



WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

JANUARY - MARCH 2016



WANEP @ PRAPS

WANEP is a leading Regional Peacebuilding organization founded in 1998 in response to civil wars that plagued West Africa in the late 1980s. We place special focus on collaborative approach, working alongside major actors, particularly governments, intergovernmental bodies and women in a bid to establish a platform for dialogue, experience sharing and learning, thereby complementing efforts at ensuring sustainable peace and development.

OVERVIEW OF PEACE AND SECURITY OF WEST AFRICA:

BENIN: Presidential elections held in the Republic of Benin in the quarter under review. About 4.7 million registered voters took part in the March 6 Presidential elections with 32 candidates including the incumbent President Thomas Boni Yayi, who was vying for a third term in office and Lionel Zinsou, who was the prime Minister under President Boni Yayi and Patrice Talon, a business man. Patrice Talon eventually emerged President of Benin with 65.3% of the total votes cast after a runoff¹. Security situation in the country also escalated with armed attack at a bank in Sèmè-Kraké border between Nigeria and Benin Republic just after the run-off elections where the attackers carted away millions of CFA from the bank.

BURKINA FASO: On January 17, 2016, armed terrorists from the Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) attacked the Splendid hotel and Cappuccino Restaurant, both in Ouagadougou and popular with tourists, diplomats and other foreigners. The attackers took 126 hostages resulting in the death of 29 people with over 50 others injured. In another development, a self-defense group called the 'Koglweogo' held countrywide demonstrations to demand the release of nine of their members who were arrested at Fada N'Gourma by national gendarmes for alleged cattle theft. The situation was however brought under control after several mediation efforts by local authorities including the King of Gulmu.

COTE D'IVOIRE: Violent attacks and inter communal clashes between nomads and farmers over grazing land threatened the peace and security of Cote d'Ivoire in the period under review. AQIM terrorists attacked the Etoile du Sud, Koral Beach hotel and the Paillote in Grand Bassam killing 19 people and injuring 22 others. Similarly, inter-ethnic clashes at the fishing village of Layou, and clashes between farmers and nomads at Bouna, northeastern Cote d'Ivoire resulted in 22 deaths, several people injured and the

displacement of thousands of villagers to neighboring Burkina Faso and Guinea.

GUINEA: Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) resurfaced in Guinea on March 18 2016 shortly after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the country Ebola free early in the year. The latest outbreak was reported in Koropara, in the forest Region of N'zerekore, Southeast Guinea. At least 5 persons have died from this latest outbreak and about 817 contacts identified in 105 households are being monitored². Guinea lost over 2500 people to the epidemic before it was declared Ebola free by WHO in December 2015³. Meanwhile, polio epidemic has also been reported in the administrative region of Kankan, Guinea, with at least 14 cases recorded by health authorities in the region.

LIBERIA: By 30th June 2016, Liberia will experience a massive draw down in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) while the Liberian Government is expected to take full responsibility for its own security. UNMIL Head of Mission, Farid Zarif has assured the United Nations Security Council that priority targets in the country's security transition plan will be met before that date. However, security analysts are hoping that this situation will not escalate conflict tensions in the post conflict country. In another development, renewed outbreak of Ebola disease in neighboring Guinea has led the Government of Liberia closing the country's main borders with Guinea as part of primary preventive measures to avoid the spread of the virus.

NIGER: Incidents of electoral violence were recorded in Niger during the Presidential and Parliamentary elections especially between political parties and security agents. The February 21, 2016 general elections resulted in a stalemate between the two major presidential candidates; the incumbent president Mahamadou Issoufou and Hama Amadou who was in prison during the whole electoral process, leading to a run-off. Despite allegations of election

¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/03/patrice-talon-benin-presidential-election-160321045533830.html>

² For more information on the situation in Guinea, please contact tolnofadoua@yahoo.fr or ftolno@wanepguinea.org, NEWS Manager for Guinea.

³ <http://english.cntv.cn/2016/03/28/VIDEjaQPuneod7W4kVUaXoMW160328.shtml>

malpractices and boycott of the run-off by Amadou's main supporters, the Coalition for Alteration (COPA 2016), the National Electoral Commission (CENI) eventually held the re-run and Mahamadou Issoufou the incumbent president overwhelmingly won with 92. 5% of the total votes cast while his challenger Hama Amadou scored 7. 4%.

