



WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

Progress Report
July-Sept 2025

WEST AFRICA PEACE AND SECURITY OVERVIEW FOR QUARTER THREE, 2025

During the third quarter of 2025, WANEP National Early Warning Systems (NEWS) documented a total of **2,732 human security-related incidents** across West Africa, resulting in **2,877 fatalities** and **2,986** injured victims. The monitoring report captured key trends under four thematic areas: Organised Crime and Violent Extremism, Democracy and Governance, Gender, Peace and Security and Environmental Security.

ORGANISED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The region continues to record escalating security threats driven by organised crime and violent extremism. Between July and September 2025, a total of **2,271** incidents were recorded, resulting in **2,196** deaths and **590** injuries. These incidents covered a broad spectrum of criminal and violent activities, including terrorist attacks, armed banditry, agro-pastoralist conflicts, armed robbery, homicide, cult and gang-related violence, kidnapping, drug/human trafficking, and other forms of crime and fraudulent activities.

Data from NEWS during the reporting period informed that **438** armed attacks, including incidents of banditry, robbery and gang violence, resulted in **1057 deaths**, accounting for the highest fatality rate in the period. Also, **263** homicide cases led to **233 deaths**, while **111** terrorist-related attacks were documented across Nigeria, Niger, Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso, and Mali. Terrorist activities, particularly by Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM), Islamic State Sahel Province (ISSP), Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), remained active across the region.

The sustained operational capacity of violent extremist groups in the Sahel has further aggravated the humanitarian crisis and spread insecurity across the region. A major terrorist attack in Dar-al-Jamal, near the Nigerian-Cameroon border in Borno State, claimed 63 lives, including five soldiers, in September 2025¹.

Between July and September 2025, the JNIM intensified violence against military bases and outposts, particularly in Mali's Segou and Kayes regions, causing significant losses and seizing military assets. Attacks on army bases in Farabougou, Niono cercle, Segou region, resulted in the deaths of security personnel and local self-defence fighters as well as the destruction of facilities and looting of weapons.² In July 2025, JNIM established blockades against Kayes city and Niono town in Segou and declared civilians as legitimate targets³. The decision to blockade the city aligns with JNIM's increasing engagement in economic conflict that has led to the destruction of sugar and mining industries, along with the kidnapping of foreign workers. The escalating violence led China to suspend gold mining operations in the country on 2 August 2025⁴. These incidents demonstrate the group's ambition to undermine Mali's economic and security infrastructures. The Kayes region, positioned along the Senegal River, is particularly significant as it serves as a trade corridor between Senegal and Mali and contributes substantially to the national GDP.⁵

¹ <https://acleddata.com/update/africa-overview-october-2025> (Accessed October 4, 2025)

² [Mali: Two simultaneous jihadist attacks in the Segou region," Radio France Internationale, 20 August 2025 \(French\)](https://www.rfi.fr/international/mali-deux-attaques-simultanees-jihadistes-region-segou) -

<https://acleddata.com/update/africa-overview-september-2025>

³ <https://acleddata.com/update/africa-overview-august-2025> (Accessed August 1, 2025) - [Global Times, "Chinese Embassy in Mali urges nationals to strengthen security, suspend gold mining operations," 3 August 2025](https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202508/1339956.shtml) -

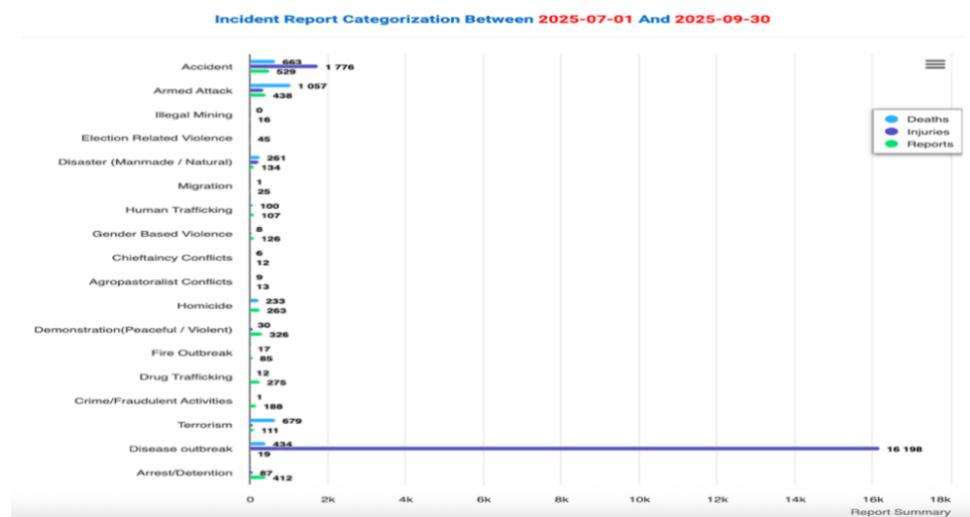
<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202508/1339956.shtml>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ [JNIM Attacks in Western Mali Reshape Sahel Conflict: By Daniel Eizenga \(September 29, 2025\) - https://africacenter.org/spotlight/jnim-attacks-western-mali-sahel/](https://africacenter.org/spotlight/jnim-attacks-western-mali-sahel/) (Accessed October 2, 2025)

Despite the escalating threats, joint aerial and ground counter-offensives by the military in Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso continued in the quarter. In July-August 2025, Senegal deployed the Rapid Action Groups – Surveillance and Intervention in the Sahel (RAG-SIS) along its border with Mali, responding to coordinated attacks in western Mali by the Maçina Liberation Front (MLF), a JNIM affiliate. The scale and coordination of these attacks represent a shift in tactics and territorial expansion of the JNIM coalition.⁶

Illicit drug trafficking remained a serious threat to regional stability and public health. Between July and September 2025, **275** drug-trafficking incidents were reported, with **12** deaths linked to illicit drugs/substances⁷. Major seizures included Indian hemp, cocaine, heroin, codeine, tramadol, methamphetamine, and other psychoactive substances. The trafficking routes and operations spanned Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Guinea, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, and Senegal. Drug enforcement agencies across several states intensified surveillance and cross-border operations, leading to numerous arrests and the dismantling of local and transnational trafficking networks. Despite increased enforcement, the domestic and regional proliferation of drug markets remains a growing concern. In August 2025, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) of Nigeria intercepted a cocaine consignment valued at 5.3 billion naira (\$ 3,455,003 million) concealed in textile materials and local charms.⁸ The overlap between drug trafficking and other organised crimes, notably human trafficking and abductions, persists, with **107** reported incidents resulting in at least **100** fatalities. Furthermore, **126** cases of gender-based violence (GBV) triggered or exacerbated by substance consumption and abuse were reported during the period, resulting in **8** fatalities⁹. many of which were. The illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) continued to undermine peace and security across West Africa. The period was marked by multiple weapon seizures and security operations revealing the persistence of transnational arms trafficking networks operating across porous borders. The growing sophistication of trafficking routes, coupled with weak border surveillance and corruption within security institutions, has allowed arms smuggling to thrive. The availability of these weapons continues to fuel banditry, communal violence, piracy, and insurgency, deepening insecurity across the region.

