



# January – March 2020

Quarterly Report

## OVERVIEW OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA- JANUARY TO MARCH 2020

**Democracy and governance:** One presidential election was held in Togo and parliamentary elections in Guinea and Mali. In Togo, the elections were held on February 22, 2020 despite several calls by both opposition parties and civil society, including some Bishops to suspend the electoral process. These calls were being made on account of ensuring a credible electoral process by undertaking three key actions including the opening of a dialogue with relevant stakeholders on the reconstitution of the Constitutional Court, the establishment of a credible voters' register and the recomposition of the Independent National Electoral Commission. A referendum was concurrently held with the parliamentary election in Guinea on March 22, 2020, while the Mali elections were conducted on March 29, 2020. These elections were held despite concerns of the spread of COVID-19 infection. Following the constitutional referendum, the National Election Commission in Guinea announced a 91.59 per cent of the votes and approved a change in the Constitution to increase the presidential term from five to six years with a two-term limit<sup>1</sup>.

**Women, Peace and Security:** In spite of the incessant efforts and awareness campaigns by governments and Civil Society Organizations to fight violence against women, the issue continues to persist in West Africa. In the quarter under review, data originating from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) shows that women and girls still experience violations such as rape, physical/sexual assaults, female genital mutilation, kidnapping, trafficking, targeted murder and domestic violence among others. The psychological trauma these women and girls experience after being raped or kidnapped, seriously affects their wellbeing and self-esteem. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, pre-existing inequalities and vulnerabilities experienced by women have been exacerbated. Socially, there has been significant increase in domestic, sexual and gender-based violence as a result of the quarantine, lockdown and other measures put in place to reduce the rate of spread of the COVID-19. This is particularly evident in households and communities where women live with abusive partners. On the economic side, these restrictive/ preventive measures have adversely affected women and girls who are already on the breadline and whose daily survival depend largely on day to day economic activities.

**Environmental Security:** The environmental security in the region has been challenged by the spread of COVID-19 at the community level in all 15 ECOWAS countries. This is further compounded by the ongoing epidemic of Lassa Fever and meningitis in Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia. Given the weaknesses in the healthcare infrastructure, especially in rural communities, the spread of the pandemic in local communities is likely to be difficult to contain. This places health security of the population, particularly vulnerable groups including the aged and physically challenged at risk of further threat from the Coronavirus. Also, given the dense population and poor urban planning and development of slums in urban centres in most of these countries which hamper social distancing, the risk of the spread of the pandemic in such areas is heightened. Additionally, acute water shortages in urban communities in the country are also likely to hamper frequent handwashing as a tool to mitigate spread of infection. In addition to the ongoing

<sup>1</sup>See: <https://www.africanews.com/2020/03/30/guinea-opposition-rejects-referendum-result-pledges-to-respect-2010-constitution/> (Accessed 22/04/2020).

pandemic, there has been significant reported cases of Lassa Fever and Meningitis. Between January and March 2020, health authorities have also reported more than 906 confirmed cases of Lassa Fever with over 161 fatalities across 27 States in Nigeria<sup>2</sup>. Liberia has also recorded 24 cases of Lassa Fever with nine deaths mainly in Grand Bassa and Bong Counties<sup>3</sup>. Similarly, health officials in Ghana have confirmed an outbreak of meningitis 'C' in the Upper West, Central, Northern and the Ashanti regions.

**Organized crime and violent extremism:** The prevalence of violent extremism in the region especially in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria has complicated the effort by these States and ECOWAS to respond to the pandemic. Between January 1 and March 31, 2020, there have been 265 terrorist and armed attacks<sup>4</sup> with 3,261 fatalities in the region<sup>5</sup>. The humanitarian situation in the affected countries continues to worsen with the increase in IDPs, refugees and migrant flows across the Sahel. For instance, more than 765,000 people, particularly women and children have been displaced with 95 per cent in camps in host communities in Burkina Faso<sup>6</sup>. Over 25,000 people have fled the country as refugees in neighbouring countries<sup>7</sup>. Increased insecurity and violence in Burkina Faso have also forced the closure of 60 health centres, while services in 65 others have been impaired, leaving 626,000 people with limited access to healthcare<sup>8</sup>.

## REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS IN QUARTER ONE

### 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 through WANEP's existing National Early Warning System (NEWS). For the period 2018-2021, WANEP is implementing an European Union funded project in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Senegal and Togo. In the period under review, the activities carried out under this project are captured below.

<sup>2</sup>WANEP-Nigeria, *Situation Tracking on COVID-19 Pandemic in Nigeria, Vol 8*. Available at: [www.wanep.org](http://www.wanep.org) . Accessed on 25/04/2020).

<sup>3</sup>WANEP Liberia Monthly Bulletin (January – March 2020). Available at: [www.wanep.org](http://www.wanep.org) . Accessed on 25/04/2020).

<sup>4</sup> See: WANEP Monthly Bulletins (January – April 2020). Available at [www.wanep.org](http://www.wanep.org) (Accessed 11/03/2020).

<sup>5</sup> See: <https://acleddata.com> (Accessed 11/03/2020).

<sup>6</sup> <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/burkina-faso/> (Accessed 12/03/2020).

<sup>7</sup> See <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1054981> (Accessed on 12/03/2020).

