

# GenderTalk

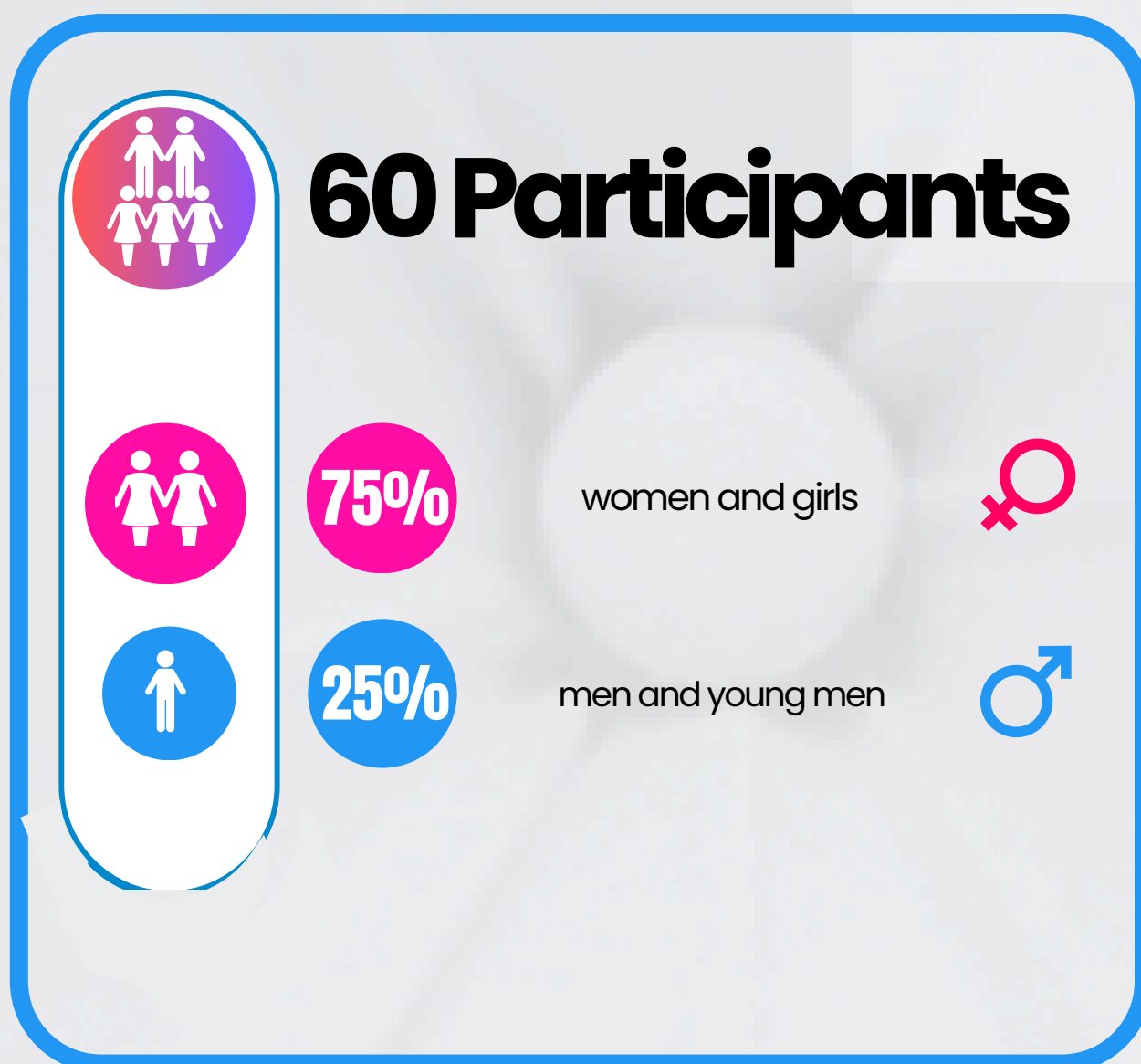
(14th edition)

Theme

## REDUCING CONTEMPORARY PEACE AND SECURITY RISKS FACED BY WOMEN AND GIRLS IN WEST AFRICA

Pan-African Women's Day, edition 2024, served as a framework for reflection and exchange for WANEP and its National Secretariats, which mobilised around a webinar on 8 August 2024. This day has been commemorated annually on 31 July, since its proclamation in 1962 by the United Nations and was formally established on 31 July 1974 in Senegal, during the first Congress of the Pan-African Women's Organisation.

This webinar also marked the 14th edition of WANEP's GenderTalk. As a reminder, GenderTalk is a digital consultation forum and a series of gender discussions initiated by WANEP in June 2020, to deliberate on peace and security issues and develop strategies that prioritise the security concerns of women and girls. Through this initiative, WANEP provides a platform for sharing experiences and engaging in in-depth discussions with women and girls; men and young men; national, regional, international partners; civil society groups and other stakeholders, regarding progress, challenges and prospects, in advancing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063.



## 14 COUNTRIES

Benin	Burkina-Faso	Cote d'Ivoire	The Gambia
Ghana	Guinea	Guinea-Bissau	Liberia
Mali	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal
Sierra Leone	Togo		

The objectives pursued by WANEP and its National Secretariats through this GenderTalk were as follows:

### OBJECTIVES

- To assess WANEP's efforts towards advancing the WPS Agenda over the past 12 months;
- To analyse the negative impact of the current sub-regional security situation on women and girls;
- To identify the major peace and security challenges faced by women and girls;
- To propose sustainable solutions for a safer and more secure environment for communities, including women and girls.





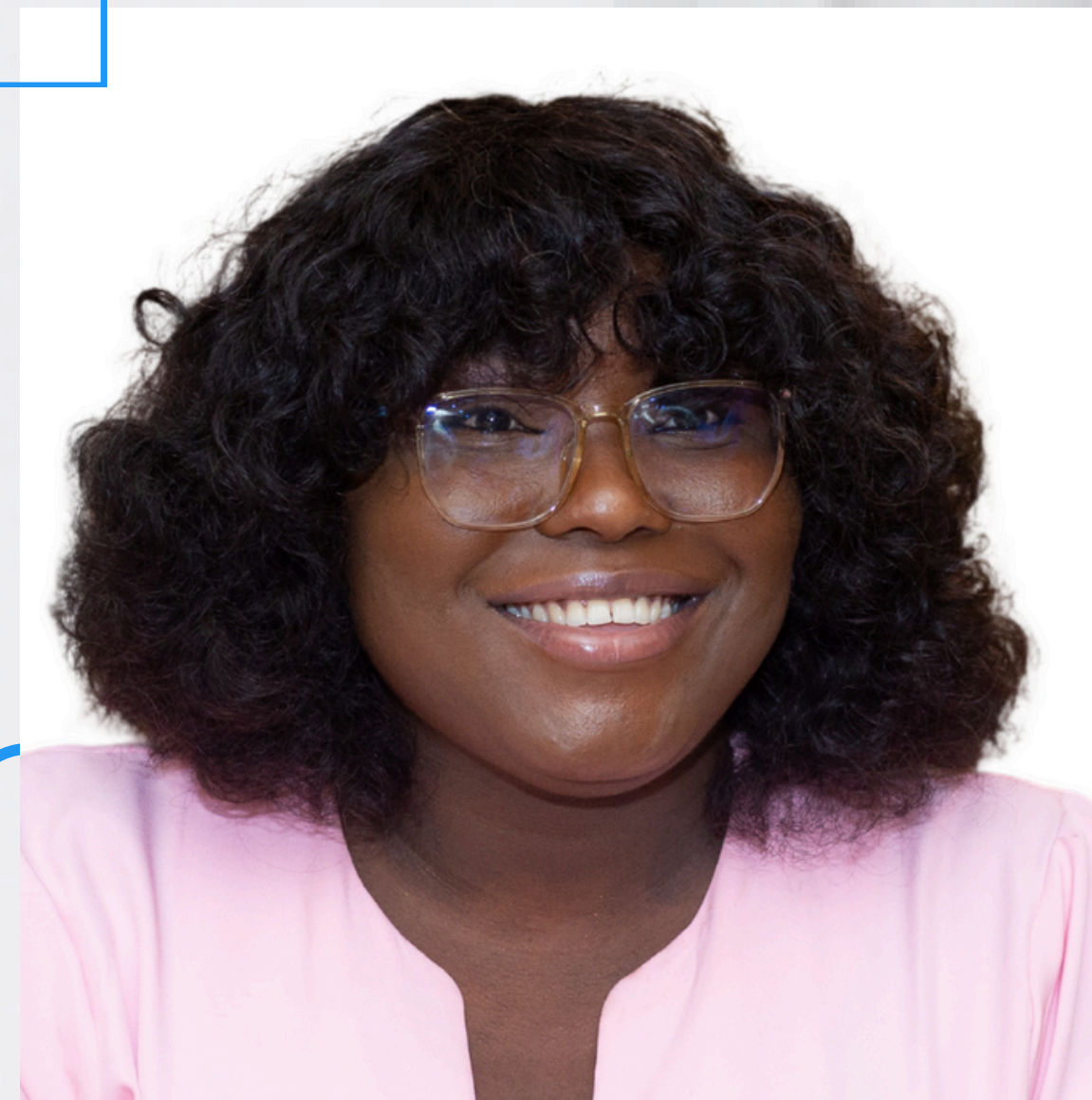
## PANELLISTS



**Edward JOMBLA**

Regional Conflict Analyst for Organised Crime & Violent Extremism, WANEP

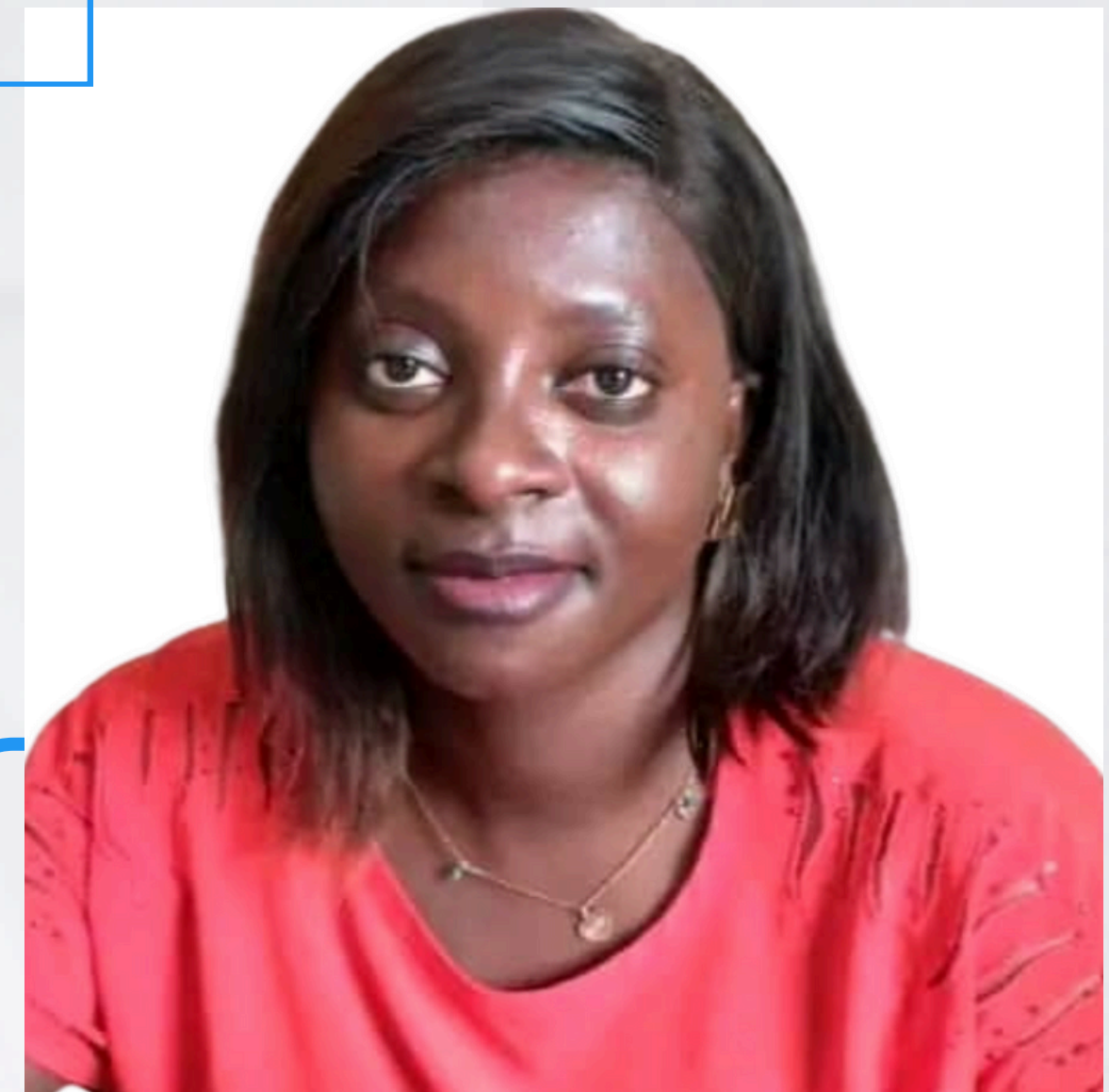
National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) data on the challenges faced by women and girls in West Africa



**Mary Nkifan OWOR-AGBOR**

WPS Focal Point, WANEP-Nigeria

Women's contribution to the fight against Violent Extremism in West Africa



**Denise CABRAL**

National Network Coordinator, WANEP-Guinea Bissau

The role of women in the fight against crime in West Africa



## 6 KEY PEACE AND SECURITY CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN AND GIRLS IN WEST AFRICA

01

Low representation of women and girls in decision-making bodies and in national peace and security committees, partly due to the absence of or failure to comply with the quota policies.

02

Intimidating factors limiting women's participation as candidates in the electoral process.

03

Recurrence of acts of rape, sexual exploitation, genital mutilation, etc., against minors and women, due to inadequate prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators.

04

Increased kidnapping of women and girls followed by ransom demands.

05

Social and economic vulnerability of women and girls due to socio-political crises and violent extremism.

06

Vulnerability of women and girls heightened by the effects of climate change (flooding, drought, famine, etc.).





## 12 KEY TAKEAWAYS

1



The importance of empowering women and girls to manage current peace and security risks more effectively.

2



The need for WPS focal points to review and diversify their intervention strategies, with particular emphasis on advocacy, lobbying and action focused on root causes.

3



The need for National Secretariats to initiate actions aimed at strengthening collaboration between governments, Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and the private sector.

4



The urgent need for all stakeholders to address the root causes, with due consideration for sustainability.

5



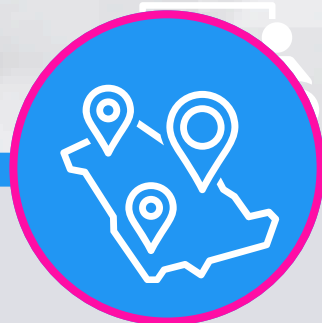
The importance of strengthening international cooperation between the various UN agencies, sub-regional and transnational agencies, and between these agencies and CSOs.

6



The need for TFPs and governments to provide substantial financial and material support in response to current security emergencies.

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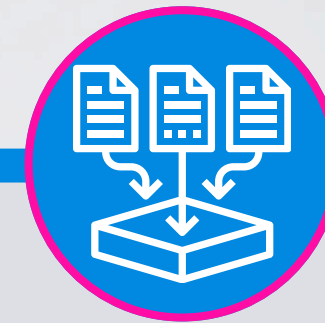
The urgent need to strengthen transnational cooperation in the fight against violent extremism by revitalising the Accra initiative and increasing investment in the three borders of the Sahel and coastal countries.

8



The need for WANEP National Networks to make greater use of data from their NEWS, as a tool to guide decision-making, project development and advocacy.

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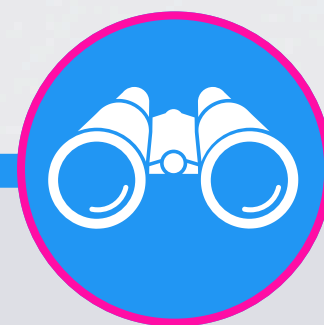
The importance for WANEP to build partnerships with national women's rights organisations to improve data collection on women and girls.

10



The need to continue revitalising the women's platforms established by WANEP such as the National Women's Coalition (in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Côte d'Ivoire); the Women Community Mediators (Togo, Benin, Guinea-Bissau) ...

11



The need to pursue peacebuilding initiatives by addressing current challenges such as governance and democracy, the low representation of women and girls in decision-making bodies, and crime in all its forms.

12



The need to forge partnerships with specialised agencies, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), etc., and national commissions dedicated to combating crime and the circulation of light weapons.



## ABOUT THE PANELLISTS

### 1 EDWARD JOMBLA

Edward Jombla is a dedicated social development professional specialising in early warning, conflict prevention, and human security. Since 2017, he has served as a Regional Analyst at WANEP and previously held the role of National Coordinator for WANEP Sierra Leone. With over 18 years of experience in peace and security, he is passionate about advancing inclusivity and participation in these fields.

### 2 MARY NKIFAN OWOR-AGBOR

Mary Nkifan Owor-agbor has been the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) focal point for WANEP Nigeria since 2021. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria. Dynamic and deeply committed to the WPS agenda, she possesses extensive professional experience working with peace communities, women, and youth.

### 3 DENISE CABRAL

Denise Cabral is the National Coordinator of WANEP Guinea-Bissau since 2020 and former Foreign Affairs Advisor of Guinea-Bissau from 2011 to 2019. Committed to peace and security issues, Ms. CABRAL holds a Master's degree in Diplomacy from Senegal's École Nationale d'Administration (ENA). Her commitment to peace and security has been demonstrated over the past twelve years in Guinea-Bissau.

## APPRECIATION

We extend our gratitude to our strategic partners, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), for their substantial contribution to WANEP's Women, Peace, and Security programme.

