



Jan - March 2019

REPORT OF WANEP REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

PEACE AND SECURITY OVERVIEW

Democracy and Governance: In the review quarter, three West African countries viz; Nigeria, Senegal and Guinea Bissau organized relatively peaceful and credible elections. Despite the successful conduct of the elections, Nigeria witnessed technical challenges arising from logistical preparation by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), which led to the postponement of Presidential and National Assembly elections from February 16 to 23, 2019 and Gubernatorial, State House of Assembly and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Area Council elections from March 2 to 9, 2019. In Senegal, the presidential elections of February 24, 2019 held against the backdrop of protests following the disqualification of two key opposition candidates, Karim Wade and Khalifa Sall on grounds of their conviction on corruption charges. Guinea Bissau held its legislative elections on March 10, 2019, after several postponements due to protracted internal political struggle within the ruling PAIGC. Other governance challenges in the quarter included the violence recorded in Ghana during the Ayawaso West-Wuogon Constituency Parliamentary bye-election of January 2019 allegedly perpetuated by vigilante groups affiliated to political parties which led to six persons injured. Frequent demonstrations in Benin, Togo and The Gambia are impacting the political landscape in those countries.

Organized Crimes and Violent Extremism: The West African region continues to witness increasing incidents of organized crimes, violent extremism, terrorism, inter communal and sectarian violence. The current spate of attacks by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Al-Mourabitoun in Burkina Faso and Mali, Boko Haram and the West African Province of ISIS in Nigeria and across the border with Niger have far reaching consequences on regional security. Data from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) revealed that between January and March 2019, armed attack was the highest incidents recorded with 280 cases, followed by demonstrations (peaceful/violent) with 173 cases and 12 recorded accident cases. There were also 53 cases of disasters (man-made/natural), 109 fire outbreaks, 104 homicides, 48 gender-based violence and 41 drug cases recorded. The consequences of these on human lives and properties within the region are a cause for concern. In Mali increased inter-ethnic/communal attacks and reprisal attacks have led to loss of lives and properties. Incidents of farmer-herder conflicts were also recorded in Nigeria and Ghana in this period leading to 117 people (including 13 women and 22 children) with several houses and livestock destroyed in Nigeria¹.

Women, Peace and Security: The reporting quarter witnessed a surge in violence against women and the girl child, especially rape cases as recorded in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Ghana. Sierra Leone recorded more than 350 cases of gender-based violence and rape in Freetown alone with the victims mainly minors including a 14-month old child². While Liberia also recorded a total of 26 rape cases and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Guinea recorded 7 cases of rape with the victims ranging from three months and above. Ghana recorded 6 suspected cases of rape and ritual

¹WANEP NEWS (February 2019).

²Source: Umaru Fofana, Reporter BBC and Reuters. Available at The Rainbow Initiative, [hashtag#SierraLeone's](#) only referral centre for rape and other sexual offenses (LinkedIn post in February 2019. (Accessed March 5, 2019).

murder involving women and girls in the Volta, Ashanti, Central and Greater Accra Regions. The trends emerging in rape cases suggest an increasing vulnerability of the girl child to SGBV. Communities in Northern Burkina Faso and North and Central Mali have also reported cases of gender-based violence committed by armed groups. Women's peace and security was also affected by the insecurity caused by Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria and Niger, which has disrupted farming activities and livelihood thus increasing the level of poverty and unemployment, particularly for women and girls. Between January and March 2019, about Seven female suicide bombings occurred in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa States in Nigeria and two incidents happened in Diffa in Niger. Additionally, women participation in politics and governance in this quarter remains a challenge. In Senegal, the only female aspirant to the presidential election could not satisfy the stipulated requirement. In Nigeria, the six women out of 73 presidential contestants all withdrew their candidacy prior to the polls.

Environmental Security: The environment of West Africa within this reported period has witnessed outbreak of epidemics including meningitis (Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Togo and Ghana), Lassa Fever (Benin, Togo and Nigeria) and Yellow Fever (Nigeria). The recurrent outbreak of preventable diseases and level of fatalities in the West Africa-Sahel Belt suggests pervasive weaknesses in the healthcare systems and service delivery in the region. It further indicates the region's vulnerability to other diseases that threaten human lives, livelihoods and development, especially within local communities. Another environmental security threat observed in the quarter is the destruction of mangroves and pollution of water bodies with plastic and other waste disposal in Senegal, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, The Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria. Disposal of waste in water bodies continues to threaten ecosystem sustainability with adverse effects on biodiversity, especially fisheries and income of fishing communities and households' consumption of fish in West Africa. Furthermore, activities of illegal miners had devastating consequences in the quarter leading to 20 deaths in Guinea and 16 deaths in Ghana.