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

**1.1.1. Operationalization of the Election Situation Room in Togo, Mali and Guinea:** For the 2020 Electoral process in Togo, WANEP National Early Warning System was effectively deployed to mitigate electoral violence. Ahead of the establishment of the Election Situation Room (ESR) in Togo<sup>9</sup> which ran from February 21-23, 2020, WANEP shared early warning data and analytical reports with National Consultative Committee for the Prevention of Electoral Violence (CCNPVE) to inform the response strategies deployed



**WANEP launches the Coordination room for Election 2020 in Togo**

during Togo's elections. Prior to the Election Day, a debriefing of the Regional Working Group<sup>10</sup> was organized on February 10, 2020 to evaluate the

situation and share the various partners' intervention strategies. Follow up meetings were held with the National Consultative Committee for the Prevention of Electoral Violence (CCNPVE) on February 11, 19 and 26, 2020. The operationalization of the Election



**Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, Head of UNOWAS visits the Coordination Room in Togo**

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeaYfh8\\_EZQ&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3MS-uk-VHwZiYXsjtYzckO\\_sRKAsbG44bxyhYkK21A-3sqVislos-nLp8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeaYfh8_EZQ&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3MS-uk-VHwZiYXsjtYzckO_sRKAsbG44bxyhYkK21A-3sqVislos-nLp8)

<sup>10</sup> The Regional Working Group is made up of Representatives from UNOWAS, ECOWAS, WANEP and the EU. The core role of the group is to coordinate and initiate relevant response mechanisms to mitigate threats to peace in the electoral process and ultimately contribute to the strengthening of democratic processes in Togo.

Situation Room contributed to the reduction of electoral-related conflict risks by intervening in 23 out of 25 reported incidents. In Mali, the operationalization of the Election Situation Room was from March 28 to 30, 2020, while in Guinea, the ESR comprising 21 people including 4 women (19%) was from March 1 to 2. In Guinea, two monthly NERG meetings within the EMAM project were organized, reports analysed and shared on the socio-political situation of the country and response initiatives.

**1.1.2 Training of monitors:** In Togo, a total of 145 monitors were trained and subsequently deployed over the period of February 21 to 23, 2020. The training was specifically to equip WANEP's monitors with knowledge and skills for quality and timely reporting of relevant data/ information to the ESR to engender prompt and effective response. In Guinea, a Training of Trainers (TOT) was conducted for 4 individuals who were subsequently deployed in the country's four training centres. Additionally, a total of 80 observers including 22 women were trained and deployed to monitor and observe the elections.

**1.1.3 Validation of Hotspot Mapping and Indicators:** Preparatory to the setting up of the ESR in Mali, WANEP on March 6 and 7, 2020 set up a platform of ten (10) national CSOs to facilitate the implementation of the EMAM project activities including the identification and validation of hotspot mapping and indicators as well as the setting up of National Electoral Response Group (NERG).

**1.1.4 Sustaining post-electoral violence mitigation mechanisms:** WANEP-Guinea Bissau initiated actions to engage parties in post-electoral crisis to find a solution to the crisis with particular focus on the sustainability of peace in Guinea-Bissau. Some of the actors engaged include the President of the National Election Commission.

## **1.2. Strengthening Early Warning Reporting and Response**

**1.2.1 Local/Community level early warning and response structures are established:** WANEP's community monitors undergo regular training and retraining to ensure continued improvements in their skills, quality of reporting and analysis on pertinent human security issues within their contexts. This also ensures that the community monitors are able to engender local ownership of peacebuilding and conflict prevention processes through step down trainings and community sensitization. In the quarter under review, WANEP's National Network Secretariats (NNS) trained community monitors and facilitated such conflict prevention interventions.

**WANEP- Guinea:** In Guinea, seven (7) Community leaders and (7) Community development agents were trained on the implementation and operationalization tools of the Early Warning and Response System in the seven pilot communities of the Boké region.

**WANEP-Senegal:** In Senegal, Community monitors coordinated activities aimed at strengthening the contribution of communities in crisis and conflict prevention activities in their local communities.

**WANEP-Sierra Leone:** In Sierra Leone, stakeholders and youth community monitors were able to identify land conflict related issues and proffer solutions to prevent their escalation in their districts. In total, 33 land conflicts were identified in three districts, 12 community meetings held and 6 land -related disputes mediated and documented. This has significantly contributed to community knowledge about land rights and a reduction in the rate of violence at community levels.

**WANEP- Cote d’Ivoire** has through various platforms contributed to improving election-related policies/ intervention and security in general. For instance, the National Network Secretariat (NNS) participated in phase II of the Political Dialogue on the Electoral Code in its capacity as a member of the exchange group on issues of security, a group established by the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection. The NNS also participated in various debriefing sessions of the National Centre for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanism debriefing.

