

WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING WANEP

Building Relationships for Peace



Annual Report 2006



Annual Report 2006

Building Relationships for Peace

Produced by **WANEP**

© WANEP 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About WANEP	2
Management Report	3
West Africa in 2006	4
Programs of WANEP	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI); • The West Africa Early Warning and Response Network (WARN) • The Capacity Building Program (CBP); • Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET); • Youth and Peace Education Program (YPE) • The Justice Lens Program (JLP) • The Civil Society Policy and Advocacy Program (CSPA) • The Research and Monitoring & Evaluation Program (RM&E). 	
Highlights of key activities of WANEP National Network	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WANEP-Benin • WANEP-Burkina Faso • WANEP-Cote d'Ivoire • WANEP-The Gambia • WANEP-Guinea-Bissau • WANEP-Guinea • WANEP-Ghana • WANEP-Liberia • WANEP-Nigeria • WANEP-Senegal • WANEP-Sierra Leone • WANEP-Togo 	
Special presentation on our partnership with ECOWAS in the implementation of the ECOWARN	11
Outputs during 2006	12
Major events in 2006	12
Strategic issues for 2006 - 2009	14
WANEP staff details	14
WANEP contact details	15

Editorial Advisors

Emmanuel Bombande
 Oury Traore
 Esther Gordon-Mensah
 Alimou Diallo
 Francis Acquah (French)
 Kwesi Enchill (Design)



Contact Details

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
 3rd Floor, Ampomah House
 Olusegun Obasanjo Way, Accra
 P. O. CT4434, Accra, Ghana.
 Tel: +233-21-221318/221388/256439/258299
 Fax: +233-21-221735
 Email: wanep@wanep.org Website: www.wanep.org

ABOUT WANEP

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) is a not-for-profit organisation working in collaborative peacebuilding. WANEP was founded in 1998 as a response to the civil wars that plagued West Africa in the late 1980s. WANEP has National Networks in twelve of the fifteen countries in West Africa and will soon expand to Cape Verde, Mali and Niger. Its Regional Secretariat is located in Accra, Ghana. Currently, WANEP network membership is over 450 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) spread across its 12 national networks throughout West Africa.



VISION

“A West Africa region characterized by just and peaceful communities where the dignity of the human person is paramount and where the people can meet their basic human needs and decide their own direction.”

MISSION

“To enable and facilitate the development of mechanisms for cooperation among civil society-based peacebuilding practitioners and organizations in West Africa by promoting cooperative responses to violent conflicts; providing the structure through which these practitioners and institutions will regularly exchange experience and information on issues of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, social, religious and political reconciliation; and promoting West Africa's social cultural values as resources for peacebuilding.”

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen the capacity of peacebuilding organizations and practitioners in West Africa to engage actively in the transformation of violent conflicts through the use of non-violent strategies
- Develop a conflict prevention mechanism in West Africa to monitor, analyze and respond to conflicts
- Engender peacebuilding policy and practices in West Africa
- Promote a culture of non-violence and social responsibility among young people in West Africa
- Strengthen the conceptual base of WANEP programs through research, documentation and Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Enhance policy formulation and influence on peace and human security through regional and international linkages and advocacy.

The year 2006 is recorded within WANEP as a defining period in redefining its operational structure and corporate image as well as in the protection of its intellectual property. Following the approval of WANEP's restructuring plan by the Annual General Meeting of 2006, the Regional Secretariat was restructured to increase its viability and competitiveness and to guarantee its sustainability as an institution. Towards this end, the Regional Secretariat was down-sized to maintain a small number of professionals who will provide technical expertise and support to the National Networks towards improving the effective and efficient coordination of WANEP's activities. At the national level, Institutional Development Framework workshops were organised as the first step to strengthen the organizational capacities of WANEP National Networks. On the other hand, the organization was tested when some staff clandestinely registered its women's program, the *Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET)* as a separate organization in violation of its intellectual property rights.



During the year under review, the partnership between WANEP and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) grew stronger with the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on 29th June 2006. The main thrust of the MOU is to institutionalize the culture of conflict prevention across the sub-region. Under phase II of the Capacity-Building in Conflict Prevention and Good Governance *"Enhanced Conflict Prevention Framework for ECOWAS and Civil Society Organizations in West Africa"*, WANEP has systematically strengthened the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in conflict prevention and completed the preparatory phase for the launch and Operationalisation of the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN), an on-line database designed to capture information that will provide early warning to nascent conflicts before they become full-blown. In addition, partnership with the United Nations (UN) was enhanced when the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its Substantive Session of July 2006 granted Special Consultative Status to WANEP. Besides designating special representatives to the United Nations (UN) Offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna, WANEP together with its national networks will engage regularly with the UN at country and regional levels to implement effectively the provisions of this consultative relationship.

In search of durable peace in West Africa and beyond, WANEP continues to build strong partnerships with international partners. WANEP is the West Africa Regional initiator for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC) and the host of the Africa desk of the Women's Peacemakers Program (WPP) of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR). The complimentary role of this desk with the WIPNET program of WANEP will deepen the engagement of women in peacebuilding not only in West Africa, but Africa as a whole. WANEP has also signed a MOU with the Nairobi Peace InitiativeAfrica (NPI-Africa) to conduct a joint research project on Transitional Justice experiences in Africa.

The increasing role and impacts of civil society in West Africa in peacebuilding presents the new hope that the transformation of conflicts in the region, the rebuilding of broken communities through healing and reconciliation and the creation of an enabling environment for the promotion of human security and development are within our reach. As the leading civil society network in peacebuilding, WANEP profoundly continues to appreciate the funding and institutional support of its partners. Without such critical support, WANEP's valuable contribution will not be possible. This report highlights the work of WANEP across West Africa. It is the contribution of ordinary men and women who find the courage and the voice everyday to stand up for justice and peace in West Africa.

