

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

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

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



WAPI, A Reputable Citadel of Peacebuilding

- Participants

The West Africa Peacebuilding Institute, (WAPI) jointly run by WANEP and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, (KAIPTC) has been described as 'A notable citadel of peacebuilding training in Africa,' by participants of the 13th WAPI session which held in March, 2015. Attesting to the scope and coverage of the institute, the participants also said that it is a 'reputable platform for moulding African peacebuilders' who will take over the mantle of leadership in providing African solution to Africa's problems and urged that the institution be expanded into an "Africa Peacebuilding Institute!"

WAPI 13th session brought together 46 participants (22 females and 24 males) across Africa including the ECOWAS Commission and the African Union. In his welcome speech at the WAPI opening ceremony on March 2, 2015, WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze said "Through WAPI, WANEP and KAIPTC is providing the space for cross-fertilization of ideas across the globe. Participants to this training will learn some of the key concepts in peace and security as well as the dynamics of preventing, mitigating and responding to African and global challenges through a hands-on and practical approach."

Also speaking, the Commandant of KAIPTC, Maj Gen OB Akwa said, "We are of the opinion that to attain stability in Africa, capacity development, promotion of good governance, and protection of human rights must be critical policy priorities."

The Institute is part of WANEP's capacity building strategy and creates the platform to strengthen the capacity of peacebuilding and development practitioners to actively contribute to the realization of WANEP's diverse thematic areas as embedded in the courses offered. It is also part of WANEP's commitment to support the ECOWAS conflict prevention agenda, which in turn reinforces and strengthens the African Union Peace and Security Architecture.

WANEP and KAIPTC jointly run WAPI every year in September with combine funding from the governments of Austria, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. However, the 13th session was re-scheduled from September 2014 to March 2015 due to the Ebola outbreak recorded in 2014 which prevented international travels within most African countries.

Above: WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze delivering his welcoming remarks

Below (right): Mr. Eze flanked by Maj Gen OB Akwa, Commandant KAIPTC and Ambassador Chérif Oumar Diagne, Ambassador of Senegal to Ghana

Below (Left): Cross section of participants at the opening ceremony



TALKING PEACE

The WANEP 13th General Assembly held from January 20 to 22, 2015 in Accra, Ghana under the theme: "WANEP Transition from Programming to Visioning in support of ECOWAS and African Union Peace Architecture." A high point of the meeting was the official handing over of leadership from the outgoing Executive Director, Mr. Emmanuel Bombande to incoming Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze. Other significant achievements of the meeting included the swearing-in of the new Regional Board members, the adoption of the WANEP 5-year Strategic Plan (2015 to 2020) and the review and adoption of the Constitution among others.

In an emotion-laden speech, Mr. Bombande, who is also one of the two founding members of WANEP, took a trip down memory lane to the early days of WANEP, recalling how it all started. He expressed profound appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of the organization and pledged his continuous support and commitment to WANEP.

Mr. Eze's acceptance speech enumerated his forays into peacebuilding through WANEP recounting his progress in the organization which he started as the first staff of WANEP-Nigeria. Mr. Eze, who is succeeded by Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah, has



Historic Moments At WANEP General Assembly



Top: General Assembly participants; above: outgoing ED Mr. Emmanuel Bombande hands over to incoming ED, Mr. Eze; Right: Mr. Eze confers with Mrs. Addae-Mensah new Programme Director. Below right: Mr. Eze gets tacit support from WANEP founding members Mr. Bombande (left) and Dr. Sam Doe (right) and Below left: New Board Members take oath of office

served WANEP in different capacities as National Network Coordinator (NNC) of WANEP-Nigeria and later as Program Director at the Regional office.



The incoming Program Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah was also introduced to the General Assembly. Levinia joins WANEP from the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center where she served as the Director Planning and Programmes. Levinia is coming back to a familiar turf having worked in WANEP for five years in Peace Education and in Special Projects.



A high point of the meeting was the brief presence of Dr. Sam Doe, co-founder and WANEP's first Executive Director. It was indeed a momentous occasion.!

The General Assembly which was attended by representatives of WANEP's national networks, strategic partners and key stakeholders was also an opportunity to honour major partners namely; the Governments of Sweden, Denmark and Austria.

MILESTONES

WANEP, USAID IN HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP

WANEP and the United States Agency for International Development, USAID entered into a unique partnership on February 23, 2015 with the signing of a five-year contract for the implementation of a project on electoral violence. The direct partnership between the two institutions is the first of its kind in the region and attracted high-level interest from the US government including Counsellor to the US State Department, Thomas A. Shannon who was represented by Mr. Alexander Deprez, the USAID, West Africa Mission Director.