**1.2.2. Production and Dissemination of Early Warning Outputs:** Various actions were taken across all levels at WANEP to improve the quality of data and reports inputted and churned out from WANEP’s National Early Warning System (NEWS) platform. This culminated in regular and prompt reporting of incidents on not only WANEP NEWS but also ECOWARN and the African reporter. Some of the outputs produced during the reporting period are as follows;

S/N	Title of Publication / Theme	Country	Quantity
<b>Policy Briefs</b>			
1.	Presidentielle 2020 au Togo: La nécessité de l’inclusivité, l’ouverture et la Transparence comme voie pour consolider la Paix au Togo	Togo	1
2.	Nigeria: Addressing Armed Banditry in the North-West Region of Nigeria: Exploring the Potentials of a Multi-Dimensional Conflict Management Approach	Nigeria	1
<b>NEWS Quick Updates</b>			
3.	“23 Dead, 200 Injured, 500 Displaced and Over 170 Buildings Destroyed at Abule-Ado Area, Amuwo-Odofin LGA, Lagos State”.	Nigeria	1
4.	Among and Jafouk Chieftaincy Tension Brewing in the Bunkprugu – Younyoo District	Ghana	1

5.	Violences intercommunautaires à Nzérékoré : Dix-sept (17) morts, plusieurs blessés, une centaine d'arrestation, des dégâts matériels importants enregistrés	Guinea	1
<b>NEWS Situation Tracking</b>			
6.	"COVID-19 Outbreak in Ghana" Vol. 1	Ghana	1
7.	<b>COVID-19</b> Pandémie du Coronavirus au Bénin	Bénin	1
8.	<b>COVID-19</b> Pandémie du Coronavirus au Togo	Togo	1 (Mars 2020)
9.	Bulletin De Suivi De Situation : Pandemie Covid-19 En Guinee	Guinea	2
10.	Bulletin De Suivi De Situation : Pandemie Covid-19 Au Mali	Mali	2
11.	Bulletin De Suivi De Situation : Pandemie Covid-19 Au Senegal	Senegal	3
12.	Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in West Africa: Risks, Vulnerabilities and Threats	Regional	1
13.		Niger	1
14.		Liberia	3
15.	COVID-19 Outbreak in Nigeria Vol 1	Nigeria	1
<b>Monthly Bulletin</b>			
16.	*Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Janvier 2020 *Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Mars 2020 *Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Mars 2020	Niger	3
17.	*NEWS Monthly Bulletin, January 2020 *NEWS Monthly Bulletin, February 2020 *NEWS Monthly Bulletin, March 2020	The Gambia	3
18.	*Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Janvier 2020	Togo	3

	*Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Mars 2020 *Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Mars 2020		
<b>19.</b>	*Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Janvier 2020 *Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Mars 2020 *Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Mars 2020	Benin	3
<b>20.</b>	*NEWS Monthly Bulletin, January 2020 *NEWS Monthly Bulletin, February 2020 *NEWS Monthly Bulletin, March 2020	Sierra Leone	3
<b>21.</b>	*NEWS Monthly Bulletin January 2020 *NEWS Monthly Bulletin, February 2020 *NEWS Monthly Bulletin, March 2020	The Gambia	3
<b>22.</b>	*NEWS Monthly Bulletin, January 2020 *NEWS Monthly Bulletin, February 2020 *NEWS Monthly Bulletin, March 2020	Liberia	3
<b>23.</b>	*NEWS Monthly Bulletin, January 2020 *NEWS Monthly Bulletin, February 2020 *NEWS Monthly Bulletin, March 2020	Ghana	3
<b>24.</b>	*NEWS Monthly Bulletin, January 2020 *NEWS Monthly Bulletin, February 2020 *NEWS Monthly Bulletin, March 2020	Nigeria	3
<b>25.</b>	*Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Janvier 2020	Guinea	3

	*Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Mars 2020 *Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Mars 2020		
26.	*Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Janvier 2020 *Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Mars 2020 *Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Mars 2020	Mali	3
27.	Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Janvier 2020 *Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Mars 2020 *Bulletin Mensuel De NEWS, Mars 2020	Senegal	3

These outputs from the National Early Warning System (NEWS) have been shared with stakeholders, Governments, partners and network members. This has contributed to enhancing WANEPs advocacy with current and potential partners in planning and undertaking joint interventions in early warning and conflict prevention. WANEP expertise in early warning and response were also deployed through its project with other partners.

**WANEP-Mali** as part of its mission of promoting human security under NEWS, strengthened collaboration with security forces and the local populations through the revitalization of community monitors. In line with this, WANEP-Mali organized multi-stakeholder monitoring-dialogue committee meeting between security forces and the population on January 08, 2020 with the financial support of DCAF.

**WANEP- Cote d'Ivoire**, based on its expertise as member of the donor platform within the framework of the UNDP PACE project shared its experience in early warning.

**WANEP- Burkina Faso** in partnership with DIAKONIA are working to establish an early warning and response system through the development of indicators ahead of Burkina Faso 2020 elections.

**1.2.3. Early Warning Training for Youth:** WANEP- Gambia in partnership with UNDP, the Ministry of Interior and the Office of the President organized an Early Warning Training for Youth Regional Structures. A total of 30 people including 20 females were trained to serve as community conflict monitors and mediators.

**2.0. STRENGTHENING CITIZEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION**

**2.1. Public Enlightenment and Awareness Activities:** During the quarter under review, WANEP carried out a number of sensitization and community awareness initiatives across the region as detailed below;

**2.1.1. WANEP- Guinea** facilitated the production and publication of eight messages on peace and social cohesion on the 2C2P<sup>11</sup> project platform on Facebook group. The messages were produced by young peace ambassadors with an overall goal of educating more young people to get involved in conflict prevention processes/initiatives.