A comprehensive report on the January to March 2019 peace and security overview at www.wanep.org

1.0. ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING ELECTORAL SUPPORT THROUGH NEWS

1.1. ELECTION MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION (EMAM)

WANEP's efforts in managing election disputes in West Africa is encapsulated through the Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM), which is WANEP's contribution to the ECOWAS and AU's effort in entrenching free, fair and credible elections in the region. In recognition of this expertise, WANEP is currently implementing a three-year project on Election Monitoring Analysis and Mitigation in seven targeted countries of West Africa from 2018-2021. The project is particularly designed to strengthen the WANEP National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) with focus on monitoring, reporting, analyzing and communicating threats to peaceful elections in West Africa. The programme is also aimed at enhancing the capacity of 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). Elections held in three countries viz; Nigeria, Senegal and Guinea Bissau in the reporting quarter. Senegal and Guinea Bissau are under the WANEP/EU funded EMAM Project. In this regard, a number of activities were carried out before, during and after the elections as detailed below;

1.1.1. Training and deployment of Community Monitors and Observers: Prior to the elections, WANEP in collaboration with key partners including other Civil Society Organizations, ECOWAS, EU and AU trained and deployed community monitors and election observers in Senegal, Guinea Bissau and Nigeria. The trainings in Senegal and Guinea Bissau were under the auspices of the WANEP/EU project on Election Monitoring, Analysis and Management (EMAM). A total of 40 monitors in Senegal and 20 in Guinea Bissau were trained on the election monitoring indicators to equip them with the requisite skills for reporting on election threats³. These monitors will remain active in the post-election period in preparation for the forthcoming local elections in Senegal and presidential in Guinea Bissau. Similarly, 350 observers were trained and deployed comprising 150 including 41 women in Senegal and 200 in Guinea Bissau. The observers and monitors were trained on the use of the ArcGIS software,⁴.

In Nigeria, the training of election observers was preceded by a training of trainers (TOT) in six Zonal Team leads (two women and four men) drawn from the six Nigerian geo-political zones. The Zonal Team leads were trained on the WANEP/ECOWAS online GIS platform for election observation reporting and the capacity to train observers and manage the election observation mission in their respective geopolitical zones. Based on the skills acquired, the trained Zonal Trainers thereafter carried out step-down training for 114 (40 female and 74 male) election observers across the six geo political zones of Nigeria, provided operational oversight of observers within their zone and supported the Coordinated Election Situation Room (ESR) for the successful election observation mission in the 2019 Presidential election in Nigeria. On election Day, the trained and deployed accredited observers sent reports to the online ArcGIS platform that facilitated analysis and response at the ESR at Abuja-Nigeria, provided alternative data of electoral violence threats to the ESR through direct phone calls and text messages and provided post-election violence threat reports to the ESR.

³ www.wanep.org/senegalelects; www.wanep.org/gbelects;

⁴ <https://survey123.arcgis.com/surveys>

In another development, 20 (10 male, 10 female) Community monitors were trained in Sierra Leone and a further 30 community monitors including 4 women trained in Guinea, in line with WANEP's strategy of regular training and capacity building of community monitors in order to position them for effective monitoring and reporting of current threats and security dynamics in the region.

1.1.2. National Election Response Group: A key aspect of WANEP election management strategy is to create community platforms for early warning and response in countries undergoing elections within the period. In this wise, WANEP facilitated the establishment of National Election Groups (NERG) in Senegal and Guinea Bissau. The Group comprised of eminent and influential persons as well as other key stakeholders who were mandated to deliberate on recommendations from analyzed reports based on well-structured community monitoring systems and to device strategies for responses. The NERG in Senegal had 28 members including five women and 24 members including eight women for Guinea Bissau. The Group is mandated to deliberate on recommendations from analyzed reports based on well-structured community monitoring systems and to device strategies for responses.