We mention with gratitude the support of CORDAID who over the years provided core funding support and in 2006 approved WANEP's Strategic Plan (2006-2009). The Ghana Research and Advocacy Program (G-RAP) have contributed to institutional support which enhances our growth and sustainability. We thank sincerely our partners the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the West Africa Mission of USAID for the support to enhance civil society capacity in peacebuilding through the *"Enhanced Conflict Prevention Framework for ECOWAS and Civil Society Organizations in West Africa"*. We are equally grateful to Oxfam Great Britain and Oxfam America, UNDP-Ghana, Urgent Action Fund, Ploughshares, IFOR, Bread for the World and the Community House Church for their generous support in 2006.

Emmanuel Habuka Bombande
Executive Director
For the Management Team

West Africa has been the hotbed of civil wars and violent conflicts for decades. These conflicts have resulted not only in millions of deaths, refugees and internally displaced persons but also exacerbated poverty and impeded economic development. An assessment of peace and stability in West Africa during the past year point towards an enormous improvement notwithstanding stagnation in Côte d'Ivoire, deterioration of human security in Guinea and political violence in Nigeria. In April 2006, **Benin** demonstrated a maturing democratic culture with another peaceful transition when President Yayi Boni took power. **Burkina Faso** continued to wither the storm in the absence of any formidable opposition. Amid mass deprivation, political and economic stability appear to be sustained. **Cape Verde** remains a shining example of the commitment to democracy and development, depending largely on outside support but remaining less visible in ECOWAS. **Côte d'Ivoire** has been described as a country stuck between war and peace. There was no significant progress made in 2006 to reunite the polarised country into two halves between the New Forces and the Government. Besides the hosting of the African Union Summit and an alleged foiled coup attempt, the main highlight in **The Gambia** was the Presidential elections of September in which the divided opposition could not stand President Yahya Jammeh.

In **Ghana**, the vibrant democratic competition has often been praised internationally though the danger of polarisation threatens national cohesion. The Paramount King of Dagbon, Ya Na Yakubu Andani II brutally killed in March 2002 was finally laid to rest in 2006 but there is no viable solution to the impasse in the traditional arena. In **Guinea-Bissau**, political calm returned in 2006 but with challenges and concerns regarding the sustainability of the peace. President Joao Bernardo Vieira has attempted, with mixed results to lead the effort of post-conflict reconstruction. In terms of peace and stability, **Guinea** remains the most uncertain country in West Africa. President Lansana Conte is in the twilight days of his presidency due to his failing health and an unclear political transition, which are leading to complete dissatisfaction among the populace. **Liberia** closed the chapter of its decade and an half long civil war with the election of Africa's first woman President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. A massive reconstruction effort is underway with renewed confidence of rebuilding Liberia.

Mali is gliding quietly in peace with President Amadou Toumani

Toure's strategy of building coalitions across all sectors of the society. Sustaining peace in the Tuareg north is critical while it is expected that the President will win a second term in April 2007. In **Niger**, the Government of President Mamadou Tandja is relatively untroubled. Civil Society groups and the Trade Unions are critical of governance issues. Relationships with the media deteriorated in the past year. The major challenges for Niger are the pervasive deprivation and improving of food security. Unrest in the oil-producing Niger Delta region of **Nigeria** coupled with political assassinations leading up to National elections in April 2007 describes the peace and human security assessment for 2006. While the political front is shrouded in doubt and mistrust, it is imperative that a peaceful transition takes place in 2007 since any setback to peace in Nigeria will impact negatively on the entire sub-region. **Senegal** experienced a series of political crises in 2006, notably the rift with and subsequent detention of the former Prime Minister, Idrissa Seck. Despite recent progress, the Casamance crisis lingers on and sustainable peace seems uncertain. **Sierra Leone** is still struggling to overcome the effects of its ten years of brutal civil war. While recovery in food production is improving the economy, the country is held back by chronic poverty, a decline in educational standards and the persistence of corruption at all levels. **Togo** experienced positive signs in building peace following the violence of 2005 with the signing of 'global political accord'. The Government of national unity is building bridges and preparing for legislative elections in June 2007.



Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf waves to the audience at her inauguration in Monrovia, Liberia.

There are major challenges WANEP identified as hurdle to effective mechanism for regional conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding namely: the lack of sustained coordination and collaboration among the various actors; weak integration of local perspectives; weak capacity of CSOs, governments, communities and institutions; the gap between early warning and early response; the absence of effective communication tools to decentralize conflict prevention; the lack of resources and commitment for crisis management; weak skills of peacebuilding organizations to name a few. Nonetheless, WANEP has begun addressing some of these issues through its diverse programs and collaborative strategies.

The West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI)

WAPI was founded to enhance the skills and capacity of peacebuilding organizations and practitioners in West Africa to engage actively in the transformation of violent conflicts through the use of non-violent



Opening Ceremony of WAPI 2006 at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC)

strategies. Every September, WAPI hosts participants mainly from West Africa and across the world for a three-week intensive course on wide ranging topics in the area of peacebuilding at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC) in Accra. From September 04 to 22, 2006, WAPI hosted 38 participants including 21 women. The opening session of the training was graced with the presence of Honourable Albert Kan Dappah, the Minister of the Interior of Ghana, who was the keynote Speaker. The following thematic issues were covered: Peacebuilding Paradigms, Justice-Building and Conflict Resolution, Youth and Peace Education, Conflict, Population Movement and Development, Early Warning and Early Response, and Women in Peacebuilding. At the end of the training session, participants were granted certificates.

