



West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
Tisser des relations pour la Paix



Projet Financé par
l'Union Européenne

Atelier de Validation
des Indicateurs et
des zones à risques
de violence électorale
au Burkina Faso



Projet E-MAM:
Electoral Violence Monitoring Analysis and Mitigation
Suivi, Analyse et Mitigation de la Violence Electorale

Hôtel des Conférences
Ouind Yide (HCOY)

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#WANEPAMAM

Du 16 au 17 Juin 2020
à Ouagadougou

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April – June, 2020

Quarterly Report

OVERVIEW OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA- APRIL TO JUNE 2020

Violent extremism and organised crime:

The spread of violent extremism and the continued proliferation of extremist-related activities targeted at both civilians and security personnel in communities across Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria have not only threatened the level of stability in West Africa and Sahel but also the level of public insecurity. In the wake of COVID-19, terrorist and other criminal networks have exploited the pandemic and associated mitigation measures to increase criminal activities such as drug and human trafficking, kidnapping, arms trafficking as well as attacks against vulnerable populations. The persistent threat of terrorism continues to devastate human security in rural communities of the North-Eastern Nigeria, particularly Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States. In April 2020, twenty-two (22) incidents of terrorist attacks carried out by Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province were recorded in Adamawa and Yobe States.¹ In the Diffa, Tillabéry and Agadez regions of Niger, armed battle between elements of Boko Haram and the Defence and Security Forces led to the killing of over 100 people, an estimated 30 people being kidnapped and 12,515 people being internally displaced as a result of communal violence in the period under review. Data from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) reveals that between April and June 2020, 174 people were killed, and 165 others injured in Mali as a result of violent armed attacks perpetrated by armed groups operating across the country. The incessant terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso have affected farming and other socio-economic activities in communities across the country. This also continues to heighten competition over scarce resources which often flare up inter and intra-ethnic and communal violence as well as agro-pastoral conflicts in rural communities across the country.

Democracy and Governance:

The outbreak of COVID-19 at the end of the first quarter of 2020 was marked with a myriad of preventive protocols including lockdowns, travel bans/restrictions, business and border closures, school shutdowns and bans on public gatherings were put in place by governments of ECOWAS Member States as part of efforts to curtail the spread of the virus across the region. With many business and economic activities disrupted by the pandemic and related restrictions, governments announced financial and other relief packages for individuals and businesses to minimise the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. Despite the optimism that met these announcements, available data from WANEP NEWS suggests that these packages were either unfairly distributed or poorly managed thus not reaching intended beneficiaries. In some instances, the stimulus packages were reported to have been used by some State authorities to either satisfy their party supporters or for campaign purposes. For example, in Dakar-Senegal, some residents of Ngor denounced the partisan management of the stimulus package designated for the people in the area. The reports indicated that the afore mentioned was triggered by the fact that plastic bags containing the food aid bore the photo image of the mayor of the locality. Similarly, there were also reports of violent demonstrations relating to some of the restrictive measures put in place and the distribution of stimulus packages in Guinea, Niger, Senegal and Ghana. Noticeable among these demonstrations were those that took place in Niamey-Niger between 17 and 19 April 2020, and in Coyah (Guinea) on 12 May 2020. At least four (4) people were killed, and nine (9) others were injured with many properties damaged during the

¹ Ibid.

demonstration in Coyah. It is worthy of note that even though the demonstrations did not lead to any deaths in Niamey, several people were injured and properties including those belonging to the National Electoral Commission destroyed.

Environmental Security:

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed several lapses and gaps in healthcare facilities and delivery systems across the globe with West Africa being no exception. The added challenge triggered by the onset of the virus is the preoccupation of the COVID-19 to the detriment of equally life-threatening and perennial diseases such as meningitis, malaria, typhoid, Lassa Fever, Cholera and other air or water borne diseases which are recording more victims than before. In April, a total of 217 deaths with 1845 infected cases of Measles, Lassa Fever and Cholera were recorded in Nigeria. The Ghana Health Service (GHS) recorded a total of 439 cases of Meningitis (CSM) in the five regions in the north of the country with the Upper West alone accounting for 303 cases and 44 deaths.² Eighty per cent (80%) of the deaths recorded was due to infected persons reporting late to health facilities. Other incidents including rainstorms, landslides, lightning and flooding were recorded with high fatalities and disaster rates. At least 1,310 people, mostly women, children and the elderly people were internally displaced in Liberia precisely in Gbalatuah City, Zota District in Bong County. In addition, an 11-month-old baby died in Gbarpolu after a building collapsed on him. About 498 houses including 2 administration buildings were destroyed. In Guinea, a landslide caused by illegal gold mining activities led to the death of eight (8) people at Faliko mining area in Dako district. Following a heavy downpour in Cote d'Ivoire on June 18, 2020, 13 people were reported dead at Anyama in the Abidjan District. Many properties were also destroyed in the incident.