1.1.3. Operationalizing the Election Situation Room: As in previous elections, WANEP operated a coordinated Election Situation Room (ESR) in the countries where elections were held during the quarter viz; Senegal, Guinea Bissau and Nigeria. In Senegal, the ESR operated from February 23 to 25, 2019 with 191 participants including 58 women while in Guinea Bissau, it ran from March 9 to 11, 2019 with 252 participants. Nigeria had 45 personnel (15 female and 25 male) in the central Situation Room located in FCT-Abuja and it ran from February 15 to 16, 2019 and following the postponement of the Presidential election from February 23 to 24, 2019. The ESR was divided into four sections-data gathering room, analysis room, communication room and the decision room. In Nigeria, the ESR was directly linked to the ECOWAS situation room and provided constant debriefing and sharing of vital information to facilitate response by ECOWAS observation mission in Nigeria. Regular reports and press statements were produced throughout the duration of the ESR. A total of 1629 reports in Senegal and 1106 in Guinea Bissau were produced and shared. In Nigeria, six press statements were released that supported media interaction and civic enlightenment on the observable trends and threats to the 2019 presidential elections. To ensure free, fair and credible elections, the eminent persons in the decision room engaged in preventive diplomacy to relevant stakeholders to support their engagement with key political actors to address issues that could mar the elections.

1.2. 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. The following Early Warning Outputs were produced in the reporting quarter;

1.2.1. Policy Briefs: Two policy briefs were produced in the quarter focused on analysis of the political dynamics in Guinea Bissau and Cameroun. They are; ***Cameroon: Conspiracy of Silence or Feigned Indifference***, which examined the crisis in Cameroun and its security implications for Nigeria and ECOWAS. While the Guinea Bissau policy brief titled; ***LES ÉLECTIONS LEGISLATIVES ET PRÉSIDENTIELLE***

A VENIR, SUFFIRONT-ELLES POUR UNE SORTIE DE CRISE? focused on the current political threats in the lead up to the parliamentary and presidential elections.

1.2.2. Situation Tracking and Quick Updates: Five Situation Tracking Reports were published within the period. Three for Nigeria and two for Senegal. The reports focused on conditions, stakeholders, threats, opportunities and recommendations for the peaceful conduct of elections in Nigeria and Senegal. Also, a quick update was produced as a response to the postponement of the February 16 presidential elections in Nigeria which highlighted the economic and security threats linked to the postponement as well as recommendations to partners such as ECOWAS and the AU to forestall electoral violence in the rescheduled elections.

2.0. STRENGTHENING CITIZEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

2.1. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVES

2.1.1. Support to Preventing Violent Extremism: In tandem with WANEP's efforts and support to Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE), WANEP recruited a consultant to develop a curriculum for the incorporation of strategies for PVE in schools Nigeria and the Sahel. The curriculum will be validated in April by key partners and major stakeholders and thereafter will serve as an advocacy tool for PVE in the target communities.

2.1.2. Capacity building on Security Sector Reform and Peacebuilding: WANEP The Gambia conducted two-day capacity building training for 20 representatives of Civil Society Organizations on Governance and Security Sector Reform (SSR) processes. The training geared towards building participants' skills on the key concepts and principles of SSR in order to equip them to participate effectively in the SSR process in the Gambia and promote independent civilian oversight of security sector institutions. In addition, a total of 29 teachers received training on tolerance, peacebuilding and global citizenship carried out by Ministry of Education.

Similarly, **WANEP Mali** led advocacy efforts on Security Sector Reforms (SSR) has led to the establishment of a functional peace advisory committee. In recognition of WANEP-Mali efforts in the development of the National Action Plan of SSR, which focused on the contribution of civil society to the process, the Network was named as a potential member of the National Security Committee.

2.1.3. Managing Natural Resource Conflicts: In the review period, WANEP Ghana trained 125 members of the District Agricultural Multi stakeholder platform (DASGOP) on Alternative Dispute Resolution in five Northern Ghana Governance Activity (NGG) project districts. The goal of the training was to strengthen the capacities of local and traditional structures to manage conflicts. In this regard, the participants were taken through modules such as conflict analysis, prevention and resolution, and natural resource governance among others. The participants thereafter developed action plans on managing natural resource/land-use conflicts in their communities.

2.1.4. Community Policing: On February 26, 2019, WANEP Ghana facilitated the meeting of the Working Group on Voluntary Principles (VP) to discuss the community policing model as an alternative security for the large-scale mining and oil/gas sectors. Other issues included military withdrawal from the mining sites and its security implications and proposed armed private security. The Ministry of Interior is currently working on a new private security legislative reform.