The West Africa Early Warning and Response Network (WARN)

WARN was developed to institutionalize a culture of conflict prevention in West Africa through an appropriate and effective early warning and early response mechanism; to strengthen collaboration between ECOWAS and CSOs on Conflict Prevention; to develop a national and regional communication infrastructure and network capacity; and to engender early warning and early response mechanism. In 2006, as the implementing partner of the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN), the WARN program of WANEP reached a milestone with the successful completion of the trial phase of the ECOWARN, an on-line database for conflict monitoring across the sub-region. Monitors from member organizations were identified and trained to carry out the trial phase under the overall supervision of the Zonal Coordinators (ZCs) and the Peace Monitoring Center (PMC)

of WANEP. During the trial phase, particular emphasis was placed on the recruitment of female monitors in order to mainstream gender perspective into early warning and early response. Accordingly, a female monitor from each ECOWAS Member States was identified and trained in early warning. It is worth reporting that the on-line database is set to be officially launched in the first quarter of 2007 as part of the broader mechanism to institutionalize a culture of conflict prevention in West Africa.

The Capacity Building Program (CBP)

The aim of CBP is to enhance consistently the institutional capacity of WANEP national networks and peacebuilding CSOs throughout West Africa to operate in a professional, effective and sustainable way. Under the CBP in 2006, WANEP Secretariat provided institutional support to its various networks and enhances their capacity through various training. Our 12 national networks received technical support from the Management System International (MSI) based in Washington on Institutional Development Framework (IDF) to evaluate current institutional framework and propose measures for a robust and viable structure. Furthermore, national networks replicated training on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for peacebuilding programs for their network membership. Regarding its personnel, the vacant positions of National Network Coordinators at the national secretariats in Guinea and Senegal were filled. However, the position for a Zonal Coordinator for Zone III in Monrovia is still vacant because WANEP is seeking a highly qualified bilingual candidate to fill the position.

Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET)

The WIPNET program was specifically designed to engender peacebuilding policy and practice in West Africa; enhance the participation of women in all WANEP's activities; strengthen the capacity of women to participate in peacebuilding at all levels; provide a forum for grassroots' participation; and mainstream gender into national and regional peacebuilding mechanisms. During the year under review, the WIPNET program experienced some challenges when some associates and former staff made a move to usurp the name of the program by registering it as a separate organization under the name "WIPNET-Africa". This infringement on the intellectual property of WANEP brought about some amount of confusion among our donors and strategic partners. Nevertheless, it is pleasing to report that the appropriate legal measures were taken and steps are under way to

Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET) cont...

To redress the violation. In spite of this challenge, the WIPNET program carried-out its activities as planned at various national levels. Consultations were held in the Mano River Union countries to expand the Voices of Women Radio program from Liberia to Guinea and Sierra Leone. This program already existed in the Gaabu Region and integrates the voices of rural women into peacebuilding initiatives at the local, national and regional levels.

Youth and Peace Education Program (YPE)

YPE was launched to develop a regional framework for co-existence and the promotion of a culture of peace, non-violence and social responsibility among the youth in the sub-region. During 2006, WANEP focussed on seeking partnerships with various organizations to effectively engage the youth. In the previous years, tremendous achievements were made in this program: A curriculum on peace education was developed and implemented in several West African countries and an Annual Peace Poem Competition was organized to engage the youth in peacebuilding initiatives.



CSO consultation in Togo with all the major political actors including traditional rulers

The Justice Lens Program (JLP)

JLP builds a synergy between peacebuilding and human rights organizations to promote a culture of peace, justice and reconciliation in West Africa. Under the JLP, WANEP took part in the NGO forum preceding the ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul, The Gambia. WANEP also attended the 36th Session of the African Commission in Banjul. At the end of 2006, WANEP was planning a major consultation between peacebuilding organizations, the media, the African Commission of Peoples and Human Rights and ECOWAS to explore the relationship between human rights violations and conflict; the roles of the media in peacebuilding and the collaboration between the various stakeholders to enhance conflict prevention in West Africa.

The Civil Society Policy and Advocacy Program (CSPA)

The CSPA program seeks to mobilize and galvanize Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to work in collaboration with policy-makers

in the sub-region for the prevention of violent conflict. CSPA provides the forum where emerging policy issues are debated to generate fresh perspectives and insights that will provide an advocacy mechanism for civil society's engagement with policy-makers in linking policy to practice. WANEP implements this program through the space provided by its valued partnership with the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC). Under its CSPA, WANEP held national consultations in 9 countries to develop national agenda for the GPPAC process; WANEP also attended meetings and training workshops of the West Africa Civil Society Forum (WACOSF) in its efforts to mainstream peacebuilding and human security mechanism into the programming and activities of CSOs in the sub-region. In September 2006, WANEP organized a symposium on Ghana's Presidency to the Security Council and its ramifications on peace and stability in West Africa.

The Research and Monitoring & Evaluation Program (RM&E)

The aim of the program is to strengthen the conceptual base and increase the intellectual capital of WANEP through research, documentation and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). WANEP produces in every quarter, policy brief on a given country in the sub-region. In 2006, policy briefs were produced on Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria and Togo. The policy brief seeks to provide documented and analytic perspective into issues impacting on peace and security of the sub-region. As part of its internal M&E mechanism, national networks are required to produce quarterly report on activities implemented, challenges, progress of indicators and lessons learned. Besides the national quarterly report, periodic field trips to assess the outputs of national networks are carried-out. In 2006, all 12 national networks of WANEP were visited and assessed.



