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:

Burkina Faso: In March 2017, Burkina Faso recorded three incidents of terrorist attacks in Soum Province and in the Sahel Region. The attacks left two residents dead, and one injured. One soldier from the Nassoumbou military detachment was also injured in a military ambush by unidentified gunmen. These spate of attacks led to relocation of indigenes from the affected communities and forced closure of schools. In addition to the terrorist attacks, the rate of juvenile delinquency in schools has risen considerably in Burkina Faso in the reporting quarter.

Ghana: A renewed chieftaincy dispute between the Nakpaa and Andani in Bimbilla, northern Ghana in February left 11 people dead and 14 injured causing mass displacement of residents. Despite security measures taken by the authorities to disband vigilante groups such as the Invincible Forces, Delta Force etc., the groups continue to engage in violent clashes across the country. In the review quarter, the groups engaged in the forceful seizure and management of state owned properties including the tourist facility in Kintampo Falls, toll booths, and seizure of vehicles. Groups loyal to the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) attacked and forcefully removed the Ashanti Regional Security Coordinator from office. Also, the activities of illegal miners known as “galamsey” in Ashanti and Western Region have led to the destruction of water sources, environmental degradation and loss of livelihoods across the country.

Mali: The quarter under review was marked by terrorist attacks and intercommunal conflicts in northern and central Mali respectively. On March 5 2017, 11 soldiers were killed and several others injured in an attack on a section of the Malian army at Boukessi in Douentza claimed by the new coalition of terrorist group Jammat Nasr Al islam wa Al mousslimin. Another group of unidentified gunmen attacked a Malian army position at Fafa in Ansongo area of Gao Region on March 13 and made away with two vehicles loaded with weapons. Two soldiers and two civilians; one male, one female, were killed in the raid with many others injured. Violent clashes between the Bambara ethnic group and the Fulani cattle herdsmen at Banikoro near Diabaly in Niono area resulted in the death of ten people with fourteen others injured while the villagers have relocated to the surrounding villages for fear of retaliation.

Niger: Despite the multi-faceted security measures, including the declaration of state of emergency, and restrictions on motor bikes, Niger still suffers losses in the ranks of its soldiers in the fight against terrorism. On March 6, 2017 at Wanzerbe in Tillabéry Region, elements of Boko Haram attacked the detachment of the National Gendarmerie killing seven people. The Nigerien Government responded to this situation by declaring a state of emergency in the Regions of Diffa, Tillabéri and Tahoua.

Nigeria: Boko Haram carried out suicide bombings, shoot-outs, abductions and raids on communities in Borno state killing 22 people and abducting 10 in Konduga Local Government Area. The incessant attacks of armed herdsmen on communities and violent clashes between local farmers and suspected herdsmen resulted in the fatality of 37 people in Benue, Delta, Kaduna, Abia, Edo, Kwara and Oyo States. Alleged criminal activities of nomadic herdsmen in Benue, Ekiti and Ebonyi states following incidents of rape/sexual harassment, destruction of crops on farmlands during cattle grazing and kidnapping has led to mass demonstrations in the affected communities. Also, land related conflicts in Osun and Cross-River states resulted in the deaths of 49 people with 96 injured and the burning of several vehicles, residential buildings and shops. Cholera outbreak in Zamfara state between February and March led to the death of at least 80 people with 500 others hospitalized. And in Sokoto state, about 400 cases of severe malaria and meningitis were reported with 23 deaths recorded.
1.0. ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING ELECTORAL SUPPORT THROUGH NEWS

1.1. Validation of indicators and Hotspot mapping in The Gambia

In the reporting quarter, WANEP-Gambia held a workshop from March 14 to 17, 2017 to validate election indicators and map potential hotspots in the country in preparation for the April National Assembly elections. The activity was supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and brought together key stakeholders and major partners to review the indicators to reflect current dynamics and threats to look out for before, during and after the elections.

The network is coordinating the CSO-Coalition on Elections and would be operationalizing an Election Situation Room for the April 6 National Assembly election with funding from UNDP and the European Union (EU). In the run up to the elections, WANEP-Gambia has conducted a Risk-mapping exercise to identify hotspot areas, set up a National Election Early Warning and Response Group (NEEWARG) and conducted training for its members. The NEEWARG members will develop and recommend response strategies to identified violent threats from the mapping exercise while the reviewed data has been shared with critical stakeholders including the Police and the Electoral Commission for necessary action. In addition to the review and validation exercise, the Network has further conducted a refresher training for 30 conflict monitors. These interventions are necessary in order to ensure a peaceful outcome of the upcoming elections.

WANEP-Liberia: In line with WANEP’s principle of collaborative approaches to Peacebuilding, which is aimed at creating an enabling electoral environment before, during and after the elections, WANEP Liberia is engaging with the National Early Response Mechanism of Liberia (NERML) in preparation for the upcoming 2018 general elections in the country. The Network has also put measures in place to ensure a smooth process which includes the recruitment and training of community early warning monitors on data collection, reporting and analysis.

1.2. Early Warning Products:

In the quarter under review, the following Early Warning Outputs were produced:
- Managing President Yahya Jammeh’s Exit: From Consolidated Autocracy to Consolidated Democracy
- The Effectiveness of Investment in Agriculture and Climate Change Adaptation on Small-Scale Farmers in Nigeria
- Nigeria’s declining economy: Implication for peace and security.

2.0. STRENGTHENING CITIZEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

2.1. Improving Citizen’s Capacity in Conflict Management:

2.1.1. KAIPTC/WANEP Chart New Direction for WAPI

On March 14, 2017 representatives from WANEP and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC) met at the WANEP JP Lederach Conference Room to deliberate and agree on a new direction for the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI). The meeting was also to deliberate and finalize plans for the WAPI 2017 Session. Program Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah led the WANEP team, while Ms Horname Noagbesemu, Director Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation led the KAIPTC team.

The meeting reviewed the concept paper on the new direction for WAPI, agreed on timelines, new courses as well as the roles and responsibilities of facilitators in the 2017 session. Some of the old courses were also amended to reflect current peace and security situation in the Region. WAPI is run in partnership with KAIPTC and is designed to provide specialized, intensive, and cultural sensitive training in conflict transformation and peacebuilding to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and other relevant actors from West Africa. Some of the agreements reached on the new direction for WAPI were as follows;

- Introduction of in-country trainings across the Region. The first of these courses will commence at the University of Ibadan this year.
2.2. Peer Mediation Club Activities

2.2.1. Training on prevention of radicalization: Towards the prevention of radicalization of students in the primary, secondary and tertiary institutions, WANEP Nigeria conducted training on conflict management in selected states in Northern Nigeria. The training was based on the training manual on peace education and the prevention of radicalization. The Manual provides insights on the emerging trends, and workable measures of radicalization prevention among students at all levels of the education sector.

2.2.2. School monitoring visits: In The Gambia, the Network paid a courtesy visit to the peer mediation clubs in the target schools to assess progress made in carrying out peace education and awareness activities. During one of such visits, the Network held open forum with the students on the topic; “The importance of tolerance in new Gambia,” in order to raise students awareness on the need for tolerance and inclusivity amidst the post-election controversies in the country. The regular visits have led to strengthened partnerships with the school administration thus paving the way for the introduction of peace education into the curriculum of the identified schools.

2.3. Strengthening Community Peacebuilding Initiatives

2.3.1. Justice and Security Dialogue workshop: In accordance with WANEP’s deliberate community engagements and interventions in dialogue and mediation, WANEP-Nigeria in the review period facilitated community dialogues in five communities of Angwan Rukuba in Jos North Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau state. The dialogue was designed to strengthen and deepen security in the LGA in order to transform relationships between the communities and the Police. Specifically, the Forum provided the platform to assess progress of WANEP-Nigeria’s intervention in the communities, identify gaps and seek collective solutions that will create impact in the larger society. These regular dialogues has helped in fostering better understanding between the communities and security agents and they are now more determined and committed to amicable problem solving.

In another development, WANEP-Nigeria trained 125 women from selected states in Nigeria to generate awareness and increase the enforcement of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act. The Network also held awareness campaigns to promote women’s participation in decision making and support for a gender balanced approach to peace and security across communities in the Niger Delta Region of the country.

2.3.2. WANEP-Ghana continued with the Bunkprugu dialogue process in the reporting period in collaboration with the Peace and Unity Committee. One significant achievement in the period is the involvement of women in the dialogue process. The women groups have gone ahead to visit other communities in the locality to share the knowledge they gained from the dialogue process with women in those communities. Through the facilitation of this process, the conflicting factions in Bunkprugu are beginning to build trust and relationships among themselves. The conflicting communities have embarked on resource mobilization to raise funds for the resolution of the conflict by levying each faction for the post-dialogue activities. The Network is also working in collaboration with the Fund For Peace (FFP) in the Brong-Ahafo Region to generate awareness on the Voluntary Principles (VP). This intervention has helped to ensure strict adherence to these principles culminating to the establishment of Community Watch Committee with its members trained on the principle. The Committee is working in collaboration to ensure respect for the rights of suspected abusers. Already, these efforts are yielding key results; there has been a decrease in small-scale mining offences and mandatory training of security companies on the
core tenets and principles of VP. The Ministry of Interior in partnership with the Police is working on modalities to integrate training of private security guards on VP before deployment.

3.0. PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH RESEARCH

3.1. Research and Publication

WANEP-Nigeria published a report on the National Assessment of Peacebuilding Networks’ 15 years work in Nigeria. The report which is a result of robust research was presented to major partners and key stakeholders and was widely disseminated in the Media. A field research on the Impact of Investment in Agriculture and Climate Change Adaption on Small Scale Farmers in Nigeria: 2010 – 2015 was validated by a cross section of participants from various sectors of the country.

The WANEP Regional office produced and distributed a publication titled; Mediating Complex Community Conflict: Lessons from Jos, Plateau Nigeria and Bawku, Upper West Ghana. The publication is under the “From the Field,” series and it details WANEP’s theory of change and intervention logic in its dialogue and mediation processes.

4.0. ENHANCING GENDER/WOMEN CAPACITY IN PEACEBUILDING

4.1. Women, Peace and Security

4.1.1 Community Dialogues in G5 Sahel countries:

WANEP in collaboration with UNWomen held series of dialogue sessions between January and February with community women in the G5 Sahel countries of Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso. The sessions were geared towards identifying cross-border security threats and their linkages to the increasing spate of radicalization and violent extremism along the Sahel. The sessions provided a platform for the women in the Sahel Region to discuss the threat of violent extremism and strategize on how they can play a constructive role in curbing radicalization particularly from a gender perspective. The Sessions revealed that although women are most vulnerable to the threats of violent extremism, they can also mitigate the threats because of their ability to detect strangers in their communities and reporting them. A key output from the meeting was the formulation of sub-indicators that will allow for early detection of threats. The indicators will be migrated into the WANEP NEWS system. The women further recommended the need to strengthen existing women’s leadership platforms at local levels in the G5 Sahel countries and called for effective collaboration with civil society actors in providing inclusive and sustainable approaches to preventing the spread of violent extremism in the Sahel.

4.1.2. WANEP, UN Women Host Regional Workshop on Violent Extremism:

Women’s participation in the prevention and countering of violent extremism in the Sahel Region was the focus of a three-day Early Warning training workshop hosted by UNWomen and the G5 Sahel Secretariat, in partnership with WANEP. The workshop held in Ouagadougou, from February 15 to 17, 2017 and provided a platform for Sahelian women to reflect, inform, and share experiences on their contribution to peacebuilding through effective Early Warning mechanisms both at national and Regional levels. A key outcome of the workshop was the development of a Regional Triennial Sahelian Action Plan for Early Warning and women’s
participation in preventing violent extremism in the Sahel.

The Program Director of WANEP, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah led the WANEP team to the workshop, which also included participants drawn from grassroots Community-Based Organizations, Governments, Parliaments and representatives of the G5 Women National Platforms of the G5 Sahel countries of Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Mali and Mauritania. In a communique released at the end of the meeting, Mrs. Addae-Mensah decried the lack of recognition of the efforts of rural women towards building peace in their different localities and called for more acknowledgement of the role of rural women in peacebuilding processes. Ms. Khady Ba Faye, Programme Manager of the UN Women Regional Sahel Programme on Peace and Security in her opening speech explained that the partnership with WANEP in the implementation of the workshop was in recognition of “WANEP's well established expertise on Early Warning.”

4.1.3. Women and Preventive Diplomacy: The Ghana Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in West Africa (WGWPS-WA) led by the WANEP Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) Program facilitated a thematic session on Women, Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel in collaboration with selected civil society organizations. The theme of the Session was Preventive Diplomacy in West Africa and the Sahel: Role of UNOWAS and the involvement of women and youth. The event held under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) through a Video Tele-Conference (VCT) and brought together members of the working group from all the 15 ECOWAS Member States including Chad and Mauritania. The theme of Preventive Diplomacy is a core focus area of UNOWAS and resonates with WANEP’s approach to conflict management and transformation. The Working Group is a platform for exchange, coordination and harmonization of actions promoted by civil society organizations, UN Agencies and other stakeholders for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 in West Africa. It is coordinated by the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN). WANEP is the convener of the Working Group in Ghana.

4.1.4. Increasing Women's Participation: In the reporting quarter, WANEP-Liberia held several training and awareness activities geared towards raising awareness on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and increasing women's participation in decision-making levels. A total of 105 participants were trained on SGBV with emphasis on psycho-social support in three counties of Bong, Grand Bassa and Montserrado. The trained women are expected to provide psycho-social support to survivors and victims of SGBV in the respective counties. To increase women's political participation, the Network also facilitated the training of women on Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) and Adult Literacy, political participation and leadership skills and conducted community forums with community leaders who can effect change. Awareness on these issues are regularly raised on the interactive voices of women radio program where community members actively participate in the discussions. With the requisite skills acquired from the trainings, the women are now advocating for increased presence in political positions and community leadership as well as for the passage of the “Affirmative Action Bill on Women's Political Participation.”

4.2. WANEP Regional and National Offices Commemorate 2017 International Women’s Day

The International Women’s Day is celebrated annually on March 8th to commemorate women’s struggles for empowerment and self-actualization as well as celebrate their achievements throughout history in different spheres of life. This year’s theme; “Be Bold for Change,” was a clarion call on all and sundry to help forge a better working world and more gender inclusiveness. WANEP marked the Day with various activities as captured below;

- The Regional office issued a press release reiterating the call for inclusive leadership that allows for men and women to work together to make the gender equality a reality. The Release received wide coverage in mainstream and social media platforms. The Regional staff held discussions on the IWD theme.
and proffered recommendations on strategies to bridge the gender gap while the WIPNET team participated in a television program to discuss Gender Equality and inclusive societies.

In Nigeria, the Network met with female police officers in Lagos as part of efforts to celebrate the significant roles and contributions of female security officers to security. WANEP member organizations held a rally in Warri, Edo state to promote women’s participation in decision-making in market associations while member organizations in Delta State took part in a radio program focused on finding lasting solutions to the recurring intra/intercommunal crisis in the state.

WANEP-Burkina Faso marked the Day with a breakfast meeting with notable women leaders from various sectors and young women and girls to discuss female leadership. The platform created the opportunity for the women leaders to share their experiences with the younger generation in order to inspire them to strive to attain their potentials.

The network in The Gambia provided opportunity for women from the various political parties to meet and dialogue on the way forward as a first step towards healing and reconciliation following the tension in the country after the December polls. The Network in partnership with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) West Africa Regional Office (WARO), trained 40 women to enhance their skills on politics. Eight out of the forty women contested in the National Assembly election.

In Côte d’Ivoire, women in Aboisso community received pro-bono legal consultations from female Lawyers on land rights, sexual and gender-based violence and inheritance issues among others. The women were also coached on the procedures for reporting rape and other types of violence against women to authorities.

In Ghana, women from various sectors in the society held a roundtable discussion on the persistent inequalities in the country. Five inequalities were identified for urgent action viz; Education and training of the girl child, women’s access to information and services, domestic and gender-based violence, participation in decision making and leadership and impact of armed conflict on women. The panellists further committed to using their influence and good offices to address these inequalities.

The Network in Benin facilitated the meeting of inspiring and passionate women leaders from the Army, the Police and the Air Force with 60 young girls from colleges in Cotonou, to share their experiences in the security forces. The security women used the occasion to encourage the girls to consider a career in the security sector in order to boost the population of women in the traditional male dominated sector.

A high-powered panel was constituted in Mali to brainstorm on the economic empowerment of women in a changing world of work. The panellists discussed the challenges and constraints facing women in the changing working environment and how the various economic policies are affecting women.

In Togo, a public discussion on the role of women and girls in the promotion and sustenance of peace was held to commemorate the day.
5.0. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1. STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

5.1.1. WANEP Biennial General Assembly
The 2017 WANEP General Assembly (GA) was held from January 30 to February 2, 2017 at the SunLodge Hotel, Accra-Ghana under the theme: Consolidating the WANEP vision. The keynote Speech titled “The Unwinding of UN Peacekeeping Missions in West Africa and Its Implication for Peace and Stability,” was delivered by Brigadier General Emmanuel Kotia, Deputy Commandant, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC). The GA provides opportunity for WANEP to take stock of activities in the previous years, evaluate its strategies for tackling emerging threats and provide stewardship to its constituency and stakeholders. Specifically, the 2017 General Assembly provided the platform for the official opening of the WANEP Permanent Regional Secretariat and the launch of its book titled: “Strides and Strains of Civil Society Organizations in Africa: The WANEP Story.”
Significant outcomes of the meeting was the ratification and adoption of the action points from the 2016 Participatory Review and Analysis Processes (PRAPs), Board Resolutions and Approvals including successful transition of Board leadership and presentation of New Board Members, review and adoption of the Constitution among others.
WANEP holds a General Assembly every two years as part of strengthening its institutional and governance structure. Participants to the meeting included delegates from all the WANEP national offices comprising National Board Chairs and National Network Coordinators, members of the WANEP Regional Professional Board, Staff of the Regional Office, Zonal Coordinators, and WANEP-ECOWAS Liaison Office. Also in attendance were representatives of ECOWAS, African Union, KAIPTC and other strategic partners.

5.1.2. WANEP Unveils permanent Secretariat, Launches new Publication
On February 3, 2017, His Excellency Dr Mohammed Ibn Chambas, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), officially unveiled WANEP’s permanent Regional secretariat and launched its novelty publication titled: “Strides and Strains of Civil Society Organizations in Africa: The WANEP Story.” The ground-breaking events was chaired by His Excellency Marcel Alain Da Souza, President of the ECOWAS Commission.
In his address at the occasion, Dr. Chambas said; “Today’s event constitutes another demonstration that WANEP is a key actor in the frontline of conflict prevention.” He described the work of WANEP in areas of early warning, capacity building, dialogue and mediation, women in peacebuilding and peace education, as a reference point of the efforts of civil society organizations in the advancement of peace and security in the Region. Also speaking at the event, ECOWAS President Mr. Marcel Da Souza said that the unique partnership between WANEP and the ECOWAS Commission was informed by the understanding of the integral role civil society can play in complementing government efforts at building peace...
and sustainable development. He described the double event as a “commendable African success story worthy of emulation!”

The WANEP Book is a microcosm of practical peacebuilding and the challenges of running a network organization using the WANEP experience. It provides the platform for the organization to share its experiences in peacebuilding, networking and institutional development including successes, challenges and its legacy in the Civil Society sector. It was reviewed by Professor Isaac Olawale Albert, current Director of the Institute of African Studies of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The professor of History and specialist in conflict analysis was the immediate past Board Chair of the WANEP Regional board. The acquisition of a permanent WANEP Regional Secretariat after 16 years of existence marks a major milestone in the history of the organization. The events were witnessed by representatives of civil society organizations including staff and Board chairs of all WANEP national networks, government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, international development partners and former staff of WANEP. The highlight of the event was the presence of the two co-founders of WANEP; Dr. Sam Gbaydee Doe and Honorable Emmanuel Bombande who were the first and second Executive Directors respectively.

5.1.3. WANEP Regional Board Gets new Chair and Members

The WANEP Regional Board elected a new Board Chair and Vice Chair and also welcomed two new members on January 31, 2017. The new Board Chair, retired Air Vice Marshall (AVM) Christian Edem Dovlo and Madame Lucky Antoinette Mbrou, the Vice Chair took over from Professor Isaac Olawale Albert (Chair) and Madame Fatoumatou Batoko-Zossou (Vice Chair) whose tenures ended on January 31, 2017. The successful transition took place on the fringes of the 2017 General Assembly.

A Ghanaian national, AVM Dovlo (rtd), the new Board Chair is a former Commandant of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC) and the Chair of the Board of Ghana Civil Aviation Authority. Madame Mbrou, a Togolese indigene has a Masters Degree in Law with over a decade professional working experience in capacity building with national, Regional and international civil society organizations. Two new seasoned professionals...
namely; Professor Oumar Ndongo, a Professor of American Literature and culture at the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal and Mrs. Salamatu Hussaini Suleiman, a Nigerian national and immediate past ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security also joined the Board.

WANEP Executive Director, Mr. Chukwuemeka Eze attributed the success of the smooth change in the internal leadership and transition of the organization as a testimony to “its unity, reconciliatory prowess and ability to withstand challenges.” In an acceptance speech, AVM Dovlo (rtd) and his Vice pledged to continue with the legacies of the erstwhile Board Chair Professor Isaac Albert in taking the organization to greater heights. The newly elected leaders and Board members were endorsed at the WANEP General Assembly which took place on February 1, 2017. The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the organization.

5.2. BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR EFFECTIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION

5.2.1. Financial Management Training

In line with WANEP’s goal of building capacity of staff in order to position them for effective program delivery, the WANEP Finance Manager, Ms Gisele Vedogbeton participated in the Financial Management and Grants Training held from March 27 to 30, 2017. The training course was organized by the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) and was designed for finance officers, administrators, programme/project officers and programme managers. The participants were drawn from civil society organizations, public and private enterprises, as well as government and non-governmental organizations.

Specific objectives of the training were to build capacity of participants on basic financial management and equip them with skills to interpret financial statements, analyze the financial health of an organization, budget and forecast and manage cash flow. The training exposed the target participants to strategies for ensuring that limited resources are used effectively in implementing organizational programs.

6.0. CONCLUSION

The West Africa Region continued to witness serious threats to peace and security in the reporting quarter. Ethnic and communal clashes, political violence and heightened rate of violent extremism were witnessed in the quarter under review. All these challenges impacted significantly on WANEP intervention in the period. Added to these challenges was the late reimbursement of funds for program implementation which led to a notable drop in WANEP activities across the Region. In spite of the challenges recorded, WANEP continued to make significant progress in program delivery and in maintaining its visibility in the public domain. The International Women’s Day was well celebrated across WANEP Regional secretariat and national networks and resulted in increased coverage and publicity for WANEP.