2.1.5. Election Security Management: In the run up to the February 2019 General Elections in Nigeria, WANEP Nigeria trained a total of 75 key stakeholders in Jos North LGA, Plateau State as part of measures to promote non-violence elections through dialogue. The training was under the Network's Justice and Security Dialogue project and targeted security personnel, civil society groups, community leaders, Youth, the Media and representatives of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The training specifically aimed to explore positive measures of managing the effectiveness and neutrality of security forces to improve the integrity of elections, secure lives and property during the process, monitor security threats and educate community members on the strategies for prevention of electoral violence.

2.1.6. Support to Infrastructure for Peace (I4P): WANEP The Gambia participated in a study tour to Ghana for the establishment an I4P for the Gambia. The tour, which was facilitated and coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was an opportunity to learn from Ghana's experience, strategy and best practices to guide the establishment of I4P in The Gambia. Findings and recommendations from the Conflict and Development Analysis report have identified new areas of intervention for the Gambia.

2.1.7. WANEP Niger trained 105 members of the Peace Committee including 75 men and 20 women and 10 members of the Defense and Security Forces on the concepts of social cohesion and community safety. The participants were drawn from the Diffa region of the country. The Network is utilizing sports and cultural events to promote a culture of peace on university campuses as conflict prevention measures.

2.2. PEACE EDUCATION/AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

2.2.1. WANEP SIERRA LEONE: in the reporting period, WANEP Sierra Leone held several conflict prevention awareness activities with two schools in the western area of the country. Topics of discourse centred on violence among school going students and suitable actions to be taken by the school authorities, parents, students and other Civil Society Organizations to tackle this menace. The Network is also working with other partners to explore strategies for involving youth gangs and clique in peace advocacy programs.

2.2.2. WANEP NIGERIA: In the quest to inculcate Peace Education into public schools' curriculum, WANEP Nigeria paid advocacy visits to a public primary school and met with members of School Based Management Committee in Kosofe Local Government Area and the State Special Correctional Centre for Boys, Oregun all in Lagos state to raise awareness on the WANEP Active Non- Violence and Peace Education Program in Nigeria. The Network has been in the forefront of lobbying Legislators in Lagos State house of assembly for the passage of a bill on the introduction of Peace Education into the curriculum of public schools in the state.

2.2.3. WANEP SENEGAL trained members of Civil Society Organizations and education administrators in conflict management and human rights in schools in grassroot communities as well as held sensitization activities in those communities. 10 additional peace clubs were established in the reporting quarter.

2.3. PROMOTION OF PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION PROGRAMS

2.3.1. Increased visibility on public domain: As part of measures to ensure effective and sensitive conflict reporting, WANEP partnered with the media during its 20th anniversary celebration to promote

peacebuilding and conflict prevention discourse at national and regional levels. Working through a media partner, WANEP staff participated in several media engagements and utilized the print, electronic and social media platforms to educate, sensitize and make significant contributions to issues of human security. These engagements increased the organizations' profile and led to more visibility of WANEP in the public domain. In this regard, the WANEPs twitter page recorded an average 134.06K reach for the quarter as against an average of 60K reach in the last quarter of 2018. Furthermore, the visibility ensured that WANEP partners, individuals and relevant stakeholders are able to interact and stay updated on WANEP's engagements, achievements and publications.

2.3.1. Sensitization and Advocacy Engagements: WANEP Nigeria held advocacy and sensitization forum with Small Scale Farmers, Traditional Rulers, Policy Makers, MDAs and the Private Sectors in Bauchi and Kebbi States to solicit their support for the Farmers Manifesto. The Manifesto is expected to stimulate positive engagement around food security and provide opportunity for capacity development for small-scale farmers (SSF) in the States. As a result of this sensitization and advocacy engagements, 16 Political Party Aspirants in Bauchi State and 9 in Kebbi State signed the Farmers Manifesto. Also, a traditional ruler in Bauchi state and other relevant stakeholders across the states affirmed their support to partner with WANEP in subsequent agricultural interventions in the State to boost Agricultural yield targeted at SSF. A total of 393 stakeholders (126 female and 245 male) were reached in the sensitization exercise.

3.0. PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH RESEARCH

3.1. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

3.1.1. Election Monitoring Analysis and Management in West Africa (EMAM): The publication documents WANEP's experience in implementing its flagship program, Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) project in West Africa. The publication is divided into five chapters and highlights WANEP's efforts in managing election disputes in the region and continent as well as its contribution to the ECOWAS and AU's effort in entrenching free, fair and credible elections in Africa. It was widely disseminated to relevant stakeholders in the region and will serve as a key resource on election management for researchers, the academia and others.

