



**WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR
PEACEBUILDING**

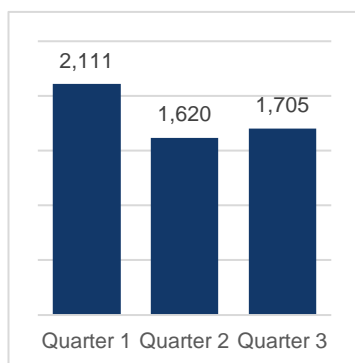
**Progress Report
JULY-SEPT. 2021**

OVERVIEW OF QUARTER THREE (Q3) PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

PEACE AND SECURITY OVERVIEW OF WEST AFRICA

The West Africa region continues to experience growing insecurity despite efforts by states to protect citizens and their properties. In the third quarter of the year (July to September), a total of 1,705 incidents were recorded by WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS), which indicates an increase of 85 incidents as compared to 1,620 incidents recorded in the second quarter of the year (April to June).

Number of incidents recorded over the quarters



Source: NEWS-WANEP, Sep 2021

Organised Crime and Violent Extremism: WANEP's 550 community monitors across West Africa recorded **425** armed related violence incidents including assassination, kidnapping, armed robbery and mine explosion across the region. These incidents resulted in **1,411** deaths, **388** injuries and the destruction of public and private properties.

Kidnappings/Abductions: Out of the 425 armed related violence incidents, **116** kidnapping/abduction incidents involving over **560** people were recorded. **39** of the kidnapped victims were killed by the kidnappers. Majority of these incidents were perpetrated by terrorist and organised criminal networks operating in West Africa and the Sahel region. For instance, on 1 September 2021, **73** students from the Government Day Secondary School at Kaya in the Maradun local government area of Zamfara State, Nigeria, were

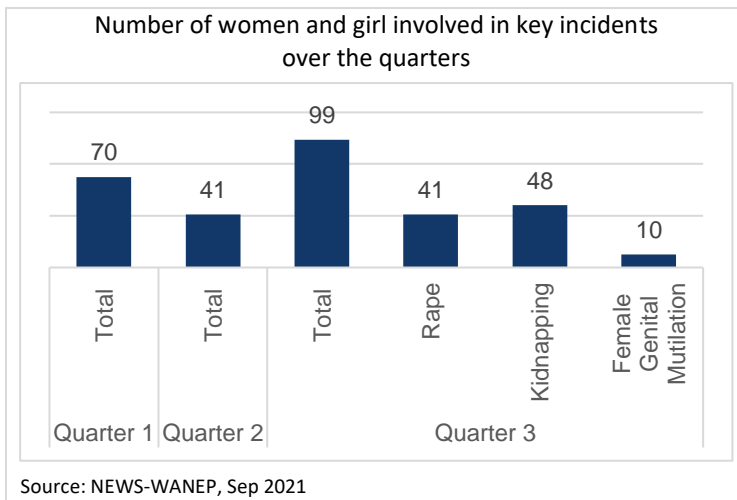
reportedly abducted in an attack led by suspected armed bandits.

Terrorist attacks/Violent extremism: In Burkina Faso, **86** people including **65** civilians, **15** members of the security forces and six (**06**) volunteers were killed in a terrorist attack at Arbinda in the Sahel region. In a reprisal attack, the security forces also killed **58** suspected terrorists and injured **30** others. In Mali, **16** civilians were reported dead with **27** others injured after a public transport vehicle hit an improvised explosive device at Tidjalalene in the Gao region.

Illicit drug trafficking: **18** incidents that led to the seizure of **700kg** of marijuana/cannabis and **105 kg** of cocaine were recorded across the region. A suspected Nigerian businessman was apprehended at the Roberts International Airport, in Liberia with **96.4 kg** of cocaine hidden within several MP-3 players. The suspect is awaiting trial after being charged with illegal possession of harmful narcotic substances and detained at the Bonoway Prison Compound, in Liberia

Women, Peace and Security

Despite efforts by state authorities, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and other women's rights advocate organisations, women and girls continue to be subjected to harmful practices such as rape, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), kidnappings, domestic violence, battering, molestation, verbal abuse and murder.



Within this reporting period, **34** rape¹ incidents were recorded across the region, resulting in **22** injuries and one (**01**) death. Also, **42** women and girls were kidnapped in Niger and Nigeria by terrorist organisations and organised criminal networks operating in the Sahel region. In Niger for example, six (**06**) women were kidnapped by suspected Boko Haram insurgents on 25 July at Adjiri in the Kablewa area.

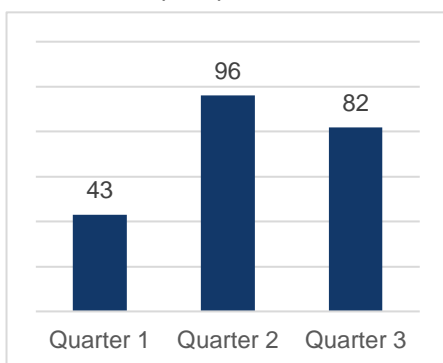
Furthermore, on 9 July 2021, **10** young girls suffered Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) at Kassandé in the Cascades region, Burkina Faso. Two (**02**) of the victims developed severe complications and were later admitted at the Banfora Regional Hospital Centre in Burkina Faso.

In another incident at Jada Ward in the Ganye local government area of Adamawa State, in Nigeria, a woman in her 30s was reportedly beaten to death by her husband following an argument between them.

Democracy and Governance

The governance and democratic landscape across the region continues to be characterised by a decline in state-citizen relationships. In the quarter under review, over **82** demonstrations that resulted in **15** deaths and **142** injuries were recorded. Most of the recorded casualties could be attributed to the disproportionate use of force by security forces to maintain law and order as well as the seeming mistrust between citizens and security forces.

Number of demonstrations recorded per quarter



Source: NEWS-WANEP, Sep 2021

Apart from the demonstrations, a notable incident that impacted negatively on the progress made in addressing unconstitutional changes of government in the region was the coup d'état against President Alpha Condé of Guinea by the military on 5 September 2021. Even though the coup plotters have started national consultations with stakeholders for a peaceful political transition in Guinea, the International Community including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) remains concerned about the lack of

a clear roadmap aimed at a peaceful return to democratic rule.

Environmental security

The effect of climate change and its related consequences on the West African ecosystem cannot be overemphasised as countries in the region continue to experience climate related disasters.

¹ In Liberia, a 14-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by three (03) suspected drug traffickers in a nearby bush at Owensgrove, in District-1 of Grand Bassa County on 1 July 2021.

In the quarter under review, incidents such as floods, disease outbreaks (COVID-19, Cholera, Lassa Fever, Malaria), water pollution and resource induced conflict were recorded.

Regarding floods, on 11 August 2021, heavy rainfall in Niger led to the death of **52** people. In addition, **55,694** households were affected with over **4,400** houses destroyed across the country. Similarly, in Nigeria, **19** commuters were killed on 23 July 2021, after they were washed away by floodwaters at the Doguwa local government area in Kano State.

In relation to water pollution, more than **2,000** rural residents in concession communities in the Central River Cess District in River County, Liberia now lack potable drinking water after the activities of a logging company reportedly contaminated several creeks used by the locals.

Concerning farmer-herder conflicts, six (**06**) people were killed and many others injured at Issene in the Malanville area, in Benin, following a violent clash between herders and farmers over the destruction of crops by the cattle of the herders.

There were also disease outbreak related deaths. **30** persons were reported dead and over **2000** others hospitalised following a cholera outbreak in Jigawa state, in Nigeria.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

1- TO ENHANCE THE USE OF EARLY WARNING IN SUPPORT OF RESPONSE INITIATIVES

1.1 Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM)

1.1.1 Within the framework of the Electoral Violence Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) project financed by the European Union, **WANEP** spearheaded the following initiatives:

- Four final debriefing sessions by the Regional Working Group (RWG) in Mali (8 July), Togo (12 July) Guinea (24 August) and Burkina Faso (29 September). The debriefing sessions sought to i) discuss the results achieved and lessons learned from the implementation of the EMAM project in the countries, ii) gather views and recommendations to improve future initiatives, and iii) identify post-election intervention paths to consolidate achievements and improve on weaknesses
- National Lessons Conferences in Mali (9 July), Togo (13 July), Guinea (25 August) and Burkina Faso (30 September). The events were focused on the good practices, challenges and limitations of the EMAM project.