**2.1.2. WANEP- Guinea Bissau** organised a meeting on its premises on the role of media/journalism in sustainable peace. With the guidance and deliberations of the meetings and the subsequent press release that was issued to reiterate key outcomes of the February 2020 meeting, there is an increased awareness and recognition of the significant role of the media in strengthening community and National Peace.

**2.1.3. WANEP- Sierra Leone** led sensitization on the use of harmful drugs amongst the youth and young people using live radio phone-in programmes. In the quarter under review, statistics revealed a reduction in the number of reported cases.

## **2.2. Strengthening Community Peacebuilding Initiatives:**

**2.2.1. WANEP-Burkina Faso** in the period under review formalized its partnership with Heads of provinces to support the monitoring of the “*Centre d’écoute*” in Pabré where female (girls) victims of violence receive counselling and support.

**2.2.2. Community Conflict Resolution:** WANEP-The Gambia and its partners led a mediation session between the three (3) years Jotna Movement and the Government and succeeded in brokering peace between the two groups after a stalemate.

**2.2.3. Support to media monitoring:** Under the Project EPNV-JS, WANEP-Togo has been advocating for the removal / reduction in the broadcast of media material containing violent content. In the period under review, reduction in the approximate duration of the broadcast on violent and / or erotic scenes/ programmes on TV7 (122 min versus 6642 min for year 2 of the project) and on Radio Télévision Delta Santé -RTDS (180 min versus 3038 min) was achieved.

<sup>11</sup> Cultural Cohesion for Peace and Prosperity (2C2P) project is a USAID sponsored project being executed in Guinea with the aim of instilling a culture of social cohesion in in seven communities – three communes in Conakry (Matam, Matoto and Ratoma) and four prefectures of Upper Guinea (Kankan, Siguiri, Kouroussa and Dinguiraye).

**2.2.4 Sustaining a culture of peace:** In accordance with the project plan for "Education for Peace, Non-Violence and Social Justice in Togo", the review meeting of the second year of implementation was organized with the stakeholders on January 29, 2020 in Kpalimé to



Group photo: Stakeholders at the Review meeting

deliberate on lessons learnt and planned activities for the remainder of the project.

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

#### **2.3.1. Enhancing Peace Education:**

As part of efforts to promote a culture of peace and non-violence through Peace Education, WANEP-Burkina Faso developed a basic manual

that incorporates modules of peace education in some subjects as French, philosophy, history and geography. Following this development, the National Network Secretariat (NNS) has submitted the manual to the curriculum directorate of the Ministry of National Education after initial reviews from pedagogical supervisors and teachers of four disciplines: French, philosophy, History and Geography. The manual has subsequently been amended by the curriculum directorate and budget adopted. WANEP-Burkina Faso is also facilitating the improvement of school governance at the "Lycée Professionnel de la Région du Centre (LPRC)", and at the "Lycée municipal de Pabré", Paspanga through the training of Management Councils (COGES) in participative management in order to reduce crises. The NNS has also created a National Network of peace clubs in order to facilitate the empowerment of current students through alumni coaching and joint activity planning and implementation.

**WANEP- Cote d'Ivoire** has also begun a process of establishing Peace Education in secondary cycle institutions with the "Lycée Moderne de Cocody" being one of the first beneficiaries.

**WANEP-Mali** as part of its efforts to prevent violent extremism through youth participation has also facilitated the process of setting up Peace clubs in the Mopti region.

**WANEP- Senegal** coordinated the establishment of peace clubs at the Grand Yoff School, trained peace club members and various peace committees. These Community Consultative Committees (CCCs) frequently hold meetings to sensitize and raise awareness of the Community Oriented Policing( COPS)<sup>12</sup> project's approach for community members. They also undertake advocacy visits to municipalities and prefectures to obtain the necessary municipal and prefectural

<sup>12</sup> The COPS project is aimed at strengthening community capacity to maintain order and ensure police responsiveness on matters or crimes relevant to the community such as drugs, Gender-based violence and juvenile delinquency

guidelines for the execution of pilot projects on the fight against drugs, GBV, juvenile delinquency among others as well as for the sustainability of their organization.



Members of the High- table at the Advocacy Workshop on establishing Peace Education in

WANEP-Togo in January 2020.

**WANEP-Togo's** advocacy with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education for the institutionalization of peace education in schools has culminated in the validation of a framework on integrating peace values in "Social Education" training. These values were extracted from WANEP-Togo's Guide on Peace Education in Basic Schools. 37 specialists in the education sector from the Ministry of primary and secondary education, civil society organizations and international institutions participated in the follow up national workshop organized by

## **2.4. Improving Capacities for effective conflict prevention**

**2.4.1. Meeting on mitigating communal violence:** WANEP-Ghana targeted leaders of election-related institutions (National Democratic Congress- NDC, New Patriotic Party- NPP, Convention Peoples' Party- CPP, Peoples' National Convention- PNC, Electoral Commission- EC, Regional Peace Councils- RPCs, National Commission on Civic Education- NCCE, Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice- CHRAJ, Federation of Muslim Women's Associations of Ghana- FOMWAG, Person's With Disability -PWDs, Christian Mother's Associations-CMAs and Security Agencies) in order to garner buy-in and support implementation of YAMS4PEACE<sup>13</sup> project in the Northern, Upper West, Upper East and Bono East regions. In all 122 people from the four regions participated in the four inception meetings. This comprised 85 males and 37 females. Of this number, seven (4 males and 3 females) participants represented the Federation of Disability Associations in Ghana. With the exception of the Upper West Region where the EC could not participate, these five state agencies (the CHRAJ, Ghana Police Service, NCCE, the Regional Peace Councils and the Electoral Commission) participated and pledged their support and participation in the project. In the case of the Upper West Region the WANEP-Ghana STAR-Ghana Foundation supported Coalition for Peace and Development - COPED team visited the EC office and had discussions with the Regional Director who pledged support and participation in the project activities in the targeted constituencies.

