



**WEST AFRICA NETWORK
FOR PEACEBUILDING**

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE

ADAPTING RESILIENT
APPROACHES AND SYNERGIES
TO **PEACEBUILDING**
IN THE '**NEW NORMAL**'

ANNUAL
REPORT
TWENTY TWENTY-ONE

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION WORKING ON COLLABORATIVE PEACEBUILDING





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Our Networks



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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ABC	UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AFIAM	Africa International Award of Merit
ANAFIC	Agence Nationale de Financement des Collectivités Locales
APSA	AU Peace and Security Architecture
ASGM	Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining
AU	African Union
CAD	Canadian Dollar
CCS	Comités Consultatifs de Sécurité
CEWS	Continental Early Warning System
CFA	Communauté Financière d'Afrique
COPAC	Coalition of Civil Society Organisations for Peace and Conflict Prevention in Central Africa
COVID	Coronavirus disease
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CRF	Continental Results Framework
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSRVA	AU Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
DDG	Danish Demining Group
DFATD	Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development
DPPA	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOSOCC	Economic, Social and Cultural Council
ECOWARN	ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECPF	ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework
EDP	éducation à la paix, la démocratie et la bonne gouvernance
EMAM	Electoral violence Monitoring Analysis and Mitigation

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS CONT'D

ESPAO	ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations Programme
ESR	Election Situation Room
EU	European Union
EURO	Euro currency
FES PSCC	Bureau Paix et Sécurité Centre de Compétence Subsaharienne de la Fondation Friedrich Ebert
FLP	Female Leadership Programme
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GHS	Ghanaian Cedi
GIS	Geographical Information System
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
GPPAC	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practices
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IT	Information Technology
I4P	Infrastructure for Peace
IJR	Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
IRI	International Republican Institute
ISS	Institute for Security Studies
IWD	International Women's Day
IYD	International Youth Day
JFA	Joint Financing Agreement
KA IPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
LGA	Local Government Area
MARAC	Central African Early Warning Mechanism
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAPs	National Action Plans
NAPE	Active Nonviolence and Peace Education

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS CONT'D

NCCEWM	ECOWAS National Centers for the Coordination of Early Warning Mechanisms
NEWRC	National Early Warning and Response Centre
NEWRM	National Early Warning and Response Mechanism
NEWS	WANEP National Early Warning System
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NNS	National Network Secretaries
NORPREVSEC	Preventing Electoral Violence and Providing Security to The Northern Border of Ghana
NPC	National Peace Council
NWC	National Women Coalition
NY	New York
ODI	Organizational Development Index
ONU-Femmes	Organisation des Nations Unies consacrée à l' égalité des sexes et à l'autonomisation des femmes
OSC	Organisation de la Société Civile
OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
PMC	Peace Monitoring Centre
PPLM	Pain Pour Le Monde
PPSII	Programme Promotion de la Paix au Sahel II
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RPC	Regional Peace Council
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SAPR	Système d'Alerte Précoce et Réponse
SFCG	Search For Common Ground
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
SIDA	Swedish Development Agency
SVNP	Southern Voices Network for Peacebuilding

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS CONT'D

SWIP	Sahel Women Influencers Portal
TPB3	Promouvoir la coproduction de la sécurité et la redevabilité des services de sécurité dans des communautés ciblées
TV	Television
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNOAU	United Nations Office to the African Union
UNOCA	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa
UNOWAS	United Nations Office in West Africa and the Sahel.
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USAID REWARD	USAID Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data in West Africa
USD	United States dollar
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
WAPI	West Africa Peacebuilding Institute
WARN	West Africa Early Warning and Response Network
WEWRM	Early Warning and Response Mechanism
WGWYPS-GH	Working Group on Women, Youth Peace and Security-Ghana
WIPNET	Women in Peacebuilding Network
WOCA4PEACE	Women's Caucuses for Peaceful Elections 2020
WODI	WANEP Organizational Development Index
WPS	WANEP Women, Peace and Security
YPS	Youth Peace and Security



OUR VISION

WANEPs' vision is a "West Africa region characterized by just and peaceful communities where the dignity of the human person is paramount and where the people can meet their basic human needs and decide their own direction".

OUR OPERATING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES



- Belief in mutual respect;
- Transparency and accountability;
- Gender equality and zero tolerance to discrimination (sex, tribe/ethnicity, race, HIV-AIDS status, etc.);
- Collegiality, teamwork and dedication to duty;
- Tolerance and respect for diversity;
- Justice for all;
- Quality delivery;
- Collaboration and consultation

OUR MISSION

To enable and facilitate mechanisms for cooperation among civil society-based peacebuilding practitioners and organizations in West Africa by promoting cooperative responses with State actors to address the root causes of violent conflicts; providing the structure through which these practitioners and institutions regularly exchange experiences and information on issues and influence policy on peacebuilding and conflict transformation; and promoting West Africa's social and cultural values as resources for peacebuilding.



WHO WE ARE

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) is the leading regional Civil Society Organization in conflict prevention and peacebuilding conceived in 1996, and officially launched in 1998 in response to the civil wars, instabilities and humanitarian crises that plagued West Africa in the 1990s.

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WANEP has succeeded in establishing strong National Networks in every Member State of ECOWAS, with over 700 member organizations working in peace and security across West Africa. WANEP has credibility and a wide recognition both internationally and locally due to its outstanding work in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the ECOWAS region. It is a key player in major global peacebuilding efforts.

In 2002, WANEP entered into a historic partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the implementation of a regional early warning and response system referred to as ECOWARN. A standing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between WANEP and ECOWAS in 2004 guides this partnership and constitutes a major strategic achievement for WANEP and West African civil society as it offers the much-desired opportunity to contribute to Track I responses to conflicts and policy debates.

In August 2015, WANEP signed an MOU with the African Union Commission to provide support to the Commission's Peace and Security Department in the implementation of the AU Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) including the gender mainstreaming of the architecture.

WANEP provides professional courses in conflict prevention and peacebuilding informed by several years of practical experience to governments, businesses, and practitioners throughout the region and beyond. Underlying its work is a commitment to professionalism and a dedication to a world of mutual respect, tolerance and peace.

Capacity building remained the bedrock of WANEP's goal of enhancing the skills and expertise of ECOWAS citizens', intergovernmental organizations, state institutions, CSOs and the business community in the area of conflict prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding. The West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) established in 2002 is the official training/capacity building platform of WANEP. WAPI strives to overcome the gap in practice, knowledge and skills in peacebuilding in the region and increase the number of competent, active peacebuilding practitioners in West Africa. In addition, WANEP is also providing support to the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in the operationalization of civil society organizations' components of the Central African Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC).

OUR APPROACH

WANEP is a Think Tank, training and research-based advocacy organization with the undergirding principle of collaborative approach to peacebuilding. Instead of adopting an activist approach, WANEP functions as a professional partner of State, interstate and international actors to develop, implement and evaluate peacebuilding and conflict prevention approaches and instruments.

WHAT WE DO

The West Africa Early Warning and Response Network (WARN) is WANEP's flagship program instituted in 2000 with the aim to provide early warning information and design timely responses to prevent the outbreak or mitigate the escalation of conflict. NEWS is the most viable tool for prevention of violent conflicts and generally informs WANEP's program designs and interventions and seeks to enhance human security in the region by monitoring and reporting on socio-political situations that could degenerate into violent conflicts.



Youth, Peace and Security:

Based on the conviction that the young population hold the key to future stability of West Africa, WANEP introduced the Active Nonviolence and Peace Education (NAPE) program in 2001 to address the rising level of children and young people involvement in violent conflicts in the region. NAPE seeks to promote a culture of non-violence and social responsibility among young people in West Africa as a platform for achieving sustainable peace in the region.

Gender, Peace and Security:

WANEP is focused on promoting gender-responsive peacebuilding and strengthening women's capacity for the

promotion of peace and human security in the region through the Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) Program. WIPNET relies on regional and global policy frameworks including UNSCR 1325, the AU gender mainstreaming instruments and the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) as guide and reference. The creation of the WIPNET program was informed by the victimization of women in the civil wars of the 90s and their marginalization in the peace processes.

Dialogue and Mediation: WANEP undertakes a special intervention in dialogue and mediation with the aim of promoting inter and intra communal dialogue and peaceful coexistence as well as enhance the mediating capacities of communities and other relevant state and inter-governmental bodies. This intervention helps to transform crisis at its nascent stage before it escalates into violence.

Infrastructure for Peace (I4P): WANEP is a strong advocate for National Peace Architectures as a national and decentralized mechanism for responding to conflicts and mitigating its effects on civilians.

Election Management: WANEP engages with diverse stakeholders in promoting peaceful democratic transitions, and partner with other civil society organizations to monitor and mitigate election-related conflicts, promote dialogue towards the attainment of peaceful elections. WANEP's electoral management support strategy involves developing nationally led collaborative mechanisms for monitoring, analyzing, reporting and responding to electoral violence under the Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation Project (E-MAM). The project aims to contribute to a reduction in electoral violence through strengthened regional and national capacities to enhance peaceful electoral processes in the region.

Peacebuilding Program Design, Monitoring and Evaluation: WANEP through this platform develops and implements effective peacebuilding programs, projects and interventions reflective of the organizations' research, monitoring and evaluation experiences.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE): WANEP has an established monitoring and analysis mechanism focused on Countering Violent Extremism both at continental and regional levels. This mechanism also supports designed interventions by WANEP in the areas of youth and women, peace and security agenda.

Media, Peace and Security: West Africa remains one of the continent's most unstable regions, with increased insurgency and cross-border terrorism broadening the scope of conflicts in the region. In the face of a wide range of social, political and economic conflicts, the media has become a pivotal influence in peacebuilding and constitutes a major human resource with the potential to help prevent and moderate violence. WANEP recognizes that a comprehensive effort to build peace must take the media into consideration as an active and positive partner and thus works in collaboration with the media to ensure conflict sensitive reporting in the promotion of peace and stability.

WHERE WE WORK





MESSAGE FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Professor Oumar Ndongo
Regional Board Chair

This is the first time I am addressing our stakeholders in my capacity as the Chair of the WANEP Board and this is happening at a period of global challenges occasioned by the COVID -19 pandemic. Our global community has watched with horror the continuing destruction of our beautiful world, the loss of lives, and the untold suffering and hardship experienced by people the world over, particularly in Africa due to this global pandemic and ensuing economic, socio-cultural hardship and a new way of living we are struggling to adjust to.

While 2021 could be described as the turning of the curve of the impact of the pandemic following recent progress in the development and rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, the virus continues to spread in many countries, with emerging mutations threatening new waves of infection. We are thus not out of the woods yet but must continue to rigorously implement safe management measures as we continue the fight against the coronavirus.

As a peacebuilding network operating in the 15 ECOWAS member states and with offices in the ECOWAS and AU Commissions, WANEP has continued to be severely impacted by the pandemic, especially on the field and even in the daily routine of staff. In the year under review alone, 11 of our regional and national staff were hit by the virus with implications for our operations and their families. We have also seen devastating tragedy

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unfold in other countries, including Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Niger either due to insurgency, electoral violence or communal/intra group conflicts. In all of these conflicts, we have seen the reversal of democratic gains and in many instances, the shrinking of civic spaces while women and children continue to make up the majority of refugees and displaced people.

The above assertion means that even though the region has made some progress and continues to strive to prevent violent-armed conflicts, we are still confronted with the threats of insecurity and instability on many levels. Many West African countries are witnessing an upsurge of violence with increasing violent extremist attacks which have gained much prominence and with perpetrating groups expanding exponentially. Regrettably, the military coup in Guinea has come to remind us of our governance challenges with lack of adherence to state constitutional provisions. Transitions in Mali and Guinea are cause for serious concern in the region. In addition, transnational and organized crimes including human and drug trafficking, kidnapping, piracy, cybercrimes, influx of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) as well as money laundering continue to fuel conflicts and violence in vulnerable communities in the Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea. All these dynamics send a strong signal that the sub-region and the African continent as a whole need to shore up its effort at addressing fundamental issues underlying these conflict factors. I have no doubt in my mind that at the center of all these are good governance and leadership faultline occasioning hunger, inequality, migration, election-related violence, protests and demonstrations as well as strained States-citizens relationships in the region.

Additionally, the West Africa region is grappling with the multi-layered effects of rapid and slow onset of disasters. Of particular concern is climate change and its adverse impact on depletion of natural resources including water, land, food, fisheries and biodiversity that support livelihoods of millions of populations across the region, but particularly in the Sahel sub-region. This increasingly worrying environmental security trend has led to increased competition over limited resources that often trigger ethnic and intercommunal violence, including farmer-herder conflicts in communities.