1.2. Production and dissemination of early warning outputs: A total of **2019** 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 Q3

S/N	TITLE	QUANTITY
1	NEWS SITUATION TRACKING	1
2	MONTHLY BULLETIN	42
3	NEWS QUICK UPDATE	3
4	NEWS SITUATION REPORTS	99
5	WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS	168
6	NEWS INCIDENTS REPORTS	1705
7	THEMATIC REPORT	1
	TOTAL	2019

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

2.1 Providing Technical Support to ECOWAS on the Youth4Peace Programme in West Africa

2.1.1 Youth4Peace Regional Training of Trainers

Centered around the theme: “The contribution of young people towards conflict prevention and building peace in West Africa”, the Youth4Peace Regional Training of Trainers was held in Accra, from 27 to 30 July 2021. It was jointly organised by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the European Union (UN) and the United States Agency for International Development/ Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data in West Africa II (USAID REWARD II). The four-day workshop involved 27 young men and women from across the region and participants addressed a wide range of topics.² At the end of the workshop, the youths expressed the commitment to actively contribute to sustainable peace in the region. In a position paper dubbed: “The West Africa we want, the future we deserve”, young people shared their perspectives on achieving a peaceful and prosperous region, identified the next steps, partnerships and engagements needed to facilitate their meaningful participation in peace processes.

2.1.2 Youth4Peace Networks across West Africa

During the quarter under review, WANEP facilitated the establishment of two new Youth4Peace Networks in Burkina Faso and Ghana, making a total of 10³ Youth4Peace networks across West Africa. The Youth4Peace Networks aim to mobilise diverse youth actors in ECOWAS member States for coordinated action to support effective implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in the region.

2.2. Amplifying Youth Voices in Peace and Security

2.2.1 International Youth Day (IYD) 2021

The International Youth Day (IYD) 2021 was an occasion to promote youth agency and innovation in shaping the world. Celebrated around the theme: “Transforming food systems: Youth innovation for human and planetary health”, the IYD 2021 provided an opportunity for youth advocacy on improving human security for regional stability. The Regional office of WANEP in collaboration with its National Networks organised a 14-day campaign to promote youth-led solutions on building resilient food systems for peace and human security. Activities included webinar series, position papers, press conferences, social media awareness on the subject matter and advocacy actions led by the Youth4Peace Networks for inclusive and resilient food systems to support peacebuilding efforts. Through this celebration, young people across the region were able to put forth innovative solutions on building resilient food systems and human security, strengthen engagement with stakeholders for inclusive food systems.

² The topics considered include the following: “Understanding the Structural Causes and Dynamics of Violent Conflicts in Member States (MS)”, “Youth Contributions to peace and nation building in each MS: Lessons and Challenges”, “Building a culture of peace-Educating Youth for Peace”.

³ The other 8 countries are as follows: Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, Niger, Nigeria and Togo.

2.2.2 SDG16 National Youth Dialogue

WANEP's Youth and Peace Education Programme Officer was part of a panel discussion during the SDG16 National Youth Dialogue organised by the Youth Advocates Ghana in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The discussion focused on the topic: "Innovative Mechanisms for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Ghana: The Role of Youth". About 120 youth from across Ghana were in attendance. The event was an avenue to raise awareness on youth contribution to the prevention of violent extremism. Technology and peer to peer education were among key strategies for youth positive engagement in preventing violent extremism in Ghana and beyond.

2.2.3. Addressing Youth/Adults Unemployment for Regional Stability and Development

From 6 to 8 July 2021, WANEP attended the ECOWAS virtual meeting on the revitalisation of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)⁴ on National Qualification Framework (NQF)⁵ and Regional Qualification Framework (RQF)⁶. The meeting brought together experts on TVET and skills development and strategic partners across the region. It also provided an opportunity to discuss a strategy for the implementation of qualification/certification frameworks to strengthen the development of TVET at the national and regional levels and to ensure quality TVET delivery and mobility of skills within the region. A key recommendation that emerged from the meeting was the need to standardise TVET curriculum across ECOWAS Member States.

2.3 From 4 to 11 July 2021, **WANEP Burkina Faso**, in partnership with The Ministry of National Education, Literacy and the Promotion of National Languages (MENAPLN), through the *Secrétariat Permanent de la Promotion des Langues Nationales et de l'Éducation à la Citoyenneté (SP-PLNEC)*⁷ participated in the finalisation of a diagnostic report on citizenship education in schools. The event was attended by 20 participants, including four (04) women.

2.4 From 8 to 29 August 2021, **WANEP Guinea** organised a series of capacity building trainings for the youth of Guinea on United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 & 2250, conflict analysis and advocacy techniques. A total of 250 young people (of which 100 were female) benefited from the capacity building initiatives.

2.5 In commemoration of the International Youth Day (IYD) 2021, celebrated on 12 August 2021, **WANEP Niger** and its Youth4Peace network paid an advocacy visit to the Ministry of Youth Entrepreneurship. Additionally, digital awareness activities were organised as part of a 14-day campaign aimed at promoting youth solutions for resilient food systems, peace and human security. A total of 25 young people took part in the process.

2.6 **WANEP-Togo** and its Youth4Peace network organised several activities, as part of celebrations marking the IYD 2021, in line with the theme chosen by the regional office for this year's edition which is "Youth Perspectives on Building Resilient Food Systems for Peace and Security in West Africa". The activities include a digital campaign featuring young agricultural entrepreneurs, radio and TV shows hosted by the Y4P network and a position paper produced and broadcasted by the youth on social media.

⁴ The TVET is widely acknowledged as a vehicle for imparting young people and adults with the skills required by the labour market.

⁵ NQF is the system that records the credits assigned to each level of learning achievement in a formal way to ensure that the skills and knowledge that have been learnt are recognised throughout the country.

⁶ RQF focuses specifically on qualifications at the regional level.

⁷ In English: "The Permanent Secretariat for the Promotion of National Languages and Citizenship Education"

3. TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN AND GIRLS' CAPACITY FOR POLICY INFLUENCING

3.1. Providing Coordination and Supervision Support

3.1.1. WPS Quarterly Coordination Meeting: In the reporting period, the quarterly coordination meeting of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) programme was held in September. The meeting provided a platform for participants to keep abreast of the effective implementation of the WPS programme across the region. The meeting was also an opportunity for WANEP's Regional WPS Coordinator to provide the needed oversight to the WPS National Focal Points. One major challenge identified is the dwindling funding support for the WPS in the face of the COVID -19 pandemic.

3.1.2. Meeting with the National Women Coalition: The WPS desk also met with members of the National Women Coalitions (NWCs) created under the project titled: "Building an Inclusive Post COVID-19 Recovery, Crises Transitions and Governance Reforms in the Sahel and Côte d'Ivoire," implemented by WANEP, in collaboration with ECOWAS and the UNDP Regional Programme for Africa⁸. The meeting was specifically to follow up on the work of the NWCs as the first phase of the project has ended. The Coalitions have continued to make significant progress in advocating for the inclusion and meaningful participation of women at governance, politics and decision-making levels. Some of the key challenges encountered include a lack of resources to expand their activities into rural areas as well as the inaccessibility of those areas due to insecurity. WANEP has recently commenced the second phase of the project which is expected to run from October to December 2021. Action points from the meeting were incorporated into the phase II of the project.

3.1.3. Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security (WGWYPS)⁹: WANEP continues to convene the activities of the Ghana chapter of WGWYPS (WGWYPS-GH) and represent the Group in national and regional meetings. As the convener¹⁰, WANEP made presentations and facilitated discussions on WPS issues at several fora. In the review period, two (02) monthly meetings and one (01) quarterly meeting were held to review activities of the Group and identify areas for improvement. The meetings provided an opportunity to develop workable action plans and set achievable targets.

3.2. Strengthening Platforms for Effective Implementation of the WPS Agenda

3.2.1. WGWYPS-GH Members trained on Resource Mobilisation: In its capacity as the convener of the UNOWAS-initiated WGWYPS-GH, WANEP in collaboration with the Foundation for Security and Development (FOSDA), conducted a digital resource mobilisation training for the Group and other interested CSOs. The training was facilitated by WANEP's Deputy Executive/Programme Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah. The training was necessary to equip the Group with basic skills in fundraising and resource mobilisation to enable the Group to achieve its stated goals and objectives. The training attracted a significant number of participants drawn from CSOs, Community-Based Organisations and Faith-Based Organisations (CBO/FBOs), Women and Youth-focused organisations as well as Government Agencies and parastatals. With the requisite skills acquired, participants pledged their commitment to embark on robust resource mobilisation initiatives towards meeting the goals of the Group.

⁸ The "Building an Inclusive Post COVID-19 Recovery, Crises Transitions and Governance Reforms in the Sahel and Côte d'Ivoire" project, which focused on Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and the border country of Côte d'Ivoire, was part of efforts towards the consolidation of the WPS agenda and designed to enhance the participation and contribution of women in the Sahel to governance and gender sensitive policy and practice. The National Women Coalition was a key platform for ensuring sustainability of the project.

⁹ The Working Group was initiated by the UN office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) as a platform to popularise the WPS agenda across countries, advocate for meaningful inclusion and participation of women and youth in leadership as well as ensure the attainment of gender parity across all sectors.

¹⁰ WANEP is the convener of the Group whose membership comprise other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), youth and women-focused Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Government Ministries and parastatals and International Development Partners, among others.

3.3. Policy Dialogue and Discourse

3.3.1. GenderTalk Series #6: The sixth edition of the WANEP webinar series GenderTalk was held on 7 September and 8 September for Anglophone and Francophone participants respectively. The edition was dedicated to the role of gender in the attainment of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda in commemoration of the International Youth Day held annually on 12 August. The all youth panel addressed issues such as the importance of gender in YPS, strategies for promoting gender equality and the major hinderances to achieving gender equality in youth programming. Over 80 participants took part in the digital conversations and shared experiences about their gender-based work from their various perspectives.

3.3.2. Advocacy initiatives and engagements: WANEP utilises various tools and avenues to popularise the WPS programme towards the effective implementation of the agenda. In the review period, WANEP under the auspices of the Ghana Working Group on Women, Youth Peace and Security (WGWYPS-GH) produced and disseminated two press releases to address issues affecting women's peace and stability in the country. The first of the releases tackled the escalating crime and criminal acts in the country while the second release addressed the increased fatalities of women due to domestic violence. The statements, which were widely circulated on both social and traditional media platforms, generated interest in the issues highlighted and elicited robust responses from the general public. It also helped to draw attention to the activities of the WGWYPS-GH resulting in increased interest from individuals and groups to become members of the platform.

3.4 Technical Support for the Review and Implementation of Regional/Global Frameworks

3.4.1. Just Future Project Gender Committee: The WPS Desk represents WANEP in the Just Future Project¹¹ Gender Committee set up for the purpose of providing technical advice and oversight for the Just Future gender analysis and gender action plan, design and implementation. In the reporting period, the committee reviewed and made significant input into the gender strategy and tool developed for country-level gender analysis and the action plan. Each committee member is required to lead in developing country-specific action plans to support the implementation of the project.

3.5 From 15 to 16 July 2021, **WANEP Senegal**, in partnership with Partners West Africa, participated in a workshop focused on the harmonisation, orientation and definition of the methodology for monitoring women's participation in the political and peace processes in ECOWAS and the Sahel region. The event, which was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso falls in the context of the project titled "Sentinels of Women's Peace and Security Resolutions and Social Cohesion".

3.6 In the month of September, **WANEP Burkina Faso**, in partnership with the Danish Demining Group (DDG) and the European Union (EU), organised a think-tank session on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and nonviolent conflict management with the females of the House of Arrest and Correction in Gaoua, in the Southwest of the country.

3.7 WANEP Niger organised a training workshop on human security, gender and security and conflict analysis for women from civil society. The training is part of the Bogu /Gayya project on "Local contribution of women to conflict analysis" which is a capacity-building and support project for women in the Tillabéri region. The purpose of this activity was to enable the 18 female participants to be efficient in the practical analysis of conflicts in their region.

¹¹ The Just Future programme is implemented by a global consortium consisting of two international CSOs, Cordaid and Search for Common Ground; three regional CSOs in Africa: ASSN, WANEP and The Peace Centre, and other research partners. The consortium work in collaboration with local implementing partners in six countries of Afghanistan, Burundi, DRC, Mali, Niger and South Sudan. The Gender Committee was drawn from the Gender Focal Points and charged with the development of a gender strategy, tools, and action plan templates for the project.

3.8 WANEP Niger convened a workshop on "Mapping of Security Sector Actors", in parallel with a networking session between the women's expertise pool¹² and their mentors. This activity saw the participation of 10 women from the Women's Expertise Pool and 10 mentors from the Civil Society, the Defence Security and State Organisations.

3.9 In commemoration of the Pan-African Women's Day, **WANEP Mali**, in partnership with the Danish Demining Group (DDG) and the European Union (EU), organised a conference debate on the theme: Lessons Learned Conference on Women's Participation in the Facilitation of Security Advisory Committees (SACs). The activity is part of the overall framework of the advocacy actions of the Women's Leadership Programme for an Inclusive Governance of Security in the Sahel, specifically Strengthening the Voice of Women in Civil Society in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso in the Field of Security programme. The event provided an opportunity for the Women's Expertise Pool, under the Women's Leadership Programme in Mali, to join their voices together with those of women leaders in Mali for an effective advocacy.

3.10 In commemoration of the International African Women's Day, **WANEP Togo** and seven (07) other national networks of WANEP, in francophone countries, launched the Academy of Women Mediators for Peace and Security on 29 July 2021. The objective of the Academy is to strengthen the capacity of women mediators to better deliver on their mandate.

3.11 In Benin, Mrs Laurentine Adossou Davo¹³, one of the beneficiaries of the "*Renforcement des Capacités d'Action des Femmes (RECAFEM¹⁴)*" programme implemented by the **WANEP Benin/RIFONGA¹⁵** consortium was appointed to the Board of Directors of the *Commission Électorale Nationale Autonome (CENA)¹⁶* by the President of the Republic of Benin on 22 September 2021.

4. TO EXPAND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND BUILD THE CAPACITY OF INSTITUTIONS TO PERFORM THEIR MANDATE EFFECTIVELY IN HUMAN SECURITY

4.1 In order to strengthen the WANEP's institutional capacity and its member organisations to deliver on their mandate, WANEP organised the following:

- In-country monitoring meetings with WANEP Guinea on 24 August 2021 and with WANEP Burkina-Faso on 28 September 2021
- An online orientation session for all the staff in the Guinea-Bissau office, on 2 September 2021

4.2 In the framework of the Just Future Programme, **WANEP**, led by its Executive Director and its Liaison office at ECOWAS held an advocacy and consultative meeting with the Political Affairs Department of the ECOWAS on ensuring the inclusion of women and youth in ECOWAS and AU peace missions. In a related process, the Regional Coordinator in charge of Just Future programme in WANEP and a team from WANEP regional office and Niger National Network secretariat, paid an advocacy visit to the Prime Minister, Mr. Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou and his wife, Mrs. Hadja Hadiza Ouhoumoudou. The visit aimed at winning the support of the Government of Niger in aid of ensuring inclusion of women and youth in Niger's security and peacebuilding mechanisms and processes. As part of the Just Future programme, which is aimed at ensuring inclusivity in security reforms, there

¹² The women's expertise pool for inclusive governance of security in the Sahel falls within the context of the Women Leadership Programme Leadership (PLF) project, supported by the DDG and the EU

¹³ Mrs. Adossou Davo was previously elected in the 2020 communal elections and was the Second Deputy Mayor of Abomey.

¹⁴ Recafem is a project focused on Women's empowerment aimed to increase the number of women elected and appointed to decision-making positions.

¹⁵ RIFONGA stands for Réseau pour l'Intégration des Femmes des Organisations Non Gouvernementales et Associations Africaines

¹⁶ CENA in English: Autonomous National Electoral Commission

have been a series of capacity building exercises among community members in programme regions, consultations with women, youth groups and related state institutions in Niger.

4.3 In Mali, **WANEP Mali** organised four (04) training sessions in the Mopti Region and the district of Bamako for professional community mediators. The sessions were attended by 110 participants, including 29 women.

4.4 **WANEP Mali** led a series of information and awareness campaigns on the role of security advisory committees and on community policing approach in the regions of Mopti, Gao and Ménaka through conferences and sports activities. The awareness campaigns were carried out in consultation with the town halls of the project's target communes (Douentza, Koro, Ansongo, Gao, Tin-Hamma and Ménaka) and formed part of the project: *Mise en place des comités consultatifs de sécurité (CCS)*¹⁷. About 1,200 people were reached.

4.5 **WANEP Mali** organised two debriefing sessions on early warning products and advocacy with the regional authorities of Mopti and Gao on security challenges, within the framework of the DEN¹⁸ project. The sessions were attended by 47 participants, including six (06) women and 15 representatives of the Defence and Security forces.

4.6 **WANEP Mali** organised a two-day workshop for 32 participants from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) implementing the Community Violence Reduction (CVR) projects in the regions of Mopti and Ségou. The training aimed at strengthening the participants' operational capacities in terms of leadership and to deepen their knowledge in project environment and on how to structure, conduct and manage a project in a volatile security context. The event is part of the "Information and Sensitisation Project for Communities in the Central Regions of Mali" and seeks to promote their involvement and participation in the prevention and reduction of community violence for sustainable peace and peaceful cohabitation.

4.7 **WANEP Ghana** provided a refresher training for monitors on new and emerging areas of conflict analysis and sensitivities around COVID-19. 18 regional monitors and staff of WANEP Ghana were trained on early warning reporting and conflict mitigation mechanisms to ensure sustainable peace in their communities.

4.8 In collaboration with CARE International, **WANEP GHANA** organised sensitisation meetings for members of the District Agriculture Sector Governance Platform (DASGOP), Women in Agriculture Platform (WAP)¹⁹, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in 30 districts on COVID-19 and early warning and mitigation.

4.9 **WANEP Ghana** conducted virtual training to diverse stakeholder groups including Regional Agriculture Sector Governance Platform (RASGOP), DASGOP, WAPS, CSOs/Private Sector Actos (PSAs) and Peace Committees in 25 districts of northern Ghana. The training was focused on the following thematic areas: i) COVID-19, ii) peace sensitisation, iii) early warning and iv) conflict management. A total of 376 males and 327 females had their capacities enhanced.

4.10 In the quarter under review, **WANEP Ghana** conducted four (04) preventive diplomacy engagements: one (01) each in Northern and Upper West Regions, and two (02) in Upper East Region. These engagements sought to prevent violence over existing chieftaincy and land conflicts. The youth

¹⁷ In English: Setting up Security Advisory Committees

¹⁸ The DEN project is focused on building confidence and cooperation between the Defence Security Forces and Communities in Liptako Gourma, carried out by WANEP and Search for Common Ground (SFCG) with financial support from the Danish Embassy in Mali.

¹⁹ DASGOP and WAP are multi-stakeholder governance platforms.

groups of the Bolgatanga chieftaincy gates now move freely across each other's territory without fear of attacks.

4.11 WANEP Ghana conducted a dialogue meeting each with chieftaincy and land conflict parties in the Savannah and Upper East Regions. As a result, the Nasumpe and Kijasah clans at the Mpaha community have designed a mediation roadmap and agreed to follow it to address their dispute over a gravel pit. Additionally, calm has been restored between the two palaces of the Bolgatanga chieftaincy conflict, making it possible for women of both sides to undertake their livelihood activities peacefully.

4.12 WANEP Ghana established a Regional Early Warning and Response Platform and held its maiden meeting in the Savannah Region. Heads of security agencies committed to partner with the Regional Coordinating Council and the Regional Peace Council to facilitate a peaceful resolution of conflicts and reduce crime rates in the region. The security officials also pledged to investigate and disband the "Ghana Family"²⁰ groups in the basic and second cycle schools.

4.13 WANEP Ghana held an interface meeting between civilians and personnel from the security agencies in Bole of the Savannah Region, Ghana. The meeting increased trust between civilians and security agencies, especially the Ghana Police Service. Civilians indicated their preparedness to support the security agencies through the sharing of information to sustain peace in the region.

4.14 WANEP Ghana supported community peace facilitators in Busunu and Daboya to organise community peace sensitisations on the Busunuwura and Wasipewura dispute over the ownership of Lorto community. The initiative reduced the tensions among the youth of Busunu and Daboya communities, regarding the conflict between the chiefs and people of the two communities.

4.15 WANEP Ghana supported the Dagbon Constitutional Review Committee (DCRC)²¹ to review the draft Dagbon Traditional Constitution. About 18 chapters of the Dagbon 1930 traditional constitution have been reviewed. The review committee recognised the minority tribes in the traditional area as the prerequisite for peaceful co-existence. Findings revealed that the colonial constitution fueled the conflict in Dagbon. The revised draft of the constitution will soon be presented to the chiefs and people of Dagbon.

4.16 On 28 September 2021, **WANEP Ghana** organised a national multi-stakeholder dialogue with key duty bearers and non-state stakeholders in the artisanal and small-scale mining sub-sector. The event forms part of activities under the project: "Responsive Engagement and Collective Learning Approaches to Informed Mercury Substitution in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Ghana (RECLAIMS ASGM, Ghana)". The dialogue aimed to build upon the government's renewed efforts to tackle illegal mining and reform of the sub-sector and provided participants with the opportunity to understand the ongoing reforms in the licensing regime of the ASGM sector. The forum was attended in person and virtually by 35 participants (21 men and 14 women).

4.17 WANEP Ghana held virtual meetings with stakeholders to discuss best practices of the Government of Ghana's National Action Plan as required by the Minamata Convention²². The meeting

²⁰ Ghana Family groups are groups in the West Gonja Municipality of the Savannah Region in Ghana, made up of school children. When one of their members gets either beaten or maltreated by a schoolteacher, the others would retaliate by meting out beatings on that teacher, after school hours.

²¹ The DCRC is a committee set up to review the 90-year-old Dagbon Constitution which was created under colonial rule in 1930.

²² The **Minamata Convention on Mercury** is an important international treaty intended to protect health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.

agreed that the Ministry of Trade and Industry will deliver a presentation on its plan for monitoring and controlling the importation of mercury into the country.

4.18 WANEP Ghana provided training for 15 media personnel on COVID-19 and conflict-sensitive messaging in the Upper West Region. The engagement with the media professionals contributed to enhanced collaboration and networking relations between the Regional Peace Council and media practitioners. The quality of reportage and COVID-19 messaging in the region has also improved.

4.19 Within the context of the project titled "*Préservation de la cohésion sociale en période de restrictions sécuritaires liées à la COVID 19 au Togo*²³ ", **WANEP Togo**, with support from USAID/REWARD II, organised the following activities :

- capacity building workshops for 60 religious leaders in Lomé and Sokodé, on 6 July 2021.
- a training for 50 members of Community Based Organisations (CBOs), on 13 July 2021
- a capacity building workshop for 87 motorbike taxi drivers, on 22 July 2021.

The trainings focused on the measures taken by the government in the fight against COVID-19 and the need to comply with them. It is expected that participants will be better positioned to carry out awareness-raising activities around COVID-19 and related security measures.

5. COLLABORATIONS AND EFFECTIVE NETWORKING

5.1 On 12 July 2021, **WANEP**, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), convened a two-day consultative meeting on ways to enhance a more systematic and sustained partnership between ECOWAS, CSOs and Member States. Supported by the United Nations (UN), the meeting which was held in Abuja-Nigeria, brought together ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECOWAS ECPF) focal persons and representatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

5.2 From 7 to 9 September 2021, representatives from the African Union (AU), the Regional Economic Communities and Civil Society Organisations in conflict prevention and promotion of peace in Eastern and Southern Africa paid a benchmarking visit to **WANEP**. The visit provided participants with the unique opportunity to learn from WANEP's experience and good practices as they operationalise their respective networks and work towards feeding into the AU Commission's early warning reporting mechanism.

²³ In English: Preservation of Social Cohesion in Times of COVID-19 Related Restrictions in Togo