NIGERIA: In the quarter under review, incidents of suicide bombings carried out by male and female suicide bombers in communities in Borno and Yobe states including terrorists' raids resulted in the death of an estimated 29 people. Agro-Pastoralists conflict was also recorded in Tiv communities in Benue state early in the year, where an estimated 300 people and 10,000 cattle were killed in the affected areas. In Lagos state, southwest Nigeria, ethnic tensions between the Yoruba and Hausa communities in Ketu and Mile 12 Market area at Kosofe claimed 12 lives and caused the destruction of properties and the displacement of hundreds of people.

SIERRA LEONE: Incessant fire outbreaks in private and commercial areas claimed lives and properties valued at millions of dollars in Sierra Leone in the quarter. Sierra Leone recorded the highest number of infernos with 35 incidences in the review period⁴. In other developments, there is tension between the two dominant political parties in the country; the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and All People's Congress (APC) over the recent cabinet reshuffle and the elections slated for 2018. Sierra Leone witnessed

massive flooding in five headquarter towns and this has impacted drastically on farming communities resulting to reduction of crop yields, and putting additional stress on food security in a country still smarting from the challenges of post-Ebola recovery.

THE GAMBIA: In the first quarter of 2016, President Yahya Jammeh declared The Gambia as an Islamic State and on 11 February 2016 the Government imposed a new tariff on all Senegalese commercial trucks entering The Gambia, culminating in the boycott of Gambian routes by Senegalese transporters. The border closure and the rising value of the CFA have had serious consequences on the socio-economic situation in the country. A protracted border dispute may further jeopardize human security in an already challenging environment and will only increase the risk of hardship and suffering on both sides.

⁴ The WANEP Peace and Security Census, January- March 2016, p.3

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

1.0. ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING ELECTORAL SUPPORT THROUGH NEWS

1.1. Election Situation Room (ESR)

and the Peace Development Project (PDEV) while in Benin, the ESR was organized by the Electoral Platform of CSOs in Benin led by WANEP.

The ESR was a platform for data gathering and analysis before, during and after the elections and created



At the Election Situation Room (ESR)

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP has been monitoring and analyzing elections and electoral processes in West Africa for well over a decade. WANEP operates under the undergirding philosophy of collaborative approaches to Peacebuilding, which is aimed at creating an enabling electoral environment before, during and after the elections. In addition, WANEP's approach is to establish platforms for monitoring election results and for mediation of disputed discrepancies resulting from the elections. In this regard, the organization in collaboration with other key stakeholders set up Election Situation Rooms in countries whose elections took place early in the year. The countries included Benin and Niger. In Niger, the ESR was facilitated by WANEP in partnership with the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), National Democratic Institute (NDI)

visibility through media attendance to all declarations and communiqués presented. It also provided the opportunity for effective and timely information sharing between the ESR and ECOWAS, AU and Organization Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).

1.2. Media Sensitization and Awareness on NEWS Output:

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) team held a one-day debriefing session with media practitioners as part of strategies to sensitize the media and create public awareness on the NEWS outputs. The debriefing session took place at Soluxe Hotel- Niamey on February 17, 2016 with seven media representatives from the print and electronic media.



Cross section of participants during the media debriefing in Niamey

The event was preceded by a session on non-violent communication held to promote conflict sensitive media reportage aimed at reducing violent responses as indicated in the NEWS early warning analysis in some identified hotspots in the country.

The NEWS reports presented to the media included three election situation briefs and three situation-tracking reports. The election briefs focused on the quantitative and narrative threats or risks from the data submitted by community monitors while the situation tracking reports highlighted the changing trends of specific conflict threats to the peaceful conduct of elections. In addition, three preliminary declaration reports on the WANEP-Niger led Election Situation Room (ESR) review and observations of the electioneering process before and during the February 21 presidential elections in Niger were published and disseminated prior to the conduct of elections.