However, despite the many challenges brought about by COVID-19, I am proud to report that WANEP continues to strive for growth and success. In February 2021, we unveiled our new strategic plan (2021 to 2025). The new strategic plan has as its overall goal to build the capacity of citizens, civil society, citizen groups, research institutions, ECOWAS, AU, and all relevant stakeholders towards ensuring: ***"An enhanced citizens and state capacity for sustainable peace."*** We will pursue six ambitious strategic objectives namely, Early Warning and Response Mechanism, Women, Peace and Security, Youth, Peace and Security, Institutional Capacity Building and Citizen-State Relations, Research and Knowledge Management. Our WANEP Institution Building initiatives will focus on very concrete and specific results as a deliberate effort to improve our citizens' lives. For instance, we will continue to support ECOWAS Member States' efforts to strengthen and implement global norms and standards and how this translates to attaining the ECOWAS vision 2050, AU vision 2063 and the key provisions of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Since its establishment in 1998, WANEP has helped the Global, continental and regional intergovernmental organizations, donors/partners and other stakeholders transform passion into impact on the causes they care about most. We are

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mindful that every dollar given to us represents the dream and an investment into the current and future generation of African citizens and a better global community. While the challenges of our communities continue to change in dimensions and scope, every day we see the impact of our donors' generosity and investments as well as the dedication and selfless input of our staff, Board and members. We are not oblivious of the fact that the lasting impactful change we want to see will take time, but we are encouraged that every day, we dedicate our lives and energy in working towards the Africa we dream, desire and deserve. That is why our strategic plan and approach has always been collaborative and for the long term. We can do this because of the incredible faith and foresight of our partners who have also made long term commitments to WANEP. Their legacies will continue changing futures for generations to come. We have continued that approach this year, confident that it provides a comprehensive and cohesive view of our strategy, governance, performance and prospects.

During the year, we were also pleased to welcome four new members to the Regional Board with expertise in financial management, law, gender and organizational development in the persons of **Carla Maria Borges Bettencourt, Gaye Sowe, Florence Iheme and Daniel K. B. Inkoom** respectively.

WANEP will continue to work through the evolving impacts of COVID-19, with a focus on ensuring that our strategic plan is on course especially as we have received the commitment of our JFA partners of the governments of Austria and Sweden to support our 5-year plan, consistently expand our partnerships with European Union, US Government (through USAID), the UN through UNDP, UNFPA, UNOWAS, DPPA NY and other agencies, maintained our relationship with the Wellspring Foundation and continue to witness phenomenal growth of our National Networks. We will continue to support our communities and intergovernmental organizations especially AU and ECOWAS, at the same time prioritizing the safety and health of our people, the environment and the communities in which we operate. **We are alive to our responsibilities, deepening collaboration, retooling strategies and harnessing synergies for effective and efficient peacebuilding.**

To all our donors, African states and citizens, Board, staff, members and others who have let us share in their generosity, and on behalf of our dedicated and talented Board, I offer my sincere gratitude. Thank you for inspiring us and for joining us in building the WANEP brand.

WANEP Regional Board Members

(Clockwise) *Professor Oumar Ndongo, Regional Board Chair; Mr. Gaye Sowe, Mrs Carla Maria Borges Bettencourt, Mrs Salamat Hussaini Suleiman, Mrs. Florence Iheme and Prof. Daniel K. B. Inkoom*





MANAGEMENT REPORT

Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze
Executive Director

2 021 was considered generally as the year of recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic that hit the global community in 2020. With the introduction of mass vaccination programmes across the world came an easing of travel restrictions and the opening up of space for more face-to-face engagements. While this spurred on a slow recovery of social and economic activities, many countries continued to grapple with the cascade of crises generated by the pandemic as well as with new waves and strains of the virus that forced some to re-introduce restrictions on travels and mass gatherings, mandatory quarantines, and lockdown regimes.

The West Africa region in addition to these COVID-related challenges, was saddled with additional political, social and economic fragilities exposed by existing and new forms of peace and security challenges across the region. Key among these are; the continuous spread of violent extremism and its growing nexus with national and international criminality; the phenomenon of agro-pastoralist conflicts with their attendant aggravation of existing community conflicts; widening trust deficit between citizens and the State; Sexual and Gender-Based Violence; mounting youth-related crises and the seeming retrogression of democratic practices in parts of the region manifested in increasing exclusionary electoral reforms, deepening politicisation and ethnicisation of electoral processes, elongation of term limits and the phenomenon of coup d'états.

For WANEP, the above dynamics presented both challenges and opportunities at institutional and programmatic levels. While the easing up of the travel restrictions afforded the opportunity for staff from the Regional office to go into the field to provide face-to-face support and accompany various activities and processes across the region, expenditure on travel increased as a result of costs associated with COVID tests and mandatory

quarantines. These travels and physical engagements on the ground also exposed our staff to increased risks of COVID-19 virus infections and saw some staff at both the regional and national secretariats contract the disease albeit, with relatively mild symptoms.

“Our ability to achieve a high percentage of our expected results in spite of mounting financial challenges and an arduous peace and security terrain is indeed a reflection of our well molded and resilient institutional frame. At the governance level, two new members from The Gambia and Cape Verde joined the Regional Board to replace two members whose terms had ended. With the new composition of the Board, WANEP for the first time has a regional Board that fully represents the three official language blocs of the ECOWAS region. This new dynamic is already proving its significance as we see the re-dynamization of our Lusophone networks, namely in Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde.”

In light of these risks and increased cost of operations, coupled with restrictions on mass gatherings, the 2021 General Assembly which was a major and statutory activity for the year, was for the first time held virtually. Organised under the theme **“ECOWAS Vision 2020 in Retrospect: Framing the Future for Greater Civil Society Partnership with ECOWAS”**, the meeting in its virtual format provided the opportunity for the participation of the WANEP National Secretariats and some National Network member organisations. The General Assembly was preceded by a virtual Partners’ Forum where the new WANEP Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 was presented and discussed extensively, and subsequently together with the 2021 Annual Workplan and budget, were approved at the General Assembly.

The Partners’ Forum also provided strategic partners the opportunity to reflect on peace and security trends presented primarily from WANEP’s Early Warning System and explore prospects for broadening WANEP’s influence and impact. At the Forum, partners reaffirmed their commitment to the WANEP vision and pledged their support to the implementation of the new Strategic Plan. In this regard, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Swedish Development Agency (SIDA) both renewed their bilateral agreements to provide core funds. The European Union has also committed in principle to renew its support to WANEP to further consolidate the gains from the EMAM project which is in its third and final year of implementation. A new one-year agreement was signed with Wellspring Philanthropic Fund to implement the third phase of the “Strengthening a Gender Sensitive Early Warning and Response Mechanism for Central Africa” project.

Other areas of financial support that continued in 2021 were from the German Government through the GIZ complementary funding support for the implementation of the EMAM project, the Dutch Government through a Consortium led by Cordaid for the implementation of the “Just Futures” project, and the Danish Embassy to Ghana’s core funding support. The GIZ support, specifically geared towards “Strengthening Multistakeholder Response to Election Violence in West Africa”, boosted our partnership with ECOWAS in strengthening mediative capacities and contributed to the use of preventive diplomacy approaches in mitigating electoral violence. Through the “Just Futures” project, we intensified advocacy on inclusive security sector governance also with ECOWAS as well as with the AU, while reinforcing dialogue between civil society, especially women and young people, and security agencies at community level.

With the pledged support and commitment of our partners, we have been able to complete over 80% of planned activities within our 2021 Annual Workplan, although timely implementation was affected in some instances as a result of delayed disbursement of funds from some of our partners. The five core priority areas of the new Strategic Plan formed the basis of our programme implementation with most of the activities seeking to establish foundations and baselines for effective implementation over the five-year period of the Plan. The areas are Early Warning and Early Response; Women, Peace and Security; Youth, Peace and Security; Capacity and Resilience building, and research.

Under the area of Early Warning and Response, we continued to provide inputs into the ECOWAS and Africa Union Early Warning Systems through our community monitors and NEWS Managers across 14 Member States. In addition, our Early Warning team from the Regional Office working with staff from our National Secretariats churned out Early Warning products such as Policy Briefs, Thematic Reports, monthly and weekly bulletins to inform policy and response action design, development and implementation at both ECOWAS and Member State levels. These products which were widely disseminated to various partners and critical stakeholders within the peace and security arena, also served as the basis for the two briefings we provided to the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council at Ambassadorial level during the year.

Our focus on Women, Peace and Security sought to consolidate efforts initiated under the 2020 UNDP funded project titled ***“Building an inclusive post-COVID-19 recovery, crises transitions and governance reforms in the Sahel”***. In the second phase of the project implemented in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Cote d’Ivoire, a key aspect was the strengthening of partnerships with State Agencies such as Gender Ministries, Security Agencies and Parliaments in a bid to enhance institutionalisation, sustainability and impact of the project. Furthermore, under this strategic priority area, the maiden WPS Lecture series was organised with the aim to further amplify key WPS issues discussed under the already instituted “GenderTalk Series” platform held thrice in 2021.

Within the framework of our new Strategic Plan, we have upscaled the profile and portfolio of our programmes in support of enhancing resilience of young people in the face of a mounting depth of despair and loss of confidence in governance systems across the region. Our Youth, Peace and Security Unit focused on broadening the scope of the WANEP Peace Education program to enhance its relevance and responsiveness to emerging peace and security dynamics. Another key area of focus has been the development of tools to support ECOWAS Member States in the development, implementation and assessment of National Action Plans on the UNSCR 2250; building capacity of youth groups to increase their contribution to conflict prevention; amplifying youth voices in peace and security issues through the ‘Youth Perspectives Webinar Series’ and other advocacy engagements; and strengthening youth platforms and networks to facilitate the achievement of the global, continental and regional YPS-related aspirations.

In the year under review two major research projects were executed with the first being a GIZ - commissioned research on “Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on Human Security in the ECOWAS Regions” focusing on seven countries in the region. The second research funded by the UNDP Regional Office for Africa was titled “Surviving Multiple Vulnerabilities: Voices of Farmers and Pastoralists in Africa Border Regions”. This research which falls under our Strategic Objectives four and five, seeks to amplify voices of border communities in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Nigeria on their vulnerabilities and contribute to development of strategies to enhance resilience within these communities.

Our ability to achieve a high percentage of our expected results in spite of mounting financial challenges and an arduous peace and security terrain is indeed a reflection of our well molded

“There is no doubt that 2021 has been a difficult year with the persistence of the global pandemic. Although it has been challenging to surmount the peace and security threat vectors in our preventive efforts, we continue to appreciate the great strides being taken by our Regional and National Boards, our National Networks and member organisations as well as our various partners. As we end the year, we are proud and encouraged by the resilience of many communities that we engaged with throughout the year and commiserate with the many families of victims of violence in our region. We renew our commitment to stand in the gap as we seek sustainable peace, security and development for our region.”

and resilient institutional frame. At the governance level, two new members from The Gambia and Cape Verde joined the Regional Board to replace two members whose terms had ended. With the new composition of the Board, WANEP for the first time has a Regional Board that fully represents the three official language blocs of the ECOWAS region. This new dynamic is already proving its significance as we see the re-dynamization of our Lusophone networks, namely in Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde.

As a body, the Board successfully held two meetings in line with its statutory functions, while individual Board members continued to provide various technical inputs to guide both institutional development and programme implementation. With a number of our National Networks also inducting new Board Members in line with our Constitutional provisions, the Regional Board was instrumental in providing orientation for the National Board Members. This facilitated seamless transitions of governance at national level and contributed to the growth of our National Networks as reflected in our WODI assessment which indicated an overall institutional growth in almost all the National Networks.

There is no doubt that 2021 has been a difficult year with the persistence of the global pandemic. Although it has been challenging to surmount the peace and security threat vectors in our preventive efforts, we continue to appreciate the great strides being taken by our Regional and National Boards, our National Networks and member organisations as well as our various partners. As we end the year, we are proud and encouraged by the resilience of many communities that we engaged with throughout the year and commiserate with the many families of victims of violence in our region. We renew our commitment to stand in the gap as we seek sustainable peace, security and development for our region.

WANEP Management Team



Left: Executive Director, Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze, and Deputy Executive Program Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah (**Right**)



Below left: Mrs. Esther Gordon-Mensah, Administrative/ Human Resources Manager and Mr. Raymond Darko, Finance Manager (**Below right**)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), as a leading peacebuilding organisation, strategically chooses to engage major actors, particularly state actors, in a bid to establish a platform for dialogue, experience sharing and learning thereby complementing efforts at ensuring sustainable peace and development in West Africa and beyond. WANEP's focus in 2021 was driven by the overall goal of its strategic plan 2021-2025 which is to ensure *“An enhanced citizens and state capacity for sustainable peace”* through building the capacity of citizens, civil society, citizen groups, research institutions, ECOWAS, AU, and all relevant stakeholders. To accomplish this, WANEP built on the successes of the past while adapting new approaches and synergies in the face of the persistent COVID-19 pandemic.

