



WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

Progress Report
APRIL-JUNE 2023

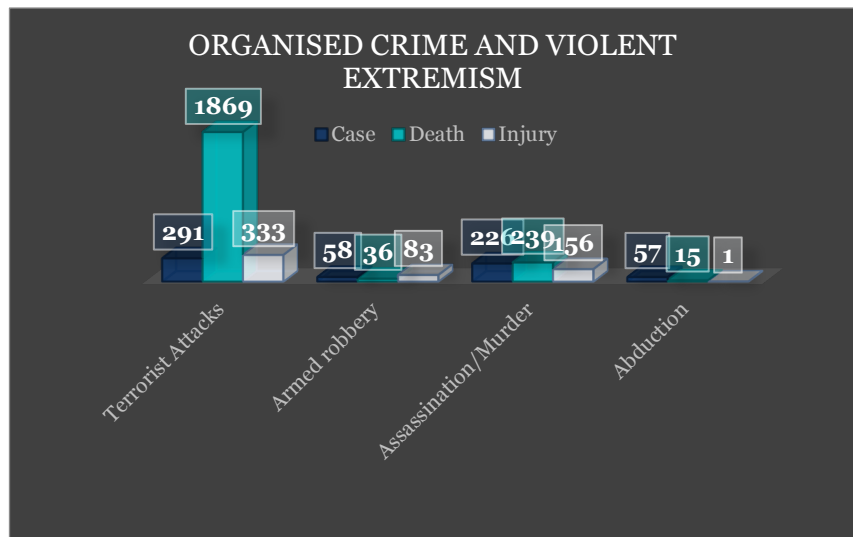
OVERVIEW OF QUARTER TWO (Q2) PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

PEACE AND SECURITY OVERVIEW OF WEST AFRICA

In the second quarter of 2023, the West Africa region faced human security challenges impacting stability, peace, and security across the ECOWAS Member States. WANEP's 700 community monitors reported **1625** incidents related to human security, resulting in **2857** deaths, **1829** injuries, property damage, and numerous cases of arrests and detentions.

Organised Crime and Violent Extremism

Despite efforts by State authorities to combat their operations, transnational criminals and armed groups remain active in the West Africa region, posing serious human security challenges. In the second quarter of 2023, **291** terrorist-related armed attacks were recorded in Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Togo, and Benin, resulting in **1869** deaths, **333** injuries, and property damage. Additionally, there were **58** reported armed robbery incidents, causing **36** deaths and **83** injuries. The region also witnessed **226** cases of assassination/murder, resulting in **239** deaths and **156** injuries.



Abduction/kidnapping incidents for ransom continued to threaten citizens' safety, with **over 57** reported cases across West Africa. Among the **234** abducted/kidnapped victims, **15** were killed and **one** was injured. Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, Guinea, Ghana, and Liberia were among the countries with most of these incidents.

Furthermore, there were **76** incidents of illicit drug trafficking and smuggling of contaminated and expired goods, primarily occurring in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal, Liberia, Nigeria, Niger, Benin, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and The Gambia. Security forces and law enforcement agencies seized large quantities of marijuana, 'Canadian Loud,' cocaine, expired frozen meats, tramadol, Ecstasy, Kush, Skunk, Hashish, and other drugs, totalling over **6000.03** kilograms. Over **323** smugglers/dealers were apprehended by security operatives in the region.

Women, Peace, and Security

Incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) were reported in several communities across the region, with over **70** cases documented. These incidents¹ resulted in **12** deaths and **59** injuries.

25 women and girls were abducted for ransom by criminal and armed groups operating in the West Africa Sahel region, with many of these abduction incidents occurring in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Togo.

Democracy and Governance

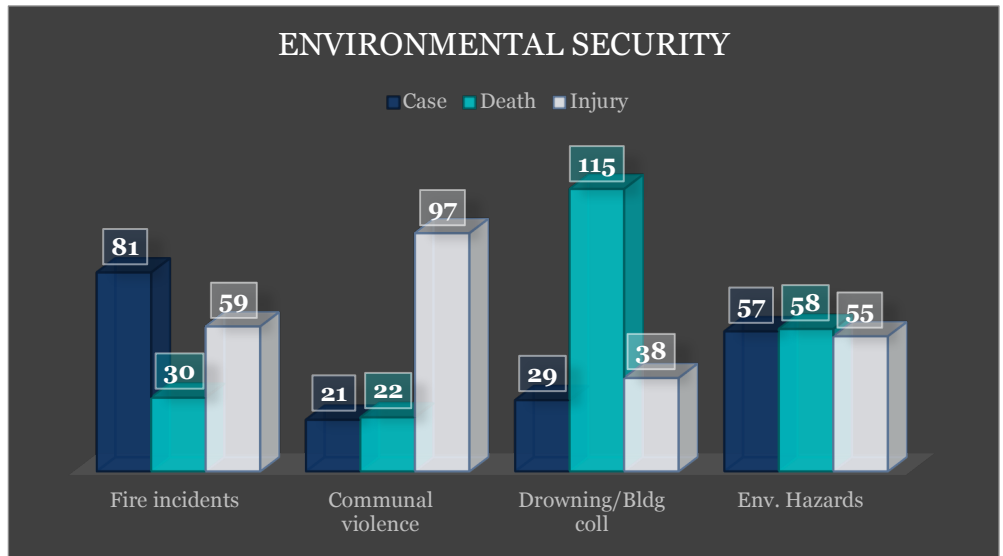
The governance and democratic landscape in West Africa during the quarter was significantly shaped by the multi-tier election in Sierra Leone. Although the election was largely peaceful, there were pockets of unrest

¹ The majority of SGBV cases were recorded in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Ghana, Guinea, The Gambia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

and violence in Freetown and other areas of the country. Julius Maada Bio's Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) emerged as the winner with 56% of the total vote, despite the opposition political party, the All People's Congress, contesting the results announced by the Election Commission of Sierra Leone. Furthermore, the region experienced **182** demonstrations and protests related to governance issues during the reviewed quarter, resulting in **59** deaths, **59** injuries, and considerable damage to both public and private properties.

Environmental security

The environmental landscape in West Africa was marked by various challenges, including pest invasions, disease outbreaks, and natural and anthropogenic disasters. For instance, in Liberia, a caterpillar invasion affected crops and water bodies in Meno Yarkah and Gobah towns, leading to significant agricultural losses. Ghana recorded a suspected anthrax-related death and contamination of **11** individuals in Binduri District. Additionally, **nine** meningitis cases were reported in Niger, resulting in **one** death.