Mass Action of Women in Liberia

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACTIVITIES OF WANEP NATIONAL NETWORKS

The activities carried-out by national networks during the year under review are compiled in voluminous reports. Comprehensive report of each national network is available on request. Below is an attempt to present highlights of key activities undertaken by the national networks.

WANEP-Benin

In August 2006, WANEP-Benin embarked on a series of training to build the capacity of various civil society groups. During the training, WANEP-Benin worked in collaboration with Catholic priests to address the conflict around family law in Benin. This training was decentralized in the north and south of Benin and used as a preventive tool to mitigate future conflict given that the family law is becoming a source of conflict in many West African countries because religious and traditional leaders are using it to undermine women's rights.

WANEP-Burkina Faso

Throughout 2006, WANEP Burkina worked incessantly to redefine itself. The network developed a comprehensive and integrated strategic plan for short and long term peacebuilding initiatives aimed at rejuvenating its civil society member organizations. Collaboration was central to avoid duplication and promote the notion of complementing each other's effort-as a result, WANEP Burkina and PASPA co-facilitated trainings in Niger where the network provided tools and led video projections on conflict transformation/reconciliation.

At national level, WANEP Burkina developed leaflets on peacebuilding and conflict prevention which was tested. Final copies will be printed and disseminated early next year. By dint of the leaflets, WANEP Burkina aims at expanding its activities to wider regions of the country.

WANEP-Cote d'Ivoire

In March 2006, WANEP-Côte d'Ivoire, adopting the strategy of the Liberian Women Mass Action in 2003, launched a mass action for peace for Women in Cote d'Ivoire. The mass action aimed at highlighting the place and contributions of women in the peacebuilding process in Côte d'Ivoire. Shortly afterwards, a national consultation was held in Abidjan to mobilize CSOs around a national platform with a common agenda for conflict prevention in the country. This consultation, which was conducted within the

framework of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) with WANEP as the Regional Initiator, gathered CSOs throughout Côte d'Ivoire, OCHA, traditional leaders, political parties, government representatives and other relevant stakeholders. A national action plan for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in the country through the engagement of decision-makers and influencing policies was developed.

WANEP-CI, through its WIPNET program, conducted a sensitization program entitled the audience of women without violence to disseminate peace and non-violence messages on 3 radio stations, the national television, and in newspapers. Furthermore, WANEP-CI developed a commercial on the importance of non-violent, free and fair election in good governance. The commercial is often broadcast on the national television and it is meant to spur the country and the international community to work conscientiously towards an election that will help resolve the current stalemate the country is experiencing.

WANEP-The Gambia

During the September 22 Presidential elections, WANEP-The Gambia created the first-ever civil society coalition to undertake

domestic election observation. Through support from the US Embassy in The Gambia, the WANEP National Secretariat set up a CSO coalition to observe and monitor elections. 50 local observers were initially trained and deployed to observe the recently concluded presidential



Election Observation and Training on Voter Education in Gambia

elections. It was a record number of national observers to participate in any election held in The Gambia since Independence. WANEP-The Gambia had recently concluded a training of 80 additional national observers in readiness for the Parliamentary elections slated for January. The deployment of over 120 national election observers surpassed the previous record of deployment at the Presidential elections.

Prior to the creation of a CSO coalition to participate in the democratic process of the country, the WANEP-Gambia

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACTIVITIES OF WANEP NATIONAL NETWORKS

a national consultation for the prevention of conflict through the GPPAC process from 30-31st May, 2006. 35 people representing various organizations participated in the consultation. One of the outcomes of the consultation was CSO participation in the elections as a strategy to preserve peace in The Gambia.

Besides its advocacy in the area of democracy and good governance, WANEP-The Gambia conducted massive awareness-raising campaign against the proliferation and misuse of small arms through the community radio station in Basse, The Gambia. The program was aired bi-weekly for the communities of Upper River Region and neighboring villages of Senegal.

WANEP-Guinea-Bissau

The Million Faces Campaign against Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation was effectively implemented in two of the WANEP networks The Gambia and Guinea Bissau.

Having made successful mass campaigns against the proliferation of light weapons, WANEP-GB along with ALTERNAG, another CSO, were integrated into the National Commission (composed of 10 ministries) for the fight against light weapons. The office of WANEP-GB has become a focal point and resource center for information related to the proliferation of light weapons. Through its media program, WANEP-GB brought the National Security Forces and the Minister of Interior to participate in an informative discussion on radio as a strategy to promote the visibility of the peacebuilding activities and reconciliation through dialogue.

WANEP-GB provided institutional support to 15 micro projects for member organizations of the network, partners and state institutions working in peacebuilding.

WANEP-Guinea

WANEP-Guinea was inactive for the first two quarters. The national network coordinator was recruited in August 2006 to engage WANEP-Guinea to carry-out peacebuilding activities in Guinea. In light of the tense political issues prevailing in Guinea, WANEP-Guinea initiated a weekly meeting with women and youth to discuss current issues related to peace, security, human rights and development and identified appropriate strategies for response through dialogue. The youth meetings were organized every Wednesday, and the women every Saturday considering

that most of the women were civil servants. In a bid to reach the population as a whole, the national secretariat published a peace message that was developed during the meetings through the print media, recommending the use of dialogue to settle disputes in all sectors and at all levels across the country.

WANEP-Ghana

In June 2006, a National Network Coordinator (NNC) was recruited to continue the good work of Late Felix Sabie Naah who suddenly passed away in January 2006.