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WANEP recorded significant progress in the implementation of its strategic plan through the six key priority areas namely: (1) Enhancing the use of early warning in support of response initiatives; (2) strengthening women and girls' capacity for policy influencing; (3) broadening the peace education programme and support youth participation and voice in issues of governance, peace and security; (4) expanding community resilience and building the capacity of institutions to perform their mandate effectively in human security; (5) increasing research capacity towards supporting policy advocacy, providing knowledge products for effective decision making and leveraging partnerships; (6) strengthening WANEP's institutional capacity and its member organisations to deliver on their mandate.

In 2021, although West Africa witnessed a decline in its democratic and governance landscape, WANEP contributed its quota to peaceful transitions and democratic elections through the Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (E-MAM) project under the WANEP Early Warning and Response Mechanism (WEWRM) program. WANEP contributed to successful presidential run-off in Niger and elections in Benin and the Gambia. WEWRM compliments the research agenda of WANEP and provides the mechanism to explore policies and novel approaches to respond to the peace and security threats as identified

from its national early warning system (NEWS). WANEP also provided early warning outputs to guide conflict prevention response strategies across the region.

Through the Women, Peace and Security Desk, WANEP recorded an increased presence and participation of women in the political arena, peacebuilding platforms and community leadership. This was achieved through viable platforms and spaces facilitated by WANEP such as the GenderTalk Series and the Voices of Women Radio, which were pivotal in creating opportunities to demand accountability from duty bearers, promote positive masculinity as well as address inter-generational gender gaps. A key initiative in the year was the launch of a portal of vibrant network of women peace and security activists with a mechanism of providing technical support in the areas of women, peace and security in the region. WANEP has also successfully empowered Sahelian women to have a voice in issues concerning them through the National Women Coalition and the Female Leadership Expert Group. In this regard, 40 women Parliamentarians across the region were inducted as Women Peace and Security Ambassadors with the purpose of creating opportunities for women political and economic empowerment. Towards furthering the Women Peace and Security Agenda, WANEP produced a novel resource aptly titled; Guidelines for Women, Peace & Security Policy Advocacy, to guide the efficient conduct of WPS policy advocacy.

With the pandemic becoming the new normal, WANEP adjusted its approaches to capacity building by relying more on a hybrid approach (online and in-person attendance) to achieve its mandate and stated goals. Thus in 2021, 4,405 people received various levels of trainings facilitated by the regional office and networks in Early Warning, Peace Education, Community Conflict Management as well as Research and Communication among others. This deliberate staff capacity building strategy contributed significantly to strengthening and sustaining the effectiveness of the Regional and Liaison offices, National Networks as well as improving member organizations' capacity across the region.

WANEP remains committed, within the mandate of its Peace Education Programme, to the philosophy of a culture of peace and non-violence. Meaningful participation and contribution of youth and young people in peace processes have been proven to increase the likelihood of establishing sustainable peace and building more resilient societies and critical stakeholders to address the concerns and contributions of the youth in peacebuilding. WANEP facilitated the establishment of the Youth for Peace Networks (Youth4Peace networks) across the region and worked to bridge the intergenerational gap by involving intensively the youth in its core programmes.

With its fully-fledged Research Department, WANEP undertook two major research projects within the year. WANEP's research products are used to generate enlightened discourses on peace and security to enable state and non-state actors to take decisions based on empirical evidence. The outcomes of the research would constitute a useful resource for critical stakeholders.

At the Regional level, WANEP held its General Assembly and welcomed new Regional Board members. The national offices also held their General Assemblies leading to the appointment of new Board members. WANEP relies on these governance structures to establish a strong and sustainable institution able to deliver on its core mandate of promoting peace and stability in the region. As WANEP continued to make appreciable impact in the region with its growing visibility, the staff strength was boosted with two new entrants at the Regional Office viz; a Communication and Capacity Building Officer to replace the erstwhile officer who has since moved on and a Driver.

This Annual Report maps WANEP's journey in 2021 and highlights key milestones achieved and outlines how WANEP delivered on its programmatic focus and contributions to the peace and security agenda in the ECOWAS region. The report is a blend of text and infographics detailing WANEP's successes and challenges in yet another challenging year marked by the pandemic.

OUR IMPACT

REGIONAL/CONTINENTAL ENGAGEMENTS

I. WANEP-ECOWAS Partnership

As the civil society partner to ECOWAS in the promotion of peace and security in the region, WANEP's engagement with ECOWAS in the review year tailored towards ensuring a more systematic and sustained partnership between ECOWAS, CSOs and Member States. On the strength of WANEP's long standing relationship with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) sustained through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the two institutions planned and implemented joint activities including meetings, seminars and workshops in the review period. Relying on this partnership, WANEP rallied other partners under the Just Futures project, funded by the Dutch Foreign Ministry, to advocate for the inclusion of women and youth in ECOWAS and AU peace missions. WANEP and ECOWAS Directorate of Political Affairs in 2021 held two thematic briefings with ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council at Ambassadorial level. The bi-annual meetings form an integral part of the organizations' continued collaboration with ECOWAS on issues related to regional peace and security. Similarly, a civil society consultative meeting with more than 80 participants provided opportunity to interrogate the state of democracy and governance in the ECOWAS region as part of contribution to the review and amendment process of the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance requested by the Authority of Heads of States and Governments.

WANEP utilized its undergirding principle of collaborative approach to peacebuilding to provide opportunity for key stakeholders including the UN agencies 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. WANEP took part in an ECOWAS Development Partner Roundtable on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) which provided opportunity to harmonize efforts and resources and discuss modalities for the development of national and regional frameworks on YPS.

II. THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

WANEP in the review period, consolidated its robust relationship with the UN system through the implementation of two key regional projects which complemented various projects being implemented by WANEP national offices in several ECOWAS Member States supported by the respective UNDP Country Offices. The regional projects are detailed below.

A. Building an Inclusive Post COVID-19 Recovery, Crises Transitions and Governance Reforms:

WANEP and UNDP cemented their relationship with the commencement of the second phase of the 3-month project titled; *Building an Inclusive Post COVID-19 Recovery, Crises Transitions and Governance Reforms in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger - Phase II*, which ran from October to December 2021. The project followed closely on phase I carried out in 2020 and geared towards consolidating the success and milestones achieved in the first implementation phase. Prior to the roll out of the project in the target countries, an inception meeting was organized to build consensus and set out modalities for joint agreement with key project stakeholders on project outputs and actions that will facilitate the effective delineation of roles and actualization of the expected outputs. The project is articulated around a range of strategic multi-stakeholder engagements and interventions with the aim of strengthening systems and structures that empower women at local and national levels as critical stakeholders in governance and political transitions in target countries.

B. UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre (ABC): In October 2021, WANEP signed a contract with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Africa Borderlands Centre (ABC) to commence implementation of a research project titled; *Surviving Multiple Vulnerabilities: Voices of Farmers and Pastoralists in Border Regions in Nigeria, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso*. The project seeks to amplify voices in community members in hard-to-reach border communities in the four target countries on their vulnerabilities and contribute to development of strategies to enhance resilience within these communities. The country teams comprising supervisors, enumerators and communication personnel undertook familiarization visits to the selected communities to pilot the assessment instruments to ascertain its effectiveness and adjust where necessary. The preparatory stages helped to acquaint the team with the terrain, identify sample population and have first-hand knowledge of the challenges and constraints. It also ensured that the four targeted countries are on the same page. Currently, data collection, which includes quantitative and qualitative data gathering through surveys, focus group discussions, key informant and in-depth interviews and communication outputs such as audio, video footage, and still images, is ongoing in the four target countries.

III. WANEP-AFRICAN UNION

On the strength of WANEP's partnership with the African Union, WANEP through its Liaison Office has been participating in key meetings at the AU and providing technical support as requested. In this wise, WANEP's analysis on the security and political dynamics in West Africa and the Sahel supported the AU mediation team in Mali to engage the Transitional Government's governance process and address the growing humanitarian crisis in the country. WANEP also provided technical support to the proposed implementation plan of the AU CSRV project - Ghana report, which was launched in Accra in November 2021. In line with its traditional role of providing CSO perspectives to peace and security issues in the continent, the Liaison Officer played a key role at the inception meeting on the development of a framework for AU-CSO accreditation mechanisms held in Nairobi. At the request of ECOSOCC, WANEP is expected to provide technical expertise to drive the ECOSOCC project on CSOs role in the implementation of APSA commencing in 2022. In other developments, WANEP Community Monitors and News Managers continue to provide analytical report and quality data to the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) to inform AU early warning analysis and response. The two organizations have also been partnering on women, gender and youth initiatives such as the Youth4Peace Network.

IV. WANEP-EUROPEAN UNION

WANEP continued implementing the three-year Electoral violence Monitoring Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) project funded by the European Union with a focus on Benin and The Gambia where Presidential Elections were organized in the year under review. In both countries, WANEP established an Election Situation Room (ESR) and strengthened national capacities to enhance peaceful electoral processes. The ESR, which ran for three consecutive days in each of these countries, attracted hordes of relevant stakeholders desiring to keep abreast with the electioneering process in real time. With its proven experience and expertise in election monitoring and observation, the ESR was an effective tool for daily and regular updates of the electioneering process through which accurate report and authentic data were disseminated in real time.

V. WANEP-GIZ

WANEP in the year under review, implemented a project on multi-stakeholder response to electoral violence in the Gambia in partnership with German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) under the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO). The project which has been in implementation since 2019 has helped in consolidating WANEP's contribution to mitigating electoral violence and opened up spaces for accessing resources and further reflection on electoral security. Through this engagement, capacities of civil society organizations were reinforced for advocating for electoral reforms in the country. It was also a platform to enhance response mechanisms for electoral dispute management and resolution during the electoral process in The Gambia. WANEP contributed to the study titled: Civil Society Participation in Peace-Making and Mediation Support in the African Peace & Security Architecture: Insights on the AU, ECOWAS and SADC. This was produced by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) in partnership with the GIZ

VI. WANEP-WELLSPRING PHILANTHROPIC FUND

WANEP continued the implementation of the "Strengthening a Gender Sensitive Early Warning and Response Mechanism for West and Central Africa" project with support from the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund. Under this project, WANEP supported the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Coalition of Civil Society Organisations for Peace and Conflict Prevention in Central Africa (COPAC) to develop and operationalize a gender sensitive early warning system in Central Africa, adapted from the West African model. The online system will allow effective monitoring and reporting on gender-based human rights violations in the regions including providing information on impact of terrorism within the ECCAS states. A hybrid consultative meeting held with ECCAS to agree on modalities for a gender sensitive early warning monitoring analysis and reporting mechanism was a key step in the commencement of the second phase of the project. WANEP further collaborated with COPAC to conduct a gender sensitive baseline assessment of Central Africa, specifically to determine the human security dynamics and human rights atrocities in the region. Findings of the assessment were validated by relevant stakeholders, including representatives of ECCAS, COPAC, AU, UNOCA and WANEP. One notable gain of this partnership is the building of a strong partnership with civil society organizations in Central Africa.

VII. WANEP-KAIPTC

WANEP and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) have over the past years worked together to build regional capacity in conflict prevention, peace building and peace support operations. Within the framework of the five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the two institutions in 2020, WANEP and KAIPTC organized an implementation workshop in November 2021 at the Hill Palace Hotel, Aburi. The purpose of

the workshop was for the two institutions to jointly identify the specific tasks/actions required to be performed under the areas of collaboration: research, capacity building for relevant stakeholders and policy influencing. The deliberations at the workshop led to the development of a partnership implementation plan (2022 - 2025), focusing on the areas of collaboration and the resource needs required to execute the various activities in the plan.

S.O. 1: STRENGTHENING FUNCTIONAL RESPONSE MECHANISMS

1.1. WANEP Early Warning and Response Mechanism (WEWRM)

The WANEP Early Warning and Response Mechanism (WEWRM) is specifically geared towards utilizing early warning systems and structures to promote and enhance the effectiveness of actors for quality early response in West Africa. The constantly changing peace and security landscape provided the impetus for WANEP to expand the scope of its early warning and response structure to reflect the new direction and impact of early warning and response to peace and security in West Africa and the Continent. This new direction birthed WEWRM, which offers opportunity for WANEP to transcend beyond its traditional role of data generation, analysis and reporting to a more robust and broader focused support for national and regional mechanisms for peace and security across the Continent and beyond. WEWRM compliments the research agenda of WANEP and provides the mechanism to explore policies and novel approaches to respond to the peace and security threats as identified from its national early warning system (NEWS).

