions.

2.4.6. WANEP-Nigeria carried out series of trainings in 20 schools in the Kosofe LGA on peacebuilding skills reaching a total of 106 students. The trained students are now equipped with skills to be peer mediators to promote a culture of peace amongst the peers. The Network also held a tweet chat on Inclusive Education and peace in the period under review reaching an estimated 539 followers. In a related development, WANEP-Nigeria built the capacity of 83 Small-Scale Farmers, Ward and Community Development Officers across 20 Local Government Councils in Bauchi State, Nigeria. The beneficiaries further conducted step-down training on community development in their respective local government areas and among Farmer Associations.

2.4.7. WANEP-Senegal conducted series of trainings for the Dahra “Diam e kissal” association in Dahra-Senegal leading to a marked reduction in incidences of violence in the communities. In this regard, the association is planning a forum to share their experience in order to raise public awareness and encourage members of the community on the virtues of non-violence.

2.4.8. WANEP-Togo: In the review quarter, motorcycle taxi drivers trained under the EPNV-JS Project facilitated by WANEP-Togo has sensitized 391 of their members on the values of promoting peace and non-violence in Kpalimé and Lomé region. Since the training, there have also been significant reduction in the rate of physical and verbal violence on the streets. Similarly, Religious leaders who benefitted from same trainings have also carried out massive sensitization activities reaching 652 of their followers in the two regions.

2.4.9. WANEP-Benin trained 155 young females and 60 female coaches of the seven departments under the RECAFEM project on campaign strategies. This training was done in partnership with Coopération Suisse, CARE, and RIFONGA and was aimed at improving the campaign strategies of young female aspirants.

3.0. PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH RESEARCH

3.1. Utilizing research results for Advocacy

3.1.2. Publication on Sexuality Education: WANEP Benin with funding support from GIZ, published a resource on sexuality education “PARLONS TABOU. The publication is a tool for sensitizing young boys and girls on sexuality education aimed at ensuring that they receive appropriate and accurate information on the topic. 250 of the publication was distributed in the period under review. Other publications churned out by the network within the period included a report on the Final Assessment and Lessons Learnt from the Oxafam supported project titled “Du Kilimandjaro à l’Atacora pour nos terres” and the report on the 2019 parliamentary election published in partnership with the European Union.

3.1.2. WANEP-Cote d'Ivoire contributed to a study conducted by CERAP in collaboration with the Holocaust Memorial Museum and Barkley University on "Preventing Violence Against Civilians and Promoting Peaceful Elections in 2020". The report which was published in July 2019 is titled "Ivory Coast: Uncertain Elections," was widely disseminated to key partners and relevant stakeholders to contribute to efforts for achieving sustainable peace during elections.

3.1.3 Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) on SDG16+: Two key publications were produced in the review quarter derived from the Voluntary National Review of the SDG16 and related goals in Ghana and Cameroun carried out in the last quarter. The two outputs emanating from this activity include: the Research report that was presented at the HLPF in July in New York and a Policy Brief jointly produced by WANEP, GPPAC and WAN-Cameroun, titled: *Peaceful Societies- the orphaned SDG target?: Local progress towards SDG 16+ peaceful, just and inclusive societies and what comes next*. The civil society led VNR was facilitated by WANEP and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) under the Influencing Policy Working Group.

4.0. ENHANCING GENDER AND WOMEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING

4.1. Promoting Women's Participation in Leadership and Decision Making

4.1.1. Launch of Women's Leadership Program: As part of continuous efforts to increase women's meaningful participation in leadership, decision-making and peace processes, WANEP Burkina Faso in collaboration with the Danish Demining Group (DDG) is implementing a three-year EU funded Women's Leadership Project for Inclusive Governance of Security in the Sahel. The project, which was launched in Burkina Faso in August with major partners and key stakeholders in attendance, covers Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. Highlight of the launch was the symposium titled; 'women's participation and leadership in security governance,' where participants shared experiences and brainstormed on barriers against women's full participation in leadership. WANEP-Burkina Faso mobilized about 130 women from the 13 regions to share their experiences and analyze the obstacles to their participation in leadership in security sector governance. The project has been launched in Mali and Niger.

Following on the launch, WANEP Burkina Faso trained the women beneficiaries on advocacy and mobilization strategies which they have utilized to advocate for the adoption of the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan (NAP). WANEP Niger on the other hand also trained four facilitators from three regions of Niger in non-confrontational facilitation techniques and sensitized them on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Violence against Women, (CEDAW), UNSCR 1325 and other related resolutions. An estimated 100 women from eight regions of Niger participated actively in the symposium during the project launch in Niger in July.