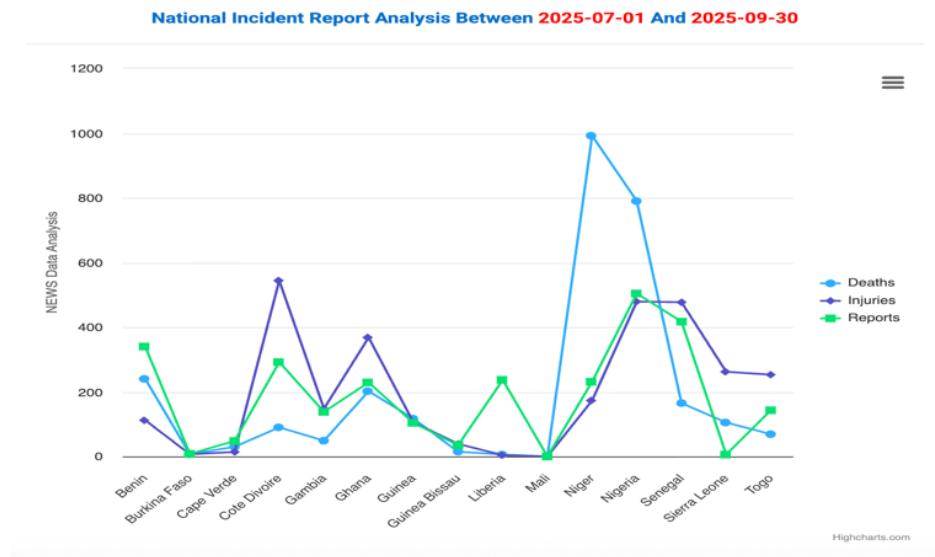


⁶ JNIM Attacks in Western Mali Reshape Sahel Conflict: By Daniel Eizenga (September 29, 2025) - <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/jnim-attacks-western-mali-sahel/> (Accessed October 2, 2025)

⁷ WANEP NEWS

⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCaoVGPljCk> (Accessed on October 4, 2025)

⁹ WANEP NEWS - <https://news.wanepsystems.net/> - (Accessed October 6, 2025)



DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Between July and September 2025, West Africa experienced significant political shifts shaped by constitutional reforms, deepening military influence, and heightened concerns over democratic regression. The period was also marked by the formal split between ECOWAS and the Sahelian military regimes, signalling a new phase of political fragmentation in the region.

The division between coastal ECOWAS states and the military-led countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger) was finalised when the six-month transitional deadline for reversing their withdrawal expired on 29 July 2025¹⁰. This marked a major setback for regional integration with consequences on trade, governance, and security.

In Burkina Faso, the military Government dissolved the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) on 17 July 2025, transferring electoral management to the Ministry of Territorial Administration¹¹. The military authority justified the move as a measure to reduce costs and minimise foreign interference in elections in the country. However, critics highlight that this decision further entrenches military rule and prolongs the already stalled transition to civilian governance.

In Mali, a significant development occurred in early July 2025. Following the dissolution of political parties on July 8, the transitional Charter was promulgated, formally granting the transitional President, General Assimi Goïta, a five-year renewable mandate starting in 2025, with elections suspended "until the pacification of the country."¹² This action effectively cemented a prolonged

¹⁰ <https://allafrica.com/stories/202508010049.html> (Accessed on 7-10-2025)

¹¹ <https://apnews.com/article/burkina-faso-electoral-comission-910d22d0493e5302509782c7c18953c0> (Accessed on 7-10-2025)

¹² <https://www.idea.int/democracytracker/report/mali/july-2025?pid=8200> (Accessed on 7-10-2025)

period of military rule and was met with rejection from opposition figures who demanded a clear electoral timeline.

In Guinea, a constitutional referendum held on 21 September 2025 was approved by 89 per cent of voters, according to complete provisional results.¹³ The new constitution extends the presidential term from five to two terms limit of seven years. It also provides for a bicameral parliament with the introduction of a Senate, as well as the establishment of a Special Court of Justice for high-ranking officials, which includes the President, Prime Minister, and government members. Significantly, the new Constitution removes the clause barring the military authorities from contesting elections, potentially paving the way for transitional president General Mamady Doumbouya to run in the December 28 presidential election. Opposition parties boycotted the referendum, denouncing the process as fraudulent and repressive¹⁴.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the political environment surrounding the presidential election slated for October 25, 2025, continues to draw attention due to the earlier exclusion of several prominent opposition figures during the candidate validation process. Of the sixty applications submitted, only five were approved by the Constitutional Council, including the incumbent president, Alassane Ouattara¹⁵. High-profile opposition leaders such as Laurent Gbagbo, Tidjane Thiam, and Pascal Affi N'Guessan were deemed ineligible, a development that had already generated public criticism and raised concerns among observers about the competitiveness of the electoral landscape. These dynamics had contributed to heightened political tension, with periodic protests, restrictions on public gatherings, and arrests of opposition supporters reported ahead of the polls¹⁶.

In Togo, the aftermath of the June 2025 demonstrations continued to shape the political discourse. Between July 1 and 4, 49 individuals were interrogated, and 18 were convicted for disturbing public order¹⁷. Several activists were arrested throughout July. The municipal elections held on July 17, 2025, were followed by the Supreme Court's confirmation of the final results on August 6, granting the ruling Union for the Republic (UNIR) 1,150 of the 1,527 council seats (approximately 75% of the total). The low female representation (14%) drew criticism from gender advocates. Opposition political parties, along with Civil society groups, contested the credibility of the elections, citing irregularities and limited transparency. Meanwhile, the Government continues to restrict civic space. Authorities banned a memorial mass planned for August 4, 2025, in honour of Jacques Koami Koutoglo, a young man who died during the June protests, citing ongoing judicial investigations. A planned peaceful march on August 9 was also cancelled. In response, civil society launched a nationwide civil disobedience campaign, "*Opération Togo Mort*," on August 16, which drew partial public compliance and highlighted the growing frustration over restrictions on freedoms of expression and rally¹⁸.

Senegal adopted *Bill No. 15/2025* to expand the scope of asset declaration laws, extending the obligation to parliamentarians, judges, and senior public officials. While the reform was presented as a commitment to transparency, debates continue over whether the President should also be subject

¹³ <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/voters-guinea-approve-new-constitution-with-89-support-2025-09-24/> (Accessed 6-10-2025)

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ <https://www.ecofinagency.com/news/0909-48515-five-candidates-confirmed-for-cote-d-ivoire-s-october-2025-election> (6-10-2025)

¹⁶ <https://www.africanews.com/2025/10/03/ivory-coast-bans-rallies-as-opposition-leaders-barred-from-october-election/>

¹⁷ WANEP-Togo July NEWS Monthly Bulletin

¹⁸ Ibid

to the same requirements. The ongoing discussions on this bill reveal the persistent concerns over executive accountability¹⁹.

In Benin, the pre-electoral environment intensified as the country geared up for the 2026 general elections. Political actors, civil society, and state institutions have shown increasing engagement to ensure peaceful and credible elections. On August 5, 2025, the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENA) held a consultative meeting with Government institutions to assess progress on the electoral timeline. Subsequently, on August 11, it released the official election calendar, followed by the publication on August 14 of the legal framework for parliamentary endorsements and monitoring of mayors²⁰. Civil society, led by the Electoral Platform of Civil Society Organisations (PEOSC) coordinated by WANEP-Benin, actively monitored the process. Throughout September 2025, the platform deployed observers across 65 of the 77 communes to oversee the display of the Provisional Computerised Electoral Roll (LEIP) from September 13 to 28, visiting over 630 polling centres. Despite progress, observers reported irregularities such as missing or damaged lists and low public interest. Evolving interactions among parties and leaders have added new dimensions to this pre-electoral context. Tensions rose on August 14, 2025, when MOELE-Benin leader Jacques Ayadji accused Government officials of undermining his party. President Patrice Talon reiterated he would not seek a third term and, on September 1, signalled support for Economy Minister Romuald Wadagni as a potential successor. Meanwhile, opposition parties are still shaping their strategy, forming a committee on September 23, to review nominations. These events highlight the growing political manoeuvring ahead of Benin's upcoming elections.

Overall, the quarter underscored the fragility of democracy in West Africa, with upcoming elections in some countries set to test the resilience of democratic institutions and the credibility of regional governance mechanisms. The formal ECOWAS-AES split further complicates regional cohesion, undermining collective approaches to governance and security challenges.

GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY

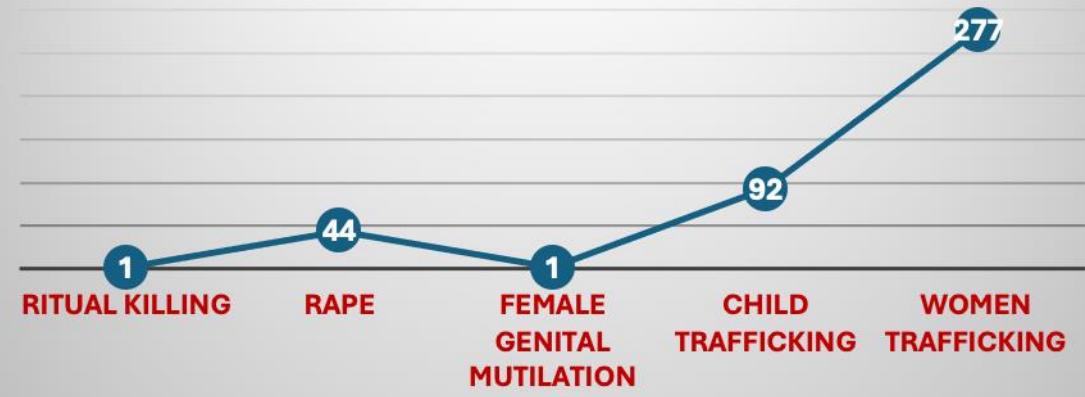
During the third quarter of 2025, according to WANEP's NEWS data, **120** incidents of Gender-Based Violence, including human trafficking, rape, and female genital mutilation, were recorded across Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Ghana, and The Gambia. Women and children accounted for 84% of victims, while 16% were men and boys. The incidents included 277 trafficked women, 44 cases of rape, 92 trafficked children, and one documented case of ritual killing.

¹⁹ <https://www.idea.int/democracytracker/report/senegal/august-2025> (Accessed 8-10-2025)

²⁰ WANEP-Benin NEWS Monthly bulletins

GBV Data Quater 3 - 2025

(Source News-WANEP)



Between July and September 2025, gender-related security concerns persisted across the region, reflecting the continued vulnerability of women and children to trafficking, exploitation, and violence. In The Gambia, the death of a one-month-old baby following a Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) procedure in August sparked nationwide outrage and renewed demands for further reinforcement of the country's FGM prohibition law. Human trafficking: In Côte d'Ivoire, authorities dismantled a major trafficking network in Méagui in August 2025. This operation led to the rescue of **117 victims**, including **35 girls** and exposed the magnitude of child trafficking in the cocoa-producing southwest regions of Côte d'Ivoire. In Ghana, coordinated anti-trafficking operations conducted between September 5 and 19 led to the rescue of **60 victims**, with 41 foreign nationals and 19 Ghanaians, which demonstrates strengthened cross-border cooperation to curb human trafficking. Similarly, in Guinea, security forces intercepted and rescued over **200 migrants**, including women and children, from a smuggling network in Kamsar.

During the period under review, irregular migration intensified, particularly along Senegal's and Guinea's coastal corridors. Senegal recorded a sharp increase in irregular migration to Europe, mainly via maritime routes. Over **1,700 migrants** were intercepted or rescued by security forces and the national navy during multiple coordinated operations across Dakar, Mbour, Fatick, Saint-Louis, and Ziguinchor. Notable incidents include the interception of **239 migrants** off Saint-Louis on July 29, the rescue of 201 individuals in Foundiougne (Fatick) on July 9, and the interception of **147 migrants** off Sangomar in August. The navy also conducted three major operations off the coast of Dakar between September 22 and 26, rescuing **259, 142, and 282 migrants**, respectively. Women, minors, and infants were frequently among the rescued. NEWS data from Senegal, The Gambia, and Guinea showed that trafficking networks demanded payments ranging from 250,000 to 600,000 FCFA per migrant, often with cross-border coordination involving regional actors. Despite increased maritime patrols and law enforcement collaboration, gaps in legal harmonisation and inter-state coordination continued to impede the prosecution of traffickers. At the same time, the region witnessed significant judicial actions addressing gender-based violence. In Sierra Leone, at least nine cases of sexual violence against minors were successfully prosecuted, resulting in sentences ranging from 10 to 25 years. The

increase in online harassment in Senegal prompted the Senegalese Cybercrime Division to open seven investigations into cases of sextortion and digital exploitation of women.

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

Environmental security reports of the region highlight health-related challenges marked by floods, fires, and disease outbreaks. Persistent heavy rainfall and flooding during the quarter led to extensive damage, displacement, and loss of life across several countries. The Mpox epidemic, for instance, continued to spread, posing a major public health threat in many communities across the region.

In Ghana, over **400 slum dwellers** (mostly women and children) were displaced by a major fire in Kumasi's Baba Ayoyo area, while market fires in Madina, Suame, and Kadjebi destroyed shops and livelihood activities. Heavy rains and flooding, compounded by the spillage of the Bagri Dam in northern Ghana, submerged farmlands in the West Mamprusi Municipality. In Guinea, torrential rains caused flash floods and landslides that resulted in the death of over a dozen people, mostly women and children, as well as the displacement of families. Noticeable among the incidents reported in WANEP's NEWS is a landslide that killed and injured dozens of people at Friguiadi in the Coyah region. In Niger, flooding in Zinder affected more than **2,600 households** and nearly **22,000 people**, while in Nigeria, widespread floods in Plateau State destroyed over **50 houses and farmlands**. In Cape Verde, severe rainfall and landslides on São Vicente and Santo Antão islands caused at least seven deaths and prompted the government to declare a state of emergency.

A high prevalence of the Mpox outbreak was reported. Sierra Leone remains one of the epicentres of the Mpox in West Africa. At least **5,345 confirmed cases**, with **56 fatalities and 33 active cases**, were recorded in the country in September 2025, with **5,256 recoveries**²¹. In Guinea, following the detection of initial 49 confirmed Mpox cases in early July, the number rose to **271 by 22 July 2025**, including one death and 55 recoveries, with 70% of cases affecting men.²²

Even though the WHO decided in early September to lift the global public health emergency status for Mpox, experts continued to warn of persistent risks in countries with weak health systems and high HIV prevalence²³. Overall, the situation during the third quarter of 2025 in West Africa underscores the urgent need for integrated disaster-risk reduction, climate adaptation, and healthcare security measures that prioritise vulnerable populations, especially women and children.

²¹ [National Public Health Agency - Government of Sierra Leone- MPOX Updates](#) (Accessed on 10-10-2025)

²² According to the National Agency for Health Security (ANSS).

²³ [Mpox no longer an emergency but concerns remain, health body says | Reuters](#) (Accessed on 10-10-2025)

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

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

1.1. WANEP produced four key publications during the reporting period:



Thematic Report: [Women and the Shadow Economy of Illegal Mining in West Africa.](#)



Policy Brief: [Référendum Constitutionnel en Guinée: Nécessité d'ouverture et d'inclusion pour limiter les risques "d'une constitution non consensuelle](#)²⁴



NEWS Quick Update: [Alert on Rising Socio-Political Tensions and Risk of Instability in Togo.](#)

[SDG 16 Situation Report](#)



[report on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions in Africa, outlining key challenges and opportunities for collaboration towards achieving SDG 16 and the AU's Agenda 2063.](#) co-authored in partnership with the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV)

1.2. From 7-11 July 2025, WANEP provided technical expertise at a West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) regional workshop in Ouagadougou on the Monitoring and Early Warning Mechanism (MeVAP) manual. WANEP thus strengthened member state capacities in data collection and crisis response, while showcasing links between its systems and ECOWARN and AU platforms.

1.3 As part of the contribution to the early warning mechanism, the WANEP African Union (AU) Liaison Coordinator:



Produced a strategic advisory note to guide the AU Preventive Diplomatic Mission to Guinea-Bissau ahead of the 23 November 2025 general elections. The note provided scenario analysis and key recommendations to support preventive diplomacy and coordinated responses to emerging threats.



Submitted monthly early warning analyses and five strategic reports for Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau and Togo to the AU Commission's Department of Political

²⁴ In English: Constitutional Referendum in Guinea: The Need for Openness and Inclusion to Mitigate the Risks of a Non-Consensual Constitution.

Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS). These informed decision-making and preventive actions by the Peace and Security Council.



Contributed to the design and implementation of the AU-ECOWAS-CSO regional early warning mechanism, supporting joint conflict analysis and governance monitoring initiatives under the Technical Coordination Mechanism.

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

2.1 Advancing WPS through Global Campaigns:

To mark Pan-African Women's Day 2025,



WANEP convened the 18th edition of its GenderTalk²⁵ Series on 31 July 2025 to commemorate Pan-African Women's Day. The discussion, themed "The Newly Adopted AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls: A Step Towards Ending GBV in West Africa?", brought together about 90 participants (70% women), including representatives from ECOWAS, Sierra Leone's Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, and the Ghana Police Service. The dialogue enhanced participants' understanding of the AU Convention and its potential to advance GBV prevention in the region. It resulted in a regional call to action urging West African states to ratify and domesticate the Convention and strengthened collaboration among civil society actors advocating for women's protection.



In Côte d'Ivoire, WANEP organised a webinar under the theme "Young Women and Politics in Côte d'Ivoire: Assert, Influence, Transform." The discussion highlighted the need to strengthen women's political participation and leadership. Key recommendations focused on promoting mentorship for young women, enforcing parity laws, enhancing women leaders' visibility, and ensuring a safe and inclusive political environment.



In Niger, the event was observed under the theme "Justice for Women: Reparations for Peace and the Reconstruction of a Prosperous Nation." The observance celebrated the contribution of African women to peacebuilding and national reconstruction, while amplifying advocacy for inclusive governance and climate resilience in the Sahel. The initiative reinforced

²⁵ GenderTalk, launched by WANEP in June 2020, is a digital platform for discussing peace and security issues with a focus on the concerns of women and girls. It also facilitates experience sharing among stakeholders on the progress, challenges, and prospects of advancing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in the region.

WANEP's commitment to promoting women's leadership as a driver of peace and social transformation.



In Guinea-Bissau, the focus was on interactive community initiatives to raise awareness among youth on drug use and delinquency in Bissau neighbourhoods. The session, which brought together 18 participants (13 women and 5 men), provided a platform for sharing experiences and community challenges. It reinforced women's pivotal role in promoting peace and social cohesion and contributed to the broader continental commemoration celebrating women's achievements and leadership in Africa.



In Nigeria, WANEP launched an online campaign highlighting the role of Nigerian women in peacebuilding, governance, and community resilience, reaching wide engagement across its social media platforms.



Whereas in Senegal, WANEP held a mentorship workshop bringing together young women and civil society actors. The session featured video testimonies from women across three generations, allowing participants to reflect on past achievements, current challenges, and future pathways for women's leadership in peacebuilding, science, and technology.

2.2. Strengthening Internal Capacity for Effective Delivery of the WPS Programme Across Networks:

WANEP's Regional Secretariat organised an online training on Proposal Writing and Resource Mobilisation targeting WPS and YPS Focal Points across its national networks. The training was designed to address identified capacity gaps in resource mobilisation, with a view to supporting the effective implementation of the WPS/YPS Programmes. Approximately 50 participants attended the training. Feedback collected through a post-training online survey indicated that nearly 90% of participants gained new knowledge and have since begun applying these skills by drafting proposals and identifying potential funding opportunities, including regional and international funding mechanisms aligned with peacebuilding, youth engagement, and gender equality priorities.

2.3. Strengthening Collaboration to Advance the WPS Agenda in West Africa

2.3.1 From 11-12 August 2025, WANEP provided technical support to Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region (NOPSWECO²⁶) during a Regional Strategic Planning Workshop organised by the Newtwok (NOPSWECO)²⁷, held in Dakar, Senegal. The workshop brought together about 50 participants, including representatives from NOPSWECO chapters, UN Women, GIZ, the EU, and other regional stakeholders. Represented by its Regional Coordinator for Women, Peace and Security, WANEP shared experiences and best practices in building strong regional networks. This contribution informed the development of NOPSWECO's next five-year strategic plan and

²⁶ **NOPSWECO** – The Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region is a network of women mediators and peacebuilders promoting gender equality and women's participation in peace and security processes. It is a flagship initiative under the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

strengthened collaboration between the two organisations to advance women's participation in peace and security processes in West Africa.

2.3.2 On 15 July 2025, WANEP contributed to a policy roundtable organised by the Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA) in Accra, focused on financing the Ghana National Action Plan II (GHANAP II) on UNSCR 1325. The roundtable convened 30 representatives from government, civil society, and development partners to examine sustainable funding strategies for the WPS agenda in the context of declining global aid. WANEP provided technical inputs on resource mobilisation and policy integration. Key recommendations emerging from the discussions included mainstreaming GHANAP II into government planning frameworks, strengthening private sector engagement, and adopting a developmental approach to enhance national ownership and ensure sustainable financing for the WPS agenda.

2.3.3 Strengthening Women's Networks for Peace in the Sahel:



Between July and September 2025, WANEP initiated a regional project "Strengthening the Capacities of Women's Organisations and Building a Women's Movement for Peace in the Sahel." To kickstart the project, an introductory mission was conducted in Niger, Mauritania, and Senegal to gather inputs from beneficiary networks, including the Plateforme des Femmes du Sahel (PFS), REPSFECO, RESOF-BLT, and ROAJELF. Organisational diagnostics for these four women's networks were completed, and corresponding reports were produced.



In September, two regional workshops were convened in Dakar, Senegal, bringing together over 50 representatives from more than ten countries. The first workshop focused on strategic advocacy and transformational leadership, while the second facilitated the co-creation of four advocacy plans aligned with each network's mandate, forming a shared regional agenda for women's peace leadership.



Additionally, on 12 August, WANEP organised a public awareness campaign themed "Climate, Peace and Inclusion: Women's Voices at the Heart of Resilience." The campaign engaged over 70 participants-79% of them young women-raising awareness of the links between climate change, peace and gender inclusion, and fostering intergenerational dialogue. WANEP Mali also participated, at the invitation of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and Families, in regional and national consultations leading to the États Généraux on the Situation of Women, Children and Families in Mali.

These initiatives strengthened the leadership and advocacy capacities of women's networks, advanced a unified advocacy agenda for women's peace and security, enhanced awareness of women's role in climate resilience, and reinforced WANEP's recognition as a strategic partner in national and regional gender dialogues.

Between July and September 2025, WANEP implemented several key interventions to localise and advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda across different states in Nigeria.



In collaboration with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) and Global Affairs Canada, WANEP organised a three-day capacity-strengthening workshop in Lagos State (15-17 July 2025) and a two-day review meeting in Edo State (31 July-1 August 2025) on the localisation of UNSCR 1325 and Nigeria's National Action Plan (NAP) on WPS. The sessions brought together over 75 stakeholders from government agencies, civil society, traditional institutions, and youth groups to enhance their understanding of the WPS framework, review draft State Action Plans, and establish Localisation Steering Committees to drive implementation.



On 1 August 2025, the organisation undertook advocacy visits to the Edo State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and the Nigerian Police Force, securing institutional commitment to the localisation process. This was followed by the first and second Edo State Steering Committee meetings (21 August and early September), which reviewed and refined the draft Action Plan and identified strategies for mainstreaming WPS priorities across state policies.



In celebration of the International Day of Peace (21-22 September 2025), WANEP supported women's groups in Edo and Delta States, Uneme Women and Ossissa Women, organised community peace marches under the global theme "Act Now for a Peaceful World." These grassroots actions mobilised local women, youth, and traditional leaders in advocating non-violence, reconciliation, and social cohesion through creative community engagement.



Additionally, on 27 August 2025, WANEP convened the 7th National Gender Talk Series in commemoration of International Youth Day. The dialogue brought together 31 participants to explore youth contributions to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), underscoring the transformative role of young people in gender-responsive peacebuilding and policy advocacy.



Finally, from 29-30 September 2025, the organisation participated in a Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) organised in partnership with WARDC and FIDA Kenya. The session deepened understanding of digital harms, legal gaps, and survivor-centred approaches while strengthening solidarity among feminist organisations across Africa.

These initiatives strengthened multi-stakeholder coordination and state-level ownership of the WPS agenda, enhanced institutional commitment to UNSCR 1325 localisation, expanded digital and community advocacy for women's participation in peace processes, and reinforced WANEP's leadership in advancing gender equality and inclusive peacebuilding in Nigeria across the country.

2.4 Gender Connect²⁸ Publications: During the reporting period, WANEP published one edition of Gender Connect on The Effectiveness of Quota and Parity Laws in Advancing Women's Political Participation: Cases of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau. [Link](#)

Drawing on insights from the GenderTalk Series held on 30 June 2025, the publications were disseminated through WANEP's communication channels, including email, social media, and partner networks. The findings are informing ongoing advocacy and actions to strengthen women's leadership and political participation in West Africa.

2.5 During the reporting period, WANEP implemented several initiatives to strengthen women's leadership and participation in governance and peacebuilding processes in Burkina Faso.



With UNDP support, two training sessions on political leadership and public speaking were organised from 14-16 July and 30 July-1 August 2025, benefiting 100 women, including 10 young women from the regions of Nakambé, Yadga, Nando, and Guiriko. The training enhanced participants' confidence, communication skills, and understanding of leadership values.



In partnership with UNDP, four regional and intergenerational dialogues were held between 18 July and 4 August 2025 on women's participation in governance and peace consolidation. The sessions gathered 100 women, including 10 young women, fostering collaboration and collective action to advance women's inclusion in decision-making.



With UN Women's support, capacity-building workshops were conducted from 21 July to 7 August 2025 for 400 community leaders, including 200 young men, across the same regions. The training focused on women's political rights, the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, UNSCR 2250, and peaceful conflict resolution, improving participants' knowledge and commitment to promoting gender equality and peace at the community level

2.6. In Togo, WANEP implemented several initiatives to promote women's inclusion in governance, combat misinformation, and strengthen community protection mechanisms.



From 28-31 July 2025, with UNDP support, WANEP broadcast 12 radio programmes across the Savanes, Kara, and Centrale regions, reaching over 1.4 million listeners on the theme "Inclusive and Participatory Local Governance: Strengthening Social Cohesion through Women's Full Participation." Following the GenderTalk organised in the second quarter of the year, participants also hosted two post-workshop radio discussions in Kabyè²⁹ and French on women's decision-making roles and their contribution to countering misinformation.

²⁸ *Gender Connect* is the electronic publication of WANEP's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Programme. It addresses emerging WPS issues in West Africa by providing in-depth analysis to inform public policy and promote gender-responsive peace and governance processes.

²⁹ A language primarily spoken in northern Togo



Building on these efforts, GEME-SA, one of the GenderTalk beneficiary organisations, conducted awareness sessions in nine localities of the Savanes region on “Combating Disinformation and Misinformation and Their Consequences.” The activity reached 325 people (including 23 men), raising awareness on gender-based violence (GBV), its impacts, and available protection mechanisms.



Under the Equipop-funded project “Transformative Implementation of the Women, Youth, Peace and Security Programmes in Togo,” WANEP organised two community dialogues on 28 and 29 August 2025 in Dzrekpo Amegnran and Mango under the theme “Violence and Insecurity Affecting Women: Breaking the Silence, Building Protective Communities.” The sessions gathered 85 participants, who made firm commitments to prevent GBV and promote local advocacy for women’s safety and empowerment.



Finally, in August and September 2025, the organisation strengthened collaboration with the Ministry of Social Action through a series of consultations advocating for gender integration, GBV prevention, and women’s participation in peace and governance processes. WANEP also provided technical input to the validation process of the new National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2026-2030), officially launched on 17 September 2025.

2.7. In Niger, WANEP supported the successful completion of the We Lead programme, which strengthened young women’s leadership and advocacy capacity. By the end of the Project, at least 80% of trained participants demonstrated enhanced leadership skills through active engagement in community initiatives and inclusive dialogues. The 14-member organisations of the CoA established an operational and collaborative network, implementing at least three joint actions annually on inclusion, innovation, and resilience. The programme also resulted in over 10 community-led sensitisation initiatives on sexual and reproductive health rights, while 60% of targeted community and religious leaders publicly committed to promoting gender equality and social inclusion.

2.8. WANEP strengthened its institutional anchorage in Senegal through active participation in national and regional WPS platforms. This included contributions to:



Training sessions organised by Partners West Africa, enhancing the conflict prevention and mediation skills of community “marraines”.



A regional capacity-building workshop addressing the role of women and youth in countering hate speech, radicalisation, and violent extremism in West Africa and the Sahel.



A strategic reflection session led by REPSFECO on strengthening women's coalitions for peace and security across Africa.



A roundtable organised by the Ministry of Family, focusing on the role of women and girls in crisis prevention and mediation, which contributed to the preparation of activities marking the 25th anniversary of UNSCR 1325.



In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, WANEP Senegal facilitated the distribution of livestock identification materials and equipment, including 5,000 animal ear tags and security gear, across the regions of Ziguinchor, Sédiou, and Kolda. These efforts support the cross-border livestock theft prevention project being implemented in partnership with WANEP Guinea-Bissau, strengthening livestock traceability and security.



Additionally, 15 monitors (including 6 women) were trained in preparation for the launch of a digital platform for reporting livestock theft incidents. Following successful testing, these monitors demonstrated competence in registering livestock owners and will be deployed to support the upcoming marking campaign.

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

3.1. Strengthening Youth Leadership in Peace and Security:

During the third quarter of 2025, WANEP enhanced the capacities of over 300 young peacebuilders from 15 ECOWAS Member States through two joint regional webinars and an online advocacy training, implemented in partnership with UNFPA, UNDP and UNOWAS.



As part of the 10th Anniversary of UNSCR 2250, WANEP co-organised a webinar on 11 August 2025 under the theme "From Local Actions to National Journeys: Lessons from YPS NAPs – Towards a Decade of Youth, Peace and Security." The session brought together more than 150 participants, including young leaders, government representatives, and YPS experts from across West Africa. It provided a platform to share lessons from The Gambia, Liberia, Benin and Senegal on developing National Action Plans on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). Participants explored the challenges and opportunities for youth engagement in peacebuilding and generated practical recommendations for inclusive YPS policy processes.



On 23 September 2025, WANEP, together with UNFPA, UNDP and UNOWAS, convened a virtual intergenerational dialogue on “Interlinking the YPS and WPS Agendas for Inclusive Peacebuilding.” The event gathered over 140 participants, including young and women peacebuilders, to exchange perspectives on strengthening collaboration between the YPS and WPS frameworks. Discussions underscored the importance of joint advocacy and multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance gender-responsive and youth-led peacebuilding initiatives.

As part of International Youth Day celebrations,



WANEP conducted an online training on “The Secrets to Successful Advocacy,” equipping 120 young peacebuilders from across West Africa with practical tools to design and implement effective advocacy initiatives. Participants are committed to leading strategic advocacy campaigns in their respective communities and countries.



In Côte d’Ivoire, WANEP and Youth for Peace- Côte d’Ivoire (Y4P-CI), in collaboration with ECOWAS and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, convened a roundtable on “*Youth Political Engagement for Peace*.” The event gathered 43 participants (including 15 women) and formally launched the Y4P-CI network and its Strategic Action Plan. Discussions underscored youth civic responsibility, the fight against manipulation and misinformation, and the importance of inclusive governance. Recommendations called for enhanced youth participation in civil society, capacity building for community mediation, and responsible use of digital platforms.



In Benin, WANEP issued a public declaration highlighting the role of young people in shaping a peaceful and sustainable future. The message reached an estimated 1,850 readers across digital platforms.



From 12-15 August, WANEP organised 12 radio programmes on youth and governance across the Savanes, Kara and Centrale regions of Togo. The broadcasts, led by 33 speakers (including 14 women), reached over 500,000 people and raised awareness on youth participation, local governance and community resilience to violent extremism.



WANEP shared awareness messages highlighting the critical role of youth in peacebuilding in Senegal.



From 16 to 18 August 2025, the YPS Network of Guinea-Bissau commemorated the Day under the theme *“Sharing Experiences, Shaping Policies: Amplifying Youth Voices in Peace and Security in Guinea-Bissau.”* The three-day event brought together young leaders for discussions on UN Security Council Resolution 2250, conflict mediation, youth inclusion, and leadership experiences, reinforcing their role in national peacebuilding efforts. The initiative reinforced intergenerational dialogue and institutional cooperation in support of a more inclusive and peaceful Guinea-Bissau, engaging 47 participants.

3.2. Strengthening Youth Engagement in Peace and Security: WANEP’s Technical Support to NAP-YPS Processes in West Africa



WANEP co-chaired the launch of Liberia’s National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security (2025–2029) in Monrovia on 29 August 2025. The process, funded by the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UNDPPA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), benefited from WANEP’s sustained technical support since April 2024 and resulted in a Plan that outlines concrete strategies to promote inclusive youth participation in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and peace consolidation.



From 20-26 September 2025, WANEP provided technical support for youth consultations across three regions in Senegal (Matam, Tambacounda, and Kédougou) with funding from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The consultations engaged 105 participants, including youth leaders, students, persons with disabilities, civil society actors, and representatives from government, ECOWAS, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Association pour la Promotion du Leadership des Jeunes-Femmes et Filles du Sénégal*³⁰ (APEL-JFF), and the Senegal NAP-YPS Taskforce. The exercise enabled youth to articulate their priorities and propose recommendations for integration into the national plan, while also enhancing their capacity to engage with the YPS agenda and its localisation.

3.3 Advancing Youth Capacity in Peacebuilding: Through its Youth Transformational, Empowerment and Mentorship Programme (Y-TeaM), WANEP continues to strengthen the capacity of emerging peacebuilders across West Africa:



On 17 July 2025, the Youth Transformational Empowerment and Mentorship (Y-TEaM) Programme was kickstarted with an online training for 31 mentees from all 15 ECOWAS countries. It focused on the inaugural session, “Internship Experience and Career Pathways in Peacebuilding for the next generation of peacebuilders.

³⁰ In English: Association for the Promotion of Leadership among Young Women and Girls in Senegal



From July to September 2025, WANEP facilitated three virtual training sessions for mentees, in collaboration with ECOWAS, the African Union, and Senegal's Ministry of Youth and Sports. Key sessions included: i) Internship Experience and Career Pathways in Peacebuilding; ii) Understanding the Peace and Security Context in West Africa, Conflict Fundamentals and Analysis; iii) Frameworks for Conflict Management in West Africa, Youth, Peace and Security: Roles and Normative Instruments. These sessions equipped participants with practical knowledge and tools to engage meaningfully in peacebuilding processes and contribute to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in their respective contexts.

3.4. In September 2025, WANEP collaborated with Oxfam Intermón to conduct a documentary analysis titled "Youth in the Sahel: Priorities and Aspirations in a New Regional and Global Context." The research aims to (i) consolidate and critically analyse existing studies and data on the perceptions, experiences, and priorities of young people in the Sahel amid the region's significant transformations over the past five years, and (ii) develop evidence-based recommendations to inform Spain and the European Union's engagement with the Sahel under the Spain-Africa Strategy 2025-2028. The final report is currently under review.

3.5 With funding from EIRENE Burkina/Niger, WANEP implemented a series of youth-focused peacebuilding initiatives between 15 and 24 July 2025 in Burkina Faso as follows:



A four-day hackathon in Ouagadougou brought together 30 young participants (including 15 women) to develop and pitch innovative peace projects. Thirteen project concepts were produced, with at least six selected for implementation by the youth teams.



Subsequently, 21 young members of the peace network (10 women) were trained in forum theatre, dance and musical composition as tools for promoting peace and social cohesion.



Two original forum theatre performances were created and staged, addressing key themes such as conflict management, non-violence, gender equality and intergenerational respect, thereby fostering peer and community awareness on peacebuilding.

3.6 WANEP, through its *Youth, Peace and Security (YPS)* Programme and the *Youth4Peace (Y4P-CI)* network in Côte d'Ivoire, implemented several initiatives to strengthen youth engagement, peacebuilding and civic participation ahead of the national elections. The initiatives include the following:



Early Warning and fact-checking training: In response to pre-electoral risks of misinformation and tension, WANEP trained 54 young leaders (39% women) on early warning, citizen monitoring and fact-checking. The training held from 31 July to 1 August 2025, improved participants' understanding of electoral processes, enhanced their ability to detect and counter disinformation, and strengthened the digital network of youth peace advocates committed to promoting credible information online.



Participation in Jambognan³¹ 2025: At the 6th *Jambognan* Youth Camp, organised from 16 to 24 August 2025, in Yamoussoukro, which gathered over 1,500 scouts, WANEP facilitated sessions on early warning in electoral contexts, civic engagement, peace and child rights. The sessions improved young participants' understanding of conflict indicators, information sharing, and community vigilance, fostering a culture of peace and citizenship among youth groups



Civic Reflection Workshop: Youth4Peace Côte d'Ivoire took part in a workshop organised by CIVIS-CI and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung on "*Presidential Elections 2025: Citizen Expectations and Candidates' Policy Agendas*", from 29 to 30 August 2025. The session strengthened 25 young participants' understanding of democracy and civic responsibility, empowering them to critically analyse political platforms and promote informed, responsible electoral participation.



National Workshop on Developing a Youth, Peace and Security Action Plan: WANEP Côte d'Ivoire, alongside its Youth4Peace Network, provided technical input during a national workshop organised by Expertise France, the EU, ECOWAS and the German Embassy to initiate the development of a *National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security (PAN-JPS)*. The workshop, held from 27 to 29 August 2025, enhanced participants' knowledge of UNSCR 2250, identified key challenges and opportunities for youth inclusion in peace processes, and formally established the *Youth, Peace and Security Working Group (GT-JPS)* to guide the NAP process.

3.7 In Benin, WANEP advanced the operationalisation of the *Youth4Peace* platform and promoted youth engagement in peacebuilding and civic dialogue.



Through the Formalisation of the *Youth4Peace* Platform on 7 August 2025: Nineteen youth representatives from nine peace-focused organisations participated in a session to formalise the *Youth4Peace Benin* platform, laying the foundation for structured coordination and collective youth action for peace.

³¹ Jambognan is regional jamboree of the Catholic Scouts of the Abidjan region in Côte d'Ivoire.



WANEP facilitated the creation of coordination and thematic committees within the *Youth4Peace* platform to strengthen collaboration and ensure effective implementation of youth-led peace initiatives.



WANEP organised an E-Dialogue Session on 30 August 2025. The online discussion themed “*Can We Entrust the Planet’s Future to Today’s Youth?*” brought together 18 participants to exchange perspectives on youth responsibility in environmental stewardship and peacebuilding.

3.8. As part of the *Resilience Économique face à l’Extrémisme Violent (REEV)* project implemented by WANEP in Togo,



85 poultry farmers (including 72 women and 38 young girls) across four villages (Toumonlogou, Nanergou, Sam-Naba and Warkambou) received training and support to strengthen their income-generating activities. The intervention enhanced their livelihoods and reduced vulnerability to violent extremism through improved economic resilience.



Continuous monitoring and coordination meetings were held to ensure the effective implementation of REEV activities. Field visits between 5 and 29 August enabled technical teams to assess poultry farm progress, provide advisory support, and promote adherence to safety and peacebuilding measures within beneficiary communities.

- Furthermore, WANEP, in partnership with the *Youth for Peace- Togo* and UNFPA, hosted two *Youth Talks* promoting inclusive dialogue on non-violence, civic engagement and youth participation in peacebuilding. The sessions gathered 46 participants, 78% of whom committed to joining youth peace initiatives or leading local actions.
- WANEP also provided technical and logistical support to the *Horizon Éducatif Forum* (6-9 August), which brought together 262 education stakeholders to discuss the role of schools and parents in nurturing peace and leadership among learners. The collaboration laid the groundwork for establishing peace clubs in schools.
- On 14 August, WANEP supported the 15th “*JUS IN PUCRA*” national public-speaking competition for young women, organised by the *Association Internationale des Étudiants Juristes*³² (AIEJ)-Togo. Sixteen participants showcased their leadership and communication skills, reinforcing WANEP’s advocacy for girls’ empowerment and youth leadership in peacebuilding.

3.9. In Niger, WANEP supported the 12th edition of the *Tournoi des Grandes Vacances (TGV) Lazaret*, launched on 25 July 2025 under the patronage of Niamey’s Commune 2. The initiative promotes

³² In English: International Association of Law Students

peace, unity and resilience through sport, engaging young people around civic values and strengthening their commitment to social cohesion and conflict prevention amid ongoing security challenges.

3.10. In Senegal, WANEP implemented several initiatives. These included community discussions with young people on non-violence and safety during the holiday period, as well as a coordination meeting with the Youth4Peace network to redefine priorities and strengthen its operational effectiveness. A Vision Training session, facilitated by an American coach, helped youth representatives from community associations to discover their potential and strengthen transformational leadership. As a member of the national YPS Task Force and the Youth4Peace Steering Committee, WANEP Senegal actively contributed to the development of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security (NAP-YPS). The organisation successfully advocated for a 20-30% youth representation quota in decision-making bodies; a proposal now being considered by Members of Parliament. The same advocacy was echoed during the Dakar Pact consultations at the West Africa and Sahel Youth Forum organised by UNOWAS.

3.11. WANEP participated in a regional webinar on the implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security in Mali. The session brought together 19 participants from four West African countries to review progress, identify challenges, and share best practices for enhancing youth participation in peace and governance processes.

3.12. WANEP supported the Lagos State Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) Steering Committee in holding its second, third, and fourth monthly virtual meetings between July and September 2025. The sessions focused on identifying key security challenges, strengthening collaboration with state Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and developing a consolidated work plan to guide coordinated action against violent extremism in Nigeria. Key outcomes included the establishment of a proposal drafting committee for stakeholder engagement, submission of a budget for a consolidation meeting to the PAVE Secretariat in Abuja, and commitments to conduct step-down training following the National PAVE Conference. Participation across the meetings averaged 10 members, with balanced gender representation.

In addition, the organisation partnered with the Peace Education Network to deliver the Peace Education and Management Training (PEPMAT) 2025, held virtually on five consecutive Saturdays in August. The training equipped 25 participants (15 women, 10 men) with skills in conflict analysis, gender mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation, and NGO management, strengthening their capacity to promote peace and resilience in their communities.

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

4.1. On 18 September 2025, WANEP, in collaboration with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs/Peacebuilding Support Office (UNDPPA/PBSO), convened the African regional pre-consultation for the 2025 CSO-UN Dialogue. The virtual event, attended by over 150 participants and informed by an earlier survey of African CSOs, gathered perspectives on a whole-of-system approach to peacebuilding across peace, human rights, development, and humanitarian sectors, ahead of the regional consultation in Nairobi in October.

4.2. On 12 August 2025, WANEP joined the Coalition of Civil Society Organisations for Peace and Conflict Prevention in Central Africa (COPAC) for a high-level advocacy mission in Libreville, Gabon. The delegation engaged the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and other partners on human security priorities and presented COPAC's 2024–2025 Security Report. WANEP shared its early warning and response expertise, demonstrating collaboration with ECOWAS and the AU. This mission, supported by Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, strengthened civil society cooperation for peace in West and Central Africa.

4.3. WANEP provided technical leadership in the development of National Peace Infrastructure (NPI) guidelines for Zambia through a two-day consultative forum held in Lusaka, Zambia. The forum, organised in collaboration with the Southern African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (SACCORD), the African Union (AU), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), convened state and non-state actors to co-create a nationally owned framework for dialogue and conflict prevention. WANEP delivered strategic guidance, emphasising inclusive participation and national ownership as core principles for building sustainable peace mechanisms aligned with the AU's Continental Framework on NPI. The forum culminated in a jointly developed framework to guide the establishment of Zambia's NPI, ensuring coherence with regional and continental peace and security agendas.

4.4. In Benin, WANEP, in partnership with *Réseau pour l'Intégration des Femmes des ONG et Associations Africaines* (RIFONGA), facilitated a two-day training on 19 and 20 August 2025 for media actors and young political party leaders on peace-promoting behaviour and strategies to counter hate speech and disinformation during electoral periods. The session brought together 30 participants, including 15 women.

4.5. WANEP implemented key activities in Togo under the Economic Resilience Against Violent Extremism³³ project and wider peacebuilding initiatives during the reporting period:



As part of the Project, 12 radio programmes were broadcast between 19 and 31 July 2025 across the Savanes, Kara and Centrale regions, in partnership with 12 local stations. Delivered in local languages, the programmes reached an estimated 900 listeners and raised awareness of the role of various actors in ensuring peaceful municipal elections and preventing electoral violence.



To commemorate the 2025 International Day of Peace, a joint public message was issued with the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), calling on citizens to commit to non-violence, tolerance, and active peacebuilding. The initiative reinforced WANEP's leadership in promoting inclusive and sustainable peace, while strengthening collaboration between state institutions and civil society.

³³ The project aims to strengthen economic opportunities for youth and women in rural areas affected by violent extremism, while also enhancing community security and conflict prevention.



To enhance community safety and resilience, six solar streetlights were installed in four localities: Toumonlogou, Papri, Warkambou and Nanergou. The improved lighting is expected to reduce night-time criminal activity and strengthen residents' sense of security, thereby limiting vulnerabilities that could be exploited by violent extremist groups. Local authorities and community members welcomed the initiative and called for its expansion to additional areas.

4.6 In Guinea-Bissau, WANEP contributed to two national dialogues addressing climate action and decentralisation:



The UN-led National Technical Dialogue on Climate Action, which brought together government ministers, experts, and civil society to discuss strategies for strengthening the national response to climate change. The event engaged 150 participants.



The UEMOA consultation on the White Paper on Decentralisation from 10 to 12 September 2025,. Discussions focused on local governance financing, delegation of competences, and state presence at the local level. The meeting resulted in key recommendations to the Government of Guinea-Bissau and UEMOA, including prioritising decentralisation in the 2026 budget and enhancing technical and financial support. The event was attended by 25 participants.

4.7. WANEP facilitated two capacity-building sessions for members of the Security Advisory Committees (CCS) in six communes of the Bamako district, in Mali. The sessions focused on assessing the local security context and developing actionable plans. As a result, committee members improved their capacity to conduct security assessments and were provided with a model action plan to guide activities for the remainder of 2025. The initiative was carried out in collaboration with the Security Sector Reform Commission (CRSS) and EUCAP Sahel Mali.

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

5.1. In July 2025, WANEP contributed Chapter 2, titled "Looking Back to Get the Future of Governance Right," to UNDP's publication The Future of Governance in the Sahel. The chapter explores policy options and recommendations to strengthen social cohesion, rebuild public trust, and promote inclusive and accountable governance across the region. [Link](#)

5.2. During the quarter, WANEP also produced two research briefs under its Peace Insights and Analysis series: "[Expanding Internet Access: Ghana's Connectivity and Extremist Propaganda](#)" and "[Guardians at the Borders: Localising Violent Extremism Prevention Through Community Watchdog Groups in Northern Ghana](#)."

5.3. During the reporting period, WANEP implemented several initiatives to strengthen peacebuilding capacity, advance knowledge production, and raise public awareness on peace and security in Togo:



An internal restitution session enabled 17 staff members to consolidate advocacy skills for peace consolidation.



Two thematic reports were published: one analysing evolving political and security dynamics in West Africa, and another examining the pillars of stability in Togo, including political reform, social justice, and civic space.



A series of educational video capsules was produced to clarify key peace and security concepts, such as the difference between peacebuilding and peacekeeping, extremism and terrorism, and misconceptions around jihadism and Islam.



Additionally, on 19-20 August 2025, 28 humanitarian and development actors received training on integrating the “Do No Harm” approach into their interventions, enhancing conflict sensitivity and responsible programming.

5.4. WANEP, in Mali co-organised a regional Research and Action for Peace (REcAP)³⁴ Network Meet-Up on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in humanitarian and development programming in West Africa. The event convened 67 participants from civil society, research institutions, and regional organisations, fostering dialogue on the potential of AI to strengthen early warning systems and crisis response. Key discussions emphasised ethical, locally grounded use of AI to enhance predictive analysis and decision-making.

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

6.1. WANEP in Guinea-Bissau held its 2025 Annual General Assembly in Bissau, presenting its annual activity report to members and partners. The event reaffirmed WANEP-GB’s recognised role in national and sub-regional peacebuilding efforts and highlighted key achievements from the past year. A total of 39 participants attended, including government representatives and civil society partners.

6.2. In Mali, WANEP provided technical and financial support to two of its member organisations as part of International Women’s Day activities, including communications support for the 2025 AWLN Women’s Excellence Awards. This assistance enhanced the visibility and credibility of women-led initiatives.

³⁴ REcAP: Research and Action for Peace Network is an EU funded project implemented by a Consortium WANEP, DRC and SIPRI.

7. COLLABORATIONS AND EFFECTIVE NETWORKING

7.1. In late July and early August 2025, WANEP contributed to two high-level engagements: she moderated a panel on “Cohesive Society for Stability in the Sahel - Building Lasting Security and Peace” at the Sahel Governance Forum in Banjul, The Gambia (30-31 July), and briefed the United Nations Security Council on emerging peace and security trends in West Africa, with a focus on Women, Peace and Security priorities (7 August).

7.2. From 2 to 4 July 2025, in partnership with the National Peace Council and Centre for Democratic Development-Ghana (CDD-Ghana), WANEP co-organised a three-day post-2024 elections evaluation dialogue in Accra. The event brought together political actors, security agencies, CSOs, and traditional leaders to reflect on the electoral process and propose actionable reforms to reinforce democratic integrity and social cohesion.

7.3. WANEP participated in the ECOWAS 50th anniversary and the 20-year ECOWAS-CSO partnership commemoration held in Abuja, Nigeria. As ECOWAS’ longest-standing civil society partner in early warning, WANEP contributed strategic insights on strengthening early warning and response systems, drawing from over two decades of collaboration under its permanent MoU with ECOWAS. WANEP also engaged in high-level discussions on advancing regional peace and security through deeper CSO-intergovernmental cooperation, inclusive participation, and joint action.

7.4. WANEP participated in the inauguration of the new headquarters of the ECOWAS Women’s Network (REMCECAO-GB) in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau. The event highlighted the strategic role of women’s networks in advancing gender equality, peace, and social cohesion in Guinea-Bissau. A total of 13 participants attended the event.