1.3. NEWS Steering Committee Meeting:

Three consecutive meetings of the NEWS Steering Committee were held prior to the presidential and legislative elections in Niger. The meetings were specifically to discuss the mitigation strategies of the institutions that make up the Committee and ascertain their capacity to respond to identified threats. It also provided the platform for the Committee to strengthen the analysis in the reports and proffer recommendations. All the meetings held at Soluxe Hotel and were chaired by Khalid Ikhiri, the President of the National Commission for Human Rights (CNDH). Major outcomes of these meetings included the setting up of two ad hoc committees to respond to the escalating tension between the opposition parties and the ruling party over the transparency/credibility of the election process. One of the committees was to develop and disseminate a communiqué designed to mitigate the threat of violence leading to the election while the other committee was mandated to engage the religious leaders as neutral arbiters with the credibility to mediate on disputes among the political parties.

1.4. Stakeholders Meeting to Review Indicators for Monitoring Ghana 2016 Elections:

WANEP-Ghana in collaboration with key stakeholders on democracy, governance, peace and security, held a stakeholders meeting on March 23, 2016 in Tamale to

review the 2012 election monitoring indicators. The indicators were reviewed to reflect current dynamics and threats to look out for in monitoring the 2016 elections. In addition, the stakeholders also provided effective analysis of the indicators and made recommendations to the appropriate authorities for proactive response. The meeting was an opportunity for experience sharing and a platform for the stakeholders to make suggestions on how the Electoral Commission can achieve credible electoral



process before, during and after the elections especially in preventing the late arrival of election materials and in recruiting the right personnel for the elections.

2.0. STRENGTHENING CITIZEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

2.1. Peace Education/Awareness Activities:

2.1.1. WANEP-Benin held a workshop for 17 new leaders of school clubs to equip them with skills and strategies to fight against sexual harassment in schools. The workshop which was supported by the GIZ office in Cotonou held on March 29 and 30, 2016 and was aimed at providing new tools to effectively fight against gender-based sexual violence and sexual harassment in schools. The network also carried out monitoring visits to 41 teachers in schools where the network facilitated the establishment of peace clubs. The visit was to ascertain progress made by the teachers in the implementation of the peace education curriculum.

2.1.2. WANEP-The Gambia in the reporting period developed a Peace Education brochure as an advocacy

tool to advocate for the Ministry of Education to include peace curriculums in school. The brochure helped to raise awareness on the Peace Education program. The network also conducted monitoring visits to peace clubs in the country to measure progress of the Peace Clubs and identify priority areas for the year 2016. The clubs have made significant progress in the quarter even with funding challenges while the peer mediators have conducted step down trainings thereby increasing the number of trained peer mediators in the schools.

2.1.3. WANEP-Togo held sensitization activities on Education for Peace with Pre-school and Primary school pupils in Kpalimé and Lomé Commune in the review quarter. This was necessary in order to expose the pre-schoolers and primary school pupils to gradually assimilate the values of peace and non-violence from an early age. As a result of these continuous sensitizations activities, there has been a significant adoption of non-violent and non-aggressive attitudes of children toward their mates especially during games and activities.



2.2. Support to ESUT for the establishment of peace and conflict studies department: The Management of WANEP comprising Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze and Program Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah met with representatives of the Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT) to commence discussions on establishing a peace and conflict studies department in the institute. This follows on the outcome of the Peace Education Experience Sharing Conference organized by WANEP in November 2015 to support ESUT and the 'Ecole de Maintien de la Paix 'Alioune Blondin Beye (EMPABB), Mali to establish a peace and



WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze presenting WANEP publications to the Vice Chancellor of ESUT Prof. Dennis Onah Christopher

conflict studies department. These two institutions currently do not have a peace studies program. The forum had identified the strategic importance of peace and conflict studies as a tool for building a new crop of leaders who can take the region to greater heights. WANEP commenced discussions with ESUT in the review period on modalities for the establishment of the department.

2.3. Strengthening Community Peacebuilding Initiatives:

2.3.1. Stakeholders Consultative Meeting on Biafra:

Following recent agitations and call for cessation from the Nigerian State by some interest groups in the southeast region, WANEP-Nigeria facilitated a Stakeholders Consultative Meeting to articulate the Issues and build consensus among the stakeholders. The two-day Consultative meeting held in Enugu State of Nigeria and had in attendance members of the Independent People of Biafra (IPOB); Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra

(MASSOB) and the Biafra Zionist Movement (BZM). The meeting reviewed the issues fueling the agitations for the Biafra State and agreed on appropriate response strategies for addressing the issues. Some of the gaps identified in the current demands and strategies included; the lack of trusted spaces for dialogue and continuous engagement between the Nigerian Government, the agitators and the opinion leaders, amongst others. Suggested recommendations in the short, medium and long term included expected actions from the various stakeholders- the Nigerian Government, IPOB, MASSOB, BIM, BZM, CSO's, Development partners and the wider international community, the media and security agents etc.

deepen discourse on enhancing institutional collaboration towards the effective implementation of R2P in Ghana and West Africa.

