

WAPI, Response to changing face of conflict in WA –Deputy Commandant



Left: WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze and right: Brigadier-General (Dr) Emmanuel Kotia, Deputy Commandant KAIPTC delivering their speeches during the opening ceremony. More WAPI pictures on page 2

The Deputy Commandant of the Kofi Annan International Peacebuilding Training Center (KAIPTC), Brigadier-General (Dr) Emmanuel Kotia has described the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) as an effective response to the changing face of conflict in West Africa. He said this in his welcome remarks to the 15th Session of WAPI which held from August 25 to September 24, 2016.

WAPI is the main training and capacity building outfit of WANEP organized yearly in partnership with KAIPTC. A total of 99 participants took part in this year's WAPI.

According to the Brigadier-General, WANEP and KAIPTC embarked on this strategic partnership in the conviction that in order to fully support the Africa Peace and Security Architecture, peace initiatives and interventions including training should be more effective and efficient. He said; "year after year WANEP and KAIPTC have developed courses and trainings that respond effectively to the changing face of conflict in our West Africa region."

WAPI creates the platform to provide, build and strengthen the capacity of peacebuilding and development practitioners by enhancing their spectrum to actively contribute to the realization of WANEP's diverse thematic areas as embedded in the courses offered. The overarching aim of WAPI is to increase number of competent, informed and active peacebuilding practitioners in West Africa and beyond, provide in-depth analysis of conflict to solicit policy recommendations to relevant stakeholders for the transformation of conflicts and specifically to bridge the gap between theory, policy and practice in peacebuilding.

WANEP News is a quarterly E-Newsletter of the West Africa

Network for Peacebuilding, (WANEP). It provides substantive information on our work in a breezy yet informative style, detailing the communities we serve, the principles underpinning our work and our key achievements. **WANEP News** is a platform to keep our key partners and major stakeholders abreast with our intervention strategies towards promoting a peaceful environment in the region and beyond and the key lessons from the field.

As always with our tradition and in the spirit of partnership, networking and community ownership, **WANEP News** will also feature collaborative efforts with tactical partners in achieving peaceful co-existence as an avenue for experience sharing and best practices. We will also highlight WANEP's social events and Teambuilding strategies in both narrative and pictorial formats.

In a nutshell, **WANEP News** is telling our story our own way!

Happy Reading!



WAPI 2016 Course Participants Speak!

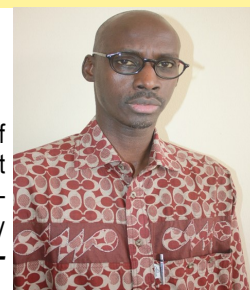
“I found the WAPI 2016 Early Warning capacity building course extremely useful and of contemporary relevance towards tackling the myriad of security challenges facing the West Africa region. Bringing the practitioners, analysts and responders to share their experiences is a game changer that would further improve the capacity of the participants to make quality inputs to policy decisions by decision makers.” **Commodore OB Daji, Centre for Strategic Research and Studies, National Defence College Abuja, Nigeria**

“I am grateful to WANEP and WAPI for the opportunity to enhance my skills and knowledge on peacebuilding. I did not only gain knowledge but enlarged my networks and partnership that will be instrumental as I implement peacebuilding programmes at AUC. One week was worth spending in Accra, I encourage all peacebuilding practitioners to undergo this training.” **Alice Mutesi, AU Commission**

“Definitely am so impressed with whole arrangements of WAPI 2016 from logistics accommodation to feeding, all fantastic! The conduct of the lectures were well presented and well coordinated. I congratulate the management for the job well done.” **InFarabe Janneh Independent Elections Commission, Gambia**

“The coordination of the programme is commendable and the deliverables by the facilitators on all thematic areas was participatory. The training contributed immensely in enhancing my analytical skills.”

Osariemen Amas-Edobor, Program Officer, Conflict Prevention, WANEP-Nigeria



TALKING PEACE

CSOs and State agencies can leverage each other's expertise to impact society better — WANEP ED

I am pleased and honored to have the opportunity of welcoming you all to the 15th session of the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI). Let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank the new leadership of Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center especially the Commandant and his deputy for all their support and partnership and congratulate them on their appointment and well deserved elevations. Our partnership, especially in the organization of WAPI continue to be a reference of how CSOs and State agencies can leverage each other's expertise and impact society better. It also demystifies the notion that state agencies and CSOs work in silos!



CHUKWUEMEKA EZE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WANEP

... "Our partnership, especially in the organization of WAPI continue to be a reference of how CSOs and State agencies can leverage each other's expertise and impact society better. It also demystifies the notion that state agencies and CSOs work in silos! "

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, while we express delight that we are having all our countries in the region represented at this WAPI following the end of Ebola that prevented some from attending last year's WAPI, we still express concern at the state of our health facilities in the region and implore our leaders to see the Ebola scourge as a wakeup call to the level of infrastructural deficit in West Africa. It is also a call to good governance and accountability from our states and responsiveness from the citizenry

Against this background and within the last two decades, the ECOWAS Commission and its Member States have grappled with measures to promote peace and security in the region. Member States of ECOWAS have come to the realisation that economic prosperity; cooperation and integration can only be achieved in an environment that is peaceful, stable and secure (Diarra 2002). In other words, peace and security are pre-requisites for sustainable economic development and human security advancement in the short term, whereas in the long

term human-centred economic development that will eradicate extreme poverty as a pre-requisite for durable peace. As such, ECOWAS has driven a paradigm shift from unilateral and state-centric action, to a multi-stakeholder's participation with joint intervention with civil society and business community.

In supporting this paradigm shift, WANEP and KAIPTC provides this space for cross fertilization of ideas across the continent and globe through WAPI. Participants to this training program will learn some of the key concepts in peace and security as well as the dynamics of preventing, mitigating and responding to African and global challenges through a hands-on and practical approach. WAPI provides an interactive forum for the participants to share, explore and discuss concepts and issues related to peace and security including program designs and implementation processes. The courses will also provide the participants with a good insight into the process of developing effective engagement and intervention strategies, policies and conflict sensitive framework within a constantly changing and charged environment such as ours.

Excerpts from the welcome address delivered by Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, at the opening of WAPI 15th Session from August 25 to September



Picture left and above: WAPI 15th Session participants with staff of WANEP and KAIPTC during the opening ceremony. Above right: Brigadier-General Kotia, Mr Chukwuemeka Eze and Col Edwin Adjei (Rtd) arriving for the opening ceremony at KAIPTC. Below left; snacking time. Below right one of the WAPI sessions in progress!

EVENTS! EVENTS! EVENTS!

Former WANEP Executive Director Named Deputy Foreign Minister

On July 23, erstwhile Executive Director and Co-founder of WANEP, Mr. Emmanuel Bombande was appointed Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration by President John Mahama. Before his appointment, Mr. Bombande was the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General Special Representative to West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Dr. Ibn Chambas after leaving in WANEP in 2014.

During his vetting by Parliament prior to taking up the position, Mr. Bombande drew attention to some of the challenges affecting effective integration and sub-region trading. He attributed some of these challenges to the lack of a common currency for all West African States and language barriers and urged West African leaders to take the bold step to confront and remove all barriers to regional trade to enable the region integrate faster with the global economy.

At his Oath taking ceremony, President John Mahama expressed confidence in Mr. Bombande's capability in his new position based on his antecedents and urged him to use his experience in peace-building to help the Ministry in its external engagements.

A seasoned and passionate peacebuilder, Mr. Bombande has a Master's degree in Conflict Transformation from the Eastern Mennonite University, Virginia-USA and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi Ghana. He has served variously as a lead mediator in both community and national mediation efforts in West Africa, was a member of the UN Advisory Team in Ghana and advised the Government of Ghana on various conflict prevention strategies including the development of a peace architecture for Ghana. He has also facilitated various peacebuilding courses at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center in Accra, Ghana, the University of Ghana's Legon Center for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD) and the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Sweden.



COURTESY VISITS

WANEP Hosts NDI, USIP/IRI Delegates

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) played host to delegates from the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and the International Republican Institute (IRI) on August 9, 2016. The delegation came to specifically learn from WANEP about the political and electoral dynamics as Ghana approaches the 2016 general elections. In the build up to the Ghana general elections, WANEP launched the Election Situation Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) Project through which it is providing real time data on potential hotspots to inform violence prevention and mitigation before, during and after the elections.