1.1.1. Enhancing capacities and capabilities for data collection and conflict analyses:

WANEP's strategy for ensuring effective data collection, analysis and quality reporting involves training and re-training as well as regular refresher courses for its team of community monitors spread across the region. The trainings provide opportunities to collectively review emerging conflict risks and opportunities for conflict prevention; strengthen and align the capacity of community monitors for more efficiency in information gathering and report submission; as well as assess progress made in sustaining peace and security across States. During the series of trainings, a scorecard review of the monitors is carried out to enable them to discuss identified challenges and proffer collective practical solutions to ameliorate the challenges. Regular capacity building initiatives held in the review period to constantly update the skills of community monitors



and analysts for more efficient data gathering, reporting and analysis. Some of the trainings were held on virtual platforms as a result of the attendant COVID 19 pandemic. The trainings have been pivotal in improving the capacity of community monitors enabling them to produce quality analytical reports on human security threats in the region.

1.2. Facilitating Credible Electioneering Process in West Africa

1.2.1. Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation: With funding from the European Union and additional support from GIZ, WANEP contributed to peaceful transitions and democratic elections through Election Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) and usage of the WANEP Early Warning Outputs. The EMAM project provided pre, during and post-election related data collection and analysis to critical stakeholders to inform preventive diplomacy actions in contributing to successful presidential run-off in Niger and elections in Benin and the Gambia. It also provided early warning outputs to guide conflict prevention response strategies across the region. Several trainings and capacity initiatives were undertaken for election monitors, observers and analysts prior to the commencement of elections in countries holding elections in the reporting year. The training played a critical role in ensuring quality observation and monitoring and also helped to check-mate the spread of fake news during the electioneering process. As part of pre-election activities, 10 missions were deployed throughout communities in Cote D'Ivoire, under the GIZ-funded project titled; "Strengthening multiparty responses to electoral violence", to campaign for peaceful and violence-free legislative elections in the country. And in the Gambia, robust voter education facilitated by WANEP with support from the International Republican Institute (IRI), helped to boost voter turn-out for the elections.

1.2.2. Election Situation Room (ESR): WANEP mandate for ensuring free, fair and credible elections is through the operationalisation of an Election Situation Room (ESR) in countries holding elections in the reporting year to help mitigate electoral violence. In this regard, ESR were established in Niger, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and the Gambia in respect of presidential and legislative polls, which held in those countries in the course of the year. For the operationalization of the ESR WANEP deployed a total of 1970 observers in all three countries with Benin having a total of 75%. This was due to the number of additional financial partners who showed interest and support to the Benin 2021 presidential election. Action taken by the eminent personalities in the decision room based on the gravity of incidents gathered and analyzed fed into the overall effort and strategy of peaceful election in each of the countries. The observers were taken through series of orientations on completion of the election checklist, data entry, reporting and communication among others. The ESR ran for three days and played host to high-profile partners and visitors **(see box 1)**.

Box 1: ECHOES FROM THE ESR

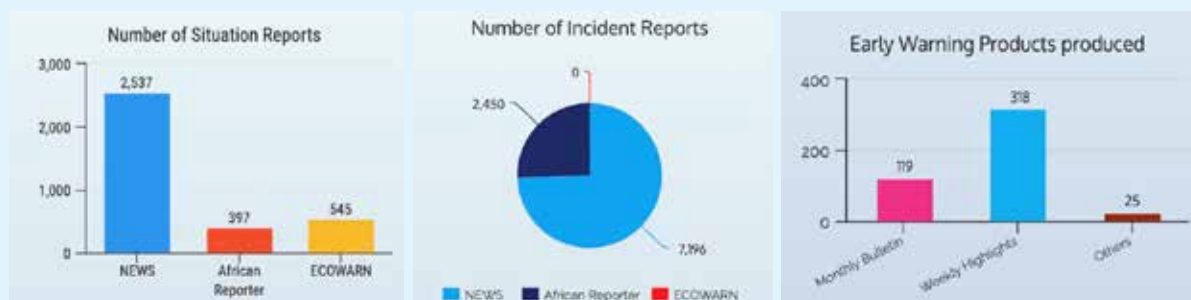
- *"CONGRATULATIONS to the whole team for your wonderful work, with which the EU is proud to associate itself", Mrs. IRENE Mingasson, Ambassador of the European Union*
- *"Congratulations WANEP. We appreciate the work being done here in Cote d'Ivoire and across the region to support holding of credible, inclusive and peaceful election. We especially appreciate the role of women participation in all aspects of the election process in particularly in the situation room. Du courage, Bon continuation!!! Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas, UNOWAS Dakar, Senegal*

Box 1: ECHOES FROM THE ESR

- “On behalf of ECOWAS... and on my own behalf as the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of ECOWAS, I highly appreciate the performance and effectiveness of WANEP.... I convey all my encouragement and admiration to your team that provides services in the West African region. WANEP deserves all our support.” **General Francis A. BEHANZI, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of ECOWAS**
- “Congratulations on your commitment and efforts on this inclusive platform [ESR]. Inclusion is key to democracy”. **Mr. Björn SCHRANZ, Deputy Head of the Swiss Cooperation in Benin**
- “In Niger, we thought the country would blow out in flames due to the pre-election tensions and during the run-off but due to WANEP’s EMAM, we were pleasantly surprised to have successful elections” – **Madam Marietou Amadou, Secretary General, CENI, Niger.**
- Organization of the ESR in Niger was a great help and supported us a lot to maintain peace during the elections and even now” – **Mr. Issa Yacouba, Director of Operations, Office of the President, Niger.**

1.3. Utilizing Early Warning products for policy advocacy and response intervention

The WANEP Early Warning outputs have been recognized as potent advocacy tools and resources for tackling human security threats ravaging the region. WANEP through its highly developed and well-resourced National Early Warning System (NEWS) platform across the National Networks and coordinated by the Peace Monitoring Centre (PMC) at the WANEP Regional Office, regularly produces and disseminates high quality, evidenced-based Early Warning and Response products in the form of policy briefs, thematic reports bulletins, special peace and security publications, incidents and situation reports and NEWS tracking among others. These materials inform intuitive analysis and provide policy recommendations for leaders, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders to consider in conflict prevention and mitigation. The materials are widely disseminated to a variety of stakeholders across the continent and beyond and enjoy very high patronage by State and non-state actors and international partners as a guide for their project interventions on security threats and conflict prevention in the region. In addition, the WANEP early warning reports have been used to debrief ECOWAS ambassadors on peace and security dynamics in West Africa while at the national level, WANEP supported the ECOWAS National Centers for the Coordination of Early Warning Mechanisms (NCCCEWM) with early warning data and analysis on conflict prevention in communities across the region.



S.O. 2: STRENGTHENING WOMEN AND GIRLS' CAPACITY FOR INCLUSIVE POLICY INFLUENCING

The WANEP Women, Peace and Security (WPS) program is mandated to increase women's meaningful involvement and participation in leadership, decision-making and peacebuilding platforms. WANEP utilizes the Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) programme, a component of WPS mainly implemented at the national level to mobilize a critical mass of women and build their capacity to play key roles in peacebuilding and human security within their communities. WIPNET relies on key policy frameworks and instruments such as the UNSCR 1325, the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) and the AU Continental Results Framework (CRF) as guide and reference. Significant progress recorded in the actualization of this mandate are detailed below;

2.1. Strengthening Capacities for effective Policy Influencing

In the reporting year, WANEP's effort in strengthening relevant capacities for effective policy influencing was expanded to enable female community leaders, traditional leaders, religious leaders and women peace monitors to gain knowledge and skills necessary to address community vulnerabilities to conflict. As a result, beneficiaries of several WANEP capacity building initiatives have utilized the skills acquired to make significant impact in their careers and play active roles in peace and



security platforms in their communities. Trained women mediators in Togo, Benin, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire are playing active roles in traditional conflict management mechanisms and making significant contributions in local peace mediation efforts in their communities. In Nigeria, four Civil Society Organizations who benefitted from the gender-based analysis plus training on fundable proposal writing were able to secure funding from international organizations for various projects while trained media practitioners on gender are actively covering and documenting women peacebuilding and leadership experiences through online blogs and print media. In Guinea, the trained women mentors have established experience sharing platforms geared towards empowering their mentees for meaningful participation and involvement in the WPS agenda.

2.2. Robust Implementation of UNSCR 1325

WANEP in the reporting period continued its mandate of consultations with key partners and relevant stakeholders, provided technical support and deployed expertise for the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) across the region as most of the countries are in various stages of their NAPs development process. Under the UNDP Phase II project, WANEP successfully facilitated the alignment of the National Women Coalition (NWC) action plans with the national action plans in the project target countries of Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire. This was a significant achievement in the year as it enabled the coordination and consolidation of the WPS process thus allowing state and non-state actors to work together towards achieving a common purpose. A multi-stakeholders committee comprised of the leadership of the NWC, the Gender Ministries and other relevant stakeholders was created to fast-track the collaboration process.

At the regional level, WANEP and ECOWAS with GIZ funding revised the report of a baseline assessment on the status of the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 NAPs in West Africa at an Experts' Meeting. The assessment is the first to utilize the AU Continental Results Framework (CRF) pillars to monitor and assess the status of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the 15 ECOWAS Member States. The report will serve as a resource for ascertaining the effectiveness of the CRF and as an advocacy tool for the promotion of the WPS Agenda in West Africa. In addition, a database of women mediators was created as a mechanism for showcasing women's expertise and contribution to the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 towards the attainment of the WPS agenda.

2.2.1. Localization of National Action Plans: One significant achievement in the year is efforts made in localizing the NAPs and ensuring budgetary allocation for implementation. For example, three states in Nigeria viz; Edo, Gombe and Bauchi have concluded modalities for local action plans with secured commitment of local government authorities to include budgetary allocation for WPS initiatives in the 2022 Budget. To this end, a NAP localization committee has been set up in Balanga Local Government Area (LGA) of Gombe State. In Benin, robust media sensitization orchestrated by the NAPs implementation committee led by WANEP is generating awareness on the status of UNSCR 1325 in the country to ascertain the gaps and challenges. Togo produced and disseminated 23 booklets designed to raise awareness on the Resolution and popularize it especially at the community level.

2.2.2. Sahel Women Influencers Portal (SWIP): WANEP, under the UNDP funded project titled: "Building an inclusive post-COVID 19 Recovery, Crises Transitions and Governance Reforms in the Sahel and in Cote d'Ivoire, phase 2", created a portal of vibrant network of women peace and security activists designed to enhance inclusivity in peace processes in the region. The portal is an innovative and unique platform designed to promote women's leadership, competencies, vulnerabilities and resilience in the four target countries. The unique selling point and relevance of the portal lies in its deliberate design along the AU Continental Results Framework (CRF) indicators aligned to the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans (NAPs). This innovative feature marks the first time a portal is designed along the CRF indicators and is

geared towards tracking progress made in reporting on the UNSCR 1325 as well as assessing individual and organizational growth and advancement in the attainment of the WPS Agenda. The portal is expected to increase visibility of women influencers in the target countries and promote their contribution to the WPS Agenda in the Sahel.

2.3. Celebrating and Recognizing Women's Peace Achievements

In the year under review, WANEP continued its deliberate efforts to promote and publicize women's achievements and contribution to the peace process through social media platforms, press releases, webinars, media interactions and the celebration of global events. In recognition of WANEP's efforts in this wise, the organization was requested to share the WIPNET story in an e-book titled; 'She Stands for Peace!' published by the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) to recognize African women and women networks who have made significant contributions to the promotion of peace and security. Global celebrations such as the International Women's Day (IWD), International African Women's Day, Pan African Women's Day, Cancer awareness month among others were used to celebrate women's achievements and contributions to peace and security and the unique roles they play in the peace process especially at the community level. WANEP National Networks in francophone countries marked the International African Women's Day with the launch of the Academy of Women Mediators for Peace and Security aimed to strengthen the capacity of women mediators to better deliver on their mandate. All these efforts have contributed to promoting the WPS agenda and in ensuring the visibility of WANEP across the region.

2.4. Creating spaces for women's meaningful involvement and participation

2.4.1. GenderTalk Series: In the review period, WANEP facilitated viable platforms and spaces to engage duty bearers at the local and national levels and developed creative strategies to tackle issues affecting women and girls across the region. Forums such as the GenderTalk Series provided great opportunities to demand accountability from duty bearers, promote positive masculinity as well as address inter-generational gender gaps. The GenderTalk Series ensures that women and girls issues continue to be on the front-burner.



2.4.2. Voices of Women Community Radio: Community radio remains a vital tool of empowerment and for increasing awareness on women's unique roles in peacebuilding and decision-making. The program runs weekly and depending on the context, works in partnership with media professionals who provide oversight and direction. The program has been airing in Nigeria and Sierra Leone and has recently expanded to Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Cote d'Ivoire under the UNDP supported project on 'Building an inclusive post-COVID 19 Recovery, Crises Transitions and Governance Reforms in the Sahel and in Cote d'Ivoire, phase 2'. The radio program in the four countries aired from November to December 2021 with a total of 25 radio jingles produced, 1008 disseminations and 32 live broadcasts. Though the program is still at infancy stage in the four countries where tangible outcome cannot be immediately ascertained, the excitement and interest generated signify total acceptance and great expectations in the coming years. Listeners Forum or Community Listening Groups have been created to monitor progress and provide valuable feedback on the programs aired to help in improving content. In Nigeria, over a million were reached in communities where the program aired during the year. In Sierra Leone, the program has been consistent in tackling issues of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful traditional practices (HTP) among others to ensure they receive the needed attention for priority action.