The region also witnessed **81** fire incidents caused by arson, gas explosions, wildfires, and electrical malfunctions, resulting in **30** deaths, **68** injuries, and property damage. Communal violence incidents, including farmer-herder conflicts, chieftaincy disputes, and land conflicts, led to **22** deaths and **97** injuries in Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Togo, Guinea, and Senegal.

A total of **29** cases from other types of incidents such as drowning and building collapses were reported, resulting in **115** deaths and **37** injuries across various countries, including Liberia, Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, and Togo. Environmental hazards² such as flooding, landslides, and rainstorms led to **58** deaths and **55** injuries.

² the majority of these incidents were experienced in Ghana, Togo, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Nigeria, and Côte d'Ivoire.

PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF EARLY WARNING OUTPUTS:

In the first two quarters of 2023, WANEP produced and disseminated a total of **11,325** early warning outputs across West Africa and beyond, as indicated in the table below:

EARLY WARNING OUTPUTS PRODUCED IN Q1 & Q2

S/N	TITLE	QUANTITY
1	NEWS SITUATION TRACKING	13
2	MONTHLY BULLETIN	84
3	NEWS SITUATION REPORTS	742
4	WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS	336
5	NEWS QUICK UPDATE	2
6	NEWS INCIDENT REPORTS	3754
7	CEWS INCIDENT REPORTS	2649
8	CEWS SITUATION REPORTS	131
9	ECOWARN INCIDENT REPORTS	3466
10	ECOWARN SITUATION REPORTS	147
11	POLICY BRIEF	1
	TOTAL	11325

The **WANEP**-African Union (AU) Liaison Coordinator disseminated WANEP's policy briefs on the Nigeria and Sierra Leone elections to key stakeholders, including the Commissioner of the Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security (PAPS), the Director of Conflict Management Directorate (CMD) of PAPS, Liaison Offices of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) at the African Union, the AU Library, the diplomatic community at the AU, staff of PAPS, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Sweden Embassy, and others. It helps to inform and influence the implementation of essential recommendations for peaceful elections, smooth transitions, and democratic stability in these countries. This dissemination was conducted through various communication channels to reach all relevant actors.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. TO ENHANCE THE USE OF EARLY WARNING IN SUPPORT OF RESPONSE INITIATIVES

1.1 Building upon its extensive experience gained from the Electoral violence Monitoring, Analysis, and Mitigation (EMAM) project, **WANEP Regional** provided technical support that operationalised the Electoral Situation Room (ESR) for the 4 June 2023 legislative election. The ESR organised under the aegis the Electoral Monitoring Coalition (CME), was led by WANEP Guinea Bissau. It was functional from 3 to 5 June 2023 in Guinea Bissau and deployed a total of 200 observers across the country. This contribution supported the peaceful conduct of the legislative election.

1.2 **WANEP's** NEWS Managers participated in the ECOWARN monitors annual retreat and training in Dakar-Senegal. The event also provided an opportunity to appraise quality and challenges of data reporting as well as prospects for improvement.

1.3 On 19 May 2023, a one-day training session was conducted in Togo for nine new community monitors. The training enhanced their reporting skills into NEWS of **WANEP Togo**. Through this training, the community monitors acquired knowledge of the System and strengthened their capacities in collecting and submitting real-time incident and situation reports in the NEWS portal.

1.4 **WANEP Togo** presented a comprehensive three-year security report (2020-2022) for Togo, broadcast through two radio shows in May 2023. An article covering this event is available in French at rb.gy/ord2v.

1.5 **WANEP Nigeria** conducted the following activities within the quarter:

- Capacity building on Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) for Early Warning Monitoring and Reporting Groups (EWMRGs) and Community-Based Reconciliation Committees (CBRCs) across 35 communities in eight Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Kaduna and Plateau States. The training focused on data collection and reporting of early warning signs of violence. A total of 692 individuals including 209 females, benefitted from the capacity-building programmes.
- Development of 35 Community Peace Action Plans in the Peace Action for Rapid and Transformative Nigerian Early Response (PARTNER³) project in target areas. These plans were created by community members to facilitate effective peacebuilding and enhance social cohesion activities.
- Advocacy visits to high-level stakeholders, including traditional, religious, government, and security actors in Kano and Katsina states. The objective of the visits was to identify barriers to effective EWER implementation and engage stakeholders in committing to key actions related to EWER.

1.6 From 21 to 22 June 2023, the National Centre for the Coordination of Response Mechanism (NCCRM) and **WANEP Côte d'Ivoire** jointly hosted a workshop focused on the threats and risks to human security linked to the 2023 local elections. The objective of the workshop was to assess potential threats and risks to human security in the upcoming 2023 local elections, scheduled for 2 September 2023. The workshop provided recommendations to address challenges and to ensure peaceful local elections throughout the electoral cycle. 71 participants attended the workshop.

1.7 In preparation for the Mayoral and Chairmanship elections, **WANEP The Gambia** conducted a refresher training for its observers on 16 May 2023. This training aimed to update their skills and

³ The PARTNER project is a USAID-funded project and aims to overcome challenges to EWER systems and close the gap between reporting and response, by strategically reimagining the entire EWER process.

knowledge in election observation. Additionally, in collaboration with the National Elections Response Group (NERG), the National Human Rights Commission, and with support from ECOWAS, the Network successfully implemented an Election Situation Room (ESR) for the Mayoral and Chairmanship elections of 20 May 2023. The purpose of the ESR was to contribute to the prevention and mitigation of electoral violence.

