



**WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR
PEACEBUILDING**

**Progress Report
APRIL-JUNE 2021**

OVERVIEW OF QUARTER TWO PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

PEACE AND SECURITY OVERVIEW IN WEST AFRICA-(QUARTER TWO, Q2 2021)

After a challenging 2020 and a first quarter of 2021 characterised by hydra-headed effects of the dreaded COVID-19 and rising extremist attacks in some West African states, quarter two commenced with WANEP working ever harder to confront the challenges of the first quarter and the rest of 2021. Challenges in the first quarter include continued threats from COVID-19 and extremist attacks.

Whilst states continue to promote COVID-19 protocols and also struggle to procure vaccines for their citizens, attention and resources to combat and prevent extremist attacks seem to be dwindling. Countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria continue to suffer from armed attacks, intercommunal violence, abduction/kidnapping, assassinations, suicide bombing and other criminal activities perpetuated by terrorist groups operating in the Sahel region. The WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) captured some worrying statistics. For instance, WANEP's 550 community monitors across West Africa recorded **1,620 reports** relating to human security incidents in the region. The incidents reported indicate a total of **2,626 deaths** and **2,052 injuries** across the ECOWAS region.

Organised Crimes and Violent Extremism

There were **104** abduction/kidnapping incidents within the quarter reported by WANEP NEWS across the region. These incidents resulted in **17 deaths** and **42 injuries**. WANEP NEWS reported the following: i) **85** incidents; **13** deaths and **40** injuries In Nigeria; ii) **eight (08)** incidents In Mali; iii) **Five (05)** in Niger; vi) **Four (04)** abduction/kidnapping incidents in Burkina Faso.

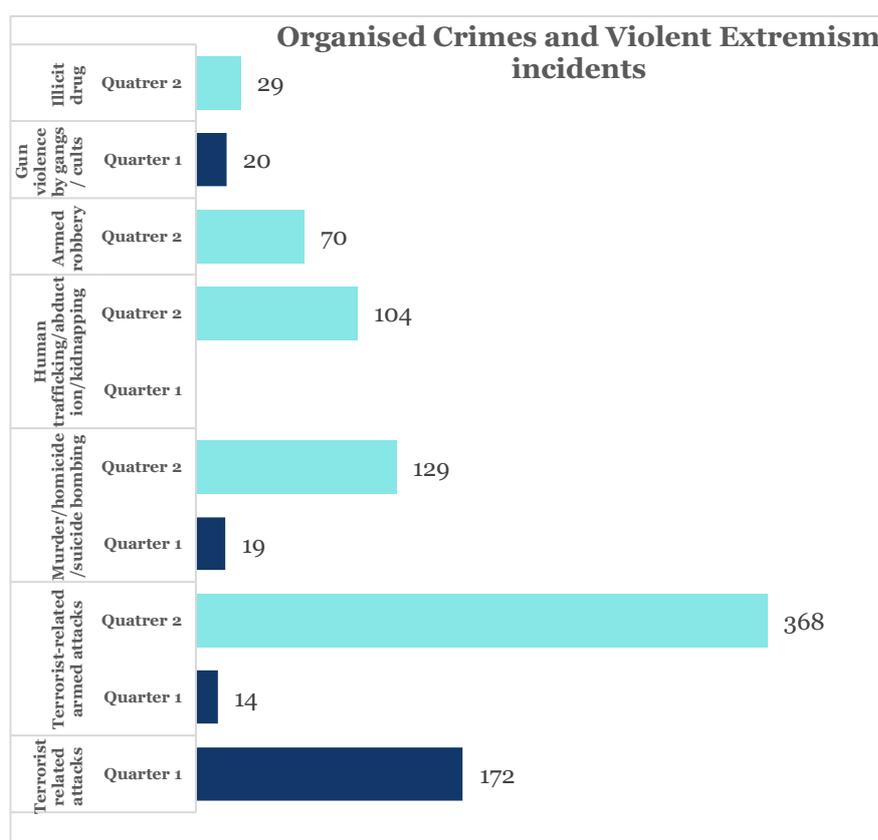


Figure 1: The comparison report shows the number of organised crimes and violent extremism Incidents that occurred in Q1 and Q2 of the year 2021.

With respect to terrorist and armed groups related attacks, **368** incidents were reported by WANEP NEWS which resulted in **1,479** deaths and **578** injuries. Out of the 368 incidents, Nigeria recorded 338 incidents with 1359 deaths and 461 injuries, representing the highest number of cases in the region. Mali recorded **13** terrorist and armed groups related attacks which resulted in **25** deaths and **56** injuries.

Regarding murder/homicide/assassination, **104** incidents were reported and resulted into **153** deaths and **24** injuries. Guinea

recorded the highest number of casualties with **38** incidents, **45** deaths and **eight (08)** wounded

victims. In Niger, eight (08) assassination incidents resulted in **49** deaths and **four (04)** injuries. In Liberia, **17** assassination cases resulted in **14** deaths and **four (04)** injuries.

The number of armed robbery incidents reported by WANEP NEWS was **70** with **127** deaths and **77** injuries across the region. Majority of these armed robbery incidents were perpetrated against mobile money vendors, banks, public transport vehicles among others. Nigeria recorded the highest number of incidents with **54** deaths and **15** injuries.

There were also **29** incidents of illicit drug (cocaine, Indian hemp/ cannabis...) trafficking reported by WANEP NEWS. Majority of the incidents occurred in Liberia, The Gambia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Women, Peace and security

In the quarter under review, a total number of **60** Gender-based violence (GBV) incidents including rape, physical assault, sexual assaults/ harassments, beating, ritual killing among others were reported by WANEP NEWS. This indicates a decrease in number of GBV incidents compared to cases reported in Quarter 1. Out of the **60** GBV incidents reported, **41** were rape cases which led to **3** deaths and **27** injuries.

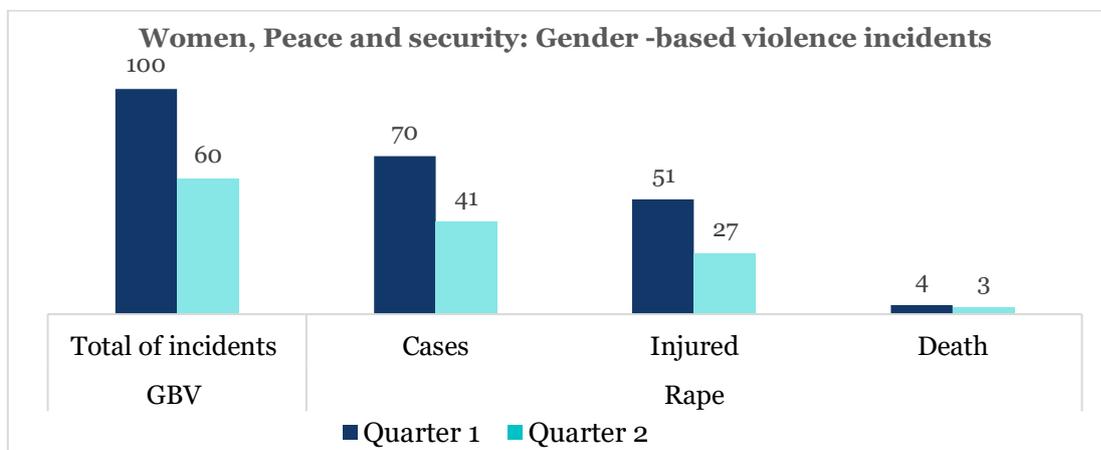


Figure 2: The report shows a comparison of GBV incidents over the two quarters

A country breakdown shows that Liberia recorded the highest number of rape cases with **18** incidents which resulted in **one (01)** death and **24** injuries. In Nigeria, there were **11** rape cases and **one (01)** death. Meanwhile, **nine (09)** rape cases were recorder in Guinea with **one (01)** death and **three (03)** injured. In Sierra Leone, **two (02)** rape cases, **two (02)** deaths and **one (01)** injury were reported.

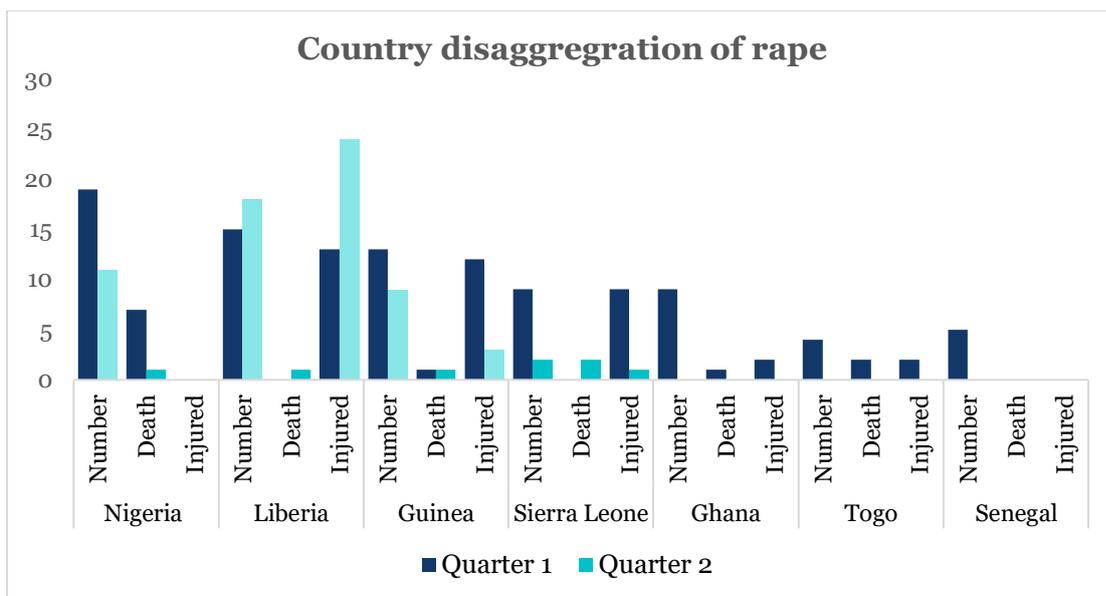


Figure 3: The graph shows the disaggregation of the number of rape cases in 7 countries of West Africa

Democracy and Governance

The democratic and governance landscape in West Africa in quarter two of 2021 was largely dominated by the 24 May military coup in Mali and a series of socio-political events including youth and trade unions protests and demonstrations that threatened the peace, security and democratic stability of the region. In Mali, the President of the transition Bah N’Daw and Moctar Ouane, his Prime Minister, were overthrown on May 24, 2021.

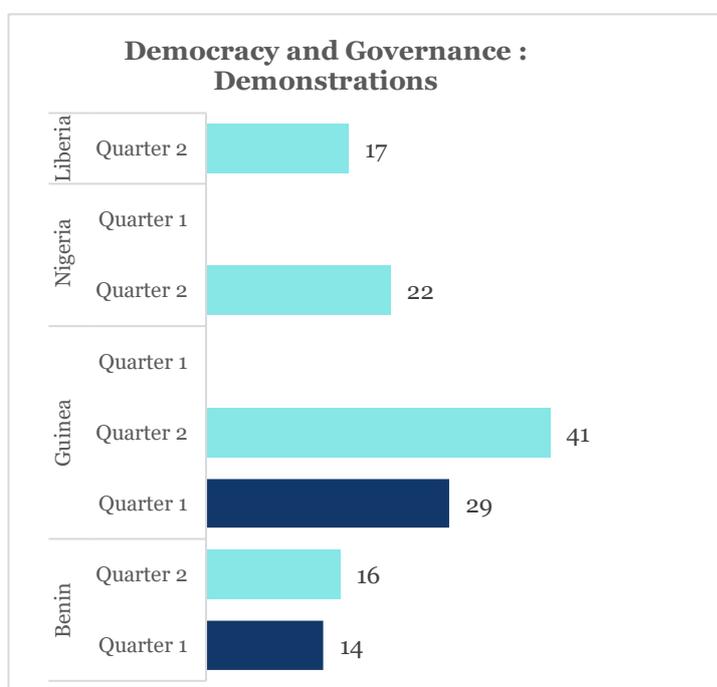


Figure 4 shows the number of major demonstration incidents in 4 countries of West Africa.

incidents which resulted in **four (04)** deaths and **two (02)** injuries. Political disagreement on the electoral process in Benin resulted in **16** peaceful demonstrations across the country.

On 28 May, the Supreme Court appointed former Vice-President Assimi Goïta as the new President of the transitional Government. On 30 May, the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS held an extraordinary summit in Accra. They condemned the coup d’État and suspended Mali from the Organisation, in line with its regulations.

In the quarter under review, **103** demonstrations, **44** deaths and **327** injuries were reported by WANEP NEWS. Guinea recorded the highest number (**41** demonstration incidents) with **30** deaths and **66** injuries, followed by Nigeria with **22** demonstrations which led to **10** deaths and **07** injuries. Meanwhile, Liberia recorded **17** demonstration

Environmental Security

The environmental landscape of West Africa in the quarter under review has been mainly characterised by the COVID-19 pandemic and other epidemics (Ebola, Yellow fever, Measles). **204** people were reported dead in Benin and **49** people in Guinea from COVID-19. Liberia recorded **29** deaths and Nigeria **22**.

There were also natural and anthropogenic disasters including illegal mining, landslide, as well as rain and thunderstorms in the region.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING ELECTORAL SUPPORT THROUGH NEWS

1.1. Within the framework of response actions against electoral violence under the Electoral Violence Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) project financed by the European Union, **WANEP Benin**, spearheaded the following initiatives:

- The deployment of forty-eight (48) observers' trainers to the field
- The training of election observers
- Training of twenty-two (22) managers of the technical room to ensure the smooth running of the Election Situation Room (ESR)
- **WANEP Benin** run the ESR over a period of three days (10-12 April 2021) in an effort to mitigate electoral violence in the April Presidential Polls.

1.2 The Regional Working Group (RWG) in **Guinea-Bissau** held a debriefing session on the Electoral violence Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation EMAM project on 29 June 2021. The meeting was attended by representatives of WANEP Regional and WANEP Guinea-Bissau, the ECOWAS Early Warning Department and Alert Response Centre, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), the European Union (EU) in Guinea-Bissau, the National Electoral Commission and Ministry of Territorial Administration and Local Power. The debriefing session sought to i) debrief the RWG on results achieved and lessons learned from the implementation of the EMAM project in the country, ii) gather views and recommendations to improve future initiatives, ii) identify post-election intervention paths to consolidate achievements and improve on weaknesses.

1.3. On 21 June, **WANEP** launched two projects in the Gambia: The Electoral violence Monitoring Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) project funded by the European Union and the Strengthening Multi Stakeholder Response to Election violence supported by GIZ under the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO). The overall objective of the EMAM project is to contribute to a reduction in electoral violence in The Gambia, through strengthened national capacities to enhance peaceful electoral processes. The GIZ project, on the other hand, seeks to enhance response mechanisms for electoral dispute management and resolution in The Gambia.

1.4. Following the launch of the two projects, **WANEP** held a two-day (22 & 23 June 2021) capacity building training for CSOs on Electoral Dispute Management under the EMAM project. The training sought to enhance the knowledge of participants (local and national actors) in conflict analysis and timely responses to prevent and/or mitigate election related violence during the 2021 presidential election.

1.5. **WANEP Ghana** led the training of 20 newly recruited monitors and analysts on new and emerging areas of conflict analysis and sensitivities around COVID-19, under the Governance Resilience and Economic Empowerment (AGREE) project. The training equipped the new monitors with the requisite knowledge and skills to operate the AGREE Activity's Management Information System (MIS). The

training also provided education on the COVID-19 pandemic to enable the participants to report COVID-19 related early warning signs.

1.6. Production and Dissemination of Early Warning Outputs: A total of 2468 Early Warning outputs were produced and disseminated across West Africa and beyond in the review quarter as shown in the table below:

EARLY WARNING OUTPUTS PRODUCED IN Q2

S/N	TITLE	QUANTITY
1	NEWS SITUATION TRACKING	5
2	MONTHLY BULLETIN	45
3	NEWS QUICK UPDATE	3
4	NEWS SITUATION REPORTS	645
5	WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS	150
6	NEWS INCIDENTS REPORTS	1620
	TOTAL	2468

2. PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

2.1. WANEP-Guinea, a member organisation of the Citizens' Coalition for Elections and Governance in Guinea, conducted a monitoring study in forty-two (42) convergent and non-convergent communes in Guinea with funding from USAID through the *“Coalition Citoyenne pour les Elections et la Gouvernance”* (CoCEG).

2.2. WANEP Guinea conducted a study in ten (10) communes/prefectures of Guinea. The study was focused on practices that impede the participation of youth in peacebuilding mechanisms and local governance bodies as well as recommendations to remedy the situation.

2.3. At the invitation of *“l’Institut régional d’enseignement supérieur et de recherche en développement culturel et l’Institut supérieur de management et de développement”*(IRES-DREC)¹, **WANEP Togo** served as a jury member on the evaluation of two Masters’ thesis. The themes of the thesis are as follows: *“Contribution à la réduction de l’incivisme dans la circulation routière à Lomé: création d’une brigade citoyenne de sensibilisation de la population riveraine de l’axe kegue-legbassito”* and *“Intégration sociale des détenus et culture de la paix en milieu carcéral: projet d’instauration d’une semaine culturelle à la prison civile de Kara”*

3. TO BROADEN THE PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND SUPPORT YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND VOICE IN ISSUES OF GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY

3.1. Fostering collaboration with ECOWAS and other partners on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS)

WANEP took part in the ECOWAS-Development Partner Roundtable on Youth, Peace and Security, on 20 April 2021. The meeting aimed to streamline regional efforts to promote the domestication and implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in West Africa. The roundtable was a combination of presentations, panel discussions, and brainstorming sessions. In attendance were, representatives of the AU, the United Nations Department of Political and Peace building Affairs (UN

¹ WANEP Togo and IRES-DREC formalised their partnership in January 2021.

DPPA), the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), GIZ EPSAO, WANEP, Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) and the USAID Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data in West Africa (REWARD II) project. The meeting created an opportunity to promote inter-institutional collaboration, harmonise efforts and resources and discuss modalities for the development of national and regional frameworks on Youth, Peace and Security. WANEP, as a strategic partner to ECOWAS, made a presentation on its support to ECOWAS Member States on YPS.

3.2. Supporting effective planning and implementation of the organisation's Youth and Peace Education (YPE) Programme²

This quarter's meeting was held on 14 May 2021. Discussions from the meeting indicate that majority of the networks have been able to implement their planned activities, including promoting a culture of peace in schools and communities, through peace clubs, community radio programs, cultural and sport activities. Some capacity building activities on advocacy techniques, mediation and conflict prevention were conducted, using international, regional and national frameworks on youth, peace and security. Applying skills to address contextual issues, the peace club members in Burkina Faso engaged in advocacy with students' associations and the Minister of education for successful outcome of the recent tensions in schools, following new educational reforms. Some networks such as Guinea are involved in mentoring programme and networking.

In the next quarter, networks intend to focus more on university students (Togo) and youth in the informal sectors, specifically, the motor ridders (Togo, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) due to their vulnerability to violence. Issues around violent extremism and drug abuse in schools (Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso) were identified as threats to peace and security and will be addressed by the networks in the coming quarters. A key challenge underscored by some networks, was the unavailability of funds, which hampers effective implementation of their activities. Responding to that need, suggestions were made on creating opportunity for experience sharing among networks and building capacity on strategies to writing "winning proposals" in order to secure more funds for the YPE programme.

3.3 Amplifying youth voices in peace, security and governance

WANEP produced two e-bulletins, stemming from its last "Youth Perspectives Webinar Series". Topics addressed include:

- Silencing the Guns, Strengthening Democratic Governance and Peaceful Elections in West Africa
- Youth and Political Governance in West Africa

The first bulletin summarises youth analysis and recommendations to build strong democracy and governance that guarantee peace, security and prosperity for all in Africa, and particularly, in West Africa. The second bulletin reflects participants' views on strategies to support youth effective participation in political governance. It equally highlights experiences of some parliamentarians and local elected representatives to boost confidence among youths regarding their political participation.

3.4.0 Networking for Peace

3.4.1 Virtual Expo Booth at the Department of State Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) 10-Year Anniversary Summit: From 24 to 28 May 2021, WANEP hosted a virtual Expo Booth during the

² WANEP's YEP is articulated around International (UNSCR2250), Regional (ECPF) and National Frameworks on Youth, Peace and Security. Every quarter, WANEP's Regional Office organises a regional meeting of the programme, in collaboration with its National Networks. The event offers an opportunity to review and reflect on achievements and challenges in the implementation of the planned activities and project strategic orientations for the next quarter.

festivities of the YALI³ 10th anniversary. The Expo Booth was an avenue for WANEP to create visibility on its achievements in peace and security over the years, particularly on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). It also opened doors for networking with other youth groups.

3.4.2 Meeting with the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY): On 31 May 2021, WANEP's Youth and Peace Education Programme Officer, Mrs. Josiane Sombo, had a working session with the newly appointed Regional Coordinator of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), Mr. Adeniran Lawal. They discussed possible collaboration and partnership between WANEP and UNOY on YPS in West Africa.

3.4.3 Youth4Peace Networks in West Africa: In tandem with the African Union Youth4Peace Program, WANEP has been working to establish National Youth4Peace Networks to support effective coordination and implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in West Africa. On 30 June 2021, the Regional Office organised an orientation session with the first batch of the Youth4Peace Networks, comprising eight (8) networks across the region. The purpose of the meeting was to reiterate the objectives and strategic directions that underpin the establishment of the Youth4Peace networks for mutual understanding. The network members were also given the opportunity to share their opinions on strategies to make the networks more vibrant to support effective implementation of the YPS agenda in the region. WANEP intends to sustain this exchange platforms with the networks for regular update on their interventions and for networking and experience sharing purposes.

3.4.4 Meeting of the steering committee of the Preventing Violent Extremism through Education (PEV-ED) Sahel project: WANEP, as a key partner in the field, was invited to share its experience in building youth resilience to violent extremism through peace education. Representatives of the project focal persons in each country of the Sahel region as well as key partners attended the meeting.

3.5. Regional virtual workshop on broadening WANEP's Peace Education and Peer Mediation Programme

On 25 June 2021, WANEP organised a virtual workshop, in collaboration with its National Networks to reflect on strategies to broaden the scope of its peace education and peer mediation programme to better respond to new threats to peace and security in the region. The workshop specifically provided opportunity i) to understand the current peace and security issues and how they relate to youth; ii) understand the role of peace education in promoting a culture of peace and contributing to regional stability and develop strategies to strengthen WANEP's Peace Education and Peer Mediation programme to respond to current needs.

Forty-Four (44) Participants from WANEP's National Networks were in attendance. These included National Networks Coordinators, Youth and Peace Education Programme Officers/Focal Persons, representatives from Member organisations, staff from the Regional Office and resource persons. Key recommendations from the workshop encompass i) reviewing WANEP's peace education contents to integrate emerging threats, ii) strengthening multi-stakeholders' engagements, iii) reinforcing advocacy for the integration of peace education in school curricula, iv) leveraging technology and youth agency to promote a culture of peace in both formal and informal sectors.

3.6. The young people of the Youth for Peace (Y4P) platform of WANEP Togo, conscious of their contribution to the consolidation of peace in their communities, organised a roundtable in Tone 3, in the savannah region of Northern Togo on 24 April 2021. The theme of the roundtable was "the

³ The YALI Summit was organised to celebrate its alumni achievements over the past 10 years as well as strengthen partnerships and provide support to the alumni through skills development and greater exposure to new networks of leaders across the globe. This would enable and prepare them to adequately support Africa in challenges that it may face in the coming decade.

involvement of young people in local development: a tool for peace, good governance and sustainable security". This activity was part of the "Education for Peace" programme and the fight against violent extremism and provided an opportunity for thirty-three (33) young people to be trained on citizenship and local development.

3.7. WANEP Togo presented on the theme: "Youth in the Fight Against Violent Extremism, Actor or Spectator" at a talk-debate organised by Young Artisans of Peace and Citizenship (JAPEC) dubbed "*Young Patriots, Actors of Peace*". The meeting was held in commemoration of Togo's Independence Day celebrated on 27 April. The objective of the talk-debate was to promote the patriotic commitment of young people in view of the challenges existing in the world today and brought together several young leaders.

3.8. With funding from USAID and under the Cultural Cohesion for Peace and Prosperity project via the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), **WANEP Guinea**, through its "Youth and Education" Programme, organised eight (8) socio-cultural events on the following thematic areas: peace, the fight against Covid-19 and responsible citizenship. The event took place in eight (8) prefectures and communes of Guinea from 18 to 29 June 2021. A total of 8750 people took part in the events, 2341 of whom were women.

3.9. The establishment of a Peace and Security Network in **Guinea** has led to the creation of a youth network database for a community of young people engaged in peace and security processes in Guinea. Information and opportunities for young people are shared on that platform.

3.10. In the month of May 2021, **WANEP Senegal** initiated meetings with the leadership of the Departmental Youth Council of Pikine (CDJP) for the establishment of the Youth for Peace Network in the country.

3.11. In order to support the peace clubs at the pre-school and primary levels within the framework of the "*Education à la Paix, à la Non-Violence et à la Justice Sociale*" (EPNVJS) project, **WANEP Togo** made donations of school equipment to the schools Clubs in Lomé and Kpalimé. The donations included education equipment such as boxes of chalk, geometry sets, paper reams and other equipment.

3.12 A review meeting of the EPNVJS project with stakeholders was hosted by **WANEP Togo** from 18 to 21 May 2021. The debriefing meeting was to take stock of activities after three years of implementation of the EPNVJS project. Among other things, the meeting was to assess the EPNV-JS project in a global manner with a view of sharing lessons learned and good practices with stakeholders. At the end of the meeting, the following were achieved: i) results and challenges encountered in the course of the fourth phase of the project were presented to the stakeholders, ii) lessons learned during the fourth phase were presented, iii) good practices identified during this fourth phase of the project were shared, iv) perspectives and recommendations were formulated for the sustainability of the EPNV-JS project.

3.13. In order to finalise the process of integrating the values of peace and non-violence in the curriculum of pre-school education, initiated in 2016 as a prelude to the next steps of the advocacy process, **WANEP Togo** organised, with technical support from "*Direction de l'Enseignement du Préscolaire et du Primaire*" (DEPP), a workshop from 26-28 May 2021. The event sought to finalise the table of specification for the elaboration of the manual on "Social Education" focused on peace, non-violence and social justice.

3.14. WANEP Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with the *Réseau Action, Justice et Paix* (RAJP) run awareness raising campaigns, targeting the youth in several localities of the country from 23 to 24 June 2021. The focus of the campaigns was on disinformation through social networks, community radio and video capsules.

3.15. In anticipation of the commemoration of the International Youth Day 2021, **WANEP Côte d'Ivoire** held a working session with the Youth4Peace members on 30 June 2021.

3.16. WANEP Ghana supported 10 District Agriculture Multi-stakeholder Governance Platforms to sensitise communities on rosewood harvesting, indiscriminate charcoal burning, crop farmers and herders' conflicts, chieftaincy succession conflicts, land tenure, stereotyping, and non-compliance of COVID-19 directives in two (02) districts each in the Upper West and Upper East Regions and six (6) in the Northern Region. A total of 1043 (609 Males, 434 Females) enhanced their knowledge on social and natural resource-related disputes. It is expected that the sensitisation will contribute to behavior change among stakeholders towards accountable natural resources governance.

3.17. WANEP Ghana initiated engagements with parties of the Bolgatanga chieftaincy conflict towards a joint dialogue. The consent of the two factions for a joint dialogue has been agreed on and all parties welcomed the initiative which will give them a first-ever opportunity to interact since the escalation of the violence in 2015. Issues for dialogue have been defined from the input of both sides. These include establishing a violence prevention joint committee, cultivating cooperation over the use of their shared resources/facilities. The engagements have also revealed the need to organise an orientation on dialogue processes for the youth of both Palaces.

3.18. Bilateral engagements with feuding parties (Busunuwura and Wasipewura) of Lorto Jurisdictional dispute were conducted by **WANEP Ghana**. The meetings created opportunities for the conflict parties to express their grievances. The engagements also enhanced collaboration and networking relations between feuding parties and peace actors, especially the Committee of Eminent Chiefs established by the Yagbonwura.

3.19. WANEP Ghana conducted a preventive engagement between Upper West Regional Peace Council (UWRPC) and communities on a land dispute (Sombo, Piree and Papu Communities). The UWRPC reached an agreement with the disputing factions to halt all activities, including the construction of a fuel station and future development projects on the said land while mediation continues. The Papu faction apologised for attempting to allocate the piece of land to an investor without recourse to the landowners.

3.20. Community sensitisation in Western North and Upper East Regions were organised by **WANEP Ghana**. The sensitisations enabled the participants to appreciate and understand group dynamics, savings/loans, record keeping, conflict resolution and the use of the mercury-free Sikabukya technology. The team established three (3) Village Savings and Loan Associations in two communities at Talensi and one (1) VSLA at Sefwi Nkatieso.

3.21. Four (04) environmental school clubs were set up to provide education to pupils and parents on the effects of mercury in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) activities in Western North and Upper East Regions of Ghana, in the context of the Responsive Engagement and Collective Learning Approaches to Inform Mercury Substitution in ASGM, Ghana (RECLAIMS ASGM Ghana) project. The RECLAIMS team is supporting patrons and headmasters of the schools to develop action plans for the clubs to implement as part of their activities. The initiative was spearheaded by **WANEP Ghana**.

3.22. WANEP Ghana convened a national multi-stakeholder dialogue meeting focused on reforms in the ASGM sector. The dialogue built on the outcomes of the national and regional dialogues on reform of the ASGM sector organised by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR). A total of 30 participants attended the meeting. The outcomes of the discussions informed the development of a policy brief which will be shared with the MLNR for the Government of Ghana to consider in its activities in the ASGM sector.

3.23. WANEP Mali, in partnership with UNDP Mali, organised an awareness and information campaign for 61 young people (including 18 women) on Security Advisory Committees (SACs), Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Community Policing in the commune of SIO in the Mopti region on 30 June 2021.

3.24. From 22 to 24 June, **WANEP** and SEARCH for Common Ground convened a cross-border workshop in Niamey, Niger for 55 participants, including eight (08) women and 24 young people from Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. The event enabled participants to reflect on the improvement of cross-border collaboration and border security between the Defence and Security Forces and the host communities in Burkina, Mali and Niger.

4. STRENGTHENING WOMEN AND GIRLS 'CAPACITY FOR POLICY INFLUENCING

4.1. Coordinated efforts to advance women's meaningful participation and inclusion in leadership. Support to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: During the quarter under review, the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Desk provided coordination support to the WPS agenda in line with its mandate. As part of this support, the WPS Coordinator held a virtual meeting with National Network Coordinators and the WPS Focal Points. The meeting sought to provide an update on the WPS programme, discuss status and progress of the national programme, national workplans and upcoming activities. Other areas of discourse bordered on inter-network exchange programmes for experience sharing and lessons learned. The meeting was imperative as it provided the needed opportunity to re-align the national programme with the regional, in line with the new WANEP Strategic Plan (2021 – 2025). It was also an opportunity to touch base with the WPS focal points and provide technical support to their activities.

Similarly, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) initiated Working Group⁴ on Women, Youth, Peace and Security, convened by WANEP, held its coordination meeting during the quarter. The meeting was geared towards collating members individual activities and exploring areas of commonality and interest. The regular coordination meetings also serve as a capacity building platform for generating awareness on UNSCR 1325.

4.2. As part of the fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in schools, **WANEP Togo** participated in a virtual meeting organised by the platform against Gender Based Violence in schools. The main objective of the meeting was to strengthen the capacity of organisations working on gender issues in schools in order to prevent and fight against this scourge. The platform's member organisations were equipped with tools on GBV. They were also informed about actions carried out by UNICEF. Perspectives for collaboration were also discussed.

4.3. On 12 May 2021, the National Coordinator of **WANEP Togo**, Mrs. Da-do Nora Amedzenu-Noviekou paid a courtesy call on the newly appointed Minister of Social Action, Promotion of Women and Literacy, Mrs. Adjovi Lolonyo Anakoma-Apedoh. The objective of the meeting was to introduce

⁴ The UNOWAS Working Group on WPS is a platform through which consistent advocacy is carried out especially at the community level to raise awareness on women and youth meaningful involvement and participation in leadership and decision-making

WANEP Togo, specifically its areas of intervention related to women and to solicit the Minister's support in these activities.

4.4. In the quarter under review, **WANEP Nigeria** achieved the following:

- Increased awareness of women's unique roles in peacebuilding and decision-making through "Women Voices for Peace Radio" Programme aired on radio stations in three project states.
- Sensitised over fifty (50) key state and non-state actors on the lessons learned from the implementation of the project "Enhancing Women's Participation in Peace and Security in Nigeria".
- Held consultations with key stakeholders on the Development of Edo State Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 to promote the participation of women in decision making and peacebuilding processes.
- Provided platforms for women to share experiences and discuss peacebuilding initiatives including challenges and opportunities for effective implementation of the WPS Agenda in six project states.

4.5. **WANEP Sierra Leone** held the following radio programmes:

- Radio programme focused on advocacy and awareness raising on women in leadership aimed at educating the public on women in leadership in the communities, on 10 June 2021.
- Radio programme in an effort to create awareness on youth violence and drug abuse, on 16 June 2021.

4.7. **WANEP Mali** organised, from 01 to 04 June 2021, a Training of Trainers workshop for members of the Women's Expertise Pool for Inclusive Governance of Security in the Sahel, under the "Women Leadership" Programme. The event was organised with financial support from the European Union in Mali in partnership with Danish Demining Group (DDG/DRC).

4.8. Employing gender-informed peacebuilding and conflict prevention interventions at all levels

GenderTalk Series: The fifth edition of the WANEP GenderTalk Series (GTS #5) was held on 14 June for Anglophone and 15 June for Francophone audiences respectively under the theme: **Challenges and opportunities for achieving inclusivity and gender parity!** The edition was in commemoration of the Africa Day marked each year on 25 May. It brought together representatives of women and youth groups, civil society, private and public sectors, Intergovernmental Organisations, and other stakeholders. The Africa Day provided the needed opportunity to reflect on progress made towards making this aspiration a reality. Therefore, the forum focused on harnessing practical experiences on the challenges and opportunities for achieving inclusivity and gender parity as stipulated in AU Agenda 2063 aspiration 6. The Panel of eight speakers with proven expertise, experience, and professionalism in the areas of gender, women, youth, peace and security affirmed that a lot of progress had been made in the gender agenda, but then more needed to be done to achieve gender parity. They recommended the following i) investment in women's economic empowerment, ii) strategic collaboration with men as allies and iii) the allocation of budget to gender transformative actions as some of the panaceas for achieving gender parity.

4.9. In the quarter under review, **WANEP Togo**, in an effort to improve the intervention of the women community mediators, provided a capacity building programme focused on techniques of good mediation of online community conflicts. The training programme enabled the women to brush up

their skills. It should be noted that in addition to the women mediators from Togo, the training was attended by women mediators from Benin, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire.

4.10. From 18 to 21 May 2021, **WANEP Togo** convened a workshop on experience sharing of local mediators in their role for supporting households⁵. The event created awareness on the use of traditional conflict management mechanisms by local mediators. Best practices and lessons learned for resorting to traditional mechanisms for peaceful conflict transformations by local mediators were also discussed whereas strategies for consolidating the knowledge gained from their experience were defined.

4.11 From 3 to 4 June 2021, **WANEP Niger**, with support from Oxfam Novib provided a training to thirty (30) female teachers on the culture of peace and non-violence.

4.12. WANEP Niger with support from USAID/Partnerships for Peace (USAID/P4P) organised the following:

- Community awareness sessions for women and young people in the communes of Chétimari, Mainé Soroa, Diffa and Gueskérou on the prevention of violent extremism and radicalisation. The sessions run through the period 3 to 13 June 2021 and targeted two hundred (200) women.
- Sewing training programme for eighty (80) women, 20 women per commune in the 4 intervention communes, from 9 to 12 June 2021.
- Three (3) community dialogues sessions per commune on the prevention of violent extremism and radicalisation and the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution. The sessions were extended to eighty (80) women who play either an important role or a leading role in peacebuilding processes. The sessions were also meant to support efforts to counter radicalisation and violent extremism.

4.13. WANEP Guinea through its “Women Peace and Security” programme, launched the mentoring of young emerging women and thirty (30) female mentors. This meeting was an opportunity to share best experiences, good practices and success stories in terms of supporting young women for their success in the future. Firm commitments were made on both sides with the participation of the Ministry of Women's Rights and Empowerment for the continuous mentoring of young women.

4.14. WANEP Guinea through its programme “Women committed to peace” participated in the national meeting between political women and women leaders on 7 June 2021 in Conakry. This meeting initiated by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Guinea, was part of the Cultural Cohesion for Peace and Prosperity (2C2P) project. The meeting provided an opportunity to highlight the roles and responsibilities of women in the resolution, management and peaceful transformation of electoral conflicts.

4.15. On 8 June 2021, **WANEP Guinea** was invited to share its sub-regional experience at a national forum for experience sharing with female politicians, young ambassadors, platforms, young leaders and authorities in Conakry. The forum falls within the Cultural Cohesion for Peace and Prosperity (2C2P) project and was aimed to share the best strategies for collaboration in the promotion of sustainable peace in Guinea.

⁵ 163 local mediators have been trained in the traditional mechanisms of peaceful conflict transformation and have begun their role of accompanying households and football clubs under the Education for Peace, Non-Violence and Social Justice (EPNV-JS) project implementing since 2009 with support from Brot für die Welt (BfdW).

4.16. From 22 to 24 June 2021, **WANEP Guinea** took part in a workshop to support the structuring of the women's movement in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and national unity and to strengthen women's capacities in strategic planning through "the women committed to peace" programme. The meeting was attended by twenty-five (25) women, all members of the Women's Coalition for Peace in Guinea, of which WANEP is one of the initiators. Participants contributed meaningfully to the development of a strategic plan outlining the vision, mission, objectives, challenges and values of the movement.

5. COLLABORATIONS AND EFFECTIVE NETWORKING

5.1. **WANEP**, the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) UNOWAS, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held a two-day (24 & 25 June 2021) consultative meeting with selected CSOs, think-tanks and research bodies in Accra-Ghana. The theme of the meeting was "Civil Society Consultation on ECOWAS(Post)Vision 2020: Strengthening Regional Capacities for Conflict Prevention in West Africa and the Sahel".

The consultative meeting sought to reflect on the role, complexities and challenges for CSOs in effectively supporting ECOWAS and contributing to the prevention of conflicts and the promotion of inclusive political and security Governance and human rights in West Africa and the Sahel. The Executive Director of WANEP, Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze, spoke to the theme: "CSO engagement in conflict prevention in West Africa and the Sahel", specifically on challenges faced by CSOs in contributing to conflict prevention efforts in the subregion at the ongoing consultative meeting.

The outcomes of the meeting would inform discussions of a two-day forum to be held in Abuja in July 2021.

5.2. On 5 May 2021, **WANEP** took part in a webinar organised by the Management Systems International (MSI) on the theme "Atrocity Prevention 's Continuum: Early Warning to Response". The Executive Director of WANEP, Dr Chukwuemeka B. Eze along other experts discussed the use of Early Warning and response systems to prevent atrocities around the world.

5.3. **WANEP** participated in the 2021 edition of Big Ideas Podium (BIP) held on 29 April 2021 in Nigeria. The event was hosted by the African Heritage Institution under the theme: "Trends and Dynamics of Armed Banditry: Making sense of the Problem." Participants deliberated on some of the security challenges facing Nigeria and practical ways to solving them. WANEP's Executive Director, Dr Chukwuemeka B. Eze delivered the keynote address at the event.

5.4. On 1 June 2021, **WANEP** convened a preparatory meeting for the second phase of the project titled: "Strengthening Gender Sensitive Early Warning and Response Mechanism for West and Central Africa". The initiative was undertaken with funding from the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund. The online meeting was attended by representatives of the ECOWAS Early Warning Directorate, the Peace and Security Directorate, the Gender Directorate of Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), ECCAS, Central African CSO Coalition on Peace and Conflict Prevention (COPAC), the United Nations Office in Central Africa UNOCA and the African Union (AU).

The overall objective of the meeting was to exchange ideas and jointly plan strategies for the implementation of proposed actions for the institutional strengthening of CSOs in Central Africa. This is to ensure efficiency in the monitoring, collection, analysis and reporting of gender-sensitive human rights violations, atrocities and threats to human security in Central Africa.

5.5. On 28 April 2021, **WANEP Senegal** participated in the second webinar organised by Partners West Africa on the presentation of the action plan of the initiative "The Sentinels of Women's Peace and Security Resolutions and Social Cohesion". The initiative aims to establish a synergy of action of

women Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) for a regional programme to strengthen the positioning and visibility of women's actions, monitoring of women's participation in the ECOWAS region and the Sahel.

6. CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

6.1. Networking and Orientation session for new Board Members: On 4 June 2021, **WANEP** convened a virtual networking and orientation session for new Board Members from its Networks namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Togo. The meeting forms part of WANEP's efforts and commitment to harmonise and strengthen its institutional procedures and policies. In that regard, it sought to facilitate collaboration between National and Regional Boards and to provide information and guidance to new Board members on WANEP's key policies, principles and procedures.

6.2. WANEP Benin provided trainings on "Understanding the electoral process in Benin" and on Meyers-Briggs Typological Indicator (MBTI), on 4 June and 11 June 2021 respectively. The trainings were organised for personnel of WANEP Benin.

6.3. On 22 May 2021, **WANEP Togo** convened its General Assembly (GA) under the theme: "Facing community, social and political challenges, consolidating peace". Key highlights from the GA include i) the review of strategic documents, ii) renewal of the members of the Board of Directors, iii) review of key activities undertaken during 2019-2020.

In order to expand community resilience and build the capacity of institutions to perform their mandate effectively in human Security,

6.4. WANEP Regional supported the Volta Regional Peace Council to build the capacities of local government officials, Assembly members, CSOs, Religious and Traditional authorities, media and other stakeholders at Aflao (venue – Verdi Pharmacy), Ghana from 15 to 17 June 2021. The capacity building programme focused on preventing Violent Extremism, Conflict Resolution, Peacebuilding and Early warning. WANEP facilitated on the various topics. The capacity building programme enhanced the knowledge and skills of the participants to work together and also appreciate their individual roles in fostering peace in their communities.

6.5. On 8 June 2021, **WANEP Regional** participated in the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) National Dialogue on the Survey Report on Violent extremism (VE) in Ten Border Regions of Ghana as a Panelist at the Cleaver House, in Accra-Ghana. The programme contributed to the education of the Ghanaian public about the threat of VE in Ghana and the role every citizen and relevant stakeholders can play as part of the collective efforts to deal with the threat.

6.6. WANEP Nigeria held trainings in Justice and Security Dialogue, Do No Harm principles in project design and implementation in Yola, Adamawa State, during the quarter under review. Over twenty-five (25) informal Security Officers (Hunters), twenty-five (25) Civil Society Organisations, fifteen (15) State and Local government functionaries benefitted from the training programme.

6.7. WANEP Togo, within the framework of the EPNV-JS project, organised a validation workshop to validate the manual on traditional mechanisms for peaceful conflict transformation in the quarter under review. The manual seeks to bolster the value of traditional approaches in peaceful conflicts transformation.

6.8. A meeting of the National Electoral Response Group (NERG) from **Guinea** was held within the framework of the Cultural Cohesion for Peace and Prosperity project, with funding from USAID. The meeting focused on the analysis of complex conflicts and was attended by twenty-four (24) people.

6.9. Eight (8) multi-actor alert response platforms were revitalised in eight (8) communes and prefectures of Guinea by **WANEP Guinea** with financial support from USAID REWARD.

6.10. WANEP Burkina provided the following:

- A training for thirty (30) youth, of which twelve (12) young women, in advocacy and lobbying from 8-9 June 2021, in partnership with EIRENE Sahel
- A training for thirty (30) participants including fifteen (15) females from professional schools in entrepreneurship and drafting of business plans, from 21-24 June 2021

6.11. From 3 to 17 May 2021, **WANEP Niger**, with support from Oxfam Novib convened a programme aimed at revitalising and strengthening the capacities of local peace and security committees (3 peace and security committees). A total of sixty-three (63) participants of which 15 women and 48 men benefited from the initiative.

6.12. WANEP Togo continued with the Monitoring of media regulation of violence and sexually explicit material with support from Brot für die Welt (BfdW) in the second quarter of 2021. The data collected indicates a decrease in violence on TV channels and almost non-existent on radios.

6.13. As part of the implementation of the capacity building activities of the Humanitarian Assistance Project in West Africa/ Multiplier Module (HAWA /MM), **WANEP Senegal**, in partnership with the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) held two training sessions on i) gender mainstreaming in humanitarian assistance programmes and ii) knowledge and understanding of the gender marker tool for the development and iii) implementation of projects to promote gender equality training programme. The activities were held on 15 and 16 June with institutional and civil actors from the regions of Fatick, Kaffrine, Kaolack and Diourbel in Senegal.

6.14. On 22 May 2021, **WANEP Mali** facilitated a space for exchange called "Siguida lakandaa" between the Defence and Security Forces and the populations of the social housing programme of N'tabacoro, as part of the programme titled "Strengthening governance of the security sector in Mali"⁶. The initiative provided an opportunity for open and constructive dialogue and for security, justice and civil actors to reflect on and organise themselves to tackle current and emerging insecurity factors in the social housing programmes of N'Tabacoro. Some 50 people, including 17 women and nine (09) members of the Defence and Security Forces, were engaged in the dialogue.

6.15. On 16 May, 5 June and 26 June, **WANEP Mali**, in partnership with DCAF and with funding from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mali, organised Radio broadcasts and roundtable discussions on the community radio station "Radio Tissa FM" in Niamana, to inform and sensitise the population of Niamana and surrounding areas on the concept of security governance and on their role in contributing to security. These activities were focused on themes related to collaboration between the security services and the population in order to support the Government in the global dynamic of improving security governance in Mali. Approximately 12,000 people, the majority of whom are young people and women, were reached.

⁶ The four-year (2017-2020) programme is implemented in partnership with the Democratic Centre for Armed Forces Control (DCAF) with funding from the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

6.16 In the month of June 2021, **WANEP Mali** held a series of Radio broadcasts in the communes of Douentza, Koro and Gao, within the framework of the project titled: "Setting up of Security Advisory Committees" (SACs). Participants were informed on the mandate, missions and expectations of the SACs. Key thematic areas considered during the broadcasts include i) the concept of community policing, ii) the need for collaboration between the Security and Defence Forces and local populations. These broadcasts provided an opportunity to sensitise the population and the authorities on emerging security challenges such as: i) the abduction of children to work in gold panning sites (in Gao and Ansongo), ii) the problem of limiting the quantity of fuel to be sold, which has caused a stir among the traders in the town of Koro, iii) the need for support for a new police station, iv) and the State's support for the "Ménaka without weapons" initiative in Ménaka.

6.17. Also, in the context of the "Setting up of Security Advisory Committees" project, **WANEP Mali**, in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Mali, UN WOMEN and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) convened a training for the members of the Security Advisory Committees (SACs) of the communes of Gao, Ansongo, Tin-hama, Douentza, Koro. Participants were trained on the concept of security sector reform, the concept of community policing, mediation and facilitation and reporting among others. A total of 105 people including six (6) women and 23 representatives of the Defence and Security Forces benefited from the training.

6.18. On 5 and 6 June 2021, **WANEP Mali** with funding from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, through the Democratic Centre for Armed Forces Control (DCAF) provided a training for members of the Follow-up Committee on recommendations of the multi-stakeholder dialogue⁷ (set up by WANEP) on the following topics: i) introduction to the concept of human security, ii) Security Sector Reform (SSR), iii) community policing, iv) the early warning and response system and v) advocacy.

⁷ The multi-stakeholder dialogue falls within the broader project titled "Building an Inclusive Post Covid 19 Recovery, Crises Transitions and Governance Reforms in the Sahel" implemented by WANEP in collaboration with ECOWAS and with funding from UNDP Africa Bureau. The dialogue took place in Bamako on 14-15 December 2020 and was focused on best approaches to ensure inclusive representation and adoption of women pace and security agenda in the governance roadmap of Mali.