BOX 2: Our Testimonies

- 'Voices of women community radio program has demystified the issue and allowed me understand the need to break the silence to report on GBV and save lives. **'A listener from Mali**
- 'In my community, issues around sexual gender-based violence has always been considered as a taboo. The program has enlightened us on the issue' **A listener from Niger**
- 'The topic on the types of GBV allowed me to understand certain attitudes that we have in our communities which in reality are GBV'. **'A listener from Burkina Faso**
- 'Now, I know who to turn to in case of rape. The Voice of women program is a very informative program. We encourage you for the good work'. **'A listener from Burkina Faso**
- 'I am a hairdresser, the theme on economic violence was an eye-opener for me. My husband used to prevent me from doing any economic activity and that made me very dependable. I had to fight for my right and today I am the owner of a hairdressing saloon' and I can contribute to my family charges. I believe that women's economic empowerment should be encouraged because if women are empowered, it is the whole household that will benefit'. **K. from Côte d'Ivoire**

2.4.3. The National Women's Coalition (NWC) established in the first phase of the UNDP funded project titled: "Building an inclusive post-COVID 19 Recovery, Crises Transitions and Governance Reforms in the Sahel and in Cote d'Ivoire, (2020)," continued to make significant impact in the democratic and governance processes in the target countries of Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Cote d'Ivoire. The project is being implemented by WANEP and ECOWAS. In the second phase of the project, which ran from October to December 2021, the NWC worked with female parliamentarians, designated as 'WPS Ambassadors' to contribute to finding local solutions to their issues and play significant roles in promoting the WPS agenda and generating awareness on discriminatory laws and policies targeting women especially in the localities. Ten 'Peace Ambassadors' each were inaugurated in the project countries to aid in spreading and domesticating UNSCR 1325 in the target countries.

2.4.4. Working Group on Women, Youth Peace and Security-GH (WGWYPS-GH), Under the auspices of the WGWYPS-GH, two press statements were produced to draw attention to the escalating crime and criminal acts in the country, especially the increased fatalities of women due to domestic violence. The statements, which were widely circulated in both social and traditional media platforms generated interest in the issues highlighted and elicited robust responses from the general populace. The Group is convened by WANEP and comprises other Civil Society Organizations, youth and women focused NGOs, government ministries and parastatals and international development partners among others.

2.4.5. Female Leadership Programme (FLP): The pool of female leaders created under the FLP in the Sahel are making significant impact in the security sector in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. The women are working with local authorities and peace committees to maintain cordial relationships in the communities particularly among the security and local populations in order to ensure confidence and trust building among the different stakeholders. They are also playing active roles in the committees to promote peaceful co-existence especially in conflict-prone communities. The project is funded by the European Union (EU) through the Danish Demining Group (DDG).

S.O. 3: BROADENING THE PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR GREATER YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY

3.1. Strengthening mechanisms for youth meaningful involvement and engagement

WANEP provided support to the AU/ECOWAS Youth4Peace networks to lead a coordinated youth, peace and security action in the region. Over 200 members from nine Youth4Peace networks created in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Niger, Nigeria and Togo have been leading advocacy initiatives in consolidation of peace efforts in their communities. In Côte d'Ivoire for instance, the network was involved in a peer-to-peer engagement on non-violence in hotspot communities which contributed to a peaceful conduct of the March 2021 parliamentary elections. With the success of the Youth4Peace programmes in the selected nine countries, WANEP is poised to expand it to the remaining countries across the region.

The Youth4Peace network members also led the 14-day campaign facilitated by WANEP as part of celebrations to mark the IYD 2021, in line with this year's theme which is "Youth Perspectives on Building Resilient Food Systems for Peace and Security in West Africa!" The network members utilized social media platforms, community radio programmes and TV shows to showcase young agricultural entrepreneurs' achievements and initiatives and contributions to peacebuilding through resilient food systems. The exposure generated by these campaigns gave five youth in Nigeria access to agricultural products and trainings from the Lagos State Government.

Youth Perspectives Webinar was another youth-led platform initiated by WANEP to enable the youth to express their views on peace and security. Three editions held in the reporting year reaching over 211 participants. Key discussions from the Webinar were crystalized into two critical bulletins viz; Silencing the Guns, strengthening democratic governance and peaceful elections in West Africa; and Youth and Political Governance in West Africa.

3.2. Building youth capacity for promotion of youth, peace and security agenda

Youth meaningful participation and contribution to peace processes remain the panacea for building more resilient societies. In this wise, WANEP in collaboration with key partners including ECOWAS, the AU, GIZ, USAID REWARD phase II, empowered young people from across West Africa in conflict prevention strategies. The skills acquired enabled participants to step down the training and impact other young people in various countries. In addition, it also empowered 66 young people from the Youth4Peace Networks across the region to acquaint them with the tools and strategies for effective YPS advocacy. In the review period, more than 2,000 youth across the region were trained in conflict analysis, advocacy strategies, leadership and entrepreneurial skills among others. With the enhanced skills, the young people now have a deepened understanding of their role in peace efforts and have committed to support peace initiatives at national and community levels. A participant from one of the trainings; Mamaga Nyabor, from Transform Ghana had this to say: *"This training really enlightened me. I used to do advocacy, but because it was not done in a proper way, I did not get results. I believe that with the skills acquired, I will be able to succeed in my advocacy."*

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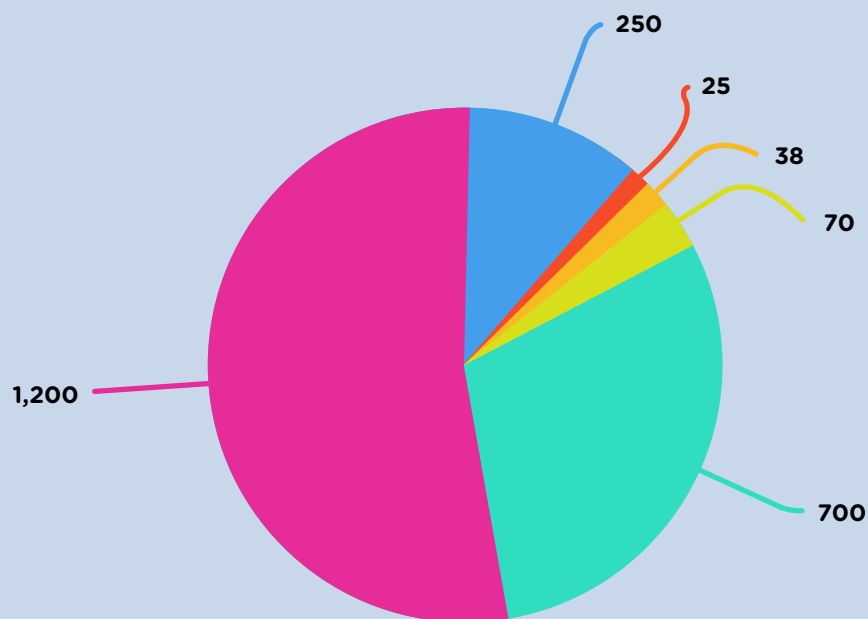
3.3. Peace education/peace club initiatives

WANEP support to Peace education is in tandem with the promotion of ECOWAS' peace education policy and in recognition that a culture of non-violence is imperative for sustainable peace in the region. In the review year, spirited efforts were made to ensure functionality of the peace clubs established in selected schools across the region. For instance, WANEP Togo donated education equipment to selected peace clubs in Togo in order to ensure the clubs are functional and able to inculcate the culture of non-violence in the school environment. Four environmental school clubs were established in Ghana as a platform to sensitize 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. The peace club activities have contributed to peaceful learning environment in the schools and improved capacity of teachers in managing conflict among pupils and students. WANEP successfully completed the pilot phase of the implementation of its Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) Manual in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. The PVE manual was designed with the aim of building the resilience of young people, particularly of students against violent extremism. A total of 20 schools, 60 teachers and about 1200 pupils benefited from the pilot phase in the target countries.

...From the field

In "Francophonie school" located in Niamey, Niger, one of the good practices that was adopted as a result of the teaching of the manual was the establishment of the "School government" concept. Teachers and students created this concept with 3 Ministerial roles, namely: Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Security Minister. Taking part in this role play activity helped train pupils to identify and solve issues among their peers. This role play approach has been very effective in reducing incidences of bullying and fighting among pupils, especially during break times.

Focused Areas of Training

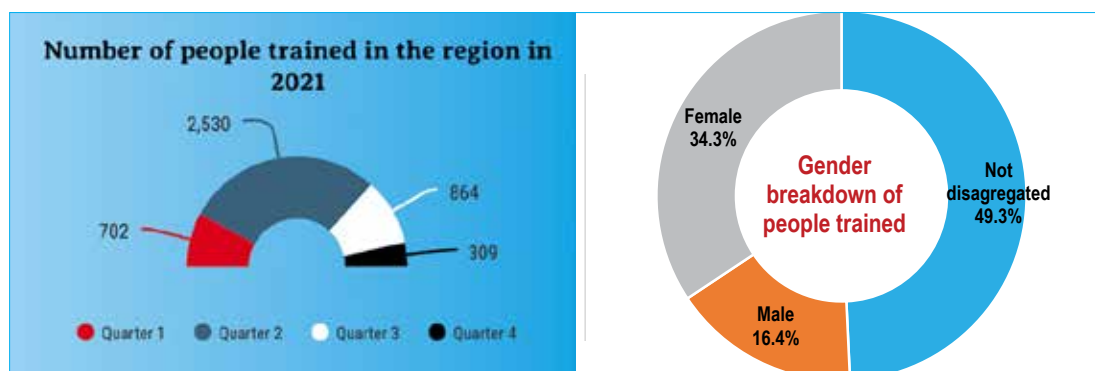


- UNSCR 1325 and 2250, advocacy
- Conflict prevention, peacebuilding, leadership and entrepreneurship
- Social cohesion ● Conflict management skills
- Non-violent techniques of dispute resolution ● PVE

S.O. 4: EXPANDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, AND CAPACITY FOR OPTIMUM PERFORMANCE

4.1. Strengthening Resilience and Capacities for Sustainable Peace

WANEP's capacity building program is tailored to equip different categories of stakeholders with the requisite skills in conflict prevention and support them to find local solutions to their unique conflict situations. In total, 4,405 people were trained in the year under review, translating to 34.3% female, 16.4% male and 49.3% not disaggregated according to sex. The trainings were carried out under the different programmes. Most of these trainings were conducted in the virtual space due to the persistent COVID 19 pandemic with its attendant restrictions on travels. Significant gains made as a result of these trainings are being felt at both the national and community levels. For instance, the trained local mediators in Benin have been facilitating dialogue processes among conflicting households in Kpalimé and Lomé communities. In Ghana, trained media personnel in the Upper West Region of Ghana on COVID 19 and conflict-sensitive messaging are deploying their skills to improve quality of reportage especially on COVID-19 measures.



4.2. Promoting preventive peacebuilding through Infrastructures for Peace (I4P)

WANEP has been facilitating the establishment of I4Ps across the region by providing technical support and expertise, creating the enabling environment and building sustainable platforms for institutionalizing functional I4Ps. In line with its undergirding principle of collaborative approach to peacebuilding, WANEP in the reporting period teamed up with critical partners to facilitate the establishment of viable I4P platforms across the region. Key partners such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is supporting the I4P process in Nigeria, the Gambia and Cote d'Ivoire. This support enabled Nigeria to carry out several advocacy initiatives to relevant stakeholders to drum up support for the passage of the Peace and Conflict Management Bill for the operationalisation of the Peacebuilding Agency in Nasarawa state, Nigeria. The Gambia with UNDP support and in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and the Office of the President has set up a technical working group to coordinate the operationalization of an I4P in the country. Based on its years of expertise and experience in the establishment of I4Ps, WANEP was consulted to share its experiences, good practices and challenges in the I4P process with the Ivorian mission to the Ghana National Peace Council (NPC). WANEP played a key role in the establishment of the NPC and the experience sharing was to inform the establishment of a similar model and support the review and strengthening of existing peace infrastructures in Cote d'Ivoire. Additionally In Ghana, WANEP is collaborating with the Regional Peace Council (RPC) in the Eastern Region, to facilitate the establishment of a Regional Early Warning and Response Platform in the Savannah region of the country.