Gender, Peace and Security:

In the quarter under review, there was a sharp rise in Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). This increase in the number of (reported) incidences has been as a direct result of the lockdown and quarantine measures put in place to slow down the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Violence against women and children (including girls and boys) were recorded in many countries across the region. In Liberia for instance, a total of 12 incidents of rape and sexual assaults were recorded in June 2020. The ages of primary victims ranged from between seven (7) and thirteen (13) years made up six (6) girls, four (4) boys and two (2) women left with psychological trauma. Also significant among the key SGBV incidents reported include the assault of 41-year old pregnant woman by an officer of the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) at a security check point in Dwehken, River Gee County in Liberia. Again, in Liberia more precisely in Salala, in Bong County, a 32-year old woman was shot dead by her husband after she allegedly refused to restore their broken relationship. In Senegal, a 45-year-old woman was attacked and killed at a shrine in Ziguinchor for reportedly violating curfew directive put in place by authorities to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the area. In the Greater Accra region in Ghana, a man was arrested for violently attacking and killing his wife over alleged infidelity³. Other key incidents recorded include a mob action perpetrated against three rural women accused of witchcraft in Solobu, Pininess, Gbeta

² <https://www.myjoyonline.com/news/health/upper-west-region-records-30-new-cases-of-meningitis-as-coronavirus-cases-hit-19/>

³ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/46-year-old-man-reportedly-kills-wife-over-infidelity-in-Adjei-Kojo-915022>

Administrative District in Grand Kru County. The women along with two men were reportedly tied to a tree and physically assaulted, leading to the death of one of the women.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS IN QUARTER THREE

1.0 ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING ELECTORAL SUPPORT THROUGH NEWS

1.1. Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM)

Under the three-year EU funded Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation Project WANEP continued to strengthen regional and national capacities in Early Warning and Early Response to enhance peaceful electoral processes in West Africa. This further goes to complement ECOWAS and African Union (AU) efforts in ensuring free, fair and credible elections. In the period under review, the underlisted activities were undertaken.

1.1.1. Validation of Hotspot Mapping: Two-day Expert Cluster Consultations were held in Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire for the validation of indicators, hotspot mapping and stakeholders' matrix. These activities were held in Cote d'Ivoire from June 9 to 10, 2020, and in Burkina Faso from June 16 to 17, 2020. During these consultations, potential members of the National Response Groups were identified for the upcoming elections with 10 Civil Society Organisations in each of these countries gaining understanding of the EMAM project.



Group photo: A cross-section of CSO participants at the CSO Experts' Cluster Consultation for the validation of Indicators and Hotspots Mapping in Côte d'Ivoire



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Workshop Banner: Validation of Indicators and Hotspots Mapping in Burkina Faso

1.1.2. Mitigating Electoral Violence Pre, during and post elections: Ahead of the May 2020 Communal Elections, WANEP-Benin issued a total of eight statements highlighting stakes and risks as well as recommendations for effective mitigation of potential threats of violence to various actors. In the period under review, 360 observers were deployed to 36 out of 54 districts to observe and report on incidents and threats of violence during the communal elections in Benin via the Election NEWS platform. Out of 331 incidents reported, the Election Response Group (set up by WANEP) in partnership with INEC authorities, the Republican Police and other administrative and religious authorities successfully intervened in 113 incidents. Some of these incidents were handled with support from the 11 delegations who visited the ESR including the President of the Human Rights Commission of Benin, the Resident Director of Swiss Cooperation in Benin, the Head of Cooperation of the European Union, the Ambassador of the United States, the Ambassador of the Netherlands, the First Counsellor of the French Embassy, the German Ambassador, the President of the African Civil Society Parliament, the Resident Representative

“My sincere congratulations for the important work that has been done to increase the credibility of an important election. I am impressed by the work done, by the commitment of young people as well as experienced personalities around this initiative of civil society organisations.”- (Resident Representative of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation);

of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Head of Democracy, Human Rights and External Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. In recognition of WANEP's work in mitigating electoral violence in Togo, representatives of Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the US Embassy commended WANEP's efforts to increase the credibility of electoral processes, support youth participation in peace processes and CSOs as credible actors in the promotion of democracy.

"Thank you very much for the information and also for the very clear and informative presentations. I really learned a lot! Thank you for your efforts to promote democracy" (Patricia Mahoney, US Ambassador).

In Mali, the National Network Secretariat (NNS) for the period of May 1 to May 12, monitored and documented daily developments of challenges faced by the country following the Constitutional Courts declaration of final election results as well as issues emanating from the imposition of curfew. This was to ensure that relevant mitigation mechanisms could be deployed together with other relevant actors to ensure stability in the country.

1.1.3. Midterm Evaluation of the EMAM Project:

WANEP- Guinea, WANEP- Senegal and WANEP- Togo as part of the midterm evaluation process of the EMAM project engaged various stakeholders comprising state and non-state actors through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to assess the impact as well as key lessons learnt on the project.

1.1. Strengthening of Early Warning Reporting and Response

1.1.1. Local/Community level Early Warning and Response structures are established:

To ensure continued improvements in the quality of reporting and analysis, WANEP periodically organises training sessions for its community monitors as well as other relevant community actors. This ensures that at the community level, there is both understanding and ownership of conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes to enable them to play their roles effectively. In the quarter under review, the WANEP National Network Secretariats in Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo provided training for community monitors, actors and other stakeholders as a means of enhancing conflict prevention interventions.

WANEP- Guinea: In Guinea, a total of 126 community actors (members of response groups) including 20 women were trained in Conflict Analysis under the Early Warning System Implementation Project to ensure rapid response to conflicts. The training was carried out in seven (7) pilot communities of Boké. In addition, the capacities of 105 local actors including 14

women (monitors and local development agents) were strengthened under the Early Warning and Early Response project in the seven (7) pilot communities of the Boké region.

WANEP-Niger: WANEP-Niger built the technical and operational capacities of three peace committees in Chetimari, Geskéroou and Diffa regions in Early Warning monitoring, analysis and reporting. The training, which was divided into 6 sessions focused on Conflict transformation and social cohesion. A total of 63 training beneficiaries were equipped with knowledge and skills for the development and deployment of effective Early Warning strategies and interventions.

WANEP-Nigeria: In Nigeria, a virtual training was conducted via Zoom for community monitors to enhance the quality and timeliness of their reports. The training has significantly enhanced the



Group photo: Community monitors' training organised by WANEP-Nigeria training

quality of reporting on WANEP NEWS. The NNS also organised a virtual meeting under the “Integrated Peacebuilding Approaches to Herder-Farmer Crisis” Project and developed a framework for the extension of the project beyond Benue, Taraba and Nasawara States to other States in North-West region of Nigeria. This project is in partnership with UNDP and partners in Community Peace Monitoring, Conflict Risk and Resilience Assessment.

WANEP-Sierra Leone: As part of efforts to enhance capacities of stakeholders and community monitors to identify and prevent land conflict and related issues, the NNS distributed the abridged version of the National Land Policy. Consequently, there has been increased citizen understanding of the National Land Policy and land rights.

WANEP-Togo: Within the framework of the “Support and professionalism of CBOs in the prevention of conflicts, violence and the protection of human rights” being carried out in partnership with UNDP, the NNS embarked on a tour of five (5) regions and Lomé to collate the inputs of relevant actors and stakeholders for the effective deployment of the project.

1.2.2. Production and Dissemination of Early Warning Outputs: WANEP’S National Early Warning System (NEWS) continues to be progressively adjusted to produce enhanced situational and analytical reports on human security realities, threats and interventions in the region. The

following outputs captured in the table below were widely disseminated and utilized for advocacy and policy engagement:

S/N	Title of Publication	Country / Region	Quantity
Policy Briefs			
1.	Élection présidentielle de 2020: Un nouveau tournant à risques pour la Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	1
2.			
NEWS Quick Updates			
3.	NEWS Quick Update:	Ghana	1
NEWS Situation Tracking			
4.	COVID-19: Pandémie du Coronavirus au Bénin	Benin	3
5.	COVID-19 Outbreak in Ghana	Ghana	3
6.	COVID-19 Outbreak in Liberia	Liberia	3
7.	COVID-19 Outbreak in Senegal	Senegal	
8.	COVID-19: Pandémie du Coronavirus au Togo	Togo	1
NEWS Weekly Highlights			
9.	The Gambia: Weekly Highlights	The Gambia	12
10.	Ghana: Weekly Highlights	Ghana	11
11.	Guinea: Weekly Highlights	Guinea	13
12.	Liberia: Weekly Highlights	Liberia	12
13.	Mali: Weekly Highlights	Mali	12
14.	Niger: Weekly Highlights	Niger	12
15.	Senegal: Weekly highlights	Senegal	12
16.	Togo: Weekly highlights	Togo	5
Monthly Bulletin			
17.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: April 2020	The Gambia	1
18.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: May 2020	The Gambia	1
19.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: June 2020	The Gambia	1
20.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: April 2020	Ghana	1
21.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: May 2020	Ghana	1
22.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: June 2020	Ghana	1
23.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: April 2020	Guinea	1
24.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: May 2020	Guinea	1
25.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: June 2020	Guinea	1
26.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: April 2020	Guinea Bissau	1

27.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: April 2020	Liberia	1
28.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: May 2020	Liberia	1
29.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: June 2020	Liberia	1
30.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: April 2020	Mali	1
31.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: May 2020	Mali	1
32.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: June 2020	Mali	1
33.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: April 2020	Niger	1
34.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: May 2020	Niger	1
35.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: June 2020	Niger	1
36.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: April 2020	Senegal	1
37.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: May 2020	Senegal	1
38.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: June 2020	Senegal	1
39.	NEWS Monthly Bulletin: June 2020	Togo	1
Thematic Report			
40.	Rapport Thématique: Atténuer les conflits agropastoraux en Afrique de l'Ouest	West Africa	1

WANEP- Ghana: WANEP-Ghana under the Northern Ghana Governance project generated bi-weekly reports from data gathered through the WANEP-Ghana NEWS and widely disseminated outputs to stakeholders, the Government, partners and network members.

1.2.3. Sensitisation and awareness creation on COVID-19: WANEP regularly undertakes sensitization and awareness creation engagements for community members and groups on pertinent human security issues to ensure local ownership and deployment of relevant context specific interventions. Following the outbreak of the COVID-19, WANEP in addition to the production of various Early Warning outputs also embarked on local/community level advocacy.

WANEP-Senegal: In Senegal, the NNS under its project with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Foundation undertook sensitization exercises in border communities to limit the cross-border spread of the pandemic. WANEP-Senegal member organisations taking part in this project include Comité d'Appui et de Soutien au Développement Economique et Social des régions de Ziguinchor et de Kolda (CASADES)⁴ and Forum pour un Développement Durable Endogène (FODDE)⁵ and Enfance et Paix⁶.

⁴ Committee of Support and Support for Economic and Social Development of the Ziguinchor and Kolda Regions (CASADES)

⁵ Forum for Endogenous Sustainable Development (FODDE)

⁶ Childhood and Peace

WANEP-Sierra Leone: In Sierra Leone, stakeholders and community members were equipped with knowledge and understanding on preventive guidelines on COVID-19, negative effects of conflict on COVID-19 prevention and relevant actions to reduce violence during this pandemic.

WANEP-Togo: As part of efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, six hospitals across the country benefited from a donation exercise

\ carried out by the NNS in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Syndicat National des Praticiens Hospitaliers du **Togo** (SYNPHOT)⁷. Items distributed included sanitisers and nose masks. Plans are underway to engage hospital staff on peace and conflict issues.

WANEP-Liberia has also engaged in sensitisation and awareness creation on preventive measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

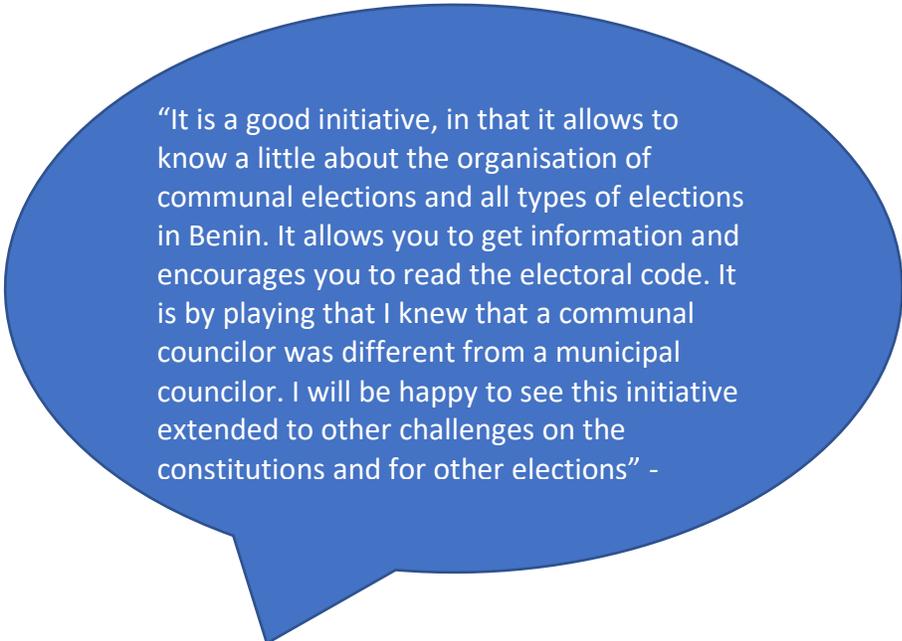
2.0. STRENGTHENING CITIZEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

2.1. Public Enlightenment and Awareness Activities: In the reporting period, WANEP carried out a number of sensitization and community awareness initiatives across the region as detailed below;

2.1.1. WANEP-Benin through its advocacy against Sexual and Gender Based violence has contributed to the significant reduction in sexual violence in schools and an improvement in school attendance for girls. In Djougou, through the intervention of WANEP-Benin's Peace Club Facilitator, four girls aged between 15 to 17 years have been rescued from forced marriages.

In Benin, the NNS is also working to reduce youth involvement in electoral violence through sensitisation and awareness creation. A song has been produced calling on young people to engage in non-violent activities during election periods. The song is available on YouTube via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYdOn0A8f8o>. Again, through a fun application available at <https://challenges.vote229.org/>, there has been significant increase in young people's interest in the electoral code and non-violent behaviour during elections. Below is a review from one user;

⁷ National Union of Hospital Practitioners of Togo (SYNPHOT)



“It is a good initiative, in that it allows to know a little about the organisation of communal elections and all types of elections in Benin. It allows you to get information and encourages you to read the electoral code. It is by playing that I knew that a communal councilor was different from a municipal councilor. I will be happy to see this initiative extended to other challenges on the constitutions and for other elections” -

2.1.2. WANEP-Côte d’Ivoire under the framework of the project titled “Civil Society Engagement and Mobilization for Peaceful and credible 2020 elections in Côte d’Ivoire” has spearheaded the sensitisation of citizens particularly young people on peace and security threats and challenges in the country. These have been largely carried out through debates and other engagements organised by the NNS. In Abobo, Yopougon, Korhogo, Kounfao, Bouna, Bondoukou, Duekoué, and Bangolo, citizens have also been sensitised on pertinent issues related to elections including the voter registration process.

2.1.3. WANEP-Guinea Bissau under its Youth, Peace and Security Program has embarked on the “Stop Coronavirus in Guinea Bissau” campaign where youth leaders of community associations are targeted and sensitised on the negative impacts of lockdown and quarantine measures. In particular, awareness has been created on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and alcohol and substance abuse during the pandemic and the increasing need for peaceful coexistence within the family and community unit. These engagements have increased youth awareness and participation in community sensitization on COVID-19 and enhanced the visibility of the project.

The NNS in partnership with the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) organised joint activities to commemorate World Drug Day 2020 under the theme “Support Don’t Punish”. As part of this initiative, the NNS visited Rehabilitation and Reintegration Centre for drug addicts in Quinhamel. The visit brought awareness to the poor living conditions of inmates which has been tabled for the next Council of Ministers’ meeting.

2.1.4. WANEP-Niger from 16 to 20 April 2020 embarked on awareness raising activities on the prevention of violent extremism and radicalization in the Tillabéry region as a follow up to the Training of Trainers organised in Maradi. A total of 15 awareness creation sessions comprising

five (5) sensitizations in the region of Tillabéry, five (5) in the region of Diffa and five (5) in the region of Agadez, have been conducted for a total of 5000 beneficiaries.

Other sensitisation activities were carried out in Chetimari, Gueskéroou and Diffa on the effective involvement of women and young people in community safety. The sensitization sessions, which are aimed at addressing the growing insecurity in the Diffa region is geared towards promoting social cohesion. An estimated 1000 women and young people have benefited from this initiative.

2.1.5. WANEP-Sierra Leone continued its sensitisation on the use of harmful drugs amongst young people. In the quarter under review, there was a reduction in the number of complaints from community members in relation to drug abuse among youth. Through its weekly radio advocacy and awareness raising sessions on youth violence, there has also been active engagement of the community, particularly youth in conflict prevention in their communities.

2.2. Strengthening Community Peacebuilding Initiatives

2.2.1. WANEP-Guinea has identified 200 youth peace ambassadors from the Upper Guinea region to be integrated and trained under the Cultural Cohesion for Peace and Prosperity (2C2P-3) project towards enhancing youth participation in peace processes.

2.2.2. In Senegal, the NNS together with the institutional working group of Security Forces organised a virtual meeting to evaluate human resources management systems of the Security Forces to ensure quality in service delivery and streamlining of communication procedures with emphasis on recruitment, career management and mobility. Among other things, there were recommendations and agreements on the need for improving recruitment processes as well as the conduct and engagement of security forces in relation to citizens and other stakeholders including the media.

2.2.3. Under the EPNV-JS Project, WANEP-Togo has sustained its advocacy on the removal of violent and erotic content on TV and radio. The project is working to ensure that at least 15% of violent and erotic films broadcast on television channels are broadcast after 10:00pm. For the month of June, five (5) TV channels and seven radio channels were monitored by the WANEP-Togo monitoring team who observed a decrease in the broadcast of violent and erotic content on all television channels and the considerable decrease on radios.

To mark the 10 years of implementing the EPNV-JS project of WANEP-Togo in schools in Kpalimé and Lomé, a documentary was produced. The documentary which highlights the role of sports in reducing violence in schools is aimed at positively influencing project beneficiaries. This initiative

which is being carried out in partnership with Bread for the World also highlights WANEP-Togo's work and experiences in Peace Education and nonviolence in schools.

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

2.3.1. Promoting UNSCR 2250 agenda: In the period under review, WANEP organised a regional level webinar for and by young people to deliberate on the topic “Impact of COVID-19 on Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa: Youth Perspectives on Existing Responses and Post Recovery Plans”. Discussions and insights emanating from this online engagement which was divided into two sessions, targeting the English-speaking audience (June 26, 2020) and the French-speaking audience will be used in the development an e-bulletin. Participating speakers comprised Theodora Williams Anti, Programmes Manager, Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA)-Ghana; Josephine Kamara, Advocacy and Communications Manager – Purposeful-Sierra Leone; Bakary Sonko, Co-Founder Peace Hub The Gambia-WANEP’s Network Member Organization; Rafiu Lawal, Executive Director, Building Blocks for Peace Foundation- Nigeria; Olga ELEGBE, Member of the Elections, Democracy and Good Governance Program of WANEP-Benin; Ouattara Issa Abdoul Rachid, President of the WANEP-Burkina Faso Peace Network; Marie Édouard OUENDENO, President of the Young Peace Ambassadors of peace, Ratoma-Guinea; and Lassina Bakayoko, President of the JIGIFA Association of N’tabacoro and Surrounding- Mali.

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
WEBINAR SERIES

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA: YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON EXISTING RESPONSES AND POST RECOVERY PLANS

Speakers:

- Theodora Williams Anti, Programmes Manager, Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA)-Ghana
- Josephine Kamara, Advocacy and Communications Manager – Purposeful in Sierra Leone.
- Bakary Sonko, Co-Founder Peace Hub The Gambia- WANEP’s Network Member Organisation in The Gambia)
- Rafiu Lawal, Executive Director, Building Blocks for Peace Foundation- Nigeria) (WANEP’s Network Member Organisation in Nigeria)

Moderator:
Mme. Josiane Sombo
Program Officer, Youth and Peace Education, WANEP Regional

**Join us : June 26, 2020
10:00 AM GMT**
Register at:
<https://bit.ly/3hHHp8R>

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
SÉRIE DE WEBINAIRES

IMPACT DU COVID 19 SUR LA JEUNESSE, LA PAIX ET LA SÉCURITÉ EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST : PERSPECTIVES DES JEUNES SUR LES RÉPONSES ACTUELLES ET PLANS DE RÉTABLISSEMENT POST PANDEMIQUE

Speakers:

- Olga ELEGBE, Membre du Programme Elections, Démocratie et Bonne gouvernance de WANEP -Benin
- Ouattara I. A. Rachid, Président du Réseau de paix de WANEP- Burkina Faso
- Marie É. OUENDENO, Présidente des jeunes ambassadeurs de la paix pour la commune de Ratoma-Guinée
- Lassina Bakayoko, Président de l'Association JIGIFA de N' tabacoro et Environnement- Mali

Modératrice:
Mme. Josiane Sombo
Chargée du Programme - Jeunesse et Education à la paix, WANEP Regional

**Rejoignez-nous : 29 Juin, 2020
10:00 AM GMT**
Inscrivez-vous à:
<https://bit.ly/3ehBbuq>

Fliers developed for the promotion of the webinars on the Impact of COVID-19 on Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa: Youth Perspectives on Existing Responses and Post Recovery Plans

2.4. Improving Capacities for Effective Conflict Prevention

2.4.1. Mitigating Communal Violence: Members of the Local Dialogue Facilitation Team (LDTF) set up by WANEP-Ghana facilitated the resolution of a potential dispute arising from discrepancies in financial statements presented by the outgoing Assembly member of Sefwi Nkateso in the Western Region of Ghana. Through joint meetings with the traditional authorities and the youth, the issue was resolved and a handover successfully carried out.

2.4.2. Enhancing Community Capacity in Early Warning and Conflict Prevention:

WANEP-The Gambia trained 12 program staff comprising eight (8) males and four (4) females of the Nova Scotia Gambia Association (NSGA) on Peacebuilding and Early Warning.

WANEP-Guinea in the reporting period, trained 35 members of the multi-actor platform of Mandiana prefecture on Early Warning Monitoring and Analysis.

3.0. PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

3.1. Utilising Research results for Advocacy:

3.1.1. Advocacy on commitment to campaign pledges: WANEP-Benin has produced a report on the Status of compliance of President Talon's campaign pledges. The report is available at <https://presimetre.vote229.org>. The initiative is ultimately aimed at ensuring accountable governance.

3.1.2. Research on Religious Fundamentalism in Cote d'Ivoire: WANEP-Cote d'Ivoire under the ELVA project collated data on Religious Fundamentalism in Cote d'Ivoire with the ultimate aim of developing mitigating mechanisms to prevent the spill over of Violent Extremism from the Sahel region to coastal West Africa.

3.1.3. Research on COVID-19 and Peace and Security: WANEP- The Gambia contributed to a research titled "COVID-19: Emerging Peace and Security Dynamics in The Gambia". The report was shared widely with relevant actors and stakeholders from state and non-state institutions.

3.1.5. National Validation of Training Manual: WANEP-Gambia organised a National Validation of a Training Manual on Peacebuilding and Land Conflict Management.

3.1.6. Case Study on the role of Peace Committees in Conflict Management: WANEP-Ghana developed a case study on the role of Peace Committees in Conflict Management as well an approach on the Northern Ghana Governance Activities Management Information System. These

documents which serve as vital resource materials emphasize the critical roles WANEP-Ghana's Peace Committees and the Early Warning infrastructure are playing in conflict management in the Northern Ghana Governance Activity project. As part of efforts to facilitate knowledge and sharing to the benefit of consortium partners and other stakeholders, these documents have been distributed for reference.

3.1.7. Baseline Study on Cultural Cohesion: WANEP-Guinea undertook a baseline Study on Cultural Cohesion for Peace and Prosperity Project (C2P2) in Mandiana. The study provided insights on potential conflict areas and threats.

3.1.8. Electoral Reform meeting: WANEP-Liberia held electoral reform meetings in three districts of Montserrado County. A total of 120 participants including 56 females and 64 males deliberated on the proposed amendments to sections of the New Election Laws (NEL) and the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia yet to be passed by the House of Legislature. There are ongoing engagements with stakeholders via radio talk-shows to create broader public awareness.

4.0. ENHANCING GENDER AND WOMEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING

4.1. Promoting Women's Leadership and Decision-making:

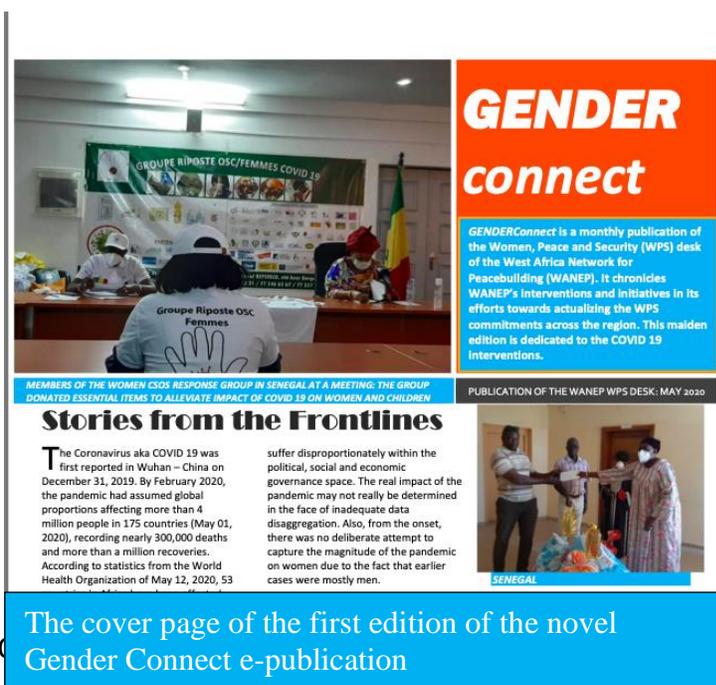
4.1.1. Sustaining women leadership Interventions: WANEP-Benin under the "Programme de Renforcement des Capacités d'Action des Femmes" (RECAFEM) has sensitised citizens of the seven (7) departments of the "*Amélioration du Taux des Femmes aux Postes Electifs et Nominatifs*" (ATFPEN)⁸ project on COVID-19 and its preventive/safety protocols. Again, under this project, the visibility of young women candidates in the municipal elections of May 2020 has increased thus culminating in increased participation of women in communal elections. 49 women were elected as communal councillors in the project intervention zone, compared to the 42 in the last term of office, indicating an increase of 16.67% in women leadership. In addition, three (3) women were elected as mayors in the project's intervention zone as against one (1) woman mayor in the previous term.

As part of efforts to promote women leadership, WANEP-Liberia embarks on regular sensitisation amongst community structures to promote behavioural change among youth groups, male networks (HeForShe), and women's networks. In the period under review, 38 communities of five (5) counties (Montserrado, Grand Gedeh, Grand Cape mount, Nimba and Lofa) benefited from training on women leadership promotion. A total of 20 beneficiaries comprising 11 females and nine (9) males acquired knowledge and skills to serve as agents of change. In addition, 10

⁸ The ATPEN project is aimed at increasing women's representation and participation in political processes

male leaders acquired skills on strategies for male involvement (HeforShe). 15 local authorities (traditional leaders, women, men and youths) were identified as campaigners for further awareness raising in their communities.

WANEP- Mali under the Women Leadership Program for Inclusive Governance in the Sahel continued processes towards the coordination and monitoring of activities of the women’s pool of experts. With the onset of the COVID-19, National and Regional meetings were coordinated via virtual means to ensure continuity of the project. Other follow up activities carried out in the period under review include the running of online courses for project beneficiaries; coordination meetings between the Danish Demining Group (DDG) and WANEP; training on the Security Sector Reform for project beneficiaries and debriefing sessions on lessons learned under the project. These series of activities have culminated in the development of individual (member) actions plans.



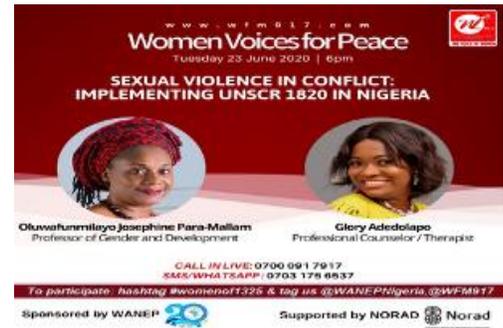
In the period under review, WANEP-Regional developed a novel e-publication dubbed “Gender Connect”, a monthly publication from the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) desk aimed at chronicling WANEP’s interventions and initiatives in its efforts towards actualising its WPS commitments across the region. The first edition focused on interventions undertaken across WANEP’s Networks to curtail the spread of

4.2. Support to the Development and Implementation of the UNSCR 1325

4.2.1. Advocacy on the monitoring and implementation of the UNSCR 1325

WANEP-Togo engaged in advocacy on the need for increased women representation in Government. In a statement addressed to the President of Togo, the NNS highlighted the need for increased representation of women and young people in the new government.

4.2.2. WANEP-Nigeria as part of efforts to promote UNSCR 1325 conducted a radio program titled “Women Voices for Peace” aimed at promoting the relevance of the UNSCR 1325 in Nigeria. The program is ongoing in seven radio stations in seven States across Nigeria –Bauchi, Bornu, Delta, Edo, Gombe, Lagos and Rivers States. Over 50 people have participated in radio programmes in the seven radio stations through call-ins and text messages.



4.3. Strengthening Women’s Capacity for Effective Intervention: WANEP-Guinea has initiated a mentoring program for young women and emerging women leaders aimed at enhancing their participation and inclusion. In the period under review, a total of 30 girls were identified as beneficiaries under the 2CP2 Project.

WANEP-Sierra Leone in the period under review facilitated the sensitisation of marginalized women and girls from Kakua and Tikonko Chiefdoms in the promotion of COVID-19 prevention and safety protocols.

WANEP- Togo with funding support from UNDP organised national virtual workshops on Beijing + 25⁹. A total of 40 civilian women and members of the Defense and Security Forces benefited from online training on Beijing+ 25.

4.3.1. Strengthening Capacity for Preventing Violent Extremism:

Within the framework of building the capacity of women and youth leaders, WANEP-Niger organised a training symposium on violent extremism and the culture of peace from 12 to 13 April 2020 at the Arc en Ciel Hotel in Niamey-Niger. Participants included 20 women leaders and preachers made up of two (2) women from Agadez, two (2) women from Tillabéry, two (2) women from Diffa and 14 women from the Niamey region. The symposium was organised with the specific aim of building the capacity of these relevant actors in four key regions in Niger to identify avenues for synergising the religious concepts on violence and conflict resolution in their sermons.

4.3.2. Strengthening Economic Empowerment of women:

60 individuals comprising 42 women and 18 men farmers have received training on Financial Literacy in two Chiefdoms at Bombali District in Liberia. This is an initiative carried out by WANEP-Liberia as part of the NNS contributions to women’s empowerment and participation.

⁹ The Beijing 25+ commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action on the advancement of women’s rights

4.4. Support to the eradication of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV): As part of efforts to enhance its work in the fight against SGBV, WANEP-Côte d’Ivoire has signed an agreement towards revitalizing the Yopougon Peace Hut. The NNS has also made significant contributions towards the fight against COVID-19 and the protection of GBV survivors.

4.4.1. WANEP-Liberia through its Peace Huts continues to provide support to rape victims and survivors by providing safe spaces for reporting and follow ups. The NNS also engages opinion leaders and embarks on court monitoring to ensure justice for survivors and victims. The NNS in the period under review held a sensitization workshop on existing Laws and policies on SGBV, Harmful Practices (HPs) and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHRs) and access to legal redress for survivors. An estimated 3128 CSO Partners including 958 females, 1174 males and 996 youths within 50 communities of Grand Capemount County enhanced their knowledge on the fight against SGBV including domestic violence, sexual violence and Harmful Practices. In addition, 6200 indirect beneficiaries have gained knowledge on domestic violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) prevention and their roles as men in the fight against SGBV through various sensitisation interventions carried out by WANEP-Liberia.

4.4.2. In Mali, the NNS under the Women Leadership Program (PLF) funded by the EU and implemented by WANEP-Niger, WANEP-Burkina and WANEP-Mali in partnership with Danish Demining Group (DDG) initiated the “Buran Sukaro”¹⁰ (Sugar for in-laws), a campaign aimed at increasing their visibility on ground and raising awareness about the practice as a means of engendering social cohesion and ensuring the safety of women.

4.4.3. WANEP-Nigeria issued a position statement titled “**Gender Based Violence and Protect the Rights of Women and Girls In Nigeria**” calling for urgent action to draw attention to the rise of incidences of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the society. Additional details on this call is available via *Sundiat Post’s* ¹¹article titled “CSOs urge police, government to treat sexual violence as security threat”.

5.0. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

¹⁰ The "Buran Sukaro" is a social practice involving married women offering sugar to her in-laws for the breaking of fast. In response to the gesture, the in-laws family shows pride by designating the woman as the woman as “ANW MUSSOW” (our woman).

¹¹ <https://sundiatapost.com/csos-urge-police-government-to-treat-sexual-violence-as-security-threat/>

5.1. Sustaining Institutional and Financial Sustainability

In the quarter under review, there have been significant improvements in the program and financial reporting particularly at National levels.

Regional Office: The Regional Office in the period under review provided refresher trainings for WANEP's Monitoring and Evaluation focal points at the National level.

WANEP-Guinea: The NNS has initiated actions towards the recruitment of a consultant for the review and drafting of a new five-year strategic plan.

WANEP-Niger: The NNS organised a training workshop on women's leadership as part of organizational capacity building of two (2) WANEP-Niger member organisations. In total, nine (9) women and three (3) young boys from the organisation called RASSAD, six (6) women and one (1) young boy from the APAISE benefited from this training.

5.2. Internship Program

As part of WANEP's policy to support the mentoring and development of young academics and prospective peacebuilding practitioners, WANEP Guinea engaged an intern to support its finance and administration functions.

5.3. Collaborations and Strategic Partnerships

WANEP-Cote d'Ivoire through its participation in "Projet d'Appui aux Elections en Côte d'Ivoire" (PACE)¹² and "Cadre Permanent d'Echange sur les Questions Sécuritaires" (CPEQS)¹³ has increased the NNS visibility and credibility as a relevant actor in peacebuilding and conflict prevention interventions particularly in the area of elections. The NNS in addition, strengthened its engagements with other CSOs and has also during the period under review, signed an MOU with Médica Mondiale and ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project) to reduce the spread of the Corona Virus induced Gender Based Violence, and data sharing on political violence in Côte d'Ivoire respectively.

5.4. Collaborations and Effective Networking

¹² PACE is an Elections support project in Cote d'Ivoire

¹³ Permanent Group for Security Discourse

Regional: WANEP in partnership with the Crisis Action Group signed an agreement towards embarking on a campaign to strengthen actions towards the protection of civilians in the context of the fight against violent extremism in the Sahel countries of Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso.

Within the framework of Oxfam/ Democratic Governance and Human Rights project, WANEP - Niger benefitted from technical and organizational capacity building, through an organizational diagnosis (RAMON). The training which focused on providing knowledge and skills on project development techniques and Oxfam policies enhanced the capacities of four (4) WANEP Niger staff including one (1) woman (the WIPNET officer).

6.0. CONCLUSION

In the period under review WANEP made significant strides in various program areas in spite of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. At the strategic partnerships and policy levels, WANEP continued to engage its partners at various levels through its incisive contributions in different fora, evidenced-based publications and deployment of its expertise and professionalism. WANEP continued to deploy its expertise in Early Warning and Response to address human security challenges within the region. In particular, via the EMAM project, WANEP contributed to providing timely updates and responses pre, during and post elections.