<sup>13</sup> The Youth and Media Skills for Peaceful 2020 Elections Project (YAMS5Peace) is a 15-month project aimed at reducing election related violence in 2020.

**2.4.2. Enhancing Youth Capacity in Electoral violence Prevention:** WANEP-Ghana has built the capacities of youth and women wings of political parties, CSOs, National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Federation of Muslim Women Association of Ghana (FOMWAG), Christian Mothers Association of Ghana, and the Electoral Commission to detect and analyse election related disputes and deploy appropriate and timely actions to address them. A total of 255 Inter-Party Youth Dialogue Committee (IPYDC) members and Women Caucus for Peace (WCP) members of the various political parties, comprising (160) male and (95) female have been trained on Early Warning and Response. There are ten (10) IPYDCs and ten (10) Women Caucuses in the ten targeted constituencies of the project. Each team of the IPYDCs and WCP groups has detailed action plans to roll out in the course of the year addressing elections-related grievances and proactively responding to emerging threats of elections related violence.

**2.4.3 Community sensitization on enhancing environmental security:** Through the sustained efforts of WANEP-Ghana, there has been increased community awareness of the negative impacts of mercury use in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM). Community sensitization activities were conducted in the Upper East and Western North region to raise their awareness on the environmental sustainability before, during and after mining activities, on the social impact of ASGM activities in their communities and also on natural resource conflicts. Radio discussions were also conducted to discuss the impacts of mercury use in ASGM and the outcomes of illegal mining.

**2.4.4. Community sensitization of Preventing Violent Extremism:** As has been evident in previous quarters, WANEP-Mali has been at the forefront of promoting community engagement in the fight against Violent Extremism. Between January 13 to 17, 2020, WANEP-Mali, with financial support from UNDP, organized a cultural and sports week for the Prevention of Violent Extremism in the commune of FAKALA, a suburb of Djenné (region of Mopti). In a similar vein, WANEP-Niger conducted a Training of Trainers on Violent Extremism, Culture of Peace and other peacebuilding capacity building initiatives. These sensitization campaigns have also been extended to cover pupils as well as Directors of schools. In total, six trainers including three women have been trained on awareness raising on the Prevention of Violent Extremism. The NNS has also embarked on awareness campaigns to promote and increase the involvement of young men and women in community security and social cohesion. So far, there have been over 300 participants including 75% women and 25% young people.

**2.4.5. Youth dialogue on electoral violence prevention:** WANEP-Togo with support from WANEP-Regional organized a National Youth Dialogue via Zoom. A total of 50 participants attended the dialogue which amongst other things garnered the commitment of young people to support the promotion of a culture of peace during the electoral process and enhanced interest in the promotion and participation in issues of security and related matters. In particular, the young people called for the establishment of youth advocacy network focused on engaging politicians and political actors to uphold the rule of law during electoral periods; community sensitization particularly of young people to engage political actors on peaceful conduct; and the

sensitization of Election Observer Missions on proper representation of facts pre, during and post elections.

### **3.0. PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY**

#### **3.1. Utilizing Research results for Advocacy:**

**3.1.2. Advocacy on Access to Information: WANEP-Benin have successfully lobbied two MPs, Orden ALLADATIN and Abdoulaye GOUNOU on the need for the prioritization of the Access to Information Bill.** The advocacy has also contributed to an increase in the number of CSOs that have joined the Open Government initiative. Consequently, there is an increased confidence in the platform which has resulted in the receipt of funding support from the Swiss Development Cooperation.

**3.1.2. Baseline study on Behaviour and communication analysis:** WANEP-Ghana undertook a baseline study on behaviour and communication analysis of party communicators and foot-soldiers. A communication plan has subsequently been developed. Information on the scope and severity of political vigilantism among political parties (NPP, NDC, PNC, and CPP) in the Northern, Bono East, Upper West and Upper East regions has been gathered. Additionally, information on the communication capacities of the various parties in the four regions has also been gathered; capacity gaps have been identified and modalities for partnership between Rural Media Network (RUMNET) and political parties have been outlined. In all, 54 respondents (50 males: 4 females) participated in this activity. The behaviour and communication analysis component is in progress for the development of a communication plan.

**3.1.3. Advocacy Visit on the Passage of Peace Education Bill:** WANEP-Nigeria in the quarter under review paid an advocacy visit to the Lagos State House of Assembly on the Peace Education Bill. Legislators have pledged commitment to ensure the passage of the Peace Education bill for the Introduction of Peace Education in Schools in Lagos State.



**Group photo: WANEP-Nigeria Team during the Advocacy visit**

#### **3.1.4. Advocacy on Enhancing Community Policing:**

WANEP-Senegal has led advocacy on review and integration of Police and Gendarmerie

training content to ensure the effective deployment of community policing mechanisms and interventions.