S.O. 5: UTILIZING RESEARCH CAPACITY TO SUPPORT POLICY ADVOCACY AND LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS

5.1. Enhancing knowledge for policy influencing and response options

In the year under review, WANEP collaborated with different partners, groups and organizations to carry out evidenced-based research, studies and assessments on a wide range of topical issues on peace and security. WANEP provided technical assistance and supervision to research focal points and processes at national and regional levels through reviews, mentoring and capacity enhancement, provision of analysis and technical advice to inform peace and security research policy and practice to both internal and external stakeholders. Some of the research products WANEP produced or contributed to in the review period were as follows;

- ***Civil Society Participation in Peace-Making and Mediation Support in the African Peace & Security Architecture: Insights on the AU, ECOWAS and SADC.*** The report was produced by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) in partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).
- Research on ***implications of the covid-19 pandemic on human security in the ECOWAS region***, within the framework of the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations Programme (ESPAO), co-funded by the European Union and the German Government.
- ***The State of Peacebuilding in Africa: Lessons Learned for Policymakers and Practitioners*** published by the Wilson Center's book - WANEP's chapter was focused on its early warning contributions to the African Peace and Security Architecture.
- ***"The WIPNET Liberia Story!"*** featured in an E-book titled; 'She Stands for Peace!' The book is a publication of the UN Office in AU (UNOAU) in recognition of African women and their contribution to peace and security in Africa.

- Two articles in the ACCORD Conflict Trends Issue 3, 2021 on the topics: **“The Risk of Violent Extremism and Terrorism in the Coastal States of West Africa: Assessing Ghana’s Vulnerabilities, Resilience and Responses”** and **“Towards Multi-Level Partnerships in Building Sustainable Peace in West Africa”**
- **“Peacebuilding in The Gambia: Sustaining the Gains and Addressing Potential Threats to the Process”** published in the “Routledge Handbook of African Peacebuilding” edited by Bruno Charbonneau and Maxime Ricard.
- **“Overview of Recent Trends in African Scholarly Writing on Peacebuilding”** published in the book “Researching Peacebuilding in Africa: Reflections on Theory, Fieldwork and Context” edited by Ismail Rashid and Amy Niang.
- “Limits and Pitfalls of Multilateral, Regional and National responses to the Peace and Security Challenges in the Sahel Region and Cote d’Ivoire.” The research was funded by UNDP to assess the gaps in the multilateral, regional and national responses towards finding a lasting solution to the peace and security challenges in the Sahel Region.

S.O. 6: STRENGTHENING WANEP'S INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL CAPACITY TO DELIVER ON ITS MANDATE

6.1. Strengthening Institutional and Governance Platforms

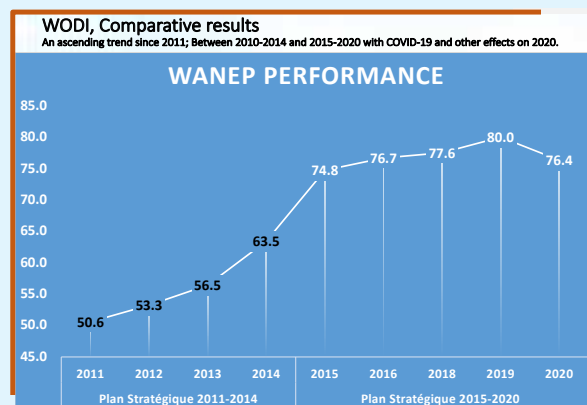
6.1.1. WANEP General Assembly/Partners Forum: WANEP held an Emergency General Assembly in the review year under the chairmanship of the newly elected Board Chair, Prof. Oumar Ndongo, with 100 participants attending virtually from all the 15 National Networks. The General Assembly, which is the highest decision-making body of WANEP was preceded by a Partners' Forum with 86 online and on-site participants. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador William Awinador, Former Ghana's Ambassador to Africa Union and ECOWAS, while the Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E Finda E.M KOROMA, delivered the keynote address themed "ECOWAS Vision 2020 in Retrospect: Reflections on ECOWAS - CSO Partnerships". The forum created the avenue for reflection on past successes, interrogated trends, gaps, and explored prospects for peacebuilding in the region with the view to broadening WANEP's influence and partners support for peace and security in West Africa. WANEP Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo and Liberia convened their General Assemblies within the reporting period, which provided an opportunity to review and validate WANEP strategic documents to ensure uniformity.

6.1.2. Statutory Board Meetings: The Board is the second highest decision-making organ of WANEP after the General Assembly and is charged with the responsibility of providing governance and general oversight on behalf of the General Assembly and in line with the principles of transparency and accountability. The Regional Board provides strategic oversight and offers professional and policy support to WANEP by virtue of the different expertise and experiences of its members. In the review period, the Regional Board welcomed a new Board chair; Professor Oumar Ndongo, a Professor of American Literature and culture at the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal who replaced Madame Lucky Antoinette Mbrou. Four other seasoned professionals viz; Madam Florence IHEME, Professor Daniel Inkoom, Madam Carla Bettencourt and Mr. Gaye Sowe also joined the Board. In addition, statutory Board meetings held at both the regional office and national offices of Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea Bissau while new members joined the Boards of Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Togo and Liberia.

6.2. Strengthening Institutional learning, accountability and knowledge management processes

6.2.1. Review and Reflection Meeting: In the spirit of learning by doing and utilizing lessons learned to inform on-going programming, WANEP held three review and reflection meetings in the review year. The mandatory Review and Reflection exercise which is part of WANEP's accountability learning and planning system, highlights activities implemented during the year by quarter and the emerging outputs and results achieved in the period. The meetings are an integral part of WANEP's monitoring and evaluation mechanism, which also enables it to address identified challenges and constraints and articulate upcoming events and activities. Outcomes from these meetings inform program and management decisions. WANEP through its monitoring and evaluation desk undertook regular monitoring visits to national networks as part of its oversight functions to ensure a coordinated program planning and implementation. During the year, monitoring visits were made to Benin, Togo, The Gambia, Liberia, Niger, Mali, Ghana, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea Bissau. These coordinated visits led to improved planning, learning and reporting.

6.2.2. WANEP Organizational Development Index (WODI): The measurement of WANEP's Development Index in the last two strategic periods (2011-2014 and 2015-2020) reveal significant improvement in operations, program delivery and performance of national networks. In 2020, WANEP's development and growth rate recorded a marked increase from 50.6% in 2011 to 76.4% despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the reporting year, WANEP revised the WODI indicators to reflect the new strategic priority for 2021-2025 and address emerging peace and security dynamics.



The WODI approach is being utilized to assess the implementation of partner projects in the field. In Burkina Faso, for example, WODI was applied to select and strengthen the intervention capacities of three women NGOs mobilized for the joint implementation of a project funded by UNWOMEN. The WODI component was adapted in the design of the Sahel Women's Influencers Portal (SWIP) and was also applied in the assessment of the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for Peace and Conflict Prevention in Central Africa, COPAC under the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund project on "Strengthening a Gender Sensitive Early Warning and Response Mechanism for West and Central Africa."

6.2.3. ICT Advancements & Acquisitions: Noting the undeniable fact that technology becomes obsolete over time, WANEP provided training opportunities in ICT for staff and acquired advanced ICT equipment to ensure staff leverage new developments in technology for efficiency and greater effectiveness. Both National and Regional WANEP staff received vigorous trainings in Microsoft 365 Teams and refresher training in GIS. The IT unit led trainings on the election monitoring systems and observation platforms in the countries where elections held in the year. They also deployed their expertise to develop web-based portals such as the Sahel Women Influencers Portal (SWIP), portal for the application/registration under the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI), ODI system and gender-sensitive Early Warning System for COPAC. With the requisite skills, staff were effectively equipped to tackle IT technicalities for improved programme delivery as well as to survive fierce competitions. Beyond the physical and virtual trainings, relevant Software/Hardware were acquired and ICT Upgrades carried out in the review period. The WANEP Peace Monitoring Centre (PMC) was upgraded with new equipment and new features for more efficiency and effectiveness in monitoring and reporting on security threats across the region. The Tally Accounting System server was also

strengthened. The Tally system is key to enhancing WANEP's financial accountability while laptops, high-quality printers and digital cameras were acquired for ease of operations.

6.2.4. Awards and Recognitions: WANEP's modest contributions in the field of peacebuilding and conflict prevention continues to receive recognition and accolades from relevant partners and institutions. In the year in review, two WANEP staff were honoured as follows;

- **26 February 2021:** Dr. Chukwuemeka B. Eze, WANEP Executive Director was honoured with the prestigious Africa International Award of Merit (AFIAM 2020) for his accomplishments in his field of endeavor and contributions to conflict management and resolution in the West Africa sub-region at the International Conference on Political/Civil Strife in West Africa.
- **July 2021:** Mr. Osei Baffour-Frimpong, Coordinator, WANEP Liaison Office at the AU Commission Peace and Security Department, won the Wilson Center /SVNP Paper Competition. The title of the paper is "EndSARS Youth Protest in Nigeria: Lessons and Opportunities for Regional Stability". The paper was co-authored by Richmond Commodore, Research and Policy Analyst, African Center for Economic Transformation.

6.3. Advocacy Initiatives and Solidarity Visits

WANEP has made appreciable impact in the region with its growing visibility, which continues to attract relevant stakeholders. A number of key partners and major stakeholders visited the WANEP Regional office in Accra-Ghana, and the national offices across the region seeking opportunities for collaboration and networking or strengthening existing relationships. The courtesy visits happened under secure and conducive environment with due consideration to the organizations' COVID 19 protocols.

Some of the visitors recorded in the review year were as follows:

Three key representatives from the UNDP Regional Programme for Africa visited WANEP at various times in the review year. They are; Michelle Mendi, Regional Communications Specialist to discuss key aspects of the project on "Building an inclusive Post Covid-19 Recovery, Crises Transitions and Governance Reforms in the Sahel; Ms. Jelena Raketic, Regional Programme Management Specialist, at UNDP Africa with discussions centred around past and ongoing projects between the two organizations and a potential initiative for 2021 and Dr. Jide Okeke, Coordinator at UNDP Africa whose visit focused on priority areas of partnership between WANEP and UNDP Africa.

- A delegation from the Malawian Ministry of Civic Education and National Unity led by Dr. Elizabeth Gomani Chindebvu, Principal Secretary to discuss WANEP's experiences and good practices in the establishment of Peace Architecture in West Africa and other aspects of its work.
- Familiarization visit by the newly appointed Director of the National Early Warning and Response Centre (NEWRC)-Ghana, Colonel Joseph Kelvin Merdiemah to learn more on the operationalization of WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) and its support to West Africa and beyond.
- Representatives from AU, RECs, CSOs in Conflict prevention and promotion of peace in Eastern and Southern Africa visited the WANEP Peace Monitoring Centre (PMC)
- WANEP regional hosted a delegation of Austrian Parliamentarians led by Hon. Prof. Axel Kassegger where the security situation in the region and how WANEP's Early warning system works to help address the issues were the major focus of discussions.

- WANEP played host to representatives of the African Union (AU), the Regional Economic Communities and Civil Society Organizations in conflict prevention and promotion of peace in Eastern and Southern Africa. During the visit, WANEP shared experiences on the operationalization of a network structure and the operations of its National Early Warning and Response Mechanism (NEWRM).
- WANEP Togo paid a courtesy visit to 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 WANEP Togo and solicit the Minister's support for its women, peace and security interventions.
- WANEP-Nigeria paid advocacy visit to the Balanga Local Government Chairman Hon. Umar Garba in Balanga, Gombe State to solicit his support and commitment to the implementation of the Local Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 in his LGA. The visit has opened up discussions on securing budgetary allocation for the effective implementation of the plan.
- WANEP-Mali in its quest to solicit Malian Government's support in addressing socio-security challenges, met with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Security and Civil Protection bilaterally. The meeting focused on key security issues in the country and presented opportunity to share Early Warning Alerts, key analyses and recommendations that would enable the Government to make informed security decisions.
- WANEP held a series of advocacy meetings with various stakeholders including Ministries of Gender, UNDP Resident Representatives, High Officials across the four target countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina, Mali and Niger) to ensure increased participation of women in governance systems at the local and national levels.

WANEP's efficient governance systems coupled with its heightened visibility in the public space has continued to shore up its ability to attract funding partners. This is evident in the number of funding support it garnered in the review period across the region **(See Annex 1)**.

7.0. CONCLUSION

WANEP recorded key milestones in the reporting year in the implementation of its new strategic action plan covering the period 2020 - 2025, achieving over 80% of its planned activities. However, this laudable feat was not without its challenges. The West African region continued to grapple with multiple incidents of increased violent extremism, election violence, challenges of governance and communal clashes as well as natural and man-made disasters as revealed by the WANEP robust National Early Warning System (NEWS). Electioneering period in West Africa is often characterised by increased spate of violence and heightened insecurity as witnessed in the review year with presidential run-off in Niger and general elections in Benin and the Gambia.

