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WANEP Launches Multi stakeholder Response to Election Violence Project in The Gambia

21 June 2021, Abuja - On the 21st of June 2021, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) launched both the Strengthening Multi stakeholder Response to Election Violence in West Africa and the Election violence Mitigation, Analysis and Monitoring (EMAM) projects.

The combined in-presence and virtual launch, which was held in Banjul, and was attended by key stakeholders from The Gambia, including a representative of the Ministry of Interior, the Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the CSO Coalition on Elections, the Chairpersons of the Election Response Group and the Gambian Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO), the Office of the ECOWAS Special Representative of the President of the Commission as well as members of the media - amongst others. Also, in attendance were several development partners including the European Union (EU), the Germany Embassy, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Republican Institute (IRI).

Strengthening Multi Stakeholders Response to Election Violence in West Africa is an 18-month project implemented by WANEP, co-financed by the EU and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It is implemented with the support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO) Project. It aims to enhance response mechanisms for electoral dispute management and resolution in West Africa, focusing on seven countries conducting Presidential elections between 2020 – 2022, including Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Niger, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Benin, and The Gambia.

The project works in complementarity with the Electoral violence Monitoring Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) project, which was designed to support an inclusive and sustainable dispute resolution architecture that prevents and/or mitigates political or election related violence in West Africa.

Speaking during the launch, Mrs Levinia Addae-Mensah, the WANEP Deputy Executive Director, said, “We are aware that the challenges around this year’s elections are huge, especially coming in the very year of a global pandemic. However, we are equally confident that working together, we can indeed harness the potential dividends of consolidating democracy in The Gambia.”

In his remarks, H.E Corrado Pampaloni, the Ambassador of the EU Delegation to The Gambia, stated, “The EU is funding two projects, namely the Electoral violence Monitoring Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) and the Strengthening Multi-stakeholder Response to Election Violence in West Africa Project. The aim of this project is to prevent electoral violence. We

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will train monitors who will be deployed to hotspots during elections, train CSOs, and create situation rooms for monitoring purposes during elections. The Strengthening Multi-Stakeholders' Response to Election Violence in West Africa project is supported by GIZ through the EPSAO.”

Reiterating the commitment of the German Government in supporting the West African region, Mr Christian Voelkel, the Head of Programme, GIZ-EPSAO said, “EPSAO aims at strengthening capacities for the prevention and management of conflict in West Africa. While there are many routes and sources of conflict across the regions, elections tend to be a major flashpoint for violence. This is why EPSAO will continue to support CSOs such as WANEP in their efforts, to realize peaceful operations.”

The projects were officially launched by Mrs Fanta Bojang Samateh Manneh, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior of the Gambia.

For more information on the recently launched projects, please contact:

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