We acknowledge in a very special way our strategic partners as well as our funding partners.
Highlights of 2009 Regional Activities

- West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI)
- WIPNET Program
- Collaborative Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management in West Africa
- WANEP-ECOWAS Partnership
- Early Warning and Early Response Program (WARN)
- CSO Capacity Building
- Research and Advocacy
- IFOR/WPP African Desk

Highlights of 2009 National Networks Activities

- WANEP-Benin
- WANEP Cote D’Ivoire
- WANEP-The Gambia
- WANEP-Ghana
- WANEP-Guinea
- WANEP-Liberia
- WANEP Nigeria
- WANEP Senegal
- WANEP-Sierra Leone
- WANEP-Togo

- Summary of Meetings
  - Board/Staff/Contacts

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AGM     Annual General Meeting
AHSI    African Human Security Initiative
CENA    National Electoral Commission
CSOs    Civil Society Organizations
CSTs    Community Surveillance Teams
ECOSAP  ECOWAS Small Arms Programme
ECCP    European Centre for the Prevention of Conflicts
GANSA   Gambia Action Network on Small Arms
GNDR    Global Network for Disaster Reduction
GPPAC   Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts
IFES    International Foundation for Electoral Systems
KAIPTC  Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Centre
MARWOPNET Mano River Women’s Peace Network
OSIWA   Open Society Initiative for West Africa
PPLM    Pain Pour Le Monde
TRC     Truth and Reconciliation Commission
TJRC    Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission
USIP    United States Institute for Peace
UNDP    United Nations Development Programme
WIPNET  Women in Peace Building Programme
The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) is a not-for-profit organisation working in collaborative peacebuilding. WANEP was founded in 1998 as a response to the civil wars that plagued West Africa in the late 1980s. WANEP has National Networks in twelve of the fifteen countries in West Africa and will soon expand to Cape Verde, Mali and Niger. Its Regional Secretariat is located in Accra, Ghana.

Currently, WANEP network membership is over 450 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) spread across its 12 national networks throughout West Africa.

**VISION**

“A West Africa region characterized by just and peaceful communities where the dignity of the human person is paramount and where the people can meet their basic human needs and decide their own direction.”

**MISSION**

“To enable and facilitate the development of mechanisms for cooperation among civil society-based peacebuilding practitioners and organizations in West Africa by promoting cooperative responses to violent conflicts; providing the structure through which these practitioners and institutions will regularly exchange experience and information on issues of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, social, religious and political reconciliation; and promoting West Africa’s social cultural values as resources for peacebuilding.”

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

- Strengthen the capacity of peacebuilding organizations and practitioners in West Africa to engage actively in the transformation of violent conflicts through the use of non-violent strategies
- Develop a conflict prevention mechanism in West Africa to monitor, analyze and respond to conflicts
- Engender peacebuilding policy and practices in West Africa
- Promote a culture of non-violence and social responsibility among young people in West Africa.
- Strengthen the conceptual base of WANEP programs through research, documentation and Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Enhance policy formulation and influence on peace and human security through regional and international linkages and advocacy.
MESSAGE FROM THE WANEP BOARD CHAIR

After serving the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) as Vice Chair of the Board for two terms, I was elected following the re-constitution of the Board at the special 10th Anniversary General Assembly in January 2009 to now serve as Chair of the Board. This is a great honour being one of the founding members of WANEP who saw the growth and development of the organisation from its very beginning. While contributing to the establishment of WANEP in my own country, La Cote D’Ivoire, I saw clearly the early warning signs of internal strife. Our collective efforts were a little too late. We experience a civil war that almost engulfed and destroyed the whole of Cote D’Ivoire. As an entrepreneur in the private sector, I have always understood that peace is the indispensable element for any economic and human development from community to national levels. West Africa cannot harness its human and natural resources for the sustainable development of its people as long as violent conflicts remain pervasive in the sub-region.

WANEP is now a fully-fledged and unique civil society organisation in West Africa. After over 10 years of contributing actively to peace in the region, WANEP has become a reference organisation for study and research on the role of networks in efforts towards development and peace. I am proud to be the chair of WANEP at this time of its prime. My main message in this 2009 annual report is to urge and encourage all the member organisations of WANEP, the national networks and the regional secretariat to continue to strife hard. This is the time for re-commitment and dedication for the work of peace in Africa.

The Board recognises the efforts of civil society organisations across the sub-region in peacebuilding. We applaud the special efforts to set up well structured and functioning WANEP national networks in Cape Verde, Mali, and Niger. We look forward to welcoming these new networks as we complete the last phase of establishing WANEP in all fifteen member-states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). On behalf of the Board and the Management of WANEP, I take this opportunity to appreciate the civil society partnership with ECOWAS and with Governments in West Africa in the complimentary effort to build peace. We are most grateful to all the funding partners of WANEP. We pay special tribute to Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambers, the immediate past President of the ECOWAS Commission. During his tenure in office, his diligence and leadership led to the transformation of ECOWAS from an executive secretariat to a commission.

He presided over the institutional strengthening of the inter-governmental body with the evidence today of the assertiveness of ECOWAS and increased political will in regards compliance of the political convergence criteria set by the ECOWAS authority of heads of states in various protocols and agreements. West Africa now takes the lead in response to crisis within the region through ECOWAS. This new level of ownership in conflict prevention is unprecedented. I am pleased that civil society and particularly WANEP shares in this success story with ECOWAS through its partnership particularly in the operationalization of the ECOWASEarlyWarningSystem-ECOWARN.
2009 was a significant milestone for the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP). At the regional level, WANEP concluded the celebrations of its 10th anniversary with a special General Assembly. The opportunity to celebrate also provided space for institutional introspection. At the time of its founding, West African civil society peacebuilding practitioners engaged in working with conflict were very few. While a few international organisations mainly operating from Europe worked on West African conflicts, the programs designed where unsustainable as there was little local ownership, expertise and institutional capacity of West Africans to sustain peacebuilding efforts. The story today is different. Peacebuilding in West Africa is largely locally driven. West African Governments have now integrated peacebuilding in some of their depart-
ments and ministries. From both the national to regional levels, responding to conflicts has been significantly transformed with more emphasis on prevention. More men and women have acquired professional training and expertise from the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) of WANEP and are active practitioners in various organisations. New peacebuilding organisations have emerged including exclusively women peace organisations founded out of WANEP’s experiences, programs and activities. In very humble ways, WANEP is gratified to be associated with these positive developments, while increasing its resolve and commitment to enhance local West African indigenous capacities for conflict prevention.

During its 10th anniversary general meeting in January 2009, WANEP constituted a professional board moving away from a board structure that was founded mainly on the basis of representation of the national networks. At national level, the networks will follow suit to complete a restructuring process that began in 2007. While annual general meetings are maintained at national level, the WANEP General Assembly at regional level will be henceforth convened bi-annually. The WANEP constitution was reviewed and adopted with key amendments. At the institutional level, WANEP is now a professional peacebuilding organisation with high institutional capacity to engage in Partnerships with Governments. Out of such institutional development, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with WANEP for another five years 2009-2014, a testimony to ECOWAS’ trust in WANEP’s leadership to be the civil society lead agent in the operationalization of ECOWARN; the ECOWAS early warning system. At national levels, WANEP has developed rapidly and continues to consolidate itself in response to numerous challenges around conflict prevention in communities. The program Early Warning and Response Design Support (EWARDS) started during the year under review with funding support from USAID. The program is increasing the capacity of WANEP member organisations to respond to violent inter and intra communal conflicts. It is also sustaining the institutional capacity of WANEP to ensure the smooth operationalisation of ECOWARN. The success of WANEP program designs and implementation over programs and the organisation. In this effort, WANEP is being considered for the Africa Program of the Danish Development Agency (DANIDA) to strengthen civil society collaborative efforts with the African Union and ECOWAS. Similar exploratory talks were held with the Swedish Development Agency (SIDA).

WANEP during the period under review undertook important activities at the invitation of some key partners. We highlight some of such activities in this report. Under the framework of the Africa Alliance for Peacebuilding which brings WANEP, the Africa Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
and the Nairobi Peace Initiative-Africa in active Africa peace-building collaboration, WANEP participated in the observation of the South African general elections in April 2009. The observation mission coordinated by ACCORD at the invitation of the State Legislature of Kwa Zulu Natal monitored political intimidation and intolerance as part of the elections in the Kwa Zulu Natal Province. In partnership with InWent, a German training organisation, WANEP organised and co-facilitated a specialised training for ECOWARN Focal Point Persons as part of the implementation of the ECOWAS early warning system-ECOWARN. WANEP was invited by the Catholic Relief Services to provide expertise in the setting up of a viable early warning system for the Peace Commission of the Government of Southern Sudan. During the last quarter of 2009, WANEP Executive Director was invited as a Papal delegate in the capacity of auditorem (expert) to the Second Special Assembly of African Bishops at the Vatican in Rome. The special synod was convened by the Holy Father under the theme “The Church in Africa in Service to Reconciliation, Justice and Peace”. While the experience with the Bishops and their deep level of commitment and engagement was unique, an invitation to such a special gathering demonstrates that WANEP’s work in the peacebuilding field continues to be appreciated outside the borders of West Africa.

From its experiences of a regional network organisation, WANEP is sought to share experiences in the establishment of similar peacebuilding networks in Africa particularly, in helping to establish and enhance the Regional Network for Resource Based Conflict Prevention in Eastern Africa (RBC-Network) through cross expert training, knowledge exchange and Joint program implementation. WANEP also continues to play a leading role in the efforts of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC) of which the Executive Director of WANEP is the current Chair.

WANEP seizes the opportunity in presenting its 2009 annual report to underscore again our profound gratitude and thanks to all our funding partners for their generosity, support and encouragement. We acknowledge and appreciate the support of our funding partners at the national level in each West African country. While we cannot list all their names, we note particularly the Government of Finland through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ECOWAS, USAID, IBIS-West Africa and the Government of Denmark as well as CORDAID, German Technical Cooperation-GTZ and the Ghana Research and Advocacy Project (G-RAP). Thanks to all the good will and generous support to WANEP, civil society is contributing significantly to the positive developments of conflict prevention in West Africa. There is nothing more dignifying than being able to resolve one’s own problems. We thank our partners for their support in this effort.

Emmanuel H. Bombande
**INTRODUCTION**

**WANEP** 2009 report reflects the enduring commitments of the organisation to peace and human security in West Africa in spite of the innumerable challenges and constraints. The report speaks of WANEP’s collaborative engagement, invaluable partnership and integrated approaches towards conflict transformation and peacebuilding. These strategies have helped in many ways to expand the institutional scope and cultivate new partnerships while strengthening the existing ones. WANEP’s remarkable contributions in promoting peace and stability in the sub-region and beyond speak to the hard work of the Regional Staff, and the commitment and dynamism of the membership of the National Networks. During the year under review, the Regional Secretariat and the National Networks successfully implemented various activities highlighted herein. The activities implemented range from conducting research, engaging in advocacy and providing general and customised training programmes to the analysts of the ECOWAS Early Warning Department and other CSOs with a view to improving the early warning system and to rebuilding relationships between previously divided communities and strengthening existing ones that have the potential of disintegrating.

In 2009, the West African sub-region was yet again faced with the recurring and persistent problem of political crises. In Cote d’Ivoire, the elections were postponed for the sixth time. In Guinea Bissau, the assassination of the former President Nino Vieira nearly brought the country to its knees had it not been for the swift intervention of ECOWAS, CSOs and the international community that quickly salvaged the situation by hurriedly organising presidential elections. In Guinea, the death of Lansana Conte created a power vacuum which the military took advantage of and overthrew the interim civil government. Few months later, Dadis Camara, the head of the junta, was nearly killed in an attempted palace coup. In essence, the persistent and recurring political crises that bedevil the sub-region gives the wrong impression that regional efforts at early warning and early response as a means to prevent conflict will result to nothing. It suffices to underscore the enormous success registered by the quiet preventive diplomacy of ECOWAS and sustained interventions by civil society organisations, especially WANEP. Without the timely and sustained interventions of these actors, many of these fragile states in West Africa would have gone down the path of Somalia. In that regards, WANEP salutes all ECOWAS’s efforts including the Commission’s position on the 17 October 2009 Extraordinary Summit against President Mamadou Tanja of Niger. WANEP also applauds the decisions taken by the Commission to help contain the political tensions in Guinea – particularly the consultation that started to bear fruit on the 3 November 2009 in Ouagadougou between the political parties and the Conseil National pour la Democratie et le Development (CNDD) to pave a new roadmap that would ease the political deadlock in Guinea under the transitional leadership of the General Sekouba Konaté. The ECOWAS appointed mediator, President Blaise Compaoré, of Burkina Faso has been very instrumental in his mediatory roles in Togo and Cote d’Ivoire, and recently in Guinea. It is a demonstration that the West African sub-region is increasingly using local resources and actors to solve its crises.

The challenges and hurdles to establishing effective mechanisms for West Africa conflicts prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding may be daunting but not insurmountable. It is our conviction that peace will still remain elusive if adequate mechanisms for peacebuilding and conflict prevention are not functional and locally-rooted in the communities. In that regard, there is need for greater investment in civil society’s participation and contributions to the effective operationalization of the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response (ECOWARN) programme in order to improve the conflict prevention mechanism. WANEP, through its networks of monitors, continues to make its strategic contributions towards the establishment of an effective regime of conflict prevention across the sub-region. This report opens with a message from the chairperson of the Board and a report from the Management. Afterwards, it presents a brief overview of the peace and security challenges of West Africa in 2009 before highlighting the various activities and programmes implemented by the Regional Secretariat and the national networks.
The maiden visit of President Barack Obama, the first African American president, to Sub-Saharan Africa on the 10th-11th July 2009 - was considered by many observers as rewarding Ghana for its growing democratic credentials. In the midst of all excitement, President Obama used his visit to Ghana as a platform to deliver strong messages to autocratic African leaders that “In the 21st century, capable, reliable and transparent institutions are the key to success - strong parliaments, honest police forces, independent judges, independent press, a vibrant private sector, a civil society. Those are the things that give life to democracy, because that is what matters in people’s everyday lives”. Prior to his visit, he stated in an interview with allAfrica.com, “we just want to make sure that people are mindful that this isn’t just some abstract notion that we are trying to impose on Africa. There is a very practical, pragmatic consequence to political instability and corruption when it comes to whether people can feed their families, educate their children, and we think that Africa - the African continent is a place of extraordinary promise as well as challenges”.

President Obama’s statement about the ‘practical and pragmatic consequence to political instability’ was not lost on the people of Cote d’Ivoire, Niger, Guinea and Guinea Bissau whose political crises still remain complicated and have the potentials of undermining the peace of the entire sub-region. In fact, the year 2009 ended with many unsolved political issues including dealing with the issue of impunity of those who bear the greatest responsibility for the mass raping of women and killing of over 150 pro-democracy demonstrators at the national stadium in Conakry on the 28th September 2009.

A review of peace and security situation in West Africa in 2009 showed a sub-region deeply affected by numerous thorny security, social and economic problems including the negative impact of the global financial crisis giving rise to high energy and food prices, with sharp decline in commodity exports and remittances. Alongside these challenges, there are new forms of organised trans-border crimes emerging in West Africa such as the recent incidents of pirates’ penetration of the West Africa Atlantic Coastline from the Horn of Africa; the Al-Qaeda’s operation in the Sahara desert between Algeria, Mali and Niger claiming responsibility for several attacks, including the killing of a US citizen in Mauritania, and the taking of a British hostage in Mali. On 17 June 2009, Mali’s security forces evaded a suspected Al-Qaeda base in the Sahara desert near the Algerian border, a week after a senior Malian intelligence officer was killed in Timbuktu. Similarly, South American drug cartels maintained their presence and activities in West Africa, using the region as transit points to transport narcotic drug to Europe and North America. Although the 2009 World Drug Report shows a reduction in the volume of drug transiting through West Africa, the situation poses a serious threat to the future of the youth as well as to peace and security of the sub-region.

On the other hand, the political leadership of West Africa do not seem to be paying much attention to the agro-pastoralist conflicts in the Sahel geographical environment as desertification continues unabated. Our Early Warning department has recorded alarming numbers of inter-and-intra-communal violence among farmers and herders in many parts of the West African Sahel. Without due attention to resolving this issue, communal violence would increase in view of the rapid depletion of the scarce resources. Furthermore, there is a worrisome trend in the increase of criminal activities in post conflict societies particularly in Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Liberia taking into consideration the fact that there are deep rooted anger and hatred, horizontal inequalities and youth unemployment that still remain unresolved. Also socio-economic problems, systematic ethnic discrimination, denial of human rights, disputes over political participation, grievances over land and other natural resource allocation that have been the root causes of conflicts in the past decades are still embedded in the fabric of these post conflict societies.

The Ivorian peace and security is still hanging on a thin electoral thread. While awaiting the new official date to be confirmed after various postponements, the transitional government headed
political challenges shaping the political landscape of the country. One of these controversial political issues includes the attempted coup d'état in April 2009, allegedly by Kpatcha Gnassingbé, the half-brother of President Faure Gnassingbé. Many observers are of the view that the Togolese elections have the potentials of creating a civil unrest.

In Liberia, the completion of the Liberian TRC report submitted on 30 June 2009 after three years of dedicated work to implement a mandate set in the National Transitional Legislature through the TRC Act of 2005 seemed to have the potential of undoing the fragile peace of the country. The report is being criticised from many fronts for its controversial recommendations that do not seem to address the peace and security dilemma of Liberia. One of the most controversial recommendations has been the banning of the President from holding public office for thirty years alongside other key actors of the fourteen years civil war. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf appeared in February 2009 before the commission and admitted that Charles Taylor's rebellion against Samuel Doe in the late 1980s was necessary; hence provided him with $10,000.00 USD. Her donation to Taylor's rebellion was the ground for her indictment. The president must report to the Legislature on the implementation of the TRC’s recommendations three months after the delivery of the report as stated in (Section 48) of the TRC Act. In spite of the thirty years sanction hanging over her, President Johnson-Sirleaf has expressed her intention to contest for the 2011 presidential election.

In Togo, the consolidation of peace, security and the democratisation process rests on the outcome of the presidential election scheduled for 28 February 2010. The announcement of the date on 18th September 2009 added to many unresolved controversial political challenges shaping the political landscape of the country. One of these controversial political issues includes the attempted coup d'état in April 2009, allegedly by Kpatcha Gnassingbé, the half-brother of President Faure Gnassingbé. Many observers are of the view that the Togolese elections have the potentials of creating a civil unrest.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009 REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

WANEP 10th Anniversary

From January 19-22, 2009, WANEP held its tenth annual general meeting (AGM) and tenth anniversary of its existence as a fully functional network. In his welcome remarks during the formal launch of the celebrations, the outgoing Board Chairperson, Reverend Professor Emmanuel Anyambod Anya (Rector of the Protestant University of Cameroon) lauded the vision of the founding fathers of WANEP. Reverend Anyambod affirmed that ten years of continuous and uninterrupted service in the life of an organization is something worth celebrating, especially in a context where initiatives are conceived today and die the next day. While acknowledging the difficulties the organization went through in its ten years journey, he disclosed that WANEP emerged a strong and resilient organization. In the face of a threatening world economic depression, the WANEP Board Chair challenged the corporate and business world especially those operating in Africa to begin seeing themselves as peace-building partners and support indigenous institutions like WANEP.

On his part, the Executive Director of WANEP (and one of the founding fathers) welcomed the networks and appreciated their commitment, devotion, perseverance and professionalism during the ten years of WANEP's history. He paid tribute to past and present staff of WANEP and encouraged them to remain committed to the vision and goals of WANEP despite the challenges. Messages of goodwill came from partner organizations based in Ghana. A keynote address was delivered by Mr William Awinador-Kanyirige, Director, Africa and AU Bureau (and immediate past Chief of Staff to the President of the ECOWAS Commission), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ghana, recognized the ten years of WANEP’s peace work in the sub-region. He particularly saluted the successful and trail-blazing strategic partnership with ECOWAS in strengthening the latter’s capacity in early warning conflict prevention. Stressing that civil society organizations (CSOs) like WANEP are bona fide, Mr Awinador challenged WANEP and likeminded CSOs to rise up and take their rightful positions already guaranteed by the various ECOWAS provisions and multiple entry points both at national and regional levels.

Constitution of New Board
An important outcome of the 2009 AGM was the constitution of a new Board. This was a culmination of a process that started in the context of the WANEP restructuring more than two years ago. The process of collecting nominations towards the constitution of a new professional Board began since the 2008 AGM. The process was transparent and nominations came from member organizations coordinated by National Networks according to agreed criteria that included: expertise in peacebuilding, gender, organizational development, finance and management. The curriculum vitae (CV) of the nominees were reviewed, the pre-selected nominees contacted for confirmation. Their names were then reviewed by the outgoing board and submitted to the WANEP AGM for validation and voting. The following emerged as members (four men and three women) of the new WANEP Board for the next two years:

- Dr. Lydia Umar;
- Mr. William Awinador;
- Professor Isaac Olawale Albert;
- Mme Fatoumattou Batoko-Zossou;
- Mr. Seth Kluvia;
- Mr Michel Sodjiedo Capo Mian;
- Dr Christiana Thorpe.
Review of Constitution and Byelaws
After ten years of practical work, WANEP reviewed its constitution and by-laws. The January 2009 AGM revised and approved the ‘revised constitution’ which will be finalised (to ensure compliance with the current Ghanaian laws and regulations) and printed in English and French (and later Portuguese). The revised constitution removed the apparent ambiguities and drawing from ten years of experience, the national networks guided the discussions and ensured that the guiding document reflect the realities of the time. This revision also took into consideration the restructuring process that empowered the national networks as veritable constituencies of WANEP.

Launch of “Our Story” Documentation Project: A major outcome of the AGM (now referred to as general assembly) was the decision taken by the WANEP national networks and the Regional Secretariat to document the WANEP story. This would be in form of a book and a film documentary. Guidelines are being developed in this regard. No one can tell the WANEP story more than the actors themselves.

The West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) 2009
WANEP, with support from the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) held its 8th session of the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra, Ghana from the 31st August to 18th September, 2009. WAPI brought together 30 participants, 15 females and 15 males from the West Africa sub-region, and other regions of Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Prominent among the participants were a General of the Armed Forces from Mali; a Reverend Minister from the Mennonite Church and a senior official from the Civil Affairs Department of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. Other participants were representatives of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria; representatives from the Women Humanitarian Organisation from Lebanon and a representative from Concern Universal in Italy. 2009 brought the total number of successfully trained peacebuilding practitioners under WAPI to about 380 spread across West Africa and other parts of the world. WAPI continues to develop practice-oriented training for conflict transformation and peacebuilding with a view to increasing the number of competent, informed and active peacebuilding practitioners in Africa and beyond.

The WIPNET Program
Within the framework of the OXFAM GB regional arms control programme sponsored by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), WANEP conducted an impact assessment of a three-year WIPNET project in the Mano River Union (MRU) countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone). The principal objective of the assessment mission was to measure the level of impact WANEP and Oxfam GB have made in the last three years in terms of the women’s ability to influence policies on peace and security at local and national levels. Under the capacity building component of the project, the community women training manual designed by WANEP was translated into local languages and used to train a pool of women trainers on peacebuilding and conflict resolution. WANEP signed contracts with local radio stations for the women to use the space to air their views on matters related to peace, security and development. The WIPNET project established an alternative dispute resolution mechanism to promote co-existence in their respective communities. In Liberia, the WIPNET project constructed ‘peace huts’ in each of the project communities in a bid to resolve local conflict peacefully through dialogue.

Collaborative Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management in West Africa
Under its programme “Collaborative Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management in West Africa”, WANEP-Regional Secretariat organised a national consultation in Conakry from 23-24 April, 2009 – funded by the Government of Finland. The consultation was organised on the theme “Peaceful democratic transition in Guinea”. WANEP envisaged the need to encourage the civil society and government officials to critically examine the contemporary political dilemma in Guinea and propose concrete recommendations and suggestions. The consultation aimed at raising awareness on collective action needed under the intense political climate to promote peaceful democratic transition in Guinea. Participants were brought from leaders of Guinea’s labour unions, political party representatives, international institutions, Special Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission, UN OCHA, the defence and security forces and the media. The Permanent Secretariat of CNDD presided over the opening and closing ceremonies. The two-day workshop was facilitated by Dr. Thierno Maadjou Sow of the Guinea human rights league OGDH and moderated by Monsignor Albert David Guillaume Gomez, the Anglican Bishop of Guinea. After two-day of intensive deliberations, a communiqué was prepared and endorsed by all participants. The consultation observed a weak capacity of civil society and a fragmented political class to mobilize the masses around unifying objective towards restoring democracy in Guinea.
WANEP - ECOWAS Partnership

WANEP conducted an “Experience Sharing & Training of Analysts” workshop in Accra with the ECOWAS Early Warning Department from August 17-20, 2009. The overall goal of the three-day workshop was to share with the newly recruited ECOWAS analysts key factors needed to make the ECOWARN system highly operational and effective. By the end of the three-day training, gaps and challenges within the information flow of ECOWARN system were identified, and recommendations proposed to improve the system. The workshop provided an opportunity to share good practices and strengthen the working relation between the analysts at the ECOWAS Secretariat and WANEP.

Another event on the WANEP-ECOWAS partnership was the quarterly coordination meeting held from 5th-6th May in Accra. Deliberations were focused on how to ensure the effective coordination of data collection and analysis with regards to the ECOWAS Early Warning (ECOWARN) System. Present at the meeting were the Director of the ECOWAS Early Warning, the Heads of ECOWAS Zonal Bureaus, WANEP Executive Director, the representative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the General Secretary of the West Africa Civil Society Forum (WACSOF). From 25 to 29 May 2009 in Bamako, Mali, at the invitation of ECOWAS, WANEP participated in a three-day workshop to design and conduct a sub-regional risk assessment. The meeting brought together experts from civil society organisations, academia and research institutions from West Africa and the Diaspora to determine a methodology and approach for the risk assessment exercise at regional level. The workshop was organised with the financial support of the Paris-based Club du Sahel.

Early Warning and Design Support (EWARDS)

The EWARDS project commenced formally in May 2009. The first formal meeting of stakeholders of EWARDS grant managed by the American-based ARD Inc. was held at the ECOWAS headquarters in Abuja and WANEP was represented by the Director of Programs. ARD is located at the office of WANEP in order to work in proximity and partnership towards the successful implementation of the two-year support programme to ECOWAS and civil society in enhancing the early warning and response system.

CSO Capacity Building

WANEP co-organised in Accra training for ECOWARN focal points with InWent, a German-based training consultancy outfit. The workshop was a customised training targeting the thirty (30) monitors (15 from Government and 15 from civil society) collecting information on a daily basis for ECOWAS early warning system. The four-day workshop focused on first level data analysis.

In a separate engagement, WANEP participated in an international Expert workshop on “Opportunities and Risks of Elections in Africa” held at the Katholoeche Akademie, Berlin-Mitte, in Berlin, Germany from May 26-28, 2009. The workshop was organised and sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany and the Working Group on Development and Peace (FriEnt), Germany. Beyond the historical symbolism of Berlin as the venue that has witnessed events that changed the course of world history, the workshop explored ways to proactively ensure free, fair, transparent, and peaceful elections in Africa.

The lessons from Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria were used to inform the discussion on electoral matters.

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

From 30 September to 8th October 2009, The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) held its 8th annual International Steering Group Meeting (ISG) in Davao City in Mindanao and Manila in The Philippines. GPPAC since its creation in 2003 in response to the call by then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan for civil society to strengthen its role in the prevention of armed conflict continues to develop and implement respective action agendas and engage in exchange and joint action across regions. The 8th ISG meeting was hosted by the Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), the Southeast Asia
Regional Secretariat for GPPAC. Nearly sixty peace-building practitioners from all the 15 regions of GPPAC participated in the meeting. During the ISG meeting, the GPPAC members took a significant initiative by visiting local communities in the Mindanao region, particularly those affected by the conflict, and meeting with various local peace organizations, policymakers, donor and diplomatic communities in Manila.

Mr. Emmanuel Bombande, the Executive Director of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) is currently the Chair of the Executive Committee of GPPAC. A key outcome of the ISG meeting was the release of a statement from GPPAC that seeks to offer its services to be part of the International Contact Group (ICG) for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) in their effort to forge peace in Mindanao.

Research and Advocacy
WANEP conducted an advocacy-oriented research on the theme ‘Democracy as a Pathway to Peace and Human Security in Ghana’. The study funded by G-RAP aimed at informing policy makers that the limited access to vital public service and resource would lead to desperate survival strategy for ordinary Ghanaians thereby posing threats to peace and stability. There is pervasive neglect on the part of decision-makers to address in a holistic manner, the social, developmental and political needs of the Ghanaian population. After four months of preliminary investigation in Ghana, the study underscored the crucial link between human security and democracy. The study stresses that a broader definition of democracy should include addressing human security challenges such as guaranteeing freedom from want and from fear which are crucial factors in the pursuit of social and economic well-being of the average Ghanaian. In Ghana, it has been noted with concern the problem of rural neglect, youth unemployment, increase in arm robbery and other criminalities. The study arrives at the conclusion that poverty reduction efforts in the Ghanaian context should aim at attaining greater participatory governance, and economic development.

In the same vein, WANEP partnered with NPI-Africa to share with the Togolese government and civil society the findings of a fifteen months in-depth study of Transitional Justice experience in Africa, which was concluded in 2008 with a view to informing countries in the process of establishing or contemplating to establish similar structure. The publication of the collaborative research project funded by International Development Research Centre (IDRC) was entitled ‘Transitional Justice Experiences and the Rise of Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRC) model in Africa; Emerging Lessons and Implications for Post-Accord Societies’. The objective of the research in this area was to contribute to public debate regarding merits and demerits of the establishment of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC). The dissemination seminar in Togo was held from 22-23 June, 2009 with the aim of contributing to the debates at national level, share lessons learnt and make concrete suggestions and recommendations to the Togolese Government and Civil Society. Precisely, the objectives of the consultation were to share lessons of the experiences of the Truth Commissions in Africa; generate ideas on what different actors (civil society, the media, religious leaders, and citizens at large) can do to maximise the achievements of the TJRC in its different phases (set-up phase, operational phase and implementation phase) in Togo, and identify benchmarks to determine the realisation of the three pillars of the TRC commission promises, namely: truth, justice and reconciliation.

IFOR/WPP African Desk
WANEP is hosting the IFOR/WPP African Desk. In 2009 the Desk was able to reach out to twelve (12) more African countries in the quest to promote gender sensitivity and active non-violence as a viable way to sustainable peace in Africa. Based on the lessons learned from the previous year, the WPP Africa Desk has been able to increase the number of women trained in active non-violent peacebuilding to contribute to the elimination of gender disparity in peacebuilding initiatives. During the year under review, the WPP Africa Desk conducted and participated in various activities.

International Colloquium
The Regional Coordinator of the Africa Desk of WPP together with the program officer and four of its network members attended the International Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security, convened by the Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Finnish President Tarja Halonen from March
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009
REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

7th – 8th 2009, in Monrovia, Liberia. The WPP organised a side event of the International Colloquium to highlight the challenges faced by women in, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe and to inform the participants about the impact of the activism for gender equality they had been involved in.

Annual Consultative Meeting of WPP Trainers, Trainees and Mentors
The Annual Consultative Meeting for WPP Trainers, Trainees and Mentors was held in Nairobi, Kenya from the 30th of March -1st of April, 2009. A total of 41 African women peacemakers made up of 27 alumni of the ToTs held for the Greater Horn and Central Africa regions, three mentors and four trainers. The objective of the three-day meeting was to strengthen the on-going strategic networking and collaborations among participants, and to review past ToTs as well as document key lessons learned and best practices for future programmes. The consultation resulted in a draft ToT training manual and a six-month Action Plan for network members.

Training of Trainers in Gender and Active Non-violence
The WPP African Desk held its West Africa sub-regional Training of Trainers in Gender and Active Non-violence from the 4th - 15th of May, 2009 in Accra, Ghana. A total of 20 participants (19 women and 1 man) representing 11 West African countries took part in the training. The objective of training was to deepen understanding of gender-sensitive active non-violence as a viable alternative strategy for conflict transformation and peace building. The goal of the training was to promote the active participation and visibility of African women peacemakers in peace and security matters. At the end of the training, participants developed individual follow-up projects to replicate the training in their respective countries with financial and technical support from the WPP Africa Desk. In all, a total of 18 country-level follow-up trainings were held in Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Network Writing Forum
A two-day Network Writing Forum was held from 26-27 October, 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya in line with the Desk’s goal of documenting and disseminating information of the work of African women peacemakers. This forum served as a platform for the women to write and compile their compelling stories. The event, held in Nairobi, Kenya brought together 55 participants (WPP alumni) representing 22 African countries. The forum led to the compilation of stories of African women peacemakers to be published in 2010 in English and French versions. It is expected that the document would serve as source of inspiration for African women peace builders.
WANEP-BENIN

WANEP-Benin completed its financial and administrative procedure manuals together with a strategic plan for the period of 2010-2011. The strategic plan was validated on 15 November 2009. The civil society monitor of WANEP-Benin submitted a total of fifty-two (52) situation reports (100% of the required report) as at December 31, 2009. In addition to this, a total of thirty-six (36) incident reports were submitted during the same period under review. Some of the key activities implemented are summarised below:

**Research: Reduction of Risk Chain Linked to the Illegal Sale of Gasoline in the South of Benin**

WANEP-Benin conducted a research on the issue of “Reduction of risk relating to the illegal sale of gasoline in the South of Benin”. This research project was undertaken within the framework of the Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) a world-wide network of civil society for risk reduction of which WANEP-Benin is the national coordinating body. The research findings validated and then published revealed that Benin lacked the appropriate measures in place to reduce risk.

**Electoral Reform for Peace in Benin**

WANEP-Benin in close collaboration with other CSOs have been advocating for electoral reform in Benin. The 2009 communal and municipal elections were far from being peaceful giving a hint of what may happen at the presidential and parliamentary elections in 2011.

WANEP-COTE D’IVOIRE

Despite the difficult post conflict political climate under which WANEP-Cote d’Ivoire operates, the Secretariat continues to strengthen its national image as one of the leading CSOs in the promotion of peace and democratic governance in the country. One of the most remarkable contributions of the Secretariat is its monthly highlights of key challenges and milestones regarding the implementation of the Ouagadougou Peace Accord with the financial support of the Open Society Initiative for Africa (OSIWA) - within the framework of “effective CSOs involvement in the implementation of Ouagadougou Peace Accord”. Throughout the year 2009, the Secretariat was able to plan, coordinate and implement a total of 103 sensitization campaigns at the district, town and village levels directly reaching a total of 7,895 beneficiaries of which (3,849 women and 4,043 men). The ECOWARN desk of the Secretariat produced forty-eight (48) situation reports and 258 incident reports in 2009.

**GPPAC International Conference**

WANEP-Cote d’Ivoire in collaboration with the European Centre for the Prevention of Conflicts (ECCP) jointly organized the international conference of Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC) on the theme: “Let’s mobilize for early response to conflicts”, held in Abidjan from 23rd -26th of February 2009. This was to collectively reflect on more effective mechanisms to avoid crises across the world. It brought together 53 participants (33 Ivorians and 20 International participants from Argentina, Canada, Ghana, Holland, Kenya Lebanon, Russia, Salvador, Togo and the United States). Among the 53 participants, 17 were women (32.1%) 36 men (67.9%). The conference was organised under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire, Laurent Gbagbo and the chairmanship of the Minister for Institutional Relationships and National Reconciliation.
**Meeting on Peaceful Elections in Cote d’Ivoire**
Considering the fragile security situation of Cote d’Ivoire and the forthcoming presidential election, WANEP-Cote d’Ivoire with the financial support from USIP (United States Institute for Peace) organised a two-day workshop in August 2009 on the theme: “Analysis of the Electoral Process and Recommendations for Democratic Elections in Cote d’Ivoire”. At the end of the workshop, an advocacy tour was organised to officially present the recommendations to the relevant authorities responsible for election management in the country. The courtesy visit led by the former Togolese Prime Minister, Joseph Kokou Koffigoh met with the chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission, the Constitutional Council, and the National Council of Audio Visuals, and the leadership of political parties to deliver the recommendations of the meeting.

**WIPNET Programme**
On 05-06 February, 2009 WANEP-Cote d’Ivoire, through WIPNET programme organised a workshop “on the Promotion of feminine citizenship and gender equality in Cote d’Ivoire”. The workshop was to enrich the training of trainers’ manual on gender, citizenship, peace networking of Spanish -African Women for a Better World (MUJERES). This workshop targeted thirty (30) participants selected from Abidjan and the interior of the country. Also, from January 10 to March 17 WANEP-CI through its WIPNET programme, executed sensitization campaigns on the electoral process in the savannah region, financed by the Embassy of Canada. The project was entitled “Civic and Citizenship Education Project for the Populations of Five Departments of The Savannah Region on the Electoral Process and Democratic Debate in Cote d’Ivoire”.

**Early Warning**
The Early Warning program ECOWARN received funding for the collection of information for a period of one month from November 22 to December 22, 2009. The focus of the data collection was on the violations of human rights that could be potential sources of violent conflicts during the electoral period.

**WANEP-THE GAMBIA**
WANEP-The Gambia is currently hosting the first ever Gambian Civil Society Coalition on Elections and Gambia Action Network on Small Arms (GANSA), a chapter of WAANSA. So far, the Secretariat has been able to overcome numerous challenges to meet its commitments. Part of the strategy of the Secretariat to secure much needed human resource has been through the internship opportunity it has been providing. Some of the planned and implemented activities and initiatives are summarised below:

**Democracy and Governance**
A three-month project was undertaken from March to May 2009 with the financial support from the British High Commission, under the Democracy and Governance programme. The objective of the programme was to enhance the skills of the newly elected local councillors and other key local government stakeholders. Within the framework of the project, beneficiaries were trained on various themes on decentralisation including the Local Government Act (2002) as amended. Through panel discussions on community radios, local communities were also sensitized on the functions and responsibilities of Local Government Authorities. Another two-day training workshop was also organized for representatives of community-based organizations, teachers, religious and opinion leaders on similar objectives for their effective participation in local governance issues. The expected outcome was to enable local communities to effectively monitor and participate in the affairs of the Local Government.

**WIPNET Programme**
For the first time in two years, WANEP-The Gambia was able to reactivate the Women in Peacebuilding programme in
the Gambia in order to provide Gambian women the platform to participate in issues of peace and security. This was made possible with the support from Action Aid The Gambia under the Alliance for the Promotion of Human Security. Under the WIPNET programme, the Network organised a training workshop for a total of thirty-five (35) participants (28 females and 7 males). The training primarily focused on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1888 on Sexual Violence amongst other salient topics. The aim of the two-day training workshop was to popularize these international instruments and deepen the understanding of leading Gambian women activists on issues related to women, peace and security. It was an excellent opportunity for women and men from diverse background and levels to learn and discuss security issues as it relates to the Gambian context. The workshop sought to debunk the myth that issues of conflict and peacebuilding are not relevant to The Gambia since the country has been peaceful with no post-independence history of armed conflict. The workshop called for women’s greater participation in peacebuilding and mediation in The Gambia.

**Small Arms and Light Weapons Project**

The fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, misuse and abuse is one of the major programmes of the Secretariat. The three-year project finally came to an end in July 2009 with a six-month extension phase from August 2009 to January 2010. The extension phase came about as a result of the renewed support from ECOWAS to consolidate the gains made by the Small Arms and Light Weapons Project with the view of strengthening the micro projects in exchange for arms collected and up-scaling the activities.

Moreover, WANEP-The Gambia, as a result of its extensive work both nationally and internationally, was given the responsibility to create and coordinate the activities of the GANSA. The Network comprises of twelve (12) organizations working in related areas. Under this project, the ECOWAS Small Arms Programme (ECOSAP) based in Bamako, Mali through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gambia country office supported a series of advocacy and sensitization activities for the ratification and domestication of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, as part of the activities of GANSA. A two-day stakeholder’s forum on the ratification and domestication of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons was held at the Jerma Beach Hotel on the 15 and 16 July 2009. The forum brought together thirty(30) representatives from relevant government ministries (Interior, Defence and Foreign Affairs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), National Assembly members, Offices of the Vice President and the President. Discussions were centred on the various sections of the Convention and as they related to the Gambia and the need to ratify the Convention. As a follow-up to the stakeholders forum, courtesy visits led by WANEP-Gambia were made to strategic government partners and agencies including; the vice president, minister of Interior, the Permanent Secretary of Defence and the National Assembly Speaker in a bid to seek support for the ratification and domestication of the Convention.

Under the guns for development component of the Small Arms project, WANEP-The Gambia provided micro projects to various communities including three milling machines, a multi-purpose skills training centre and a hand pump water well. An additional micro project was catered for in the extension phase. Following consultations with members of the community, a pharmacy from which communities will procure essential drugs for their livestock was identified. There is high mortality rate among livestock due to the lack of access to essential drugs. The project would directly benefit six communities with a total population of about seven thousand (7000) particularly female pastoralists.
Many unfortunate events unfolded within WANEP-Ghana in the year 2009, but the Secretariat forged ahead with a number of brilliant initiatives in the search for sustainable peace in the Northern and the Upper East Regions of the country. The remaining activities under the leadership of the late National Network Coordinator were implemented to enhance peace and human security despite the challenges and constraints. The planned activities implemented are summarised below.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM)
WANEP-Ghana held its Annual General Meeting from 7-9 September, 2009 at the Radach Memorial Center in Tamale central. The meeting brought together approximately seventy (70) participants drawn largely from the network members, WANEP-Regional, the WANEP-Ghana Secretariat and donor partners. The AGM sponsored by IBIS-West Africa aimed at identifying critical challenges of the network and developing appropriate mechanisms to deal with them in view of revamping WANEP-Ghana.

The Community Surveillance Team Meetings
WANEP-Ghana organised a consultation for seventy-five (75) community surveillance team members in the five northern regions of Ghana. The objective of these consultations was to obtain first-hand information from the pilot communities, and to familiarise themselves with the members and stakeholders at community level. The meetings also sought to identify strategies for gathering, reporting and sharing information on peacebuilding and human security at the community level on the one hand, and to identify effective ways of supplying Early Warning information to the regional office and ECOWARN system. A total of fifty-three (53) community surveillance team meetings were held in the year in five region attended by seventy-one (71) participants. Modalities were also established for reporting incidents and situation reports with the appointment of field monitors who were provided with communication facilities and access to the internet and media.

The Regional Interface Consultation
WANEP-Ghana organised several regional interface consultations in all the five regions of the country. The objective was to create a platform for stakeholders in the regions to share experiences on peace and human security. The Regional Commanders of Police and the Army actively participated in the consultation, including representatives from National Commission on Civic Education, Prisons, Immigration, the Regional Coordinating Council, District Assemblies, the Regional Network Chapters, Religious and Youth Leaders.

The Partnership Agreement
WANEP-Ghana organised a two-day partnership agreement meeting in Accra, at the Regional Secretariat of WANEP. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of the Interior, the National Security Council, the Ministry of Local Government, and Rural Development. The purpose of the partnership workshop was to introduce the Ghana Alert Project to the above mentioned governmental departments and involve them in the implementation of the Early Warning project. At the end of the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was developed to formalise the partnership between WANEP-Ghana and the above mentioned ministries in the implementation of the GHANAWARN project.

The Launching of GHANAWARN
WANEP-Ghana launched its national Early Warning system in Ghana which would feed into the regional ECORWARN programme. The electronic database called GHANAWARN was officially launched at the Radach Memorial in Tamale following the successful building and testing of the system during which the Community Surveillance Teams (CSTs) and chapter members uploaded incidents and situation reports on the website. The programme was launched in September 2009 in the presence of sixty (60) representatives from the implementing partners and the media outlets.
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009
NATIONAL NETWORK ACTIVITIES

WANEP-LIBERIA

The untimely resignation of the WANEP-Liberia National Network Coordinator as a result of poor health condition, and his passing away was a big loss to the entire WANEP network. A recruitment process was underway to fill the National Network Coordination position in Liberia. As one of the principal advocates for peace and reconciliation in the country, the WIPNET programme of the Secretariat has been a reference point for many women organisations across Africa for its exemplary contributions to the Liberian Peace Process, as well as their recent remarkable contributions to the post-conflict peacebuilding process nationwide. Some of the activities implemented are summarised below:

WIPNET Programme
The 2009 WIPNET Annual conference was held in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County with the WIPNET Buchanan Sub-Branch hosting the conference. The theme for the conference was “Increasing & Improving Women’s capacity for effective participation and leadership in decision making and Peacebuilding processes”. Approximately, one hundred and fifty women (150) representing eight of the fifteen political sub-divisions of Liberia were brought together. In an attempt to enhance program planning and monitoring among the sub-branches of WIPNET, eight county coordinators were elected and officially inducted at the conference.

WIPNET carried out two community Interfaith Dialogues in partnership with the Mano River Women’s Peace Network (MARPWOPNET) in Ganta and Lugbevee, in the Nimba County. This was implemented as part of the Women Building Peace project funded by DFID through the Danish Refugee Council. The principal goal was to build local capacities for community level peacebuilding. A total of sixty (60) participants deliberated on topics related to conflict,
WANEP-Nigeria received an award for their commitment and contributions to conflict resolution and disaster management in Nigeria. The Network was one of the only two non-governmental organizations invited to participate in the United Nations Inter Agency Contingency Plan that was being developed by the UN in response to the issues of disaster management in Nigeria. WANEP-Nigeria continues to expand its membership nationwide. The Secretariat implemented various activities during the year 2009.

Women in Peacebuilding Program

The WIPNET Desk conducted a field assessment of its operational Early Warning framework in Lagos, Delta, Plateau and Benue states. This visit was to evaluate the impact of the recently institutionalized gender-based community Early Warning and response system in the different communities of the four pilot states. It also offered opportunities to engage the monitors and beneficiaries in ascertaining the workability or gaps in the system.

Relief Distribution for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Delta and Benue State

As part of its intervention in the humanitarian crises in Delta State following the military skirmishes with militants in the Escravos area of Warri, WANEP-Nigeria with the support of OXFAM NOVIB-Netherlands provided minimal relief to internally displaced persons at temporary camping site at a primary school at Ogbe-ijoh. Women and children were the most vulnerable in the crisis. The assistance was extended to Nyieiv and Uyough communities of Kwande Local Government Council that were involved in violent land disputes leading to the displacement of large members of community.

Conflict Management Training for Community Women in Benue, Plateau and Delta States

Preceding the assessment and relief distribution for the internally displaced in the four states, WANEP-Nigeria organised a conflict management and peacebuilding training of the women leaders selected from amongst the displaced women in Opuruza-Delta State, Kwande in Benue and Jos in Plateau. This was aimed at equipping them with skills to manage conflict amongst them, as well as contributing in building peace in their communities, to prevent similar mishaps which claimed lives and properties. The Opuruza experience was very unique as the WANEP-Nigeria team had to travel for hours on the Escravos Rivers to the displacement camps to conduct this training.

Regional Training for Community-Based HERD Early Warning Monitors/Reporters

As part of the operations of the community-based Early Warning system for the Humanitarian Emergency Response and Development in Nigeria, the department two sets of two (2) regional trainings for selected network members in the Northern and Southern regions of Nigeria. Participants were drawn from member organizations in each state of the country. The trainings were held at Benin for the South and Abuja for the North. Participants were introduced to the HERD community-based Early Warning system as well as its reporting skills.

Advocacy Campaigns on the Human Rights Violation of the Displaced Women of Bakassi

WANEP-Nigeria under its Special Projects embarked on an advocacy campaign to bring to the attention of government and other stake-
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009 NATIONAL NETWORK ACTIVITIES

holders the human rights violations of the displaced women of Bakassi in Cross River State. These men, women and their children were relocated from their ancestral homes at the Bakassi Peninsula between the borders of Nigeria and Cameroon following the handing over of the Peninsula to Cameroon as a follow-up to the ruling of the International Court of Justice in 2002. In attendance at the meeting was the Commissioner for Local Government Affairs-Cross River State, the Permanent Secretary, the Information Officer, the Special Adviser to the Commissioner and other Protocol Officers within the Ministry of Local Government Affairs in Cross River State.

Round-Table Discussion with Community Chiefs in Bakassi
Round-Table Discussion was organized in the Community as a response to the issues raised by the women during the “story telling” session. It also provided an opportunity to examine and discuss the problem-solving techniques that exists in the community with a view to devising measures to enhance the reintegration of the displaced as well as create a level playing ground for indigenes and settlers in the community. Many issues bothering on security within the community came to the fore and provided an appropriate platform for WANEP’s intervention.

WANEP-Nigeria The African Human Security Collaboration:
WANEP-Nigeria collaborated with the Kenyan-based African Human Security Initiative (AHSI), a network and partnership of several African organizations working on peace and conflict within the continent, in organizing a seminar on Crime and Criminal Justice System that held in Denis Hotel, Abuja on October 8, 2009. The program was designed to hold in Nigeria to share the findings of the network on issues of crime and criminal justice in Africa as well as to participate in a robust discourse on the content—a study carried out in five African countries of Zambia, Tanzania, Benin, Mali and Sierra Leone identified for peer reviews. It was also aimed at influencing reforms in the criminal justice systems on the continent which will draw attention to the effects of crime and defective criminal justice systems on the democratization and development processes in Africa.

Peace Education Program Project Planning and Manual Review Consultation:
A three-day consultative meeting was organized in Rivers State to review the existing Peace Education manual which was used for the initial pilot project in Enugu, South East Nigeria. Participants were drawn from representatives of implementing Network member organizations, Directors in the primary and post-primary school Boards, Nigerian Union of Teachers in target states as well as State Ministries of Education. The consultation provided an opportunity for technical review of the manual as well as strategies for its effective implementation in selected schools.

Training of Trainers Workshop for the Selected Teachers on Peace Education and Peer Mediation
A four-day Training of Trainers workshop took place in Delta State to build the capacity of teachers on peace education and peer mediation skills. Each benefiting school nominated a teacher versed in Social Studies, Physical Education, Guidance and Counselling, Christian Religious Knowledge, English and other subjects to represent their school in the training.
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009
NATIONAL NETWORK
ACTIVITIES

WANEP-SENEGAL

The conflict in the southern Senegalese province of Casamance has been one of the most complicated and protracted conflicts in West Africa over the years. In the search for peace in this region of Senegal, WANEP-Senegal has been leading CSOs in the search for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The Network implemented various activities as summarised below:

Regional workshop on the Casamance Memorandum on Dialogue for Peace

WANEP-Senegal in partnership with other Civil Society Organisations and local government authorities organised a regional workshop to share the content of the Casamance Memorandum on Dialogue for Peace. The objective was to facilitate the re-establishment of dialogue between the Senegalese Government and the rebel group, the Movement of Democratic Forces which has been interrupted since the last meeting in Foundiougne II.

Casamance Manifesto for Peace Day Launched

On December 17, 2009, under the initiatives of the President of USOFORAL and the Board Chair of WANEP-Senegal, a day symbolising the Casamance Manifesto for Peace was launched in Ziguinchor. The aim was to call on the Senegalese Government and the rebels of Movement of Democratic Forces to go back to the negotiation table. More than 40 Civil Society organisations signed the manifesto.

Workshop on organisational capacity strengthening

WANEP-Senegal participated in a workshop on organisational capacity strengthening and institutional development organised by a coalition of non-state actors. The objectives of the workshop were to improve the capacity of human resources of the organisations, as well as enhancing the planning of activities and effective communication systems between and among the organisations.

Seminar on local governance

Within the framework of the programme Support to the South Initiatives, WANEP-Senegal in collaboration with the Senegalese Human Rights Committee organised a seminar on 28th-29th May, 2009; on the theme: “Local Governance: Prevention and Management of land dispute”. This was to disseminate the legal provisions relating to the management of conflict related to land ownership at community level and to encourage the use of Early Warning mechanisms in the prevention of conflict. The seminar sought to support women’s access to land and property. The conference was funded by Oxfam GB and it brought together more than 60 local elected leaders, jurists, administrative cadres (estate developers) and civil society.

One of the key outcomes of the conference was a recommendation for the establishment of a monitoring committee to prevent and or deal with land related conflicts.

WANEP-SIERRA LEONE

In recognition of its contributions and role in the peace-building efforts in the country, WANEP-Sierra Leone was nominated a member of the International Leadership Council of the Global Alliance – and to co-represent Africa on the World Council for Global Alliance to coordinate the campaign for the establishment of the Ministry/Department/Commission of Peace in all countries around the world. Some of the activities implemented in the year 2009 are summarised below:

The 8th Annual General Meeting of WANEP-SL

WANEP-SL successfully organised its 8th Annual General Assembly Meeting at Bo city, in March 2009. In the process, a five-year strategic plan (2009 – 2013) was adopted. The constitution and other policy documents were reviewed and adopted. The meeting ended with a general call to increase the commitment of member organisations to the objectives and support the new direction of the network in the pursuit and consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone. A New board of Directors was elected and sworn in.

Community Barry Talks on the Sierra Leone Gender Acts 2007

WANEP-SL conducted six-day community consultations and education on the Gender Acts in ten (10) chiefdoms in the Northern Provinces of Sierra Leone. This was to continue its awareness raising in mainstreaming gender issues into communities to promote peace, governance and human rights. The programme targeted a total of 250 participants from chiefdom communities, government line ministries, local leaders and elders, paramount chiefs and other stakeholders. The Chiefdom Councillors and Ward Committee members in each of the 10 chiefdoms participated in the sessions. Participants were introduced to the Gender Acts of 2007 and gender-based violence related issues. The Gender Acts were simplified and aired in the local radios in order to educate the general public.

Advocacy for a Ministry/Commission for Peace

Some major advocacy campaigns were undertaken in 2009 for the establishment of a Ministry or Commission for Peace. Within this framework, the Secretariat facilitated three strategic planning and consultative meetings with the Sierra Leone Parliamentary Human Rights and Defence
Committees to raise awareness and understanding for the establishment of a Ministry or Commission for Peace in Sierra Leone. The initiative was applauded and a Parliamentary-Civil Society Action Group comprising of 30 members (20 Parliamentarians and 10 Civil Society actors) was launched at the Parliament Building. The Action Group would focus on advocacy for the creation of an institution that would serve as a focal point for the coordination of peacebuilding activities and the consolidation of initiatives and policies nationwide. The campaign targeted duty bearers to increase their level of awareness and understanding of the ideas of the campaign and create opportunities for a common vision for peace and positive social change.

Development of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 The Women in Peacebuilding Programme (WIPNET) and the Mano River Women’s Peace Network in partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs commenced the process of formulating a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 for its effective implementation in Sierra Leone. This included consideration of its linkages to national, continental and global instruments. The project targets community-based women’s coalitions, youth groups, government gender focal points; UN and gender focus NGOs and INGOs. The team established a functional Government-Civil Society Taskforce at national and regional levels with the Gender Ministry, WANEP-SL and MARWOPNET serving as steering committee. A draft Sierra Leone National Action Plan (SiLNAP) on UNR 1325 and 1820 was developed for validation, budgeting and launching in March 2010.

National Peace and Development (PaD) Forum
Two (2) PaD Forums were held in Kono and Kailahun districts with support from PICOT and WANEP-SL. The programmes were intended to critically examine existing gaps in peacebuilding and develop action-oriented recommendations and plans which would inform national advocacy campaigns to influence peace and security policies. The programmes attracted a total of 150 NGOs, CSOs and CBOs with the attendance of 80 men and 70 women. A joint strategy and action plan for information sharing and engagement in peace and governance was developed and adopted. The sessions also served as an experience sharing for participants on critical issues relating to policies and laws on paramount chieftaincy. In addition, a seven-member committee was established charged with the responsibility to engage the government and other stakeholders in finding solutions to the border conflict between Guinea and Sierra Leone at Yenga, in the Kailahun District.

WANEP-SL Implements District and Chiefdom Reparations in Kono, East of Sierra Leone
With support from the Government of Sierra Leone Reparation Programme through the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), WANEP-SL initiated programme in a pre-planning meeting with the District and Chiefdom Community Leaders. The participants in the meeting reflected upon how to effectively implement the programme in order to restore the dignity of war victims in their communities. Approximately, 400 participants were targeted to benefit from the programme across the country. WANEP-SL led the activities by erecting monuments in memory of those who lost their lives during the 10 years civil war. Other activities included cultural performance, pouring of libation, ceremonial animal sacrifice, planting of peace trees, cleansing of sacred bushes and a reconciliation football match that climaxed the reparation programmes.
Triggered by the tragic experience of historical injustices and human rights violations committed in Togo’s political history, as well as the deep-rooted mistrust and mutual suspicion among key political players, the incumbent president, Faure Gnassingbé decided to adopt a blend of judicial and non-judicial accountability mechanism (TJTC) to combat impunity and promote truth, justice and reconciliation nationwide. The National Network Coordinator of WANEP-Togo was nominated as a commissioner in a Presidential Decree published on May 27, 2009 to represent the voice of the civil society at the National Reconciliation Commission. This nomination is in recognition of the Coordinator’s dynamism and commitment to national issues. WANEP-Togo is playing a leading role in the area of peace building and conflict transformation in the country.

**Annually General Assembly WANEP-Togo**

Organised its Annual General (AGM) Meeting on May 15, 2009. Among the key outcomes of the meeting, the AGM adopted the narrative and financial reports for the 2008 fiscal year. Also, discussions were held on the way forward for motivating member organisations of WANEP-Togo to be actively involved in the implementation of activities of the network. At the preparatory phase of the AGM, the members of the Board of Directors held two extraordinary meetings.

**Youth Debate Project**

With the support from FOSDA through funding from IBIS West Africa, within the framework of the Youth Debate project, WANEP-Togo in its capacity as the coordinating organisation of the Togo Network on Small Arms and Light Weapons organised an award for winners of an essay writing competition on the theme: “Is the control of Small Arms and Light Weapons a key factor in the establishment of the rule of law and respect for human rights in Togo?” Education for peace and non-violence in schools. With the financial support from Pain Pour le Monde (PPLM); WANEP-Togo implemented under its Peace Education programme an activity with the objective of inculcating the culture of peace and non-violence in the communities of Kpakime town. A total of fifty-eight (58) women (98%) from different educational institutions benefited from the training. Participants replicated the training for women groups in Kpakime. Peace clubs were also established and exchange visits between peace clubs organised. In October and November 2009, the Network carried out activities to promote the culture of peace in schools.

**Capacity Building of Togolese youths on peace consolidation as it relates to gender**

A workshop was organised for young men and women in Togo on their roles in the consolidation of peace from the gender perspective. With financial support from IFOR/WPP, the activity was organised for a total of 29 participants (17 women and 12 men) from June 11-13, 2009. The young women and men were taken through gender issues so as to work as allies and involve their communities in the country’s development process.

**Workshop on gender and non-violence**

In the same vein, the political parties in Togo also benefited from another workshop funded by IFOR/WPP. The main objective of the training was to facilitate social change through the promotion of gender and non-violence concepts. The training was held at the Caritas International for 15 beneficiaries (8 women and 7 men) from 10 renowned political parties. Political party representatives reflected on their roles and responsibilities to prevent violence especially during elections as electoral violence had characterised Togo’s past electoral process. The participants appreciated the themes of the workshop which they said were timely in preparation for the upcoming elections in 2010.
Workshop on leadership and resource mobilization:
Thanks to the continued support from IFOR/WPP Africa Desk, another workshop was conducted for civil society organisations, particularly members of WANEP-Togo network on leadership and resource mobilisation. A total number of 26 participants (13 women and 13 men) benefitted from the training which was held in Lome, the capital city of Togo. The activity was a replication of a ToT workshop WANEP-Togo benefited from in Accra in May 2009. The training was designed to respond to the lack of or limited capacity of most CSOs to mobilise resources and deliver quality services. The participants shared experiences and adopted strategies to solve problems of dysfunctional and lethargic organizations.

Sensitization seminar on conflict and the respect for human rights
In preparation of the 2010 Togo Presidential Elections, a massive sensitisation campaign was organised for youths of Atakpame on conflicts. The objective was to contribute to conflict prevention in the targeted areas, and to inculcate a sense of civic responsibility in the youths. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights funded the event and 78 youths (30 women and 48 men) between ages 18-35 participated in the seminar.

Workshop for the media
With financial support from the British High Commission in Togo, WANEP-Togo conducted a capacity building training for media practitioners on peace journalism on the 14th-16th December, 2009. The workshop took place at Notsé for 35 media executives and practitioners. The workshop stressed on the media’s responsibility to report news that would not fan the flame of political violence during the election periods.
Community Peacebuilding, Afghanistan

At the invitation of the Transitional Liaison Office (TLO) and CordAid Netherlands, WANEP participated in the joint TLO-Cordaid Workshop on developing a community-level peace-building network in Southern Afghanistan from March 2-5, 2009 at the conference centre of the Kontakt der Kontinenten, Soesterberg, The Netherlands. WANEP was invited to specifically share knowledge and experiences from West Africa to help develop a community-based peacebuilding system in Southern Afghanistan. The aim of the workshop was to create a platform for discussion on how the experience of existing community-level conflict prevention/peace-building systems elsewhere can inform the development of a similar system in Southern Afghanistan. More specifically, the three-day workshop identified approaches and good practices that are relevant to Afghanistan, which the TLO can draw to help affected Afghan communities develop such systems.

Seminar On Mediating Peace In Africa, Addis-Ababa

WANEP participated in the Mediating Peace in Africa seminar on 4th March 2009 at the invitation of the South African based African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), WANEP’s Partner in the Africa Alliance for Peacebuilding (AFAP). ACCORD organized this seminar in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with the Africa Union and in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland on the theme “Strengthening the Mediation and Conflict Prevention Aspects of the African Peace and Security Architecture”. WANEP through its Executive Director, Emmanuel H. Bombande made a presentation on “Mediation Support: Challenges and Opportunities” sharing perspectives from concrete field experience in mediation efforts.

African Mediators’ Retreat

Under the Oslo Forum Network of Mediators, WANEP participated in the African Mediators Retreat organized by the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation (Tanzania), the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (Geneva) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the 24th to 26th March 2009. The retreat provided incredible insights, lessons and challenges from Track 1 Mediation efforts in Africa led by Eminent African Mediators including Presidents Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria. Some of the specific conflict focus where experiences were drawn from included the Central African Republic, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Other topical areas of discussion considered the Challenges for Mediators dealing with rebel groups: Chad, Darfur and Uganda; Mediation in the post-agreement phase; Mediating election related conflicts; Managing External Actors; Indicting for peace; the Sudan and the Risks and Opportunities for Conflict Mediation in Africa. WANEP was on the panel on Mediation in the post-agreement phase. The idea of an African Mediators’ retreat is a strategic move towards enhancing capacity of Africans to take the lead in providing African solutions to African problems.

WANEP-ECOWAS Coordination Meeting

In the framework of the Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU) signed with ECOWAS on the implementation of the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN), WANEP participated in the first semester coordination meeting of the year 2009. The meeting organised by the ECOWAS Early Warning Department was held at “Hotel du Port” in Cotonou, Benin from 16 to 19 February, 2009. The aim of the coordination meeting was to enhance WANEP-ECOWAS collaboration. It was an opportunity to have a critical look on the ECOWARN reporting process done so far by the field monitors (Focal Points). Participants also mapped the difficulties encountered in the course of implementing their duties and prof- fered the appropriate way forward. Finally, participants were trained on the ‘Peace Exchange’ which was scheduled to be launched in March. Participants were drawn from the ECOWAS Early Warning Department in Abuja, ECOWAS and Heads of Zonal bureaus, WANEP Regional Secretari- at staff, and the various national Civil Society and Government Focal Points from fourteen countries.

ECOWAS-IGAD Exchange Visit

WANEP was invited as part of the ECOWAS delegation that undertook a return visit to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) headquarters in Djibouti, Horn of Africa from February 24-28, 2009. One of the concrete outcomes of the ‘ECOWAS-IGAD Interactive Dialogue on Preventive Diplomacy,’ was agreement to establish a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two organisations in the context of the peace and security architecture of the two organisations. This was considered to be very beneficial at a moment IGAD was developing a peace and security strategy (including an action plan in the short, medium and long term) for the highly volatile IGAD sub region STAKEHOLDERS SUM- MIT, US NATIONAL PEACE ACADEMY In March 2009, WANEP represented participated in the Global Stakeholders summit for the establishment of the US National Peace Academy. The goal of the National Peace Academy (NPA) is “to support and advance a sustainable culture of peace through research, education and real world application.” (www.na-
The summit took place at the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio from 2nd to 4th March 2009. Over 170 participants made up of scholars, academicians, government officials, researchers and community leaders, foundations and representatives from civil society organizations attended the summit. After the end of the 3-day summit, the first-ever US National Peace Academy was launched. Dr. Dot Maver, Co-Director of the academy in her concluding remarks stated that the National Peace Academy’s mission will go beyond non-violence and peacebuilding initiatives as “they will extend into the realms of global environmental stewardship, sustainable development and human rights-based business practices”.

Ambassador William M. Bellamy (Rtd.) Meets With WANEP
On March 26, 2009 Ambassador Bellamy and his delegation from the African Centre for Strategic Studies (ACSS) paid a visit at the WANEP Regional Office in Accra to know more about the work of WANEP made a presentation of its work in the sub-region and with partners. The ACSS made an impressive appreciation of WANEP’s immeasurable contribution to peacebuilding not only in West Africa but on the African continent as well. Ambassador Bellamy was accompanied by Dr. Mathurin Houngnipko, Chair, Security Studies, Ms. Elisabeth Feleke, Program Manager at the Regional Office for West Africa based in Senegal and Colonel Xavier Collignon, Senior French representative of the Centre.

Training of ECOWAS Conflict Analysts:
A four day “Experience Sharing and Training of Analysts” of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was carried out from August 18-21, 2009 in Accra-Ghana. The newly recruited Peace and Conflict Monitoring Analysts of the Early Warning Department of ECOWAS and staff of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) convened to share experiences on practice-based early warning, lessons learned and how to improve the process of warning and response in the context of West Africa.

Regional Symposium On Political Governance And Transitions in West Africa:
WANEP actively joined the “Representatives of Civil Society Organisations across West Africa; at a Regional Symposium on Political Governance and Transitions in West Africa: to ‘Denounce all attempts to demolish democratic institutions in Niger’; and also ‘Demand for the immediate and unconditional restoration of the constitutional court and all institutions illegally dissolved by President Mamadou Tandja’ This Regional Symposium which was jointly organized by WACSOF and OSIWA, at Nicon Luxury, Abuja, July 31 and August 1, 2009, was concerned about the dismantling of the democratic system that Niger have nurtured after several decades of instability.

Experts/Stakeholder Meeting on Developing National Plan of Action for Human Rights (NAPHR): WANEP was resourceful in a one-day Experts/Stakeholder Meeting on Developing National Plan of Action for Human Rights (NAPHR): by the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) on the 10 September 2009, at the Forest Hill Hotel, Dodowa. The World Conference on Human Rights recommended that each state consider the desirability of drawing up a national action plan identifying steps whereby that state would improve the promotion and protection of human rights.
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