The most consistent threat to peace and security in the reporting year remained the persistent COVID 19 pandemic with its attendant impact on lives and livelihoods across the globe. Although the year witnessed massive breakthroughs in the production of vaccines against the pandemic and high awareness leading to a boost in the number of vaccinations administered, the emergence of new strands such as the Omicron variant brought in its wake more stringent lockdown measures, which continued to impact on all aspects of human endeavor triggering the terminology; 'new normal!' In the face of this daunting challenge, WANEP continued to devise creative means to adhere to the new normal towards ensuring that it delivers on its stated goals and objectives. In this wise, the digital and online platforms such as webinars and zoom meetings, which were adopted in the height of the COVID 19 lockdowns in 2020 were strengthened for maximum results. These platforms allowed WANEP to carry out its interventions in an atmosphere of safety and in the few cases where physical interactions became necessary, it was carried out in strict adherence to the stipulated COVID 19 measures.

WANEP's undergirding principle of collaborative approach to peacebuilding saw it maintaining its relationship with existing partners and critical stakeholders as well as forging new relationships. Despite the attendant effects of the pandemic, WANEP national and regional offices attracted new funding partners and broke new grounds in program design and implementation with growing visibility and recognition in the public domain. With the milestones chalked in the year in review, there is no doubt that WANEP is poised for greater heights and efficiency in the coming year even as it adapts fully to the 'new normal!'

List of Donors

PARTNERS	TITLE OF KEY ACTION/ACTIVITIES FUNDED	CURRENCY WITH THE CONTRACT	DOLLARS	DURATION	NNS BENEFICIARY	STATUS	YEAR OF SIGNATURE
GIZ	Subvention locale de financement du plan de travail du dernier trimestre 2021 de WANEP	14 998 550 FCFA	28,000	17 September to 30 December 2021 (3 months)	WANEP Benin	Off	2021
UNDP	Lutte Contre l'Extrémisme Violent et le Terrorisme à Djenné : 'Contribuer aux efforts du gouvernement malien dans la prévention et la lutte contre l'extrémisme violent dans la région de Djenné, Mopt	16 275 000 FCFA	29,597	1 July 2021 to 30 November 2021	WANEP Mali	Off	2021
UNDP	Mise en place des espaces de CO-WORKING pour le renforcement de la résilience économique des jeunes et des femmes de 6 communes des régions savanes, centrales et maritime	\$ 154,055 US	154,055	1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022 (7 months)	WANEP Togo	On	2021
UNDP	Renforcement des capacités des OSC membres de l'Espace de dialogue : 'Assurer une meilleure et plus grande participation des organisations de la société civile à la consolidation de la paix, de la démocratie et de l'État de droit	16 180 000 FCFA	30,000	1 August 2021 to 31 December 2021 (5 months)	WANEP Guinea-Bissau	Off	2021

PARTNERS	TITLE OF KEY ACTION/ACTIVITIES FUNDED	CURRENCY WITH THE CONTRACT	DOLLARS	DURATION	NNS BENEFICIARY	STATUS	YEAR OF SIGNATURE
UNDP	Mission d'évaluation des facteurs de risque et de vulnérabilité et d'identification des actions prioritaires dans les régions des plateaux, de maritime et du Grand Lomé pour la prévention et la lutte contre la menace d'extrémisme violent au Togo	\$ 27,131.00 US	27,131	1 to 30 October 2021 (1 month)	WANEP TOGO	Off	2021
OXFAM	Consolidating peace gains and addressing conflict between native crop farmers and migrant Fulani pastoralists	€ 31,949,00	31,900	April 2021 to December 2021 (9 months)	WANEP Ghana	Off	2021
OXFAM Novib	Appui à la transformation des conflits ethniques dans la région de Tillabéry (« Contribuer à l'instauration de la paix et à la cohésion sociale par la mise sur pied d'un cadre permanent d'échange, de dialogue et de concertation inter communautaire »)	€ 50.397,36	57,898	12 May 2021 to 31 July 2021	WANEP Niger	Off	2021
Creative Associates International	'Promouvoir la paix, la réconciliation, la cohésion sociale et la santé après l'élection présidentielle en république de Guinée'	55,325,910	97,063	April to November 2021 (8 months)	WANEP GUINEA	Off	2021

PARTNERS	TITLE OF KEY ACTION/ACTIVITIES FUNDED	CURRENCY WITH THE CONTRACT	DOLLARS	DURATION	NNS BENEFICIARY	STATUS	YEAR OF SIGNATURE
Creative Associates International	Leadership féminin dans la résolution et la prévention des conflits » dans la Région de Diffa	55,481,400.00 Francs CFA	102,477	20 April 2021 to 30 June 2021 (3 months)	WANEP Niger	Off	2021
DFATD (Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada)	“Capacity building of Women Caucuses to effectively advocate for the mainstreaming of gender issues in election campaign platforms and manifests and sensitization of communities for Peaceful 2020 elections in Ghana-WOCA4PEACE”	\$ 30,030.94 CAD	30,030	9 September to February 2021 (6 months)	WANEP Ghana	Off	2021
Service Chrétien International pour la Paix (EIRENE)	Programme Promotion de la Paix au Sahel (PPSII): Objectif: Renforcer la thématique éducation à la paix, la démocratie et la bonne gouvernance (EDP) du programme au Burkina-Faso.	32 521 833 FCFA	57,000	January to Decembre 2021	WANEP Burkina	Off	2021
Bureau Paix et Sécurité Centre de Compétence de Compétence Subsaharienne de la Fondation Friedrich Ebert (FES PSSC)	Démarche de police de proximité comme moyen de prévention de l'extrémisme violent au Sénégal, au Mali et en Guinée	16 388 356 Francs CFA	30,000	1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022	WANEP Sénégal	On	2021

PARTNERS	TITLE OF KEY ACTION/ACTIVITIES FUNDED	CURRENCY WITH THE CONTRACT	DOLLARS	DURATION	NNS BENEFICIARY	STATUS	YEAR OF SIGNATURE
Bureau Paix et Sécurité Centre de Compétence Subsaharienne de la Fondation Friedrich Ebert (FES PSCC)	Démarche de police de proximité comme moyen de prévention de l'extrémisme violent au Sénégal, au Mali et en Guinée	16 388 356 Francs CFA	30,000	1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022	WANEP Mali	On	2021
	Démarche de police de proximité comme moyen de prévention de l'extrémisme violent au Sénégal, au Mali et en Guinée						
Search For Common Ground (SFCG)	« Promouvoir la coproduction de la sécurité et la redevabilité des services de sécurité dans des communautés ciblées » (TPB3)	\$ 112 902 US	112,902	2 June to 30 September 2021 (23 months)	WANEP Burkina-Faso	Off	2021
Search For Common Ground (SFCG)	« Promouvoir la coproduction de la sécurité et la redevabilité des services de sécurité dans des communautés ciblées » (TPB3)	\$ 122 928 US	122,928	2 June to 30 September 2021 (23 months)	WANEP Mali	Off	2021
Search For Common Ground (SFCG)	« Promouvoir la coproduction de la sécurité et la redevabilité des services de sécurité dans des communautés ciblées » (TPB3)	\$ 144 513 US	144,513	2 June to 30 September 2021 (23 months)	WANEP Niger	Off	2021

PARTNERS	TITLE OF KEY ACTION/ACTIVITIES FUNDED	CURRENCY WITH THE CONTRACT	DOLLARS	DURATION	NNS BENEFICIARY	STATUS	YEAR OF SIGNATURE
US Embassy Nigeria	Coalition Building for Countering Violent Extremism ; To build coalition across political, ethnic, and religious divides for the purpose of countering violent extremism	USD \$ 140,034.40	140,034	1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022	WANEP Nigeria	On	2021
USAID REWARD II	Préservation de la cohésion sociale en période de restrictions sécuritaires liée à la COVID-19 au Togo	\$ 74,563.16	74,563	12 March 2021 to 8 October 2021 (7 months)	WANEP Togo	Off	2021
USAID CREATIVE	Building resiliency Against violence extremism in four border districts	€ 37,000.00	37,000	28 September to 4 March 2022 (6 months)	WANEP Ghana	On	2021
Agence Nationale de Financement des Collectivités Locales (ANAFIC)	Mise en place et opérationnalisation d'un Système d'Alerte Précoce et Réponse (SAPR) dans la région de Kindia (Basse Guinée), 41 collectivités locales	\$ 330,434 US	330,434	15 June 2021 to 15 May 2022 (12 months)	WANEP GUINEA	On	2021
MINUSMA	Projet d'information et de sensibilisation des communautés des régions du Centre pour promouvoir leur engagement et participation dans la prévention et la réduction de la violence communautaire pour une paix durable, la cohabitation pacifique et le vivre ensemble."	44 359 000 FCFA	83,000	10 June 2021 to 10 November 2021 (5 month)	WANEP Mali	Off	2021

PARTNERS	TITLE OF KEY ACTION/ACTIVITIES FUNDED	CURRENCY WITH THE CONTRACT	DOLLARS	DURATION	NNS BENEFICIARY	STATUS	YEAR OF SIGNATURE
ONU-FEMMES	Appui à la mise en œuvre des Activités de Coopération Transfrontalières dans la région du Liptako-Gourma	85 926 743 FCFA	158,000	June to December 2021 (7 month)	WANEP Burkina-Faso	Off	2021
ISS Earmarked Core Netherlands	«Bogu / Gayya (en langue haoussa et Djerma) : contribution locale des femmes à l'analyse de conflit »	21,400,000 Francs CFA	38 000	July to October 2021 (4 months)	WANEP Niger	Off	2021
Adam Smith International	Engagement communautaire en faveur des Comités Consultatifs de Sécurité CCS	£96,181	132,703	Septembre to October 2021	WANEP Mali	Off	2021
Adam Smith International	'Projet d'engagement communautaire en faveur des Comités Consultatifs de Sécurité CCS', Étape 2 de la phase 2	£ 235 878	323,566	December 2021 to April 2022 (5 months)	WANEP Mali	On	2021
EU UN Women Spotlight Initiatives	Gender inequitable social norms, attitudes and behaviors change at community and individual levels to prevent violence against women and girls and harmful practices	\$ 252,000.00 US	252,000	October 2021 to December 2022	WANEP Liberia	On	2021
COGNITA Association with fund from European Union	'Preventing Electoral Violence and Providing Security to The Northern Border of Ghana-NORPREVSEC'	EURO 150000	150,000	1 November 2021 to 31 July 2023 (21 months)	WANEP Ghana	On	2021

PARTNERS	TITLE OF KEY ACTION/ACTIVITIES FUNDED	CURRENCY WITH THE CONTRACT	DOLLARS	DURATION	NNS BENEFICIARY	STATUS	YEAR OF SIGNATURE
Agence Autrichienne de Développement (ADA)	Lutte contre le vol transfrontalier de bétail entre le Sénégal et la Guinée-Bissau	700 000 €	715,000	1 December 2021 to 30 November 2024 (3 years)	WANEP Senegal	On	2021
Pain Pour Le Monde (PPLM)	Résilience économique face à l'extrémisme violent, phase 1	€ 333 000	326,000	1 September 2021 to 31 August 2024 (3 years)	WANEP Togo	On	2021
USIP (United States Institute of Peace)	Northeast Nigeria JSD	NGN 103,981,320	288,837	September 2021 to August 2022	WANEP Nigeria	On	2021
UNDP (United Nations Development Programmes)	Integrated Approach to building Peace in Nigeria's Farmer-Herder Crisis	NGN 267355358.70	664,349	November 2020 to April 2022	WANEP Nigeria	On	2021
UAF (Urgent Action Fund Africa)	Building Alliance to Ameliorate the Negative impact of environment exploitation on women in Rabaka wtaerfront community , Lagos state	\$ 10000	10,000	September 2021 to December 2021	WANEP Nigeria	On	2021
ISS Earmarked Core Netherlands	Enhancing Women Participation in Peace and Security in the Niger delta and North East Regions of the country	NOK 1000000	111,760	January 2021 to December 2021	WANEP Nigeria	On	2021

PARTNERS	TITLE OF KEY ACTION/ACTIVITIES FUNDED	CURRENCY WITH THE CONTRACT	DOLLARS	DURATION	NNS BENEFICIARY	STATUS	YEAR OF SIGNATURE
GNWP (Global Network of Women Peacebuilders)	Localization of the Women, Peace and Security Resolutions in Nigeria	\$ 210618,00	210,618	January 2021 to December 2022	WANEP Nigeria	On	2021
UNDP (Output 3)	Support to the Electoral Cycle and Democratic Processes in The Gambia	\$ 18000	18,000	1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022	WANEP The Gambia	On	2021
UNDP Elections	Support to Electoral Cycle and Democratic Process in the Gambia	\$ 25000	25,000	January to 31 March 2021	WANEP The Gambia	Off	2021
UNFPA	WANEP 2021 Annual Work Plan	\$60443,87	60,443	January to December 2021	WANEP The Gambia	Off	2021
UNDP (Output 5)	Strengthening inclusive citizen engagement for more accountable governance in the Gambia	\$30000	30,000	10 July to 31 August 2021	WANEP The Gambia	Off	2021
OSIWA	Contribution de la société civile à la réduction de la violence postélectorales 2022 en Côte d'Ivoire	\$100000	100,000	December 2020 to 19 June 2021	WANEP Cote d'Ivoire	On	2021