The project "Mitigating Electoral Violence in West Africa" aims to mitigate electoral violence in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger and Sierra Leone through WANEP National Early Warning Systems, NEWS. The symbolic ceremony took place in WANEP Regional office Accra, Ghana in the presence of strategic partners including the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, KAPITC, representatives of USAID and the media.



Honours for WANEP Partners

Civil society play a critical role in complementing government efforts at national, regional and continental levels. With this conviction in mind, WANEP, a leading civil society partner to ECOWAS solicited the support of Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) through a Joint Financing Agreement in carrying out a project titled "Strengthening the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) through National Architecture for Early Warning and Early Response in West Africa".

These three strategic partners were honoured during the WANEP General Assembly in appreciation of their unflinching support and commitment towards actualizing WANEP's vision of a West Africa characterized by just and peaceful communities. WANEP's goal is to promote peace and security in the region.

Expectedly, the project is focused on supporting and complementing regional efforts of the African Union and ECOWAS in building peace, promoting human security and the overall development of West Africa.

Picture above shows a representative of ADC, and Lena Schildt of SIDA with Oury Traoré, Board chair WANEP Senegal

Launch of R2P Project

Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze, Executive Director, WANEP has said that recent experiences of intervention such as in Cote d'Ivoire provides enough justification for a renewal of emphasis on preventive measures and the way civil society organisations could help states to meet their R2P obligations and responsibility. This he said at the launch of a research project on Responsibility to Protect (R2P): titled "Assessing National and Regional Capacities for Implementing R2P in Ghana and West Africa." Mr. Eze said the outcome of the project would be of immense benefit to Ghana and ECOWAS in its quest to promote peace and security in the country.

The R2P research project funded by the Danish Government in collaboration with WANEP was launched on January 9, 2015. It focuses on the operationalisation of R2P especially in Ghana and sets out to examine the state of readiness of various actors in Ghana and member states of the ECOWAS to ensure the implementation and operationalisation of R2P.



Our Scorecard

BRIEFLY

Mediation Training for Women Leaders

The Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS in collaboration with WANEP and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD) held a capacity building training for 30 women from the North East states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe in Nigeria from January 27 to 30, 2015. The training is in recognition of the vital role women play in dialogue and conflict mediation as encapsulated in the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework, ECPF, peace and security agenda and in the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Specifically, the training was to equip women from the North East zone with the skills for effective participation in peace processes especially in the areas of dialogue, mediation and other preventive mechanisms and equip them with practical skills, strategies and techniques necessary for competent mediation and dialogue practice.

International Tier Group Meeting

WANEP and its consortium partners (GPPAC and HDC) held an international tier group meeting from March 31 to April 1, 2015 under the Human Security Project in Mali. The key objective of the meeting was to discuss the five priority areas the project has identified for a human security strategy for Mali. Participants brainstormed on strategies for incorporating human security approaches for Mali on the agendas of regional actors and MINUSMA. The contributions from the meeting would be incorporated into a five-chapter publication on human security that would focus on strategies to counter violent extremism through the use of non-coercive means. The publication is expected to be released by the end of 2015.

Tana-WANEP Hold Multi-Stakeholders Dialogue

The Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of the University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and WANEP organised a multi-stakeholders dialogue forum on the theme "Secularism and Politicized Faith". The forum was a platform to brainstorm on the impact of religion and politics on the division of societies in Africa. The meeting feeds into a bigger forum held in Ethiopia in April 2015. Participants at the meeting were drawn from CSOs and religious organisations in West Africa and Ethiopia.



WANEP team with Dr. Sintiki of ECOWAS and Mrs. Nkechi Onwukwe of the FMWASD at the Mediation training. First left is Dr. Naomi Akpan-Ita a co-facilitator of the training

ECOWARN Focal Points Training Held

As the civil society implementation partner for the operationalization of the ECOWAS Early Warning System (ECOWARN), WANEP participated in series of training workshops organised by the ECOWAS Early Warning Directorate for identified field monitors across the region.

The workshops, which held in strategic locations of Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Senegal in February and March 2015 were designed to build and enhance the capacity of the field monitors on data collection and analysis with focus on threats to peace and security in member states. In attendance at the training workshops were the ECOWAS Early Warning Directorate Analysts, WANEP/ECOWAS Liaison Officer and the field monitors, which comprises of WANEP Focal persons in each country and representatives from Research Institutions and Think Tanks across the region.

The series of trainings form part of WANEP's deliberate capacity building strategy towards ensuring that the focal points are regularly updated with skills for quality data collation and analysis.

Left; cross section of ECOWAS and WANEP team with the NEWS Focal Points; (Right) WANEP Program Director, Ms Levinia Addae-Mensah (1st right), Dr. Lat Gueye of ECOWAS and others at the trainings in Cote d'Ivoire and Dakar, Senegal



Our Scorecard

Nigeria 2015 Elections -

ECOWAS Commends WANEP



Election Situation Room in operation at WANEP Nigeria Office on Election-Day

The Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS has acknowledged and commended WANEP's contribution in providing prompt and accurate report on the Nigerian Presidential elections which held on March 28, 2015. In the statement signed by the Head of the ECOWAS Observation Mission, His Excellency John Kufuor, former President of the Republic of Ghana, ECOWAS applauded WANEP for the invaluable role it played by feeding the commission with all the data and analysis of the elections in real time.

ECOWAS in its acknowledgement stated, "The West African Peacebuilding Network (WANEP), one of ECOWAS Civil Society Organisation (CSO) partner, provided updates on the North East geo-political zone to the ECOWAS Situation Room. From their report, the on-going counter-insurgency efforts by the Nigerian military and the Multinational Joint Taskforce has relatively stabilized the North East Region comprising Adamawa, Yobe and Borno States, therefore enabling the organisation and conduct of elections."



Participants at the Round table discussions held to mark IWD 2015

BRIEFLY



Above: A cross section of participants at the EMB training

Managing Election Disputes

In recognition of WANEP's track record and experience in election monitoring, the Electoral Commission of Cote d'Ivoire formally requested WANEP to train its staff on election dispute management. The training took place on March 25 - 27 2017 at Grand Bassam with a total of 20 EMB staff including the four Vice Presidents and all the Central Commissioners. The President of the Electoral Commission in his opening statement appreciated the continuous support from WANEP towards achieving the Commission's mandate in a peaceful way.

Key resources for the training were the WANEP Election Dispute Management Practice Guide and the Election Dispute Training manual which was derived from the practice guide.

Celebrating Women on IWD

Worried by the growing threat of terrorism and violent extremism in West Africa and its grave impact on women, WANEP held a roundtable discussion to commemorate the 2015 International Women's Day under the theme: "Make it Happen!" The round table discussion titled; "Women Unite against Violent Extremism in West Africa" was part of strategies to highlight women's contribution to countering violent extremism from a preventive perspective.

Participants brainstormed on the causes of violent extremism and their consequences on women, probed the factors that perpetrate women's vulnerability, explored strategies women can use to counter violent extremism and how civil society can support women and girls in tackling these challenges. A Press release on the 2015 IWD was also presented at this occasion.

Events



Felicitations to a Peacebuilder par Excellence!

There is time for everything and such a time it was when the WANEP family with friends and associates came together to bid farewell to the second Executive Director of WANEP, Mr. Emmanuel Habuka Bombande. It was a moment for sober reflection tinged with reminiscences of a man who has become a symbol of peace not only in his home country of Ghana but known and celebrated across Africa. The life and times of Mr. Bombande spiced with his foray into peacebuilding was succinctly captured in the citation presented to him by the WANEP family.

It was a night specifically meant to honour a man for whom all and sundry agreed merited to be honoured. Amidst the accolades and the emotional speeches, everyone testified that Mr. Bombande in addition to his humility is also a man of his words. In a region where leaders have become 'sit-tight,' he willingly opted to step aside when the ovation was loudest. 'ED Emeritus', as he is now fondly referred will be sorely missed! Among those who came to felicitate with WANEP were the ED of IDEG Dr Emmanuel Akwetey, KAIPTC Commandant Maj Gen OB Akwa, Mr. Alexander Deprez, the USAID, West Africa Mission Director, the Bombande family among others!



WANEP Socials



BIRTHDAY WISHES
to the following colleagues
who marked their birthdays
in the quarter;

Gideon Abotsikpui	Jan 12
Kwesi Enchill	Jan 21
Esther Gordon-Mensah	Jan 26
Edwige Mensah	Feb 17
Queeneth Tawo	Mar 16
Alimou Diallo	Mar 24



WHO WE ARE

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

OUR GOAL

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

WHAT WE DO

WANEP work covers eight critical areas of intervention including;

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

WHERE WE WORK

WANEP's growth and influence has been phenomenal. After 15 years of peacebuilding practice, WANEP has grown to become a household name in West Africa with national offices in all the ECOWAS Member countries, and over 500 member organisations spread all over WA.