1.8 Within the framework of the June 2023 elections, **WANEP Sierra Leone** undertook the following activities:

- Organised radio programme discussions to raise citizen awareness of its role in promoting peace and security for a peaceful general election.
- Participated in the launch of the 2023 Citizen Manifesto⁴ aiming to promote free, fair, and violence-free elections in Sierra Leone.
- Engaged in a two-day CSOs and Government Dialogue on credible and peaceful elections, resulting in the development of a collaborative framework to enhance credible and peaceful elections.
- Held coordination meetings with the National Election Response Group (NERG) and District Election Response Group (DERG) to address peace and security issues related to the June election as well as developing an activity work plan.
- Participated in the Integrated Election Security Planning Committee (IESPC) Meeting and contributed to the development of a framework agreement on the interface between national election situation rooms.
- Conducted training for 350 field monitors and 25 data gatherers to observe the general election. Field monitors were trained to observe and report the voting process, while data gatherers learned how to collect and report information.
- Conducted advocacy and awareness campaigns, including roundtable discussions with security stakeholders in specific districts, community engagement activities, and consultations with stakeholders to prevent violence against women and promote peace and security during the election process.
- Engaged in a roundtable discussion with other CSOs to influence political parties to adopt pro-SGBV policies and prevent violence against women during the electioneering period.
- Supported the Young African Leaders Initiative Sierra Leone in their peace march and non-violence campaign.
- Conducted a four-day ESR for the June general election that supported data analysis, press debriefings and engagement with key local, regional and international stakeholders towards peaceful elections in the country.

1.9 WANEP Liberia collaborated with WANEP regional office to conduct a strategic review meeting with the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) in June 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the threats to the upcoming elections of November 2023 and also to identify potential hotspot areas while drawing lessons from previous elections.

⁴ WANEP Sierra Leone is a member of the Citizens Manifesto Steering Committee

2. TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN AND GIRLS' CAPACITY FOR POLICY INFLUENCING

2.1. Coordinated efforts to advance women's meaningful participation and inclusion in leadership.

2.1.1 The quarterly coordination meeting⁵ of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) focal points took place on 10 May 2023. The virtual meeting included National Network Coordinators (NNCs) and WPS focal points from 10 out of 14 national networks. Discussions focused on the way forward for the National GenderTalks, with 10 national networks having conducted at least one edition on relevant topics. The meeting aimed to provide direct supervision to WPS focal points for the successful implementation and delivery of the WPS agenda.

2.1.2 The Working Group on Women, Peace and Security - Ghana Chapter (WGWYPS-GH)⁶ held its quarterly meeting on 5 May 2023. Upcoming events include the Group's Annual General Meeting, national women's peace forum, and various advocacy initiatives. Advocacy is a key focus for the chapter, and the Group plans to conduct an advocacy capacity-building initiative during the next quarter.

2.2. Employing gender-informed peacebuilding and conflict prevention interventions at all levels

2.2.1 The 11th edition of WANEP's GenderTalk Series was held on 29 June 2023, under the theme: "Strategies for Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Environmental Action: Prospects and Challenges." This edition was organised as part of the activities commemorating World Environment Day on 5 June 2023. The GenderTalk⁷ aimed to highlight the crucial link between women and the environment and emphasised the need to amplify women's voices for leadership roles in environmental management. Discussions revolved around strategies to ensure inclusivity in sustainable environmental action and the comprehensive integration of women's voices in policy and implementation efforts throughout environmental management stages.

During the reporting period, four national networks (Ghana, Nigeria, Mali, and Burkina Faso) conducted their GenderTalks. The National GenderTalk Series is designed to maximise gains, expand reach, and implement valuable recommendations from the discussions.

2.2.2 WANEP's WPS Coordinator participated in various webinars and virtual platforms, focusing on gender mainstreaming, women empowerment, and WPS coordination efforts. Notably, the Coordinator served as a panellist in a dialogue facilitated by Search4Common Ground on prioritising investments in local women-led peacebuilding organisations in coastal states. Another panel discussion involved assessing sexual and reproductive health in conflict-affected countries in West Africa. Additionally, the Coordinator spoke on gender-sensitive conflict prevention through Early Warning in a panel organised by ECOWAS, aiming to promote a more inclusive and peaceful society for women and girls.

2.2 On 7 April 2023, WANEP Mali hosted a meeting to leverage the outcomes of the Women's Leadership Programme (WLP) project. The purpose of the activity was to assess the programme and establish a shared understanding with the new team from the Danish Refugee Council, a co-implementing partner. The session facilitated the consolidation of accomplishments, lessons learned, and future opportunities related to the Programme.

⁵ It served to track WPS agenda implementation progress, identify gaps and challenges, and offer solutions to move forward. The meeting also provided an opportunity for re-orientation on WPS workplans and finding areas of commonality.

⁶ UNOWAS initiated WGWYPS-GH to coordinate WPS efforts in Ghana, gather members' actions, and explore areas of commonality and interest. The Chapter convenes regularly to plan activities, advocate for gender mainstreaming, and raise awareness of gender-focused legislation and legal frameworks.

⁷ Expert speakers with experience in gender and environment, particularly climate change, shared insights on achieving inclusivity in environmental management and assessing past commitments to address environmental impacts.

2.3 On 9 May 2023, the National Women's Coalition of **Mali** (NWC), in partnership with *Observatoire des Droits de l'Enfant et de la Femme*⁸ (ODEF) Mali, organised talk debates and theatre performances addressing the critical issues of genital mutilation and early marriage in Mali. The event drew participation from 150 attendees, including 97 women and 109 young individuals, who were educated on the detrimental effects of genital mutilation and early marriage practices prevalent in Mali.

2.4 WANEP Niger conducted advocacy campaigns in three target communes of Maradi⁹, engaging local elected representatives, local CSOs, and Communal Youth Councils. These activities involved 30 participants, of which 15 were women. The objective of these campaigns was to enhance the governance of the security sector at the local level by fostering greater participation and involvement of women and young people in community mechanisms for conflict prevention and management.

2.5 WANEP Niger hosted a symposium focused on adapting the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda to the evolving Sahel context. Additionally, they launched the project "Leadership of Women's Organisations for Peace and Security in the Sahel." The objective of this event was to strengthen the organisational and operational capacities of women, highlighting their strategic roles in conflict prevention, management, and peacebuilding processes. The initiative aimed to harmonise interventions in Niger and beyond, aligning with the implementation of the WPS Agenda and its national action plan for 2020-2024.

2.6 WANEP Niger conducted a training workshop in Madarounfa and Dan Issa communes (in the Maradi region) for women's groups, cooperatives, networks, and young individuals benefiting from the *Haute Intensité de Main d'Oeuvre* (HIMO) project. The workshop trained 101 women and 199 men and aimed at promoting sustainable economic income by providing technical skills, enhancing management and coordination abilities, and fostering investment for activity sustainability and market access.

2.8 On 18 June 2023, **WANEP Nigeria** participated in the Ozoro Peace Festival in the Uneme Nehua community, Edo State. The festival celebrated women as agents of peace, fostering increased community participation.

2.9 In June 2023, **WANEP Nigeria** conducted an initiative to identify and map out women who play significant roles in peacebuilding activities in Kaduna and Plateau States. This effort aimed to enhance knowledge sharing, and learning, and promote inclusive and effective leadership in peacebuilding in these states.

2.10 As part of the project titled *Fonds au Profit des Victimes*¹⁰, the following activities were carried out for implementing organisations, including **WANEP Côte d'Ivoire**:

- Training sessions on module 2 of Integrative and Systemic Community Therapy (ICT) The training involved the participation of 29 individuals, of which 11 were women.
- Training sessions on Module 1 of ICT were provided for 28 participants, including 10 women.
- A training session on the use of the Sense Maker tool was conducted as part of the victim reparation programme, with the participation of 21 individuals, including seven women.
- Material support was provided to 13 beneficiaries, including 10 women, to finance income-generating activities of their choice.

⁸ In English: Observatory for the Rights of the Child and the Woman

⁹ The three communes are Gabi, Guidan Sori et Dakoro

¹⁰ In English: Victims' Trust Fund

- 16 community therapy sessions were organised within the communities, benefiting a total of 277 participants which included 196 women. These sessions aimed to provide therapeutic support and promote healing among the participants.
- WANEP Côte d'Ivoire organised the collection of experiences¹¹ and reparation cases for victims and community members affected by incidents of the 2011 crisis in Yopougon and Abobo. A total of 178 reparation cases were collected, providing an opportunity for healing and promoting social cohesion.

2.11 WANEP Burkina conducted a comprehensive mapping of 400 women's organisations across the North, Hauts-Bassins, Centre-West, and Centre-East regions. These identified women's organisations have the potential to expand the Network and contribute to its growth.

In collaboration with its technical partner, the *Association des Femmes Battantes de Thiou*, WANEP Burkina Faso documented 178 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) in the northern region. This valuable data is expected to inform the development of effective strategies and initiatives in the fight against GBV.

2.12 Efforts made on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 National Action Plans (NAPs):

- **WANEP Sierra Leone** participated in the National Steering Committee meeting on the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) and 1820(2008) to develop the Sierra Leone NAP (SILNAP III). The Committee agreed to engage stakeholders at national and district levels to further develop SILNAP III.
- On 26 April 2023, **WANEP Guinea** contributed to the development of Guinea's third NAP on the protection and meaningful participation of women and girls in conflict and peace and security processes at a one-day meeting¹² convened by civil society actors, authorities, and development partners to address the specific challenges faced by women and translate them into actionable measures for enhancing women's involvement in peacebuilding and governance. Following the reflection, a draft action plan with concrete steps was prepared and submitted to the authorities and development partners for review and validation.

2.13 WANEP Senegal participated in a Gender Advisor Course organised by the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), acquiring valuable skills and capacities in gender. These newly acquired abilities will support the Network in effectively implementing gender strategies and promoting gender mainstreaming.

2.14 In collaboration with the *Association des volontaires pour le développement communautaire and Inter-monde*, **WANEP Senegal** organised an impactful awareness-raising session in Guédiawaye¹³. The objective was to promote social and behavioural change concerning barriers to girls' education, including GBV and early pregnancy. The event aimed to foster a supportive environment and advocate for the rights of girls to access education, addressing these critical challenges.

2.15 In June 2023, **WANEP Liberia**, with support from UNWOMEN, increased engagement with women and girls on Ending Violence Against Women/Girls (EVAW/G) through street theatres in two communities. The awareness campaign covered legal instruments such as Inheritance law, Domestic

¹¹ Incidents include the following: the bombing of the Siaka Koné market, the repression of the women's march on 3 March, the attack on the village of Anonkoua Kouté, and the attacks on the Doukouré and Yao Séhi neighbourhoods.

¹² The event, organised by UNFPEA in collaboration with the Ministry for Women, Children and Vulnerable Persons and women's rights NGOs, attracted approximately 50 participants, predominantly women.

¹³ Guédiawaye is a town and department of the Dakar Region of Senegal

Violence Law, Rape Law, and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR). A total of 111 individuals, including 49 females, participated in the engagements.

3. TO BROADEN THE PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMME AND SUPPORT YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND VOICE IN ISSUES OF GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY

3.1 On 31 May 2023, **WANEP** organised its Youth Perspectives¹⁴ Webinar on the theme: "Leveraging Technology to Advance the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda in West Africa." The objective was to foster dialogue on how technology can be utilised to support the effective implementation of the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) Agenda in the region. Key takeaways include: i) technology's potential to mobilise support, advocate, raise awareness, and report on YPS, ii) its role in featuring youth-led initiatives and fostering inclusive participation in decision-making, and iii) its ability to amplify youth voices on critical issues despite shrinking civic space. The webinar was attended by approximately 70 participants.

3.2 As part of its Youth Transformational Empowerment and Mentorship (YTEaM) Programme, **WANEP**

- Successfully held three virtual training sessions for the mentees. The capacity building sessions focused on the following key areas (1) Peacebuilding Programme design; (2) Concept note, proposal writing, budgeting and planning of basic activities and (3) Effective communication: public speaking and presentation skills, PowerPoint presentation. The training sessions offered opportunities for the mentees to enhance their knowledge and skills-based capacity to support their personal and career development.
- Organised open forums with the mentees, mentors and National Networks hosting the mentees. Mentees had an opportunity to share their experiences, challenges, and goals, while mentors and National Networks reaffirmed their availability and commitment to support the development process of the mentees.
- **WANEP Guinea** played a crucial role in enhancing the capacity of mentees hosted in Guinea. Their contributions included the development of a comprehensive capacity-building plan and the implementation of training activities focused on WANEP's general knowledge and conflict prevention techniques.

3.5 WANEP Togo facilitated reflection meetings with local authorities to engage youth in public management across eight communes¹⁵ in Togo. The Network also led experience-sharing meetings on security and peacebuilding in these communes. As a result, the youth developed action plans to enhance their participation in peacebuilding and local development. They further implemented awareness-raising and community dialogue activities, focusing on social cohesion, conflict prevention and peaceful management, non-violent communication, and the education of young girls.

3.6 Under the project "*Renforcement de la résilience des communautés face aux conflits violents au Togo*,"¹⁶ young people hosted radio broadcasts in local languages to promote social cohesion, peaceful coexistence, and youth engagement in peacebuilding. These broadcasts were carried out in three communes: Kara, Tchamba, and Sokodé.