Executive Director and NNCs

00. Dr. Chukwuemeka B. Eze - Executive Director	08. Victoria W. H. Wollie - NNC WANEP - Liberia
01. Maryse Glele Ahanhanzo - NNC WANEP - Benin	09. Mahamady TOGOLA - NNC WANEP - Mali
02. Alice Combarý SOULAMA - NNC WANEP - Burkina Faso	10. Clement K. Gbedey - NNC WANEP - Niger
03. Kamara D. Mylène Epse SORO - NNC WANEP - Cote d'Ivoire	11. Chief Bridget Osakwe - NNC WANEP - Nigeria
04. Salama Njie - NNC WANEP - The Gambia	12. Alfred GOMIS - NNC WANEP - Senegal
05. Albert Yelyang - NNC WANEP - Ghana	13. Isata Mahoi. PhD - NNC WANEP - Sierra Leone
06. François Fadoua Tolno - NNC WANEP - Guinea	14. Amedzenu-Noviekou P. Da-do Y. Nora - NNC WANEP - Togo
07. Denise Arcilla Cabras Dos Santos INDEQUE - NNC WANEP - Guinea Bissau	

Regional Secretariat and National Offices in West Africa

OFFICES / CONTACT ADDRESS	COORDINATORS
<p>WANEP BENIN</p> <p>Lot 1191 "Q" Cadjehoun-Kpota, Immeuble ADJIBI, à Côté de la mosquée de Cadjèhoun, 3^{ème} étage, aile gauche. 01 BP 5997 Cotonou Bénin Tél: Office +229-21309939 Cel : + 229 61 00 53 53 / 97 88 59 74 Emails: wanep-benin@wanep.org ; info@wanepbenin.org wanepbenin.2015@gmail.com Website: www.wanepbenin.org/site; www.wanep.org</p>	<p>Maryse GLELE AHANHANZO (National Network Coordinator) mahanhanzo@wanep.org ryse2002@yahoo.fr</p>
<p>WANEP - BURKINA FASO</p> <p>Via Boulevard Mouammar Kadhafi et N6, quartier; 11 BP 389 Ouagadougou CMS 11 Burkina Faso; Tel: office +226 25 50 57 14, Cell: +226 70 41 89 61 Email: wanep-burkinafaso@wanep.org Website: www.wanepburkinafaso.org/site; www.wanep.org Twitter: Wanepbf1 Facebook: WANEP Burkina Faso</p>	<p>Alice Midibahaye COMBARY SOULAMA (National Network Coordinator) alicesoulama@yahoo.fr asoulama@wanep.org</p>
<p>WANEP Cape Verde</p> <p>Email: wanep@wanep.org Website: www.wanepcapeverde.org/site ; www.wanep.org</p>	<p>Contact wanep@wanep.org for any enquiry</p>
<p>WANEP - COTE D'IVOIRE</p> <p>09 BP 3320 Abidjan 09; Cocody Angré les oscars Résidence Aurore, bâtiment B au 1er étage porte 11 Tel: + 225 22423339 Cel: +225 07378742 / 225 02234373 Email: wanepci@yahoo.fr; facebook: wanepcotedivoire Website: wanepcotedivoire@wanep.org; www.wanep.org</p>	<p>Mme KAMARA D. Mylène Epse SORO (National Network Coordinator) mkamara@wanep.org mylkamara@gmail.com, Mylkamara@yahoo.fr</p>

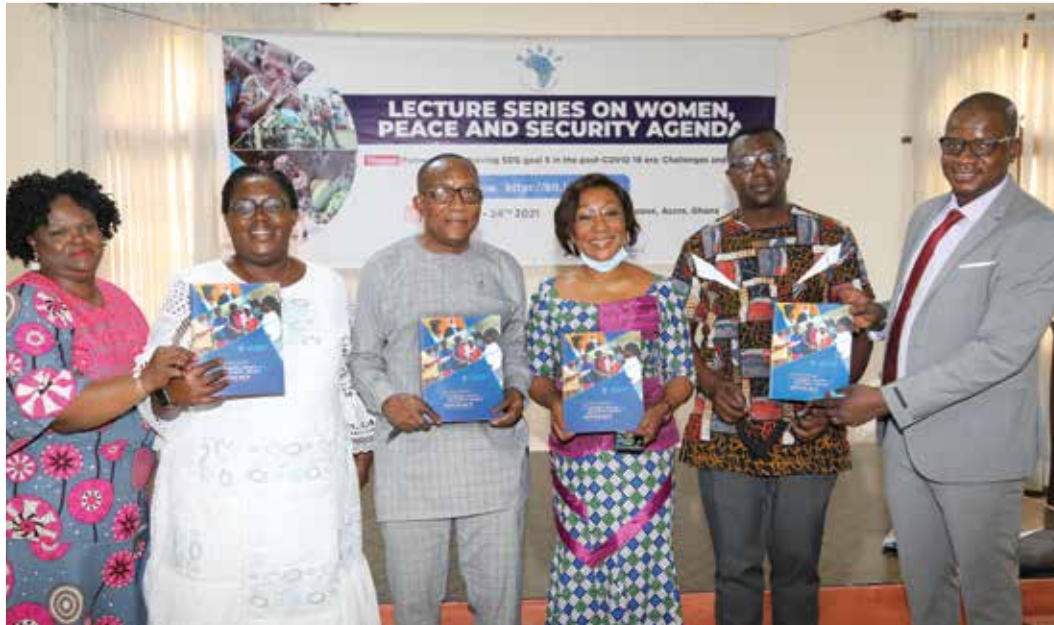
OFFICES / CONTACT ADDRESS	COORDINATORS
WANEP - THE GAMBIA Off Mama Yakume Avenue, Fajara P. O. Box 2252, Serrekunda, The Gambia Tel: (office) +220 2777197 Email: wanep-gambia@wanep.org info@wanepgambia.org Website: http://www.wanepgambia.org ; www.wanep.org	Ms. SALAMA NJIE <i>(National Network Coordinator)</i> snjie@wanep.org salanjie@yahoo.com
WANEP - GHANA Post Office Box TL 963 House. No. J. EXT 385, Jisonayili - Gurugu Jisonayili, Tamale, Northern Region, Ghana Box. TL963, Tamale, N/R Tel (off): +233 (0) 3720 98 747 Mob: +233 (0) 2441 56 898 Email: wanep-ghana@wanep.org ; Website: www.wanepghana.org/site ; www.wanep.org/wanep/networks-our-networks/ghana.html	Albert Yelyang <i>(National Network Coordinator)</i> ayelyang@wanep.org ayelyang@gmail.com
WANEP - GUINEA Transversale N°2, Carrefour Impérial, Face Pharmacie Afia, Quartier Kipé, Commune de Ratoma. BP : 4331 Conakry, République de Guinée. Tel: (+224) 657 00 11 01) Cel : (+224) 628 15 18 40) Email: wanep-guinea@wanep.org info@wanepguinea.org; wanep.guinee@gmail.com Websites: www.wanepguinea.org ; www.wanep.org	François Fadoua TOLNO <i>(National Network Coordinator)</i> ftolno@wanep.org ftolno@wanepguinea.org ; tolnofadoua@yahoo.fr
WANEP BISSAU Avenue. Ermelida Gomes / Bluba-Bissau Téléphone : (+245) 955118269 / 966084597; E.mail: wanep-guineabissau@wanep.org info@wanepguineabissau.org Website: www.wanepguineabissau.org/site ; www.wanep.org	Denise Arcilia Cabral Dos Santos Indequé <i>(National Network Coordinator)</i> ikabou@wanep.org kabou201@hotmail.com ddossantos@wanep.org dcabraldossantosindeque@gmail.com
WANEP - LIBERIA Airfield New Road, Cheeseman Avenue Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 (0) 886516699 / (0) 886539101 / (0) 886579860 Email : wanep-liberia@wanep.org ; pmkollie@gmail.com wanep-liberia@wanep.org; info@wanepliberia.org Websites : www.wanepliberia.org/site ; www.wanep.org	Victoria Wowa-Herbert Wollie <i>(National Network Coordinator)</i> vwollie@wanep.org mayea2003@yahoo.com

OFFICES / CONTACT ADDRESS	COORDINATORS
WANEP - NIGERIA 27 Adeniji street off Wemco Road, Ogba Lagos, Nigeria Tel: +234 8062072468 Email: wanep@wanepnigeria.org; wanep-nigeria@wanep.org website: www.wanepnigeria.org; www.wanep.org Twitter: WANEPnigeria Facebook: WANEPnigeria Instagram: WANEP-NIGERIA	Bridget Osakwe <i>(National Network Coordinator)</i> bosakwe@wanep.org buosakwe@yahoo.co.uk bosakwe@wanepnigeria.org
WANEP - SENEGAL Cité Damel, derrière le Stade Léopold Sédar SENGHOR, Lot n°20, Dakar BP : 26365 Parcelles Assainies- Dakar-SENEGAL Tel : +221 33 855 02 16 / 77 551 14 20 Email : info@wanepsenegal.org // wanep-senegal@wanep.org wanepsenegal2003@yahoo.fr Websites: www.wanepsenegal.org // www.wanep.org	Alfred Gomis <i>(National Network Coordinator)</i> agomis@wanep.org alfredgomis@hotmail.com
WANEP - SIERRA LEONE NO. 57 Fort Street, off Circular Road, Freetown, Sierra Leone P. O. Box 657 Tel: +232 33 644 242, Mob: +232 76586853 / +23277533753 Email: wanep-sierraleone@wanep.org; wanepssl@yahoo.com // info@wanepsierraleone.org Website: www.wanepsierraleone.org ; www.wanep.org	Isata Mahoi <i>(National Network Coordinator)</i> imohai@wanep.org isatamahoi.unimak@gmail.com
WANEP - TOGO Rue Dédjo, 253 AGBP Quartier Agbalépédo BP: 80 909, Lomé -Togo Tel : +228 22 25 27 84 / 93 20 93 93 E-mail : wanep-togo@wanep.org Website: www.wanetogo.org ; www.wanep.org	AMEDZENU-NOVIEKOU Nora Da-do <i>(National Network Coordinator)</i> namedzenu-noviekou@wanep.org ddnora@yahoo.fr
WANEP - MALI Torokorobou Rue 228 Porte 28, Tél.: + 223- 44 39 22 01 / 20 73 76 10 Cel.: +223 - 69 83 96 91 E-mail: wanep-mali@wanep.org info@wanepmali.org, // wanepmali@gmail.com Website: www.wanepmali.org ; www.wanep.org	Mahamady TOGOLA <i>(National Network Coordinator)</i> mtogola@wanep.org mahamadytogola@gmail.com

OFFICES / CONTACT ADDRESS	COORDINATORS
WANEP - NIGER Avenue du Canada, Rue du Collège Mariama Nouveau Marché NM 21 BP 12434-Niamey. Tel : +227 90626342 / 96972753/20741796 Niamey, République du Niger Email: wanep-niger@wanep.org / wanep@wanep.org; Website : www.wanepniger.org; www.wanep.org	Clément Kocou GBEDEY (National Network Coordinator) cgbedey@wanep.org clementkocou_gbedey@yahoo.fr;

Regional Events

First Edition Lecture Series on WPS



Launch of the Guideline for conducting WPS Policy Advocacy by Director, Policy Planning at the Ghana Gender Ministry (3rd left), Flanked by Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah, WANEP Deputy Executive Director (2nd Left) and other members of the high table.



Mr. Mawutor Ablo, Director, Policy Planning, Monitoring & Evaluating Department, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ghana launches the Advocacy guideline.

Regional Events

Cancer Awareness Month



*WANEP goes pink
to mark the 2021
Breast Cancer
Awareness Month.*

Regional Events

Courtesy visits



(2nd from right) The Regional Communications Specialist of the UNDP Regional Programme for Africa, Michelle Mendi Muita.



Benchmarking visit to WANEP of AU, RECs and CSOs in Conflict prevention and promotion of peace in Eastern and Southern Africa.



Malawian delegation from the Ministry of Civic Education and National Unity to WANEP led by Dr. Elizabeth Gomani Chindebvu, Principal Secretary (pictured below, 5th from right).

Regional Events

Courtesy visits



Colonel Joseