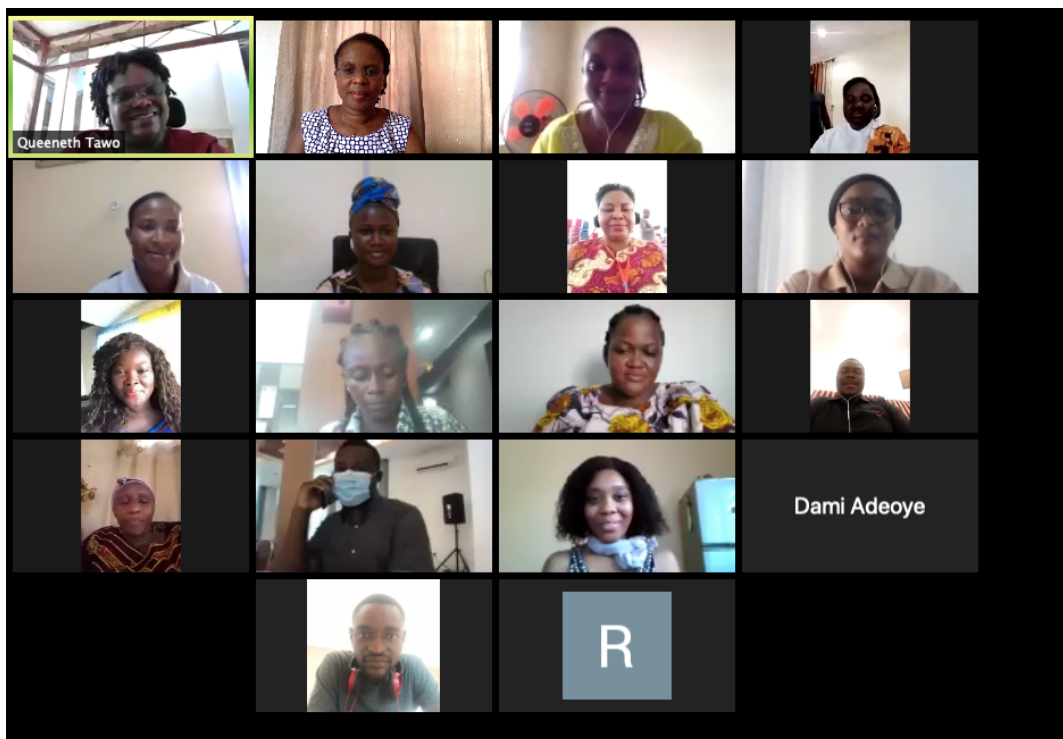


Report
Gender Talk Series

Let's talk gender-based violence from WANEP's perspective



Date: Friday, December 4, 2020

The 3rd Gender Talk Series took place online on December 4, 2020 and brought together a 18 participants. The topic discussed was: "Let's talk gender-based violence from WANEP's perspective" in commemoration of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

Before getting to the heart of the matter, the event's facilitator, Ms. Josiane Sombo first warmly thanked the participants for responding to the invitation. She then indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to share experiences, challenges and make recommendations to effectively address gender-based violence in the various countries. She concluded her remarks by stressing that the recommendations will serve as a benchmark for pleas to ensure gender equality.

Three speakers highlighted, in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, the cases of GBV in Togo, Burkina Faso and Guinea and more importantly, the strategies to handle them.

Case of Togo: Mrs. Immaculée Sambiani, Program Officer WPS, WANEP Togo

Contributions:

- Advocacy actions for the revision of the penal code to reinforce the provisions on GBV;
- Outreach campaigns;

- Setting up counselling centres for VBG victims.

Challenges

- Lack of counselling centres to refer victims to necessary services;
- The interference of the family of the perpetrators in the legal process of GBV cases;
- The interference of the victims' families in order to prevent the stigmatization of victims but which may interfere with the normal course of justice;
- Psychological, medical and legal support for GBV victims is lacking.

Recommendations

- Family cohesion is important, putting pressure on the families involved in GBV cases to allow justice to take its normal course;
- As protectors, make sure to denounce the perpetrators of GBV and make sure they are punished in order to deter others;
- The GBV victim centres play a leading role in the integrated care of victims, and it is important to mobilize the necessary funds to provide them with the needed support.

Case of Burkina Faso: Mrs. Ouédraogo Mamounatou, Member of the Network for the promotion and empowerment of rural women in Burkina Faso

Ms. Ouédraogo first looked at the context of her country, which would contribute to the cases of GBV. Among other things, she quoted:

- ✓ The woman's economic dependence on the husband;
- ✓ Socio-cultural norms: in the context of Burkina Faso, women tend to admit violence against them, especially in the marital life;
- ✓ Impunity for GBV perpetrators.

Contributions:

- With the adoption of a national gender policy (2009), advocacy actions are being carried out;
- Psycho and legal support for VBG victims;
- Training and capacity building;
- Facilitate women's empowerment through access to credit;
- Promote food support in school to prevent girls dropout and exposure to violence;
- Setting up of counselling centers and orientation for victims of GBV.

Challenges:

- Difficulty to extend activities to women at community level due to financial constraints;
- Building the capacity of facilitators on the ground to enable them effectively handle GBV cases.

Case of Guinea: Ms. Dione Nema Dorcas, President of REPSFECO-Guinea

Background of Guinea: Women's lack of knowledge of legal texts and their rights.

Contributions:

- Awareness campaigns in French and local languages on GBV;

- Advocacy actions for the implementation of legal instruments carried out at the level of 4 strategic ministries including the Ministry of Human Rights, the Ministry of the Promotion of Women and the Children;
- Awareness creation on legal processes related to GBV.

Conclusion:

In her closing remarks, Ms. Sombo noted the importance of sustaining income-generating activities in order to support counselling centres and the adequate care of GVB victims, namely legal, medical and economic support.