3.1.2. WANEP Early Warning Outlook 2019: An early warning outlook report was published in the quarter. The report highlights the key human security challenges in West Africa for 2018 and also makes projections of flashpoints of each ECOWAS member States for 2019 that will inform and guide monitoring and early intervention strategies. The report supports the debriefing of ECOWAS Ambassadors by WANEP and also forms the baseline for subsequent debriefing and interaction with partners in the region and continent. It also informs WANEP program planning design and implementation as part of its contribution to respond to peace and security threats across the region.

3.1.3. Security Sector Assessment: In the reporting quarter, WANEP The Gambia held a debriefing session with key government representatives and CSO members on the Security Sector Needs assessment report. The report detailed strengths and weaknesses of 20 CSO's in performing SSR oversight. An action plan was developed from recommendations of the report and informed the design of two-day capacity building training workshop.

3.1.4. Practice Guide on CSOs Engagement with IGOs: An E-publication titled; Practice Guide on CSOs Engagement with IGOs was released in the reporting quarter. The Guide is a scoping of WANEP'S

partnership with ECOWAS and AU and provides a deeper understanding of the engagement WANEP and these two institutions in their collaboration in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding. As the name implies, the Guide is a framework for understanding how Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) engage with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the field of international peace and global security, focusing on the rationale, methods, and outcomes. The Guide is a relevant resource to be used by a wide range of stakeholders interested in improved relations between CSOs and IGOs and in maintaining a healthy relationship between state and society. Thus, programme designers and managers and Academic institutions will find it useful for project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, most especially in international contexts.

3.1.5. Online database of WANEP resources: An online database of all WANEP resources was created in the period under review. The database serves all 15 WANEP National Network Secretariats and the Regional Secretariat. It is a knowledge and resource sharing platform created to enhance institutional capacity and sustainability. The database will be regularly populated with relevant materials, which will serve as a resource for researchers, the academia, and other peacebuilding stakeholders across the region.

3.1.6. Validation Meeting: WANEP Niger met with relevant stakeholders to validate the documentary study on risks and vulnerabilities in the Lake Chad Basin. A total of 45 participants including 23 women attended the validation of the study. The workshop was in collaboration with ECOWAS and the German Embassy

4.0. ENHANCING GENDER AND WOMEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING

4.1. PROMOTING WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA: 2019 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The 2019 International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated across the national networks and the regional office. IWD commemorates women's struggles for empowerment and self-actualization as well as celebrate their achievements throughout history in different spheres of life. This year's campaign theme was #Balance4Better, which provides a unified direction to guide and galvanize continuous collective action for accelerating gender parity. WANEP marked the Day with various activities as captured below;

4.1.1. WANEP REGIONAL OFFICE partnered with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and the GIZ to hold one-day Durbar under the theme: 'Empowering the Youth to Advocate against Gender Based-Violence (GBV).' The event was specifically to sensitize the youth and provide them with information to deepen their understanding of GBV and Sexual Harassment (SH), as well as create a generation of advocates who will work for the elimination of GBV and SH among others. A total of 228 Students and teachers from Basic and Senior High Schools in Accra and its Metropolis (Female 123 and male 105), and 50 other participants including representatives from selected Security Agencies, identified mentors and facilitators and staff of collaborating Institutions attended the durbar. The students have now become Student Advocates for the fight against GBV and SH in their respective schools. The Students will be visited by organizers three months after the event to follow-up on how they utilized the knowledge acquired.

4.1.2. WANEP THE GAMBIA: 12 students from two schools participated in a panel discussion on the IWD theme "Balance for Better," to discuss and share knowledge on gender-based violence in the schools

and communities. The discussions also sought ways to mainstream gender across board and enhance gender equity.

4.1.3. WANEP GHANA: WANEP Ghana commemorated the IWD with a live Radio discussion held in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Federation of Muslim Women Association of Ghana (FOMWAG) and the Traditional Authority. The topic 'End Child Marriage-Promote Gender Balanced Education' discussed the emotional, psychological, biological, economic and social effects of child marriage and proffer suggestions on how to tackle this prevalent social menace.

4.1.4. WANEP SIERRA LEONE: In Sierra Leone, WANEP also partnered with the Ministry of Social Welfare to mark the 2019 IWD with a radio program. The program, which aired in two radio stations; sky radio in Western Urban Freetown and Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) in Bo district received wide coverage and attracted scores of listeners who participated actively in the discussions.

4.1.5. WANEP NIGERIA: Live Twitter Chat with over 30 participants was utilized in Nigeria to commemorate the International Women Day 2019. The twitter chat stimulated discussions on a wide range of issues bordering on gender parity, women empowerment, participation, sexual gender-based violence and received rave reviews.

4.1.6. WANEP Mali commemorated the International Day against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) on February 6 with a workshop organized by one of its member organizations in partnership with PNLE (National Policy of Fight Against Excision). The goal of the workshop was to draw attention and create awareness on the harmful practice of FGM and other forms of Gender based violence. They also utilized media platforms to popularize the harmful consequences of GBV as a violation of the rights of women and girls.

4.1.7. WANEP Togo provided technical and financial support for the organization of the eighth edition of the public speaking competition aimed at empowering women and girls for public speaking as part of the 2019 IWD celebrations. The competition is organized by the UNESCO student club of the University of Lome. The Network built capacity of 40 female students to prepare them for the competition under the theme "the Peaceful Conflict Management and Female Leadership.

4.1.8. WANEP Niger held a Peace March and press conference to draw attention to women peace and security issues. The event was attended by 1275 women.

4.2. ENHANCING GENDER EQUALITY

4.2.1. Increasing Women's Role in Peacebuilding: WANEP Nigeria and other civil society groups facilitated the launch of the Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel (WGWYPS-WAS) in Nigeria in the reporting quarter. The aim of this Group is to increase awareness on the contributions of women and youth collaboration in peacebuilding in West Africa and the Sahel. As part of strategies to actualize this goal, the Group has initiated engagements with the media geared towards projecting the efforts of women and youth in this wise. The Group has commenced work with Social Media personnel to design action plan and develop scripts for radio programme on women's participation in peacebuilding, leadership and advocacy.

4.2.2. Improving Access to Gender Equality: In its capacity as member of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Working Group, WANEP was a panelist at the Committee on the

Status of Women (CSW63) side event held in New York in March 2019. This year, the priority theme for the CSW is “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.” The Side-Event was co-hosted by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York, the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) and GPPAC working in partnership within the Prevention Up Front (PuF) Alliance. The interactive panel brought gender experts from Ghana, Brazil and Lebanon as well as a representative from the Youth, Peace, and Security Working Group to share their experiences on inclusive social systems as a tool for conflict prevention and proffer concrete recommendations for moving forward. Over 30 Delegates from various institutions were in attendance. A key recommendation was the need to create a platform that heightens women’s visibility in conflict and post conflict areas through robust engagements with the media.

4.3. SUPPORT TO UNSCR 1325

4.3.1. Boosting UNSCR 1325 Implementation: Recognizing the critical role of the media in conflict prevention, WANEP Nigeria organized a workshop for 30 Journalists in Abuja as part of efforts to sensitize them on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the country. Similar workshops were also held in Gombe and Bauchi states for 50 participants. The workshops were specifically to enhance reportage of women participation in peace and security in Nigeria and raise awareness on implementation of UNSCR 1325 in local communities among security agencies, local authorities, women groups, youth, and CSOs in Gombe and Bauchi states respectively. Major outcomes of these workshops included the establishment of a Technical Working Group to drive the process with State government in Bauchi and the setting up of a Steering Committee in Gombe to fast-track the development of the Local Action Plans. Participants also made organizational and personal commitments to implement UNSCR 1325; the media committed to increased reportage of women’s stories towards promoting participation of women in peacebuilding and decision making while the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare expressed concrete support to ensure the achievement of the NAP on UNSCR 1325 in their respective states.

4.3.2. WANEP Mali with the Ministry of the Promotion of the Child and Family Woman and in collaboration with UNWomen held a stakeholder’s meeting to validate the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan (2019-2023).

4.3.3. WANEP Senegal collaborated with other women’s right organizations to organize a debate on UNSCR 1325 at the Lambagni Youth High School with 250 students in attendance. The debate was geared to deepen their understanding of UNSCR 1325.

5.0. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1. STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

5.1.1. WANEP 20th Anniversary Celebrations: On March 26, 2019, WANEP marked its 20 years of operational existence with an epoch-making ceremony attended by high profile dignitaries from across the globe. The event held at the TANG Palace Hotel, Accra-Ghana with the Vice-President of the Republic of Ghana, Dr. Mahamadu Bawumia who stood in for the President H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo as Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker. The Keynote Address titled; *The Future of Peace and Security in Democratic societies: The Complementary Role of Civil Society Organisations*, espoused the role of Civil Society Organizations in the promotion of peace and security, challenges and

recommendations. The paper acknowledged that “WANEP’s partnership with ECOWAS shows the possibilities and prospects for improved civil society engagements with Regional Economic Communities (RECs).” The paper urged ECOWAS member states to consider providing budgetary allocation for capacity enhancement of CSOs for productive engagement, stating ‘This could be done by availing the existing Community Levy to professional CSOs with track records like WANEP.’ As a way forward, the paper recommended that “Given the complementary role of civil society in strengthening West Africa’s fledgling democracies, in mitigating the security challenges engulfing the region and in ensuring inclusive governance, it is imperative to develop sustainable mechanisms that ensures trust, synergy and collaboration for efficiency and effectiveness.”

WANEP Executive Director, Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze, in his welcome remarks described the occasion thus; “I believe this is one of the rare moments of our history we are privileged to host this level of dignitaries comprising leaders of African States and government, leadership from the United Nations, African Union and ECOWAS, key stakeholders in the security sector, businesses, civil society and academia to mention but a few!” He added that ‘Twenty years is a milestone. It is an occasion to celebrate- and an opportunity to reminisce on our unique experience as an institution and chart a future that consolidates the vision of our founding directors.’ Dr. Eze in his speech paid special tribute to the Co-Founders of WANEP; Dr. Sam Gbaydee Doe and Hon. Emmanuel Habuka Bombande “for sowing and nurturing the mustard seed that is celebrated today as an oak tree of many branches and a forest of many parts.” He stated that ‘the story of WANEP is in many respects the story of the changing topography of peace and security. Our work and scope have matured and modified with the transforming needs of African citizens and government.’

Major partners of WANEP also expressed their support and commitment to the ideals of WANEP through goodwill messages. Some of the goodwill messages came from UNOWAS, ECOWAS, ACCORD, GIZ, KAIPTC, AU, GPPAC, ADA, Embassy of Sweden to mention just a few. A key highlight of the event was the inauguration of 15 exceptional West African citizens into the Body of the West Africa Peacebuilding Fellows (WAPeF) by the Guest of Honor, Dr Bawumia. These highly placed individuals are professionals in their fields of endeavors, who work in and beyond their countries of origin and whose contribution has direct bearing on peace and security in West Africa. Other highlights included the presentation of the WANEP documentary detailing WANEP work and impact on the continent, an exhibition that portrayed WANEP work in the last 20 years from the regional and national level, and the launch of WANEP’s publication on Election Monitoring Analysis and Management (EMAM), which highlights the organizations contributions to elections and democratic process in West Africa. The event ended on a grand note with an anniversary dinner where key partners, WANEP staff past and present and other relevant stakeholders received various awards and recognitions for their contribution to the growth and sustenance of WANEP in the last two decades.

5.1.2. Inaugural Lecture of Fellows: The Inaugural Lecture of Fellows held on the margins of the 20th Anniversary Celebrations under the theme: **FEATURES AND FUTURE OF PEACEBUILDING PRACTICE IN WEST AFRICA**. The Lecture was moderated by Professor Isaac Olawale Albert, the immediate past WANEP Regional Board Chair and Pioneer Director, Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ibadan. The lecture was in form of a Panel discussion divided into two sessions each with high-level Speakers. The Speakers included; H.E. Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, UN Special Representative and Head of UNOWAS; Ms. Comfort Lamptey, Country Representative, UNWomen, Nigeria; and General

Francis Behanzin, ECOWAS Commissioner, Political Affairs Peace and Security (PAPS). Others were; Dr. Sam Doe, Country Representative, UNDP Sierra Leone, Hon Emmanuel Bombande, Senior Mediation Advisor, UN DPPA and Dr. Ozonnia Ojielo, UN Resident Representative for Kyrgyzstan.

Given the various dynamics of peace and security issues in Africa, the Body of Fellows will provide guidance and direction in formulating WANEP's strategic plan. The Fellows are expected to utilize their expertise and professionalism to add value to WANEP thus enhancing WANEP's profile as the leading civil society organization in Peacebuilding in West Africa. A publication to be churned out on papers presented at the Inaugural Fellows Lecture, which will provide further resource on peacebuilding publications for researchers, the academia and other key partners.

5.1.3. Biennial General Assembly: The Biennial General Assembly took place from March 27 to 28, 2019 at Best Western Hotel, Accra-Ghana under the theme: **WANEP @ 20: TWENTY YEARS OF PEACEBUILDING PRACTICE IN WEST AFRICA**. 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. It is the highest decision-making body of WANEP and holds every two years as part of strengthening its institutional and governance structure. Key outcomes of this year's GA included the ratification and adoption of the action points from the 2018 Participatory Review and Analysis Processes (PRAPs) and approval of Board Resolutions. A Framework for the development of the 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan was also presented at the meeting. 90 Participants included NNCs, National Board Chairs, Regional Board, Staff of the Regional Office, Coordinators of ECOWAS/AU Liaison offices, Member organizations, reps of African Union, GPPAC, ACCORD and other strategic partners attended the Assembly.

5.1.4. Regional Board Meeting and Interactive Partners Forum: The 2019 GA was preceded by meeting of the WANEP Regional Board and an Interactive Partners Forum. The two key events held separately on March 25, 2019. 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. In this wise, Board meetings are held regularly at the national offices. In the reporting period, the WANEP national offices of The Gambia and Togo also held their Board meetings. The partners forum was well attended by WANEP key partners and it provided opportunity to discuss the WANEP Strategic Plan, strengthen relationships and explore avenues for new collaborations. In line with WANEP's principle of collaborative approach to peacebuilding, two of WANEP's partners Dr. Vasu Gouden of ACCORD and Darynell Rodriguez of GPPAC, made presentations at the Biennial General Assembly on the topic: Reflections on Partnerships and the Future of Peacebuilding in West Africa.

5.2. Strengthening National Capacity

5.2.1. Grant Management Training in Guinea Bissau: As part of activities under the WANEP/EU funded EMAM project in the target countries of Senegal and Guinea Bissau, a training was conducted for WANEP sub-grantees in the two countries. The training was specifically to strengthen capacity of the sub-grantees and deepen their understanding of the project. A total of 16 participants including 2 females attended the training in Guinea Bissau while 11 participants including 5 females were trained in

Senegal. WANEP accountants on the project in the two national offices also benefitted from the training. Areas of focus included disbursement of EU funds, content and submission of financial and narrative reports, monitoring and evaluation as well as the EU and WANEP regulations on financial management and reporting. Based on this training, two NGOs in Guinea Bissau viz; Liga Guineense Dos Direitos Humanos (LGDH) and TINIGUENA – Esta Terra E Nossa received sub-grants. Three sub-grants were also contracted and implemented with GRADDEC, RADDHO and JED-EEDS in Senegal. The EU funded project on Election Monitoring, Analysis and Management (EMAM) covers seven West African countries of Togo, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, The Gambia, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire. The EMAM project aims to contribute to a reduction in electoral violence through strengthened regional and national capacities to enhance peaceful electoral processes in the target countries set to hold parliamentary and presidential elections between 2018 and 2021.

5.2.2. Monitoring Visit to National Networks: The Regional Coordinator Network Development as part of ...undertook monitoring visits to Senegal and Guinea Bissau national networks respectively in the reporting quarter. The visits provide opportunities to have a deepened understanding of the network's progress, efforts and challenges. It also allows for experience sharing in order to be fully abreast with the specific needs of the network and how the regional office can better provide the needed support. These regular monitoring visits has led to improved relationship between the networks and regional office and greater functionality of the networks.

5.3. Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships

5.3.1. Courtesy visit: In line with WANEP's undergirding principle of collaborative approach to peacebuilding, the organization received Professor Ernest Uwazie, Director of the Centre for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR), University of California. The erudite Professor came calling on January 14, 2019 to explore areas of possible collaboration between WANEP and CAPCR and also used the opportunity to intimate WANEP on the African Peace Fellow (APF) Initiative of CAPCR. The Fellowship program is one area of commonality with WANEP as WANEP has also established a Body of West African Peacebuilding Fellows (WAPeF). The APF goal is to scale up training by increasing internal capacity for transformative conflict resolution in Africa as well as address challenges to funding effective and sustainable peace and security training for Africans. Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze, WANEP Executive Director, is a member of the International Advisory Board of APF.

5.3.2. WANEP-ECOWAS design online ArcGIS platform for Election Observation: On the strength of WANEP-ECOWAS partnership, the two institutions jointly designed and produced an online ArcGIS Early Warning platform for the observation of the 2019 presidential election in Nigeria in the review quarter. The ECOWAS Systems Manager worked with the WANEP ICT Officer, the Liaison Coordinator and the RCEW to develop the platform using the ArcGIS online application. This collaboration has further strengthened WANEP-ECOWAS joint initiatives in the design and implementation of early warning interventions in seven West Africa countries under the Election Monitoring Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) project (2018–2021) supported by the European Union.