Dr. Philip Attuquayefio, Research Fellow from the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD) delivered the keynote address titled "The Place of R2P in the Current Peace and Security Environment in West Africa." Dr. Attuquayefio, in line with the key findings of the report described R2P, as a "Viable mechanism for nurturing and building political will at national regional and international levels to prevent violent conflicts and protect civilians". Dr. Vladimir Antwi-Danso, the Director/Dean of Academic Affairs, Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College (GAFSC) who moderated a panel discussion at the event which was well attended by participants from Government, International partners, Civil Society, Academia and the Media.

3.0. PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH RESEARCH

3.1. Building Institutional Capacities for R2P in West Africa

Similarly, the R2P report was also launched in Sierra Leone in a press conference attended by 32 participants drawn from the government, civil society, the media, security agencies and members of the academia. Dr. Memunatu Pratt of the University of



LEFT: R2P Dissemination Workshop held in Accra, Ghana



RIGHT: Dr. Memunatu Pratt presenting the R2P research report during the official launch in Sierra Leone

WANEP held a workshop on February 25, 2016 to disseminate the research report of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) at the Coconut Grove Regency Hotel in Accra, Ghana. The purpose of the workshop was to share findings of WANEP year-long research entitled "Institutional Capacities for the Implementation of R2P in West Africa: A Case Study of Ghana" as well as

Sierra Leone delivered the keynote address. She recommended the strengthening of existing institutions like human rights and governance institutions as well as the peace and security frameworks of ECOWAS for the effective implementation of the responsibility to protect in the region.

4.0. ENHANCING GENDER/WOMEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING

4.1. Accelerating Women's Political Participation

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) in collaboration with the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD), University of Ghana held a Panel Discussion on the theme: "Pledging for Parity: Accelerating and Increasing Women's Political Participation through Transformative Strategies in West Africa," to commemorate the 2016 International Women's Day (IWD). Dr. Linda Darkwa on behalf of Professor Henrietta J.A.N. Mensa-Bonsu, Director (LECIAD) delivered keynote address at the event, which held on March 11, 2016. In an opening address, Mrs Addae-Mensah, WANEP Program Director said that as a number of countries in the region were poised for elections this year, the theme for the celebrations could not have been more appropriate and called on participants to reflect on why women still lagged behind despite the numerous interventions over the years. The target audience for the forum included students from Ghana's tertiary and senior high institutions, civil society groups, government institutions and Gender Focal Persons.

The Panel Discussion took place on March 11, 2016 and tackled two key topics; increasing women's participation through transformative strategies and the role of media in accelerating and increasing women's political participation. The panelists were drawn from parliamentarians, media practitioners and gender experts including; Hon. Mrs. Ursula Owusu Ekuful, Member of Parliament, Ablekuma West Constituency, Mr. Chika Anikwe, Project Manager, Joint Party Support and Strengthening Project, Professor Audrey Gadzekpo, Dean, School of Information and Communication Studies, University of Ghana and Mrs. Queeneth Tawo, Regional Coordinator, Communications and Capacity Building, WANEP.

4.2. Media and Publicity on IWD

WANEP regional and national offices issued press statements as part of activities to mark the 2016 IWD. The statements highlighted the low progress of women in decision-making processes, challenges and

constraints preventing women from reaching their full potential. The release acknowledged that women constitute more than 51% of the world's population and contribute significantly to socio-economic development globally, yet women's contributions often go unacknowledged and remain grossly undervalued. The statements, which received wide media coverage made recommendations on how to increase women's participation and acknowledge their contributions.

Other activities carried out at the national level in commemoration of the 2016 International Women's Day are captured below;

4.2.1. WANEP-LIBERIA: The network through the WIPNET program held a roundtable discussion in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County focused on the progress women have made for equal participation in the democratic process and justice in Liberia. Other activities included peace rally, radio talk shows and



Beads and cloths made by women in Liberia on display on the International Women's Day celebrations

arts exhibition showcasing the different stages of women's progress in the country. The radio talk shows helped to increase the rural women's knowledge on the Affirmative Bill. In total, 16 public awareness sessions were conducted in 11 communities in Montserrado County.

4.2.2. WANEP-NIGERIA: The network commemorated the International Women's Day with a talk with the students of Doland International Schools, Akute, Ogun State on March 8, 2016. The theme of the day was "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality". The event aimed to raise awareness amongst the younger generation on women's rights and their roles

within the society and celebrate women's achievements as part of efforts to promote gender equality. A significant outcome of the event was the pledge by the school authorities to mark the day annually through concerts, sporting events, debates and exhibitions that showcase students' achievements particularly the girls.

4.2.3. WANEP-SIERRA LEONE: WANEP-Sierra Leone in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and the National Steering Committee on the implementation of the Sierra Leone National Action Plan (SiLNAP) on UNSCR 1325 and 1820, marked the 2016 IWD with a roundtable discussion on the theme: Pledge for Parity for an engendered constitution. WIPNET is a member of the National Steering Committee on SiLNAP. The committee with other development partners and women groups are currently working on the Roll-out of the Guidelines for the alignment of implementation of SiLNAP on UNSCR 1325 & 1820, with the Local Council Development Project (LCDP).

4.2.4. WANEP-GUINEA: The network with other stakeholders issued statements to relevant authorities to tackle the upsurge of rape and other forms violence against women and girls, particularly female genital mutilation (FGM) and early marriage. Guinea is said to rank second among countries with the highest rate of early marriage in the world. They also advocated for greater participation of women in decision-making processes.

4.2.5. WANEP-BENIN: The network held two training workshops on dialogue and mediation for 50 women in Bohicon and Porto- Novo. The women were equipped with skills in conflict analysis, conflict management, dialogue and mediation. These trainings have led to increase in the number of women mediators from 92 to 142 in the country.

4.2.6. WANEP-TOGO facilitated a debate on March 11, 2016 in the premises of the High Commissioner for National Unity, Reconciliation and Strengthening to mark the 2016 IWD. Another discussion on the theme of the 2016 IWD took place on March 28, 2016 in Kpalime and was attended by the Queen mother Mama Kkpétu Adzimé Canton Kpalime who contributed enormously to the debates. In addition,

the network made several Radio and TV appearances to generate awareness on strategies for achieving parity in line with the IWD theme. These activities helped to raise the visibility of WANEP - Togo in the community

4.3. Training of trainers' workshop on violence against women



WANEP-Nigeria working with the Working Group of Eight on Violence Against Women held a training of trainers' workshop for 50 male students between ages 14-18 years from 5 secondary schools in Lagos state Nigeria. The training aimed at increasing awareness on the effects of gender based violence amongst youth. The keynote address, which was delivered by a Police Inspector and focused on the dangers of violence against girls and boys stimulated open discussions on issues of violence against women and girls as it happens in their communities and within the school setting. The students were also sensitized on the appropriate government and non-governmental agencies to report incidents of gender based violence.

4.4. Sensitization on UNSCR 1325

WANEP- Togo in collaboration with the Togolese branch of the Peace and Security Network of Women in ECOWAS (REPSFECO - Togo) and financial support of the Regional REPSFECO held a national workshop on February 9, 2016 to discuss participatory approaches to UN Resolutions 1325 and 1820. The workshop was attended by 19 participants from regional networks across Togo. The workshop provided the platform to generate awareness on these resolutions and the extent of implementation and progress made with the National Action Plan (NAP). Research has identified

the lack of awareness as a key challenge to the successful implementation of the resolutions. The workshop therefore helped the participants to have a better understanding of the resolutions and its implementation. At the end of the workshop, the participants committed to become more involved in the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls as stipulated in the pillars of 1325 and also committed to undertake peace initiatives within their structures and localities. The network had earlier sensitized staff on the resolutions to enable them better understand gender issues and how to participate effectively in advancing the women agenda in Togo.

5.0. RESPONDING TO CONFLICTS THROUGH DIALOGUE AND MEDIATION

5.1. Building national capacities for effective conflict resolution

5.1.1. Participatory Review and Analysis Processes (PRAPs)

As part of WANEP's institutional monitoring and continuous learning and improvement culture, WANEP held a Participatory Review and Analysis

Processes (PRAPs) from February 1 to 4 under the theme: "WANEP's Role in the Current Peace and Security Architecture of Africa: from transition to consolidation." The meeting took place at the Chances Hotel, Ho in the Volta Region of Ghana and brought together all National Network Coordinators, Zonal Coordinators, WANEP Liaison Officer to ECOWAS and Regional staff. A seasoned Organizational Development Expert, Rev John Nkum who is also a member of the WANEP Regional Board, facilitated the meeting with Mr. Ato Kwamina Nkum as co-facilitator.

PRAPs is held on a biennial basis as a platform to improve and strengthen the organization's monitoring and learning culture through the Network Accountability Learning and Planning System (NALPS). This year's meeting assessed the achievements and challenges of the organization in 2015, particularly in terms of WANEP's contribution to the African Peace and Security Architecture of ECOWAS and African Union. At the end of the interactive meeting, participants' understanding of the role of the organization in the region was greatly enhanced and an agreed direction on how to consolidate gains derived from WANEP's transitional process reached. Some of the outputs from the meeting included a draft comprehensive 2016 workplan of National Networks reflecting the mission of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. A communiqué issued at the end of the meeting highlighted key discussions, recommendations and major agreements reached.



WANEP Regional and National Staff reciting the organization's Vision and Mission statements at PRAPs

5.1.2. Civilian Peacekeepers Foundation Pilot Course

Six WANEP staffs participated in the Civilian Peacekeepers Foundation Pilot Course organized by the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) with support from GIZ from February 29 to March 11, 2016. The training aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills required for successful implementation of peacekeeping mandates. The training brought together participants from across the continent including those actively engaged in current peacekeeping missions. It provided participants with realistic insights on the conceptual and institutional frameworks of multidimensional Peace Support Operations (PSO), crosscutting issues and an overview of core functional areas, in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of all the components in a multidimensional PSO. Participants are expected to register on the African Standby Capacity Roster to facilitate rapid deployment of personnel by African Union or Regional Economic Communities in subsequent peacekeeping missions subject to their qualifications.



Monitoring and evaluation training in Sierra Leone

programs. A key focus of the training was the establishment of a log frame including; objectives, activities, indicators, targets and assumptions, for effective project implementation. At the end of the training, one of the participants, Estella Wamala said. "Of all the trainings I have participated in, the M&E training was unique and highly educative."

5.1.4. WANEP-Togo NEWS Analyst attended a two-week course in the Bamako School of Peacekeeping on the theme "Africa during peacebuilding," from February 29 to March 11, 2016 in Mali.



5.2. Advocacy Visits and Strategic Partnerships

5.2.1. Japanese Team Visits WANEP-Regional: A three - member team from Japan paid a working visit to the WANEP Regional Office, Accra on January 26, 2016. The delegation comprised officials from the Defence Intelligence Headquarters in the Defence Ministry of Japan, the Japanese Foreign Ministry and the First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Ghana.

5.1.3. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Training

A 3-day training on basic Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks was conducted for 10 national office staffs from Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia at the WANEP-Sierra Leone secretariat in Freetown. The participants were exposed to the techniques of M&E, with specific focus on project/program structure/cycle and key concepts in M&E. Mr. Vincent Azumah, Regional Coordinator Research, Monitoring and Evaluation, (RCRM&E) who facilitated the training stated that M&E enables institutions to incorporate effective policies with regards to accountability, transparency and quality control of implemented



A member of the Japanese delegation presenting a gift to WANEP Program Director, Ms Levinia Addae-Mensah

The delegates were received by WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze and later held discussions with the Program team led by Program Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah.

The visit was specifically to have a deeper understanding of the nexus between Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping within the context of Peace and Security challenges in West Africa, learn more about WANEP's contributions to promoting peace and security in the region and discuss the events in Mali and the Sahel and what WANEP's contributions have been. At the end of the meeting, the delegates expressed satisfaction with WANEP and congratulated the organization for its efforts in sustaining peace in the region. The delegation presented a memento to WANEP as a sign of their appreciation and in commemoration of the visit.

5.2.2. WANEP and JFA Partners Meeting: On 22nd January, 2016, WANEP program team met with its Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA) Partners at the Embassy of Sweden in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Present at the meeting were; Lena Schildt, Embassy of Sweden, Addis Ababa; Gelila Seyoum, ADA, Levinia Addae-Mensah, WANEP Program Director and Bijoue Birch, WANEP Program Officer Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET). The meeting reviewed the WANEP 2016 Budget and Workplan, Terms of Reference (TOR) for 2016 Audit and discussed the context of Peace and Security in the region. Two consultants have been recruited to carry out assessment of WANEP programs and activities under the JFA. The assessments commenced in February 2016.

Major discussions at the meeting bordered on budget cuts by the partners especially in the face of the increasing refugee situation in Europe, and the efforts WANEP is making to cover the deficit on the budget. In this regard, the organization revised its budget accordingly in March 2016 and is currently exploring various options and creative sources of funding. The partners however agreed that despite the budget cut WANEP is among a few organizations with credibility and result oriented activities that have been prioritized and considered for a lower level of funding cut. ADA thereafter reiterated its commitment to renew the JFA for another two years and expressed readiness to renew the bilateral agreement with WANEP for 2016-2017.

5.2.3. WANEP/AU Meeting: As stipulated in the MOU between WANEP and the African Union Commission, the two organizations met at the AUC office in Addis on January 22, 2016. The meeting was held with Mrs. Antonia N'Gabala Sodonon, the Gender Expert from the Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Division of the Peace and Security Department (PSD) of the AUC. The Program Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah and the Program Officer for the Women in Peacebuilding Network Program, Mrs. Kesia Onam Birch, represented WANEP. The meeting was specifically to discuss priority areas of focus for 2016 within the framework of operationalizing the MOU between WANEP and the AU and where the technical support of WANEP will be required. An overview of the WANEP 2016 workplan and budget was presented and discussed. AU also committed to provide funding for activities under the WIPNET Program so the contribution of the JFA funding for the activities can be used to support the Liaison Office in AU which is envisaged to promote the linkages between the various departmental meetings.

5.2.4. Commonwealth Foundation Visit: Representatives from the Commonwealth Foundation paid a courtesy visit to WANEP Regional office on March 11, 2016 to learn about WANEP's work, and its interaction with ECOWAS. The Commonwealth Foundation team comprising Min Garcia (Deputy Director), Reineira Arguello Sanjuan (Senior Programme Officer-Governance) and Gillian Cooper (Senior Programme Officer- Capacity Building) had audience with the WANEP program team led by Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze. During the visit, the two organizations gave overviews of their work in the region as well as discussed salient



Representatives from the Commonwealth Foundation with WANEP Executive Director and other program staff during their courtesy visit to WANEP

issues of peace and security especially the role of civil society organizations in the regional integration discourse. The Foundation works in four strategic areas with a major focus on participatory governance. The visit was also an opportunity to explore areas of convergence in terms of program implementation and share experiences for future collaboration.

5.2.5. WANEP - Benin has signed a 12-month grant with GIZ, for the implementation of the WIPNET annual work plan. The grant totaling 26,577,750 CFA covers the period from February 1 to December 31, 2016. In line with WANEP's collaborative approach to peacebuilding, the network is also working in collaboration with the National Commission of Legislation and Codification and the Ministry of Justice in ensuring the passage of the access to information bill. The team held a Special Session on January 22, 2016 to review and generate awareness on the draft bill.

6.0. CONCLUSION

The West African Region witnessed serious challenges to peace and security in the region. Topmost on the list were the double attacks orchestrated by AQIM terrorists on the Etoile du Sud, Koral Beach hotel and the Paillote at Grand Bassam all in Cote d'Ivoire with very serious casualties. This incident again brought to the fore the threats of insurgents to human security and the fragile state of security in our region. Violent extremism, electoral violence and ethnic and communal clashes all had grave impact on WANEP intervention in the reporting period. Despite these challenges however, WANEP continued to make significant progress in program delivery and in maintaining its visibility in the public domain.

Building Relationships for Peace

For more Information log on to www.wanep.org

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