## 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 held sensitization activities for 30 high-school students and their parents on the necessity of girl-child education. As a result, the students have resolved to complete high school while the parents have committed to keeping their daughters in school. The young girls have been paired with women resource persons to serve as mentors and role models. WANEP-Mali continued processes to ensure the effective implementation of the Female Leadership Program (PLF) for inclusive governance in the Sahel by recruiting a pool of experts who will support the conduct of field work in collaboration with members of women's organizations, civil society, local authorities, and other relevant actors. The PLF programme aims to amplify the voices of women from civil society in the governance of the security sector in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso and in partnership with the Danish De-mining Group (DDG). Niger is in the process of recruiting its pool of women experts and has sent out a call for applications.

Similarly, WANEP Benin has engaged stakeholders to raise awareness and support on the "*Programme de Renforcement des Capacités d'Action des Femmes*" (RECAFEM)<sup>14</sup>. A total of 581 community stakeholders comprising 389 women and 157 men, representing potential candidates, community, traditional and religious leaders. The project has enhanced the visibility of female electoral candidates and engendered the promotion of women participation in politics and electoral processes.

In Cote d'Ivoire, a total of 400 women have been promoted to key positions on the electoral list for the 2020 local election. In the period under review, WANEP Cote d'Ivoire with support from "*Medica Mondiale*"<sup>15</sup> launched phase two of the project dubbed "Revitalization of the Yopougon Peace Hut" which is aimed at enhancing women's leadership and empowerment.

### 4.2. International Women's Day 2020 Celebrations

**4.2.1. WANEP-Regional:** WANEP in partnership with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and the framework of the UNOWAS Working Group on Women, Youth Peace and Security in Ghana (WGWYPS-GH), commemorated the 2020 International Women's Day (IWD) with the launch of the Ghana second Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (GHANAP II) and panel discussions. The event was chaired by a representative of the Ghana Minister of Gender,

<sup>14</sup> The RECAFEM project is aimed at achieving significant progress towards gender equality in the social, cultural, legal and economic fields.

<sup>15</sup> Medica Mondiale is a women's rights and aid organisation based in Germany.

Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) and was supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GIZ and the Canadian Embassy. This year's theme: **I AM A GENERATION EQUALITY:**



*Panelists discussing the theme; 'I am Generation Equality: Sustaining the Promotion of Women's Rights in Ghana,' as part of activities to mark IWD 2020*

**Advancing Women and Girls Rights**, provided the opportunity to deepen the reflections on achievements and gaps in promoting women's rights and gender equality. The panel discussions centered on two key themes; 'I am Generation Equality: Sustaining the Promotion of Women's Rights in Ghana' and 'The Role of Women in Promoting Peaceful Elections in Ghana.' The event created an avenue to launch

the GHANAP II, which is a key step in the preparation to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNSCR 1325 and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action.

**4.2.2. Launch of the GHANAP II:** WANEP in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Children and

Social Protection (MOGCSP-Ghana) and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) under the auspices of the UNOWAS Working Group on Women, Peace and Security launched the second Ghana National Action Plan (GHANAP II) on UNSCR 1325. The event was supported by the UNDP, High Commissions of Canada and Sierra Leone to Ghana, Embassy of Togo and GIZ. GHANAP II was officially launched by Dr. Afisah Zakariah, Chief Director of the MoGCSP, representing Honorable Cynthia Mamle



*WANEP Executive Director, Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze and Dr. Comfort Asare, Director of Gender with copies of the newly launched GHANAP II at the event*

Morrisson, the Minister. In her keynote address, Dr. Zakariah stressed the need to involve all stakeholders to achieve the objectives of GHANAP II. Maj. Gen. Francis Ofori, Commandant of KAIPTC and Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze, WANEP Executive Director demonstrated their support by their presence at the event. Other major partners and stakeholders present included; Dr Jean-Bosco Butera, Special Adviser and Chief of Staff at the Office of the Special Envoy on



*Cross section of participants at the GHANAP II launch and panel discussions*

Women, Peace and Security – African Union Commission. Ms. Silke Hollander, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP. Ms. Sara Nicholas, Acting High Commissioner, High Commission of Canada to Ghana and Mrs. Dorothee Dinkelaker, Head of Development Cooperation of the German Embassy.

**4.2.3. WANEPA-Burkina Faso** organized an Intergenerational Dialogue on Women’s Rights aimed at enhancing knowledge and understanding of women, men, young adolescent girls and boys on the various conventions as well as challenges and prospects in the implementation of other legal and normative instruments including the SDG 5.

**4.2.4. WANEPA-Mali** supported the creation of income generating activities as a means of preventing violent extremism in the Mopti region, held two debates and two female football matches in the districts of Bamako, Koulikoro and Ségou attended by over a 100 people.

**4.2.5. WANEPA-Guinea** marked the day with a dialogue for 30 women drawn from its member organizations and other women’s CSOs. The dialogue came up with concrete proposals to support the cessation of the crisis in Guinea. Much of the communication and advocacy focused on peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

**4.2.6. WANEPA-Nigeria** via the Women Voices for Peace radio program and voxpop centred on the IWD 2020 theme, raised awareness on the importance of IWD, women’s rights and gender equality. The network also partnered with the Development Initiative for Community Impact



*Participants at the Peace Rally in Ossiassa community*

(DICI) and the Ideal Women Advancement Initiative to sensitize community women in Warri Delta State of Nigeria on the importance of advocating for gender equality and equal rights in marriage, education, employment, politics and other social activities that shape the society. The IWD events were rounded up with a peace rally by the WIPNET member organization – United Women Peacebuilders Network.

**4.2.7. WANEPA-Senegal** in collaboration with the Gender Unit of the National Police

Directorate celebrated International Women's Day 2020 with a consultative meeting. The meeting brought together 50 women, majority of whom were policewomen and others representing the gendarmerie, the penitentiary services, the water and forest services as well as CSOs. The specific aim of the meeting was to evaluate international instruments on the participation of women in peace processes.

**4.2.7. WANEP-Togo** participated in a panel discussion organized by YMCA-Togo, a member organization of WANEP-Togo, under the sub-theme "The fight for women's rights, sources of



*Panel discussion by members of the YMCA*

of conflict: how to deal with it." A major outcome of the meeting was the development of a comprehensive action plan for the effective implementation of identified activities. The Network was the CSO partner in the preparations for the International Women's Rights Day, 2020 edition, organized by the Ministry of Social

Action for the Promotion of Women and Literacy.

### **4.3. Support to the Development and Implementation of the UNSCR 1325**

**4.3.2. Advocacy on the monitoring and promotion of UNSCR 1325:** As a result of consistent advocacy and lobbying by WANEP-Burkina Faso, the NAPs for UNSCR 1325, 1820 and 2242 have been validated by the Council of Ministers. The NNS has continued its advocacy on the monitoring and promotion of the implementation of the Resolutions through women-focused programmes on radio as well as the production and use of IEC materials including T-shirts and banners.

**4.3.3. WANEP-Nigeria**, as part of efforts to promote UNSCR 1325 conducted a radio Program titled "Women Voices for Peace" projecting the relevance of the UNSCR 1325 in Nigeria. The program is ongoing in seven radio stations in seven States across Nigeria viz; Bauchi, Bornu, Delta, Edo, Gombe, Lagos and Rivers States. Over 200 people have participated in the live radio programmes through call-ins and text messages. WANEP-Nigeria also organized a two-day Strategic Planning Meeting to enhance women's participation in Peace and Human Security in the Niger Delta. Capacities of critical Stakeholders in Edo, Delta and Rivers States were strengthened on



*Director Women Affairs Delta State reading her opening speech*

understanding the UNSCR 1325 and Nigerian NAP on 1325. One of the major outcomes of this intervention was the development of a roadmap for the sustainability of Women Group structures at the local and state levels. Another one-day Zonal Consultative Meeting on Women and Countering Violent Extremism in the North East was held to build the capacities of critical stakeholders in Gombe, Bauchi and Borno States on women, peace and security and the

implementation of Nigeria's National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 in the North East. Strategies were enumerated for collaborative efforts to enhance women's participation in peace processes in the North East.

#### **4.4. Strengthening Women's Capacity for Effective Intervention**

**4.4.1. WANEP-Burkina Faso** in partnership with DIAKONIA has commenced a process for the establishment of an Early Warning and Rapid Response system and capacity building for young people and women in the conduct of peaceful elections in Burkina Faso in 2020. These actions have increased WANEP- Burkina Faso's visibility as a reference for women and peace issues, with its expertise solicited by State institutions and local media.

**4.4.2. WANEP-Mali** facilitated the training of Women on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms with women's associations in Koulikoro via its WIPNET Program. Following the training, a pool of female experts in Governance and Security Sector Reform (SSR) was created. The pool comprises nine women recruited from several localities in the region (Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro, Ségou, Mopti, Gao et Timbouctou) including members of WIPNET Mali. The newly created pool was trained on gender concepts as well as Governance and Security Sector Reform (SSR) with all WIPNET members of WANEP Mali, Niger and Burkina in order to equip them with the requisite knowledge and skills to contribute effectively to policy and advocacy in the aforementioned areas. In addition, capacities of 30 women were strengthened in the management, prevention, and transformation of conflicts in order to involve women in local security mechanisms and deepen understanding of their role in maintaining peace and security in Mali.

**4.5. Support to the eradication of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV):** WANEP-Burkina Faso has formalized its partnership with the Provincial Directorate of social action on the monitoring of the "*Centre d'écoute*" in Pabré to support and counsel girls who are victims of violence.

**4.5.1 WANEP-Sierra Leone:** As part of efforts to reduce stigmatisation and increase awareness of reporting structures for SGBV, WANEP-Sierra Leone and its partners carried out advocacy and training for selected communities in the country. Consequently, there has been a significant increase in the number of reported cases on SGBV thus providing an opportunity for redress for victims and survivors.

## **5.0. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **5.1. Sustaining Institutional and Financial Sustainability**

In February 2020, WANEP organized its biennial Participatory Review and Analysis Processes (PRAPs) with the overarching expected outcome of strengthened institutional systems and frameworks for effective and efficient operations in support of continental, regional and national peace and security architectures. The meeting which brought together WANEP National Network Coordinators, Liaison Officers, Regional Coordinators, Regional Analysts and other Regional Staff

provided the platform for deliberating and taking decisions on WANEP's strategic priorities in the new Strategic Plan (2021-2025). At the end of the two-day working session, a draft Theory of Change, proposed strategic direction and the consolidation of the strategic focus were developed.

**5.1.1. Regional Office:** At the Regional Office, Regional Researcher commenced his three-month fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson Centre in Washington DC. This is part of efforts to strengthen WANEP's research outputs through its membership of the Southern Voices Peacebuilding Network (SVNP).

**5.1.2. WANEP- Benin** coordination staff as well as member organisations have had their capacities built in the areas of Interparty dialogue; fundamental principles of public procurement in Benin; Prevalence and typology of sexual and gender-based violence; and Planning and scheduling methods: "PERT, MPM and GANTT <sup>16</sup>methods". The NNS also ensured regular communication and coordination of activities with its member organisations.

**5.1.3. WANEP-Ghana** supported its network members particularly the Focal points in Upper East, Upper West, Northern, and Bono regions in mobilizing participants and logistics for implementing activities.

**5.1.4. WANEP-Guinea's** institutional and organizational capacities were assessed through a CRS monitoring visit and a monitoring report with recommendations produced.

**5.1.5. WANEP-Guinea Bissau** has reactivated its Peace Education program and has engaged two young activists to coordinate and manage the program. Five additional interns have also been engaged to support. The NNS between January and February organized two meetings with community monitors to enhance communication and coordination of activities. The March meeting did not hold due to the outbreak of the Corona virus.

## **5.2. Internship Program**

As part of WANEP's Policy to support the mentoring and development of young academics and prospective peacebuilding practitioners, WANEP-CI engaged interns and a volunteer to support program coordination and implementation.

## **5.3. 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

<sup>16</sup> These constitute project scheduling, implementation and evaluation methods that may be adopted for varied project life cycles.

peacebuilding platforms, presented papers, facilitated meetings as well as participated actively in numerous fora.

**5.3.1. Southern Voices Peacebuilding Network (SVNP) Regional Conference:** *WANEP's expertise is regularly sought after for deployment in peace, development and other areas of focus. In*



**Participants at the Southern Voice Peacebuilding Network Regional Conference in Accra -Ghana**

*February 2020, WANEP coordinated a 2-day Regional Conference on "Progress and Retrogression on Electoral Processes and Transitions in West Africa: Peace and Security Concerns and Consequences" in partnership with the Southern Voices Peacebuilding Network.*

**5.3.2. ECOWAS Training on Human Rights Protection and Reporting:** *In the period under review, WANEP*

*participated in the ECOWAS Training on Human Rights Protection and Reporting which was organized at the KAIPTC for the Network of National Human Rights Institutions and CSO Human Rights Monitors.*

**5.3.3. Project Launch Workshop on Citizen and Defence and Security Forces Collaboration :**

Within the context of the collaboration / partnership and the implementation of Project activities on "Improving collaboration between the Defence and Security Forces and communities in the Liptako Gourma region", WANEP-Niger partook in the official project launch workshop from 18 to 22 February 2020 in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso.

**5.3.4. Advocacy Visit to the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA):**

WANEP-Nigeria renewed its partnership with SEMA) On Disaster Risk Reduction in Lagos State. The advocacy visit brought to the fore the need for the two institutions (WANEP and SEMA) to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the operationalization of Emergency Response in Lagos State. The Renewed partnership with the Lagos



**Advocacy Visit by WANEP to the Director-General of SEMA, Dr. Femi Oke-Osanyintolu on Humanitarian Emergency Response**

State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) focuses on Humanitarian Emergency Response.

**WANEP- Gambia** has signed three contracts for the implementation of scheduled activities with UNDP, UNFPA and UNDP/FAO.

**5.4. Collaborations and Effective Networking:**

**5.4.1. WANEP JFA Partners' Visit:** WANEP's core funders represented by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Austrian Development Agency (ADA) visited the WANEP Regional Office to discuss previous engagements/ interventions, sustainability and ways of improving the partnership.



**Group photo: Representatives of SIDA and ADA with Staff of WANEP during the visit**

**5.4.2. ECOWAS Vice President Visits:** H. E. Finda Koroma, Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission, paid a working visit to the WANEP Regional office to discuss key areas of collaboration, as part of WANEP' MOU with ECOWAS.



**H.E. Finda Koroma, Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze, Executive Director of WANEP with some staff of ECOWAS and WANEP during the visit**

**5.4.3. Burkina Faso Delegation Visits WANEP:** The Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Social Cohesion of Burkina Faso visited the WANEP Regional Office to learn from WANEP's experience of facilitating and supporting the establishment of Infrastructures for Peace (I4P) in West Africa.

**5.4.4. The NATO Southern Hub visit WANEP-Senegal:** The NATO Southern Hub visited the WANEP-Senegal office in Dakar to discuss opportunities to participate in their thematic exchange platforms. The main idea is to plug WANEP-Senegal into their platform for publications; Participation in international seminars at their invitation; Possibility of linking up with potential donors.

## **6.0. CONCLUSION**

In the period under review, WANEP made significant strides in the various program areas. 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 response pre, during and post elections. It is however worthy of note that in spite of the outbreak of the novel Corona Virus (COVID-19), very few activities were affected.