4.1.2. Increasing women's participation in politics: WANEP-CI is working in collaboration with the platform of Women Leaders in Cote d'Ivoire to strengthen social cohesion between women political leaders in preparation for the upcoming elections in 2020. The platform is the outcome of the UNWOMEN and UNDP organized workshop for women politicians held earlier in June 2019 and facilitated by WANEP-Cote d'Ivoire. The platform has been an avenue for sensitizing and mobilizing women in order to raise their participation in politics. It also aims to work with other key stakeholders in the country to maintain peace during the upcoming presidential elections in 2020. Towards ensuring equal participation of women in the elections, the bill on equal political participation of women

presented by the network has been passed marking the first time that Côte d'Ivoire adopted a bill for women's political participation.

Similarly, several advocacy activities and lobby by WANEP Senegal and other key partners for increased participation of women in key committees have yielded results. The newly constituted community Consultative committee is made up of 30% of women including the district 'godmothers' commonly known as "badienous gokh," who are recognized as revered community leaders.

4.2. Support to Development and Implementation of UNSCR 1325

4.2.1. Awareness and sensitization initiatives: WANEP National Secretariats increased efforts to popularize the development and implementation of NAPs of UNSCR 1325 in the review quarter. WANEP-Liberia sensitized 40 participants comprising 28 female and 12 males on the Liberia National Action Plan (LNAP2) as well as the Women Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda to deepen their knowledge in these areas. The trained beneficiaries are already raising awareness in communities in 6 counties on LNAP2 and WPS. In the same vein, WANEP Nigeria trained seven anchors of the Women Voices for Peace radio program on WPS resolutions. As a result of this training, the anchors raising awareness on WPS resolutions through their radio programs to reflect the unique role of women in peacebuilding in Nigeria.

4.2. Support to eradication of Gender Based Violence (GBV), SGBV

4.2.1. Strengthening women's capacity for effective intervention: There has been a marked drop in cases of GBV and SGBV in Liberia made possible by the untiring efforts of the peace huts facilitated by WANEP Liberia under the WIPNET program. With the consistent monitoring and follow up of such cases by the members, significant success is being recorded as more and more perpetrators are prosecuted thus getting justice for the victims. In the review quarter, 60 members of the Peace Huts benefited from Adult Literacy and Numeracy activities including strategies for tackling GBV with emphasis on psychosocial support services. This is imperative to equip the women with the requisite skills for their effective interventions. Meanwhile, WANEP-Liberia held community dialogues in 14 communities of seven counties to generate awareness on community action and measures to mitigate abuses. About 392 persons participated in these dialogues.

5.0. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1. Sustaining Institutional and Financial Stability



WANEP's transformation from project to vision-based institution is sustained by continuously building the capacity of staff and network members to position them for efficient delivery of organizational goals. In the review quarter, staff capacity strengthening initiatives were recorded at the Regional office and across the national networks. Details of these initiatives are reported below;

5.1.1. Regional Office: At the regional office, refresher training was held for WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) Managers to update their skills and

understanding of the revised NEWS platform. Regular refresher trainings and orientations are imperative to enable the managers keep abreast with changing dynamics and trends in peace and security in the region. The regional staff were also taken through experience sharing sessions to improve their understanding of Early Warning.

5.1.2. WANEP Burkina Faso held a reflection workshop between the national board and secretariat staff to deliberate on strategies for strengthening the network in order to ensure its pride of place as the lead organization for the promotion of peace and human security in Burkina Faso.

5.1.3. WANEP-Benin trained a total of 13 (8 females, 5 males) network secretariat staff and member organizations on public speaking aimed at improving their facilitation skills. The staff were also trained on dialogue and mediation skills for conflict management.

5.1.4. WANEP-Togo strengthened the capacities of its member organizations on aspects of peacebuilding and sustainable development. They also used the platform to enlighten the members on requirements of the WANEP Organizational Development Initiative (WODI) to deepen their understanding of their role as a WANEP network member.

5.2. Strengthening Governance Structure

The National Board is the second highest decision-making body of WANEP and provides oversight and supervision to the day-to-day running of the secretariat. Due to the vital role of the Board in the success of the networks, Board members are carefully selected, and they comprise men and women with expertise and professionalism in different fields of human endeavor. The Board is required to meet regularly due to their oversight function in order to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of the networks. In this wise, the Boards of WANEP Liberia and The-Gambia held their statutory meetings in the reporting period. The meetings allow for a thorough assessment of the networks to identify progress made, challenges faced and areas of improvement. In another development, The Board Chair of WANEP-Cote d'Ivoire was selected as the civil society representative to the country's newly re-organized Electoral Commission.

5.3. Staff Hires, Reassignments and Internship Program

As part of WANEP's Policy to support the mentoring and development of young academics and prospective peacebuilding practitioners, WANEP-CI engaged two trainees and a volunteer from CERAP for the WIPNET and Early Warning Programs respectively. WANEP-Ghana recruited a Project Officer to lead the implementation of the Sustainable Empowerment Peace Project (SEPP). Two interns deployed to the regional office ended their internships in the reporting quarter. One of the interns Ms. Adelaide Yiriyelleh summarized her experience in WANEP thus; "overall, WANEP provided an opportunity for personal and professional development. It broadened my knowledge and experience in the security spectrum as well. Working under the various departments at WANEP provided me leverage to tackle various aspects in the peace and security discourse."

5.4. Collaborations and Strategic Partnerships

WANEP's undergirding principle of collaborative approach to peacebuilding entails that the organization consistently partners, networks and collaborates with other major partners in its interventions in the promotion of peace and stability in the region. Towards actualizing this mandate, WANEP worked with

various partners in the reporting quarter, contributed to peacebuilding platforms, presented papers, facilitated meetings as well as participated actively in numerous foras. In particular, WANEP participated in an Expert Consultative Meeting on the Development of a Curriculum for Conflict Sensitive Journalism in Africa which was jointly organized by the School of Information and Communication Studies, University of Ghana and the Africa Peacebuilding Network (APN).

5.4.1. Strategic Partnerships: WANEP Cote d'Ivoire is partnering with ACLED and the University of Sussex on creative ways to make information exchange on the NEWS platform more accessible to relevant stakeholders. The network further held working sessions with National Democratic Institute (NDI), the USAID to explore areas of collaboration. WANEP-Ghana recently signed five-month contract with Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) on election conflict early warning and early response. The contract is towards monitoring and mitigating electoral threats and violence in the run up to Ghana presidential elections in 2020.

5.4.2. Collaborations and Effective Networking: WANEP staff were regularly sought after to deploy their expertise and professionalism in different fields of peacebuilding particularly, in WANEP's core area of focus. In the period in review, WANEP made a presentation on Terrorism and Kidnapping in the Maiden Commonwealth Speaker Series. WANEP Executive Director gave a solidarity message during the opening ceremony of the Regional Conference on Election Security in ECOWAS member States organized by ECOWAS and USAID in July 2019. WANEP spoke on Building a Culture of Peace: Educating for Peace - The WANEP Experience at the 2019 Southern Voices Network conference on youth and peacebuilding. Other engagements of WANEP in the quarter included; sharing insights and perspectives on "Non-State Stakeholders' Interventions to mitigate Electoral Violence: The Experience of WANEP EMAM in West Africa and presenting the WANEP Experience in coordinating women, peace and security in West Africa at an Experts' Workshop for the Conceptualization of a Regional Women's platform on Security Sector Reforms and Governance organized by Frederick Ebert Stiftung (FES).

5.4.3. Danish Ambassador Visits WANEP-Regional: The Danish Ambassador to Ghana, Mrs. Dove Degnbol visited the WANEP Regional Office office to discuss key areas of interest and catch up on previous engagements and projects.



Above: The Ambassador with WANEP staff

6.0. CONCLUSION

Generally, significant progress was recorded in different areas of WANEP program of activities in the review period. At the policy level, WANEP continued to impact policy engagements both at regional and continental levels through its incisive contributions in different fora, evidenced-based publications and deployment of its expertise and professionalism. In this wise, WANEP staff across the region utilized numerous platforms to share the WANEP experience as well as draw attention to current trends in peace and human security. There was also renewed interest in WANEP work particularly its expertise in early warning and early response, which attracted new partnerships and strengthened old ones.

Despite the laudable initiatives recorded WANEP continued to grapple with the rising challenges of threats to peace and security including heightened incidences of violent extremism and terrorists' attacks and damning effects of climate change with attendant consequences on human security. This situation coupled with the delay in disbursement of funds from our core funders severely impacted on program implementation and delivery of planned activities.