¹⁴ The 9th edition of a series of webinars. "Youth Perspectives" is an online dialogue platform initiated by WANEP to amplify young people's voices and contributions to peace and security processes in West Africa. It seeks to leverage youth potential by providing them with the space to share their analysis and views on emerging peace, security and governance issues in the region and make constructive and actionable recommendations for policy influencing.

¹⁵ The communes comprise Tône 1, Tône 2, Tône 3, Tône 4, Kpendjal 1, Kpendjal 2, Oti 1 and Oti-Sud 1.

¹⁶ In English: Strengthening community resilience to violent conflict in Togo.

3.7 The Youth4Peace platform in **Togo** undertook the following activities:

- Organised a virtual "YouthTalk" with the theme: "Young leaders for peace, from ideas to action." This event re-engaged platform members around the ideals and values of Youth4Peace.
- Hosted a webinar on 15 June 2023 addressing the topic: "Preventing and combating hate messages on social networks." Participants gained awareness of the legal framework and techniques to counter hate speech. This activity marked the beginning of a 15-day activism campaign initiated by the Youth4Peace platform.
- Executed a 15-day campaign (16 to 30 June 2023) against hate speech on social networks, which involved creating communication and visibility materials and raising awareness about hate speech. The campaign concluded with a webinar on "digital citizenship, ethics, and responsibility."
- Held radio and television programmes centred on the theme "Addressing hate messages on social networks."

3.8 WANEP Guinea, in line with its mandate to promote young people and their meaningful participation in peace, security, and local governance matters, has developed an action plan to provide support to young individuals. The Youth4peace Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this plan.

3.9 Empowering Youth for Peace and Inclusivity and Peace education efforts across the region:

- **Nigeria:** WANEP Nigeria organised peace education training sessions for 314 students (183 females and 131 males) in 14 secondary schools of Eti-Osa Local Government Area (LGA), Lagos State. The training equipped the students with peer mediation skills, enabling them to effectively handle conflicts both at home and among their peers at school, promoting peaceful resolutions and discouraging drug abuse. The Peace Education training manual was also reviewed to include a section on drug abuse.
- Similarly, WANEP Nigeria, in collaboration with the School-Based Management Committee (SBMC) in Kosofe LGA, Lagos State, organised a one-day sensitisation event. The event raised awareness among school stakeholders on best practices for preventing violence in primary and secondary schools.
- [On the occasion of Universal Children's Day](#), Prince Children Foundation collaborated with WANEP Nigeria and other state agencies to conduct sensitisation sessions with 30 street children. During these sessions, the children were educated on peacebuilding, the harmful consequences of drug abuse, and the issue of human trafficking.

- **Burkina Faso:** Through its network of peace clubs, WANEP Burkina Faso achieved the following:
 - Implementation of listening circles to monitor violence in schools and involving young people in early warning efforts to reduce violence within educational institutions.
 - The organisation of awareness-raising sessions on GBV in four intervention establishments. Discussions also focused on effective measures to address GBV and unwanted pregnancies in schools. These sessions led to the proposal of innovative solutions and increased the capacity of young people to disseminate knowledge on peace-related issues. Moreover, the involvement of pupils' parents in the fight against drug use in schools has improved.

These activities have solidified WANEP Burkina Faso's leadership in addressing youth-related issues and promoting peace education.

- WANEP Burkina Faso also played a significant role in the development of a diagnostic report focused on combating drug use among youth and enhancing prevention efforts.
- The Network established an official partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sport through a formal agreement in April 2023. The purpose of this partnership is to enhance collaboration around the planning and implementation of youth-related programmes.
- **Sierra Leone:** WANEP Sierra Leone organised advocacy and awareness programmes on youth violence, crime and their role in national development. These initiatives educated the youth on the impact of drugs and violence in communities.
- **Guinea-Bissau:** As part of the “Schools of Peace Project” themed 'Sowing the seeds of peace in people's lives, for Peace and Humanity,' WANEP Guinea-Bissau, in collaboration with partners such as the Ministry of National Education of Guinea-Bissau and the selected school managements, convened over 80,000 pupils from all classes over the course of several weeks to engage in discussions on designated weekly themes.
- In the month of April 2023, WANEP Guinea-Bissau and its partners held an awareness-raising session on the theme: 'Prevention of Radicalism and Violent Extremism in Schools.' The primary objective of these activities is to foster a fair and inclusive society by promoting inclusive processes among young people, who play a vital role as agents in building a culture of peace and non-violence.
- The Network also organised a press conference on peacebuilding and youth participation in governance, peace, and security, with a theme focused on "Prospects for the Elections of 04 June 2023 in Guinea-Bissau." The conference highlighted the indispensable role of youth in shaping the nation's future and emphasised their active involvement in the electoral process to advance stability and progress. It successfully engaged stakeholders, fostering meaningful insights and facilitating collective efforts to build a more prosperous and peaceful Guinea-Bissau.

3.11 In collaboration with the Embassy of Finland, **WANEP Senegal**, *Centre des hautes études de défense et de sécurité of Senegal (CHEDS)*, and the Senegalese Youth Consortium convened a meeting to discuss the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda, as well as the formulation of a national plan for YPS in Senegal.

3.12 With funding from Catholic Relief Services (CRS), **WANEP Liberia** implemented the following activities:

- Hosted radio talk shows involving youth-driven groups, namely the Federation of Motorcyclists and Tricyclist Union of Liberia (FOMTUL) and Youth Peace Ambassadors (YPAs). The discussion focused on engaging youth and commercial bike riders as peace agents against electoral violence before, during and after the November 2023 Elections in Liberia. The broadcasts targeted an estimated 25,000 listeners.
- Organised community dialogues with various stakeholders, including forgotten child soldiers (zogos), motorbike riders, and community leaders. A total of 41 participants engaged in dialogues at Parker Paint Community District 5 and New Kru Community District 16. The discussions focused on assessing the Biometric Voter Registration processes, concerns of violence at the community level, community-based social issues, crimes and potential electoral violence. As a result of these dialogues, the communities developed action plans to avert potential issues and sustain peace in Liberia at the community level.

4. TO EXPAND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND BUILD THE CAPACITY OF INSTITUTIONS TO PERFORM THEIR MANDATE EFFECTIVELY IN HUMAN SECURITY

4.1. As part of phase one of the programme titled “*Resilience Économique Face à l'Extrémisme Violent*”¹⁷, implemented by **WANEP Togo**, the 100 cooperatives who are beneficiaries of the project received various forms of support ranging from livestock equipment, poultry feeding, roosters and hens for poultry farming as well as veterinary first aid boxes. The recipients were also trained in the use of poultry incubators.

4.2 As part of the project titled “*Renforcement de la résilience nationale du Togo face à l'extrémisme violent dans un contexte d'insécurité sous- régionale*”¹⁸,

- **WANEP Togo**, in partnership with Preventing and Combating Violent Extremism (CIPLEV), organised a two-day training workshop on 15 and 16, June 2023. A total of 30 public and private media professionals participated in the workshop which took place in Dapaong, in the Northern region of Togo. The initiative, funded by the US Department of State, aimed to enhance participants' understanding of violent extremism in the Savannah region and strengthen their capacity to effectively contribute to the prevention and countering of violent extremism in the country.
- Between 17 to 30 June 2023, **WANEP Togo** organised eight interactive radio programmes on themes relating to social cohesion, the prevention of violent extremism and the peaceful management of local pastoralism and cross-border transhumance.
- Similarly, **WANEP Togo** held six radio programmes in three localities¹⁹ across the nation as part of the project titled “*Renforcement de la résilience des communautés face aux conflits violents au Togo*,” Specifically, the radio programmes sought to increase knowledge of women and the public of gender sensitive leadership and engagement in peacebuilding and to inspire women and girls to pursue leadership roles in their communities.

4.3 The Platform of Women Community Mediators of **Togo** held a virtual assembly to elect a new board on 5 April 2023. It was an opportunity to validate the platform's annual workplan. On 17 May 2023, the Women Community Mediators provided an online training session for 30 participants focused on community mediation and dialogue.

4.4 To achieve consensus on transhumance management and inter-ethnic coexistence, **WANEP Togo** conducted the following activities:

- Three mediation meetings addressing community conflicts in Korbongou, Taworèda, and Dagbati. These conflicts encompass chieftaincy, land disputes, intercommunity tensions, and agro-pastoral issues. The meetings involved Youth4Peace, women mediators, regional peace and security committee members, local elected representatives, traditional chiefs, and the conflicting parties.
- Four community dialogues were held in Dansoupémé (Bas-Mono 1), Dagbati (Vo 3), Essowazina (Tchaoudjo 1), and Korbongou (Tone 4). These dialogues provided a platform to discuss transhumance conflicts and propose preventive and management solutions.
- Eight radio broadcasts in Atakpamé (Ogou 1), Tchamba (Tchamba 1), Sokodé (Tchaoudjo 1), and Dapaong (Tone 1). These broadcasts, delivered in local languages, aimed to raise

17 In English “Economic Resilience to Violent Extremism”.

18 In English Strengthening Togo's national resilience to violent extremism in a context of sub-regional insecurity

19 The localities are as follows: Tchamba, Sokodé and Kara

awareness about the causes of transhumance conflicts and strategies for preventing them due to the significant damage they inflict.

4.5 In the reporting period, **WANEP Nigeria** facilitated Justice and Security Dialogue (JSD) sessions involving various stakeholders:

- Conflict management sessions for community leaders, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), youths, and the police in Girei LGA aimed to enhance their skills in dealing with post-election violence.
- Strengthening the post-election Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for community and religious leaders, as well as the police, in Girei LGA. The focus was to develop an action plan to mitigate post-election violence in Adamawa State.
- Post election reconciliation for host communities in Girei LGA, Adamawa State . An action plan was formulated to facilitate post-elections reconciliation between the host communities and IDPs.

4.6 Within the framework of the Just Future project,

- On 13 April 2023, the Monitoring Committee²⁰ convened to review the progress of the advocacy strategy for the inclusion of marginalised/excluded individuals in security reforms. The meeting, attended by nine participants, including two representatives from **WANEP Mali**, aimed to ensure effective advocacy for these groups. As part of the session, a comprehensive list of key stakeholders was compiled to facilitate targeted engagement and representation.
- **WANEP Mali** has revised its lobbying and advocacy strategy for the project's implementation, precisely one year after the initial strategy plan was put into action. This update aims to consider the evolving political and security landscape, as well as address new and emerging advocacy concerns. By adapting the strategy to the current context, WANEP Mali seeks to enhance the effectiveness and relevance of its advocacy efforts.
- On 06 April 2023 the National Women's Coalition (NWC) of Mali, under the leadership of **WANEP Mali** organised a step-down meeting to discuss the outcomes of the consultative meeting of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) held in Accra, Ghana²¹. The meeting provided an opportunity for members of the NWC of Mali, along with representatives from various civil society organisations, including youth organisations, to gather and deliberate on the key findings and decisions from the Accra meeting.
- A quarterly brainstorming workshop took place in Niamey from 29 to 30 May 2023. The purpose of this activity was to identify success factors, lessons learned, and implementation challenges. The workshop focused on capitalizing on lessons learned and sharing good practices among all partners involved in the Just Future program in Niger. The workshop was attended by 19 participants, including six women.

4.7 Within the framework of the project titled "Establishment of Security Advisory Committees (SACs)," **WANEP Mali** conducted training workshops for 325 members, with notable participation of women and youth. The training aimed to enhance the capacities of the SACs members in community policing, security assessment, participatory analysis, and facilitation. The objective was to equip them with the necessary skills to effectively carry out their responsibilities and fulfil their mandate.

²⁰ The Monitoring Committee was set up to ensure the inclusion of marginalised and excluded groups in security reforms in Mali, through lobbying and strategic advocacy. A brief video of the convening is available in French at: <https://youtu.be/bnt-aMMGmho>

²¹ The Accra meeting organised collaboratively by WANEP, ECOWAS, and the AU, focused on enhancing the participation of CSOs in the security sector. The meeting aimed to achieve three main objectives: (1) capacity-building of participants on governance and Resolution 1325, (2) consultation with FEMWISE and ECOWAS to identify gaps in inclusivity in governance and peacebuilding, and (3) development of a framework for engaging policymakers at the ECOWAS and African Union level.

4.8 WANEP Niger organised multi-stakeholder dialogues with 30 individuals comprising local elected representatives, CSOs, and the Communal Youth Councils in the Maradi region. The objective was to persuade mayors in the region to establish communal consultation frameworks for social inclusion. The outcomes of the dialogues were as follows: i) two functional and effective consultation frameworks in Dakoro and Torodi were successfully established, ii) Enhanced engagement and commitment of women and young people in peacebuilding and security initiatives.

4.9 Within the framework of “Support to Initiatives for Peace in the Sahel (SIPAS)” **WANEP Burkina Faso**

- collaborated with *Associations pour la Culture le développement socio-économique et l'environnement (ACDSEE)* from the municipality of TO to conduct an awareness and coexistence workshop in the community on 13 May 2023. A total of 55 participants, including 45 women, were sensitised on peace and social cohesion.
- in collaboration with Association Save The Victim, organised a play titled "*Nous sommes tous des déplacés dans la commune de Dapelgo*²²" on 15 May 2023. The play aimed to raise awareness about the challenges faced by displaced persons. The event witnessed the participation of 150 attendees, including 50 women.

4.10 WANEP The Gambia, in collaboration with the National Election Response Group (NERG) organised community consultations and radio talk shows across the country on 6 and 9 May 2023. These activities were conducted to promote peaceful Mayoral and Chairmanship elections as well as engage communities in dialogue regarding the electoral process.

4.11 WANEP Senegal has effectively raised awareness of the revision of the electoral roll by sharing informative videos on its social media platforms. These videos aim to engage and inform the public about the importance of the electoral roll revision process.

4.12 Shaping Guinea's Future: Civil Society's Contributions to the New Constitution:

- **WANEP Guinea**, in collaboration with the *Alliance Citoyenne pour la Transition (ACT)*, conducted a workshop aimed at gathering civil society proposals to contribute to the constitutional orientation debate for the new constitution. This comprehensive workshop resulted in the formulation of a memorandum that effectively captured the valuable input from civil society regarding the content of the Constitution. The memorandum was subsequently submitted to the National Transition Council (NTC) for careful consideration.
- Additionally, **WANEP Guinea**, in partnership with the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), organised a two-day workshop for CSOs from 31 May to 1 June 2023. The primary objective of this workshop was to actively contribute to the ongoing orientation debates for the drafting of the new Constitution. The consortium of organisations, led by WANEP Guinea, played an active role to support the transition in this project. The proposals formulated during the workshop will be included as part of a robust advocacy document to be presented to the NTC.

²² In English: “We are all displaced persons in the commune of Dapelgo”

5. UTILISING RESEARCH CAPACITY TO SUPPORT POLICY ADVOCACY AND LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS

5.1. On 31 May 2023, **WANEP Mali** participated in a discussion where the preliminary findings of surveys conducted on land conflict management in the Mopti region were presented. The event was attended by 50 participants, including 20 women and 35 youth. Participants were briefed on the initial results of the land study in the Djenné, Bandiagara, and Mopti circles, focusing on the underlying causes of land conflicts. Participants formulated recommendations aimed at effectively addressing the study's outcomes.

5.2. WANEP Côte d'Ivoire actively participated in the validation of the report on the state of affairs and the roadmap for regional human rights forums in Côte d'Ivoire. This event, organised by the National Human Rights Council, took place on 16 May 2023 and involved 18 participants, including eight women.

5.3 WANEP Benin, leading the Benin CSO Electoral Platform, participated in a workshop on 27 April 2023. The workshop aimed to validate reports from the mission evaluating and capitalising on the actions of the Benin CSO Electoral Platform from 2019 to 2023. This event, supported by the European Union, brought together 52 participants, including 14 women.

5.4 WANEP Guinea, in collaboration with *Coalition des Femmes/Filles de Guinée pour le Dialogue et la Consolidation de la Paix et le Développement*²³ (COFFIG.SS) and *Groupe de travail Femmes, Jeunes, paix et sécurité en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Sahel* (GTFJPS- AOS) with support from Care International, successfully enhanced the capacity of 24 enumerators, including 12 women, from 7 to 14 May 2023. The training empowered participants, preparing them to conduct baseline surveys in all 11 localities across the country as part of the project "Women and girls committed to Peacebuilding in Guinea".

5.5 In June 2023, **WANEP Guinea**, in partnership with the Kadija Bah Foundation, conducted two focus groups, primarily with women, to gather their perspectives on establishing a dedicated media platform for women, aimed at promoting their social leadership (on women, peace, and security) and economic empowerment (on agribusiness).

6. TO STRENGTHEN WANEP'S INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND ITS MEMBER ORGANISATIONS TO DELIVER ON THEIR MANDATE

6.1 During the reporting period, **WANEP Regional** conducted interactive sessions, both in-person and virtual, with six of its National Networks: Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Senegal, and The Gambia. These sessions aimed to empower the Networks and enhance their capabilities. The discussions focused on key topics such as resource mobilisation, project progress, and the effective implementation of recommendations from WANEP Organisational Development Index (WODI). An additional virtual meeting took place on 13 June 2023 involving all Networks, to address WANEP's organisational and institutional standards, enabling them to effectively deliver on the organisation's strategic objectives.

6.2 WANEP Regional extended support to WANEP Côte d'Ivoire in the recruitment process for a NEWS Manager and an assistant. This support was aimed at strengthening the early warning department of the Network and enhancing the overall early warning systems of ECOWAS and the AU.

6.3 As part of the strategic partnership plan implementation, Catholic Relief Service (CRS) enhanced the capacities of **WANEP Guinea** by providing advanced Excel training to the Administrative and Financial Manager and the Accountant. A week-long workshop, hosted at CRS premises from 12 to 19

²³ In English: the coalition of Guinean Women/girls for Dialogue, Peacebuilding, and Development

April 2023, comprised partner organisations, including WANEP Guinea, to improve their proficiency in utilising this software. With expert facilitation from a selected firm, practical discussions were conducted to enhance participants' comprehension. The training aligns with WANEP Guinea's ongoing institutional improvement efforts.

As part of their commitment to enhancing the capacity of their staff to deliver effectively,

6.5 WANEP Togo conducted two information sessions on June 13 and 27, 2023, to introduce the new framework for preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse in the working environment. The sessions involved staff, member organisations, resource people, Youth4Peace, women mediators, and other service providers, intending to raise awareness and provide information about the new framework.

7. COLLABORATIONS AND EFFECTIVE NETWORKING

7.1 WANEP and Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) successfully hosted the 2023 Mediation Support Network (MSN) Meeting from 26 to 28 April 2023, which brought together mediation practitioners and experts from around the world. The theme "Mediating Complex Conflicts: Multistakeholder Collaborative Approach in a Changing World Order" spurred engaging discussions and yielded valuable insights. The event also welcomed new members eager to actively collaborate and contribute their expertise and resources to the Network.

7.2 In April 2023 **WANEP** facilitated working and familiarisation visits for Coalition of Civil Society Organisations for Peace and Conflict Prevention in Central Africa (COPAC) to the African Union's Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), bolstering CSO led early warning mechanisms in the region. Advocacy visits were also conducted to the Director of the Conflict Management Directorate and the Head of the Governance and Conflict Prevention Division.

7.3 WANEP participated as a panellist at the SGD 16 Conference in Rome on 30 May 2023. The Regional Coordinator for Monitoring and Evaluation spoke on the theme 'Promoting the United Nations' New Agenda for Peace: Effective Responses and Managing Risks,' using WANEP's framework of designing and supporting response mechanisms for preventing and managing conflicts and violence as an example of the New Agenda for Peace.

7.4 On 6 June 2023, **WANEP** presented its perspectives on women's rights, youth, economic and rural development in Northern Ghana, as well as the regional security situation, during an event hosted by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

7.5 On 8 June 2023, **WANEP** hosted a delegation from Partners Global, led by Ms Kyra Buchko, Co-Executive Director. The discussions focused on exploring potential areas of collaboration.

7.6 On 14 June 2023, **WANEP**, alongside media and democracy stakeholders, participated as a panellist in a Public Forum organised by the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) in Accra, Ghana. The Regional Coordinator for Research and Capacity Building addressed the theme "Media, Hate Speech, and Democratic Consolidation in Ghana.

7.7 WANEP and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) jointly organised a policy dialogue in Accra, Ghana from 26 to 27 June 2023 on "Revisiting Frameworks for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) in West Africa: Lessons from Ghana." The dialogue facilitated knowledge sharing among high-level professionals and experts from security agencies, academia, the National Peace Council, National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Media, fellows of the SSRC's African

Peacebuilding Network (APN) and Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa programme and civil society, including WANEP.

7.8 On 06 April 2023, **WANEP Mali** participated in a Donors' Roundtable focused on financing the 2022-2026 Action Plan of the National Policy for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism (PCVET). The Roundtable aimed to mobilise Technical and Financial Partners to fund the PCVET's action plan. The event was attended by 121 participants, comprising 87 men and 34 women.

7.9 **WANEP Mali** participated in the commemoration of the 48th anniversary²⁴ of ECOWAS on 27 May 2023 in Mali. The event brought together approximately 50 attendees, including the Head of MINUSMA, a representative from MISAHEL, state actors, civil society representatives, and accredited diplomatic missions in Mali. During the occasion, the National Coordinator of WANEP Mali took the initiative to strengthen the partnership with ECOWAS, establish connections with potential collaborators, and foster synergies for political and security governance programmes.

7.10 From 09 to 10 May 2023, **WANEP Mali** took part in a regional conference on citizen participation in governance and the co-production of security²⁵, organised by Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), Sub-Saharan Africa. The conference served as a framework for exchange, diagnosis and proposals for recommendations on the challenges linked to citizen participation in governance and the co-production of security in West Africa and the Sahel. The event brought together more than 78 stakeholders, including 30 women, from state institutions and CSOs in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire.

7.11 **WANEP Togo** and the *Collectif d'associations de lutte contre l'impunité au Togo* (CACIT) conducted a successful joint advocacy effort resulting in the release of four out of 103 detainees who were imprisoned in connection with the 2017 socio-political crisis in Togo.

7.12 As a member of the CSOs consortium and in collaboration with the Centre for Civilians in Conflict in the Sahel (CIVIC), **WANEP Niger** participated in advocacy meetings from 11 to 17 May 2023, with key stakeholders, including the National Assembly, the Mediator of the Republic, the National Commission for Human Rights (CNDH), opposition parties, and non-affiliated political parties. The purpose of these meetings was to advocate for the adoption of a draft law on the protection of civilians in conflict zones.

7.13 **WANEP Côte d'Ivoire** participated in an exchange meeting with members of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). The meeting took place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and focused on providing an overview of the security and political situation in Côte d'Ivoire. Key topics discussed included the occurrence of terrorist incursions in the north, upcoming local elections scheduled for 02 September 2023, and the issue of violence against women.

7.14 WANEP's support to the AU Conflict Management Directorate (CMD):

- The **WANEP-AU** Liaison Coordinator was invited to a two-day workshop organised by the Conflict Management Directorate (CMD) of the Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security (PAPS) from 23 to 24 May 2023 in Kenya. The workshop aimed to review early warning indicators to effectively capture current threats to peace and security in Africa. The Coordinator provided technical support during the review process and shared WANEP's

²⁴ The 48th anniversary celebration of ECOWAS was held under the theme "Towards Shared Prosperity."

²⁵ The conference aimed to help identify and review initiatives to empower citizens in the governance and delivery of the public security service in West Africa and the Sahel.

experience in reviewing early warning indicators and the functionality of its early warning system.

- Additionally, the Coordinator and a senior staff member of the CMD, was tasked by the Director of the CMD to lead efforts for revitalising the Conflict Early Warning System (CEWS) and generating concrete measures or recommendations through extensive engagements with critical stakeholders, especially RECs. Subsequently, a meeting was held in Kenya from 25-26 May 2023 to engage RECs and civil society, seeking key recommendations for the revitalisation of CEWS. The WANEP Liaison Coordinator has submitted the final report to the Director of CMD for consideration and implementation.
- The WANEP Liaison Coordinator also led in the development of an Early Warning Quarterly Report template for the CMD and initiated the process of generating the second quarter early warning report. This involved conducting conflict analysis to support the report from the West Africa Analysts' Desks. Additionally, the Coordinator has developed a concept note for an upcoming technical training aimed at enhancing the capacity of CMD early warning analysts and Situation Room staff. He has been tasked with playing a key role in training the staff on conflict early warning analysis and report writing.

7.15 The **WANEP-AU** Liaison Coordinator was invited as a panellist at the Nkafu Peace and Security Forum 2023, held on 21 June 2023 in Cameroon. The virtual engagement focused on the topic "Human Security and Strategic Peacebuilding for Sustainable Development in Africa." The Coordinator provided key recommendations to promote peace and security in Africa, aligning with the broader objectives of the Forum.