The newly recruited NNC coordinated a training of trainers on community peace-building and conflict transformation which was held for 20 network members from across the three northern regions of Ghana.

The Regional Secretariat in collaboration with WANEP-Ghana provided support in mediation in two conflicts in Nkonya - Alvanyor in the Volta Region and Kpandai in the Northern Region.



Participants of Peacebuilding Training for Regional Security and Peace Councils at WA

Shuttle diplomacy and mediations were facilitated between the two communities. The Nkonya and Alvanyor communities led by their Paramount Chiefs and Queen mothers took the first bold steps to reach a peace agreement and celebrate their reconciliation through traditional rituals and healing ceremonies. The focus of the peace process is now centered on the land that was contested.

WANEP-Ghana conducted training and supported the design of an action plan for education and surveillance in all the Zongo communities in the Kumasi Metropolis. As a result, various feuding factions agreed to work for peace, adopt non-violence approaches and chart a reconciliation path for the Zongo communities in Kumasi within the next six months.

WANEP-Ghana identified and trained about 30 influential women to deliver peace messages aimed at enhancing the reconciliation

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACTIVITIES OF WANEP NATIONAL NETWORKS

process in Tamale, in Northern Ghana. These messages are being aired regularly on the Fiila FM radio station in Tamale.

Through a UNDP-supported peace program to develop architecture for peace in Ghana and in partnership with civil society and the Ministry of Interior, the National Secretariat of WANEP-Ghana trained members of the regional security and peace councils. WANEP-Ghana together with the WANEP Regional Secretariat conducted training for the Brong Ahafo Regional Security and Peace Councils as the third in the series, following two earlier trainings last quarter for the Upper West and Eastern Regions.

WANEP-Liberia

In partnership with the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, WANEP-Regional and WANEP-Liberia organized an important initiative that brought together almost all senior government officials, heads of former warring groups, the religious community, women groups, various youth associations, CSOs and the main opposition party in a workshop on National Reconciliation and Collaboration. The President of Liberia presided at the opening ceremony of the workshop.

WANEP-Liberia, through financial and material support from UNICEF, has been involved with the implementation of the Community Education Investment Program (CEIP) in three counties. The program is intended to identify Children Associated with Fighting Forces (Ex-CAFFs), enroll them in schools, and carry out activities that will keep them integrated. A total of 527 Ex-CAFFs were identified and enrolled in public as well as private schools. Out of this number, 300 have been identified and enrolled in Grand Gedeh, 56 in Sinoe, and 171 in Lofa Counties. Considering the orientation of these children during and after the years of war, which places some of them in bread winner positions, they are prepared to do anything to survive. WANEP has already deployed 22 border monitors; 12 monitors at the Vahun-Sierra Leonean border (Lofa County) and Zwedru Côte d'Ivoire border (Grand Gedeh County).

In a bid to develop a national peace, security and development policy agenda, WANEP-Liberia, through its WIPNET program, organized and facilitated three days national conference in Monrovia for 75 representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), media institutions, and government ministries. Her

Excellency, the President of the Republic of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, in the company of senior dignitaries attended the event. The conference was climaxed by a Peace March and a Peace Torch was lit and handed over to the Ivorian women to encourage them to play an active role in the Ivorian crises.



President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, at the Opening of the workshop on National Reconciliation and Collaboration

Its WIPNET program, under the sponsorship of UNIFEM, UNDP, and OXFAM GB also carried-out community sensitization for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), civic and voter's education, and the Voices of Women Radio program.

- 9 peace huts were constructed in 9 rural communities; 4 additional huts are under construction
- 20 women from 10 communities participated in voter and civic education project evaluation
- 80 women trained to carry-out a rural women peace initiative in communities of Central Liberia
- 100 community members were trained on gender-sensitive approaches as civic educators in 19 communities in 9 counties
- 25 communities sensitized on the TRC in Montserrado and Margibi Counties
- 40 community animators trained

The WANEP-Liberia Chapter further launched a community-based Conflict Reduction Project in partnership with Oxfam GB to prevent and/or mitigate communal violence in four communities in Bong County. The following outputs were recorded after the implementation of the activity:

- Factors responsible for communal conflicts and human rights abuse were identified in 4 communities in Bong County
- 6 trainers and 6 peace animators were trained; an evaluation demonstrated increased knowledge at the end of training
- 60 members of peace committees in 4 communities (15 in each community) were trained in conflict reduction (prevention and management)

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACTIVITIES OF WANEP NATIONAL NETWORKS

WANEP-Nigeria

WANEP-Nigeria organizes itself around the six geo-political zones. The Secretariat publishes a quarterly newsletter titled, "Emergency Response" to serve as a channel for effective information dissemination, sensitization on humanitarian emergencies and comparative experience sharing between the networks, CSOs, public and private institutions on disaster management in Nigeria.

Among its numerous activities implemented, WANEP-Nigeria organized a meeting to enhance its capacity for intervention in humanitarian emergencies. The meeting was facilitated by resource persons from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Nigeria Red Cross. At the end of the training, the Network Secretariat developed a draft Code of Conduct, Security Guidelines, Contingency Plan and Trainer's Manual.

In addition, WANEP-Nigeria carried-out an assessment of the involvement of community women in early warning and other peacebuilding processes in the Niger Delta as a strategy to involve women in search of non-violent means and approaches to resolving the Niger Delta conflict.

On an on-going basis, WANEP-Nigeria operates an election barometer for the Nigeria 2007 Presidential elections on the website. The barometer is a set of indicators developed to monitor the electoral process in all of the six geo-political zones. The information is generated at the community level by trained conflict monitors. (For more details, see the WANEP Nigeria website (www.wanepnigeria.org).

WANEP-Senegal

WANEP-Senegal has established the Voices of Women Radio Program through the WIPNET program. The Voices of the Women Radio Program in Senegal gave the space to rural women to be heard in their communities through weekly radio emissions at the Zinguichor RTS. In 2006, the radio program addressed critical issues such as the proliferation of small arms and promotion of the application of Resolution 1325 which stresses on engaging "the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building..." WANEP-Senegal staff and members of its network organizations also benefited from a string of capacity building trainings aimed at enhancing the output of its

interventions. Following one of these trainings, an ALLIANCE of peace was created in Casamance both for local peacebuilding and the consolidation of peace in the sub region.

WANEP-Senegal demonstrated willingness in 2006 to exploring viable cross-border projects in the Gaabu region with WANEP-The Gambia and WANEP-Guinea Bissau.

WANEP-Sierra Leone

In February 2006, WANEP-Sierra Leone held a three-day Strategic Visioning Process and a one-day Annual General Meeting in Freetown on the theme: "Consolidating and Sustaining the Structures of NCP-SL/WANEP Sierra-Leone". Member organizations from Freetown and all the regions participated in these events. The AGM provided the opportunity to review the constitution and draft a code of conduct, a financial management strategy and staff policies.

From July 19-20, 2006, WANEP-Sierra Leone in partnership with WANEP-Regional successfully concluded a civil society consultation in Freetown with a focus on the UN Peacebuilding

Commission (PBC) and post-conflict reconstruction in the country. Currently, WANEP-Sierra Leone is very active in the PBC's activities.

WANEP-Togo

WANEP-Togo has been at the forefront of civil activism in the country. In working towards the setting up of a Unity Government to work towards sustainable peace, the Secretariat led an initiative to promote democratic and inclusive national dialogue and established a civil society platform that provided technical support to negotiation initiatives throughout the country.

WANEP Togo co-facilitated a training on Non-violence and Peacebuilding workshop, organized by a Geneva-based



Participants of the National Civil Society Consultation on the UN Peace Commission in Sierra Leone

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACTIVITIES OF WANEP NATIONAL NETWORKS cont...

about 103 youths from across the West African sub-region, on the theme, "Contemporary Challenges of the African Youths: The Case of Togo."

WANEP-Togo further organized a high profile workshop on Media and Conflict Prevention in Lomé in August 2006. Over 30 participants from the print and electronic media (radio/TV) were present at the workshop.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH ECOWAS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOWARN

At the regional level, WANEP has a strong and effective partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). In 2004, WANEP in partnership with the Catholic Relief Services-West Africa Regional Office (CRS-WARO) supported by the United States Agency for International Development-West Africa Regional Program (USAID-WARP), signed a cooperative agreement for Capacity Building in Conflict



WANEP Exec. Dir. and ECOWAS Officials at a partners meeting on ECOWARN System

Prevention and Good Governance for ECOWAS and CSOs in West Africa. In 2002, WANEP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ECOWAS to provide technical support in the Operationalisation of the ECOWAS conflict prevention mechanism. The MOU was

renewed in June 2006.

The aim of the agreement is to increase the effectiveness of ECOWAS' conflict prevention capacity; strengthen the coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to promote peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and good governance; and enhance the relationship between ECOWAS and CSOs in West Africa.

The establishment of a WANEP liaison office within the ECOWAS Secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria, guarantees a sustained consultation and collaboration between WANEP and ECOWAS on a daily basis in the implementation of the ECOWARN, the on-line database managed by ECOWAS and WANEP for the prevention of violent conflicts in West Africa. Furthermore, WANEP through its Liaison

office ensures the interface between ECOWAS and CSOs in West Africa.

Besides, WANEP has further established 4 Zonal Offices in accordance with the ECOWAS geographical categorization to interface with the ECOWAS Zonal bureaux in the sub-region in the implementation of the early warning and early response programme at zonal levels.

The partnership between ECOWAS and WANEP is crucial for the success of an early warning and early response program in West Africa since each partner serves to complement the effort of the other, thereby promoting much needed high level collaboration. WANEP has access to a wider base of community monitors who provide first-hand and crucial information at the community level, whilst ECOWAS has the mandate of the states in the region to intervene at state-level and garner military resources when the need arises as demonstrated in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The on-line database consists of two types of report: Incident and Situation reports. The Incident report is fed into the database at any given time an event of significant proportions happens, while the Situation report is submitted regularly on a weekly basis with the reporter responding to a well-structured questionnaire with 98 indicators which helps to provide a picture of the peace and stability status of each country.



Takwa Suifon WANEPs Liaison Officer (right) with The president of the ECOWAS commission and Others

The reporting mechanism operates at three levels: countries, zones and headquarters. At the country level, incident and situation reports are submitted by WANEP national networks. At the zonal level, the reports posted on the ECOWARN website are reviewed and analyzed at each zone by ECOWAS Zonal Bureau (ZBs) and WANEP zonal coordinators (ZCs). The fifteen member states of ECOWAS are clustered into four zones. Each zone has a Zonal Bureau representing ECOWAS

and Zonal Offices by WANEP to ensure and maintain collaboration between WANEP and ECOWAS at the zonal level. In Abuja, the analysts at the Observation and Monitoring Centre (OMC) of ECOWAS and the Peace Monitoring Centre (PMC) of WANEP analyses the country reports collected from the CSOs and ECOWAS ZBs and develop assessments, alerts and make recommendations for actions and interventions based on the situation. The OMC and PMC, respectively at ECOWAS and WANEP are the peace and stability observatory centers responsible for collating and analyzing early warning reports from all the four zones for onward transmission, in digestible form, to the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS.

OUTPUTS during 2006

- 300 incident reports; 250 situation reports; and 8 policy briefs.
- Trained pool of field monitors from CSOs (15 field monitors; and 12 female monitors).
- Direct cooperation with ECOWAS through WANEP's Liaison Office in the ECOWAS' headquarters in Abuja.
- Functional and operational on-line data base with engendered indicators
- Successful completion of the trial phase of the on-line reporting system (ECOWARN)
- CSOs' systematic inputs into the ECOWAS data collection
- A national and regional communication infrastructure and network capacity for early warning
- Strong collaboration between CSOs in early warning data collection and analysis
- Improved CSOs and ECOWAS' collaboration in monitoring, analysis and reporting
- Integration of gender in early warning through gender-sensitive indicators and training
- Twelve (12) women were trained as field monitors from 12 countries in West Africa.
- Four zonal offices from WANEP to interface with the ECOWAS Zonal bureaus in the sub-region.
- Weekly early warning reports, monthly early warning bulletins, policy briefings at ECOWAS, and situation reports.
- Engagement with government institutions.
- Links between PMC and OMC at ECOWAS
- Decentralized early warning linking grassroots to OMC at ECOWAS through the ECOWARN on-line reporting system

MAJOR EVENTS IN 2006

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

WANEP held its 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January 2006 at the New Coco Beach Hotel in Accra. The theme of the AGM was "Consolidating and Sustaining WANEP Institutional Structures". The goal was to complete the WANEP restructuring



National Network Coordinators (NNCs) @ the 8th AGM show support for the Anti-Small Arms campaign in their Anti-Arms T-shirts

process through the institutionalization of a solid structure that promotes transparency, accountability and good governance across its networks in the sub-region.

WACSOF Annual Forum

In January 2006, WANEP actively participated in the West Africa Civil Society Forum (WACSOF) held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

WANEP-ECCP Working Meeting on GPPAC Early Warning

WANEP and ECCP (European Centre for Conflict Prevention) held a two-day working meeting from February 12-13, 2006 in Accra. The meeting created space for WANEP to share its experience on WARN with ECCP and a GPPAC consultant.

International Women's Day

Most of the WANEP national networks celebrated the International Women's Day on March 8th, 2006. They organized "peace check points" radio programs and peace marches to commemorate the event.

Training of WARN Regional and Zonal Coordinators and, National Network Coordinators Upgrading the Early Warning database

A five-day in-house training was organized for National Network, Zonal and Regional Coordinators on early warning, reporting and analysis.

Operationalizing ECOWARN

ECOWAS in collaboration with WANEP organized training for the operationalization of ECOWARN. A team from the Observation Monitoring Center (OMC) at ECOWAS traveled to each zone to introduce ECOWARN and conduct an initial training on the technicality of the ECOWARN database.

GPPAC National Consultations in 9 Countries

WANEP held national consultations to develop national agenda for the prevention of violent conflicts under the framework of the GPPAC regional process in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Partners' Meeting

On September 28, 2006, the Director of OMC of ECOWAS initiated a partners' meeting between WANEP and USAID. The directors of the three organizations and other relevant staff attended the meeting to discuss the progress of ECOWARN.

WANEP acquired a Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations

At its Substantive Session of July 2006, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted Special consultative status to WANEP. This status provides WANEP the international space to extend its activities and make meaningful contributions in sustainable peace, thus sustainable development.

Reconciliation workshop with Woodrow Wilson Center In Liberia

In partnership with the Woodrow Wilson Center, WANEP brought together almost all government officials including the President of Liberia, heads of warring groups, the religious community, women groups, various youth associations, CSOs and the main opposition party for a workshop on National Reconciliation and Collaboration.

Replication of Performance Monitoring & Evaluation Training

All national networks of WANEP replicated the Training of Trainers (TOT) of the performance Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of conflict.

United States Institute for Peacebuilding (USIP)

WANEP, in collaboration with the United States Institute for Peace (USIP), organized a special consultation on the challenges for Peace and Reconstruction in Côte D'Ivoire. The participants representing key civil society organizations from all the regions of the country met in Accra from the 19th to 20th June 2006.

Training of Female Monitors

In September 2006, a five-day training was organized for Female Monitors on early Warning and Early response. In total, 12 women monitors from the sub-region participated except from Guinea, Cape Verde and Sierra Leone because of flight inconsistency.

Symposium to Celebrate International Day of Peace

On 20 September 2006, WANEP held a Symposium entitled: "Reflecting on the Security Council Presidency of Ghana: The Role of the Security Council for Peace and Security in Africa and beyond and the Implications of Reform".



At the Symposium in September, 2006 @ KAIPTC

Policy Briefs

The policy brief of WANEP seeks to provide documented and analytic perspective into issues impacting on peace and security in the West Africa sub-region. In 2006, policy briefs were produced on Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria and Togo.

The Untimely Death of the National Network Coordinator of WANEP-Ghana

During the January 2006 AGM, WANEP members were struck by the sad news of the sudden death of Felix Na'a Sabie, 36-years old and father of two children. Felix was a dynamic lawyer who had made his mark as a lawyer in Northern Ghana before joining WANEP. While in WANEP, Felix integrated his legal experiences

MAJOR EVENTS IN 2006 contd....



*The Late Mr. Felix Naah,
former NNC, for Ghana*

with Peacebuilding work to make meaningful contribution in the field. His passing away was a terrible blow for WANEP, especially the national network, WANEP-Ghana.

NNC Appointed Deputy Minister



*Mr. Varpilah Thornoloh,
former NNC, for Liberia*

While the demise of Felix saddened WANEP, the appointment of a WANEP member of staff to a ministerial position brought joy and delight. The NNC for WANEP-Liberia, Mr. Varpilar Thornoloh was appointed as Deputy Minister for Research and Health in Liberia. Varpilah's elevation to high public office is due to his hard work, dedication, vision and dynamism. Varpilah left a legacy of commitment and leadership within WANEP.

His appointment is a glowing tribute and living testimony to the good work of WANEP in the post-conflict reconstruction of Liberia

STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR 2006-2009

- Positioning of the Regional Secretariat alongside the National Networks for effective communication links; networks development and monitoring.
- Promotion of exchange visits and horizontal communication among national networks
- Restructuring of the regional programs to enable transfer of program implementation at national levels
- Institutional and organizational strengthening of the national networks through training, capacity building and technical assistance.
- Improved financial sustainability of the Regional Secretariat and the National secretariats and decreased donor dependency.

WANEP STAFF DETAILS

Regional Position

Executive Director
Program Director/Liaison
Program Manager
Administrative Manager
Finance Administrator
Program Coordinator/Network
Program Officer
Program Officer
Bilingual Secretary
ICT Officer
Front Desk Officer
Driver
Office Assistant

Name

Emmanuel H. Bombande
Takwa Zebulon Suifon
Oury Traore
Esther Gordon-Mensah
William O. Darko
Alimou Diallo
Francis Acquah Jnr.
Edwige D. Mensah
Diane Adodoh
Kwesi Enchill
Elizabeth Gozo
Michael Darko
Bismark Beglah

National Network Coordinators

Country

Benin
Burkina Faso
Côte d'Ivoire
Ghana
Guinea Bissau
Guinea-Conakry
Liberia
Nigeria
Senegal
Sierra Leone
The Gambia
Togo

Name

Simon Asoba
Sinare, Michel
Yolibi, Marguerite Kone
Amadu Ibrahim Zakari
Sambu, Etchen
Karamo Cherif
Lombek Kombeh
Eze, Chukwuemeka B.
Pierre Lucien Coly
Edward Jombla
Cole, Pamela Kehinde
Ahianyo-Kpondzo, Claudine

REGIONAL

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
3rd Floor, Ampomah House
Obasanjo Highway, Accra
P. O. CT4434, Accra, Ghana.
Tel: +233-21-221318/221388/256439/258299
Fax: +233-21-221735
Email: wanep@wanep.org
Website: www.wanep.org

NATIONAL NETWORKS

WANEP - Benin

01 BP 5997 Cotonou
Tel (+229) 21309939, (+229) 97215968/95068406
Email : sasoba@wanep.org / asoba_simon@yahoo.fr /
wanepben@intnet.bj

WANEP- Burkina Faso

06 BP 9079, Ouagadougou 06
Bureau : (226) 50302062, Cell : (226) 76662231
Email: wanepburkina@yahoo.fr / wanepburkina@river.bf
Msinare@wanep.org

WANEP - Cote D' Ivoire

09 BP 3320 Abidjan 09
Tel: (+225) 22422220/22423339,
Cel: (+225) 05677677/ 08142248
Email: wanepci@yahoo.fr / myolibi@wanep.org
klintio2001@yahoo.fr

WANEP - Gambia

C/o PO Box 2252
57 Garba Jahumpa Road
Bakau New Town, Serrekunda
Tel: (220) 4497716 / (220) 9934349
E-mail: pcole@wanep.org / wanepgambia@yahoo.co.uk
kehindecole@yahoo.com

WANEP - Ghana (GHANEP)

P. O. Box 963, Tamale N/R
Tel: 071 22464, Cell: 0244 211145
Email ; amaduibrahim@gmail.com / aibrahim@wanep.org
ghanep@yahoo.com

WANEP - Guinea Bissau

Av. Domingos Ramos
Casa no. 13A
Tel: 00245 6731251
Email: esambu@wanep.org / etchens@yahoo.fr

WANEP - Guinea

Tel : 00224 6059 1065
Email : cherif_karamo@yahoo.fr

WANEP - Liberia

Chal Compound
7th Street, Sinkor
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel; 00231 652 6717
Email: klombeh@wanep.org / kombehlombeh@yahoo.com

WANEP - Nigeria

#3, Soji Adepegba Close, Off Allen Avenue
Ikeja, Lagos Nigeria
Phone: +234-1-8198282, 5546225, Fax: 5546224
Email: ceze@wanep.org / cbeze@wanepnigeria.org
Sylentar@yahoo.com

WANEP - Senegal

Zinguinchor, Cite Biagui 1
Villa N° 12
BP 87
Tel: +221-9915800 (off) Mob: 00221 597 499
Email : pcoly@wanep.org / pierrelucien2006@yahoo.fr

WANEP Sierra Leone

WANEP Sierra Leone
37 Circular Road, Freetown
Tel: +232 22226284 / +232 33 644 242
email : edijombla@yahoo.co.uk / ejombla@wanep.org

WANEP - Togo

104, Rue de la fortune, Lomé
P. O. Box 12371, Lomé TOGO
Tel : (+228) 220 6279 / (+228) 220 8839 / (+228) 916 3824
Email : ckponyo-ahianyo@wanep.org
claudineahianyo@yahoo.fr / waneptogo@yahoo.fr