...And Shares experience in elections with EISA

In a related development, WANEP also hosted delegates from the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) on 28 September, 2016. The group led by Ms. Olufunto Akinduro, EISA Head of Elections and Political Processes visited WANEP to get a brief of the pre-election climate in Ghana and WANEP's assessment of security issues. Of specific interest to the group was the security institutions' preparedness and engagement with stakeholders in the run up to the December 2016 polls.

During the meeting, WANEP shared its experience in election monitoring and observation over the years. The Regional Coordinator, Early Warning Mr. Ifeanyi Okechukwu briefed the delegates on WANEP's experience and work in Early Warning and support to electioneering processes (before and during) in Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Benin. A key contribution of WANEP is the development of a context specific system that monitors and records real time incidents that inform key stakeholders to enable them intervene or mitigate potential security threats pre, during and post elections. The team was also briefed on some of the hotspots as well as trends in the 2016 election and how it relates to the 2012 elections.

The EISA delegates who were on a fact-finding mission to Ghana acknowledged WANEP for being highly informative on election issues and expressed appreciation to the organization for its robust Early Warning system.



From The Field

Relevant Stakeholders Affirm WANEP's Expertise in Early Warning



United States Ambassador to Ghana, His Excellency Robert P. Jackson



Mr. John Alexander Ackon, Ashanti regional minister at the launch of REEWARG in Kumasi



WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze (middle) with members of the National Peace Council (NPC) and other stakeholders during the NPC retreat where the NEEWARG mandate and term of reference was validated

WANEP's expertise and professionalism in early warning and conflict prevention has been affirmed once again by key partners and major stakeholders. This was contained in the goodwill messages delivered at the official launch of the "National Election Early Warning and Response Group" (NEEWARG) on July 26, 2016 in Accra – Ghana.

NEEWARG is an initiative of the National Peace Council (NPC) in collaboration with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and WANEP. It was launched by Honorable Prosper Bani, Ghana's Minister for Interior with the primary objective to discuss, develop, and recommend strategies to mitigate threats to the peaceful conduct of the Ghana 2016 elections.

The Group was charged with convening stakeholders from around the country, including representatives from the National Peace Council, eminent persons from relevant state and non-state institutions to complement government efforts in the prevention and mitigation of election-related violence.

Through WANEP'S extensive expertise in early warning and relying on its network of civil society organizations and appointed community monitors across the country, the Group will be better placed to identify potential risks of electoral violence. The eminent members will also deploy their experience and influence to facilitate early response to conflict and early warning issues before they escalate into violence.

NEEWARG has been replicated in two regions of Ghana as REEWARG and launched in the Northern region (Tamale) and Ashanti region (Kumasi).



Members of the high table at the launch; from left, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah (WANEP), UNDP-Ghana Country Director, Mr. Dominic Sam, Most Rev Prof. Emmanuel Asante, Chair of the National Peace Council (NPC), Hon Prosper Bani, Mr. Robert P. Jackson, US Ambassador and Mr. Francis Azuimah, NPC Executive Secretary



Program Director, WANEP — Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah in a chat with the press at the launch of NEEWARG in Accra



Cross section of participants at the launch of the Regional Election Early Warning and Response Group (REEWARG) in the Northern Region (Tamale)

From The Field

WANEP, Key Stakeholders Seek End to Violent Extremism



Above (Left) WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze conferring with Dr. Lat Gueye, Director Early Warning Department, ECOWAS Commission. Below (Left) participants brainstorming during a group working session. Above: a cross section of participants at the two-day consultative meeting on developing strategies for countering violent extremism which held in Abuja, Nigeria from September 26 to 28, 2016

Worried by the rising spate of violent extremism especially in the Sahel region, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) held three-day Consultative meeting with key stakeholders and major partners to deliberate on appropriate strategies for incorporating community resilience and countering violent extremism (CVE) into Peace Education in the Sahel region. The meeting which held in Abuja, Nigeria had in attendance representatives from ECOWAS, state and non-state institutions responsible for education, experts on violent extremism, and representatives from religious and other community-based institutions.

The meeting also provided the platform for fostering partnership between ECOWAS, CSOs, Member states and the school authorities for the implementation of CVE and Community resilience programs in schools and to propose the review and inclusion of CVE and Community resilience topics into the peace education curriculum in schools.

In his welcome address at the meeting, WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze opined that the threats of terrorism and violent extremism in West Africa and the Sahel is of grave concern to numerous local, regional, and international actors and continue to undermine the regions' economic and trade potentials. He said; "With these developments and the seeming overstretching capacity of our states and its paradigm shift from a state-centric approach to peace and security, our gathering here could not have been at a more auspicious moment." Mr. Eze acknowledging the caliber of participants to the meeting, said; "it gives credence to the fact that regional actors like us are collaboratively seeking new methods for preventing and suppressing terrorism and violent extremism and strengthening community resilience."

Peace Education is a pedagogical approach aimed at promoting a culture of peaceful coexistence and preventing the incidence of conflict situations. It seeks to develop non-violent skills and attitudes and inculcate values of peaceful living especially in young people. It is therefore seen as a useful approach to help address the issue of violent extremism and has gained prominence within several discourses around countering violent extremism. The peace education approach is also inherent in ECOWAS Counter Terrorism Strategy and Implementation Plan which was adopted in 2013 by the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the ECOWAS at its 42nd ordinary session. The Plan calls for the prevention and eradication of terrorism and related criminal acts in West Africa, with a view to creating conditions conducive to sound economic development and ensuring the wellbeing of all ECOWAS citizens.

In support of this strategy and recognizing that a culture of non-violence and community resilience is imperative for sustainable peace in the region, WANEP developed a Peace Education Guide for the implementation of peace education in formal schools in West Africa as a practical framework for a comprehensive Peace Education Program.

Events! Events!! Events!!

WANEP MARKS WORLD PEACE DAY 2016

WANEP regional and national offices joined the global community to mark the 2016 International Day of Peace with the theme: “The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace.” WANEP believes that the achievement of sustainable peace is a collective responsibility and upholds that “everyone has a stake and everyone has a contribution to make in order to achieve peace!”

As part of activities to mark the day, the organization held several sensitization and awareness activities in WANEP national offices of Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Togo, Niger and Guinea Bissau to draw attention to some of the challenges in promoting peace in the region and to share its work on how the SDGs can help to bring about sustainable peace.

The world peace day celebrations are presented here in pictures!



WANEP Socials



BIRTHDAY Felicitations! On July 22nd, Mr. Vincent Azumah joined the 'golden club!' Other celebrants in the quarter were Dina Rose (July 25) and Bismark Biglah (below—September 15). **HAPPY Birthday All!**



Send-off Party for Mfreke!

On August 26, 2016 WANEP proudly held a send-off party for Ms Mfrekeobong Ukanah, the Program Officer, of the WANEP Peace Monitoring Center who took up an appointment at the African Union. Mfreke joined WANEP as an intern in 2012 and through her dedication and commitment rose to become the Program Officer, PMC. In a citation presented to her, Mfreke was described as a joy to work with – always projecting a warm, cheerful and can-do spirit in her work, a feat which earned her the Most Resourceful Staff award in 2015 and the friendliest staff of the year award twice! WANEP wishes her greater years ahead in her new endeavor!

Picture below (right) Mfreke presenting a 'parting gift' to WANEP received by the Admin team while below (left) WANEP staff wining and dining at the send-off party!



WHO WE ARE

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) was conceived in 1996 but formally launched in 1998. Unlike other activist organisations, WANEP strategically chose to engage major actors, particularly government actors in a bid to establish a platform for dialogue, experience sharing and learning, thereby, complementing efforts at ensuring sustainable peace and development. WANEP is a member of the Peace and Security cluster of the African Union's (AU) Economic and Social Council – ECOSOCC representing West Africa and also has a Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). WANEP is the Regional Secretariat of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC).

OUR GOAL

WANEP's cardinal goal is to build sustainable peace, thereby creating an enabling environment for development in West Africa.

OUR WORK

WANEP work covers eight critical areas of intervention including;

- ◆ The West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI)
- ◆ West Africa Early Warning and Response Network, (WARN)
- ◆ Women in Peacebuilding (WIPNET)
- ◆ Non-violence and Peace Education, (NAPE)
- ◆ Civil Society Coordination and Democratic Governance Program, (CSDG)
- ◆ Responding to Conflicts through Dialogue

WHERE WE WORK

WANEP's growth and influence has been phenomenal. After 17 years of peacebuilding practice, WANEP has grown to become a household name in West Africa with national offices in all the ECOWAS Member countries, and over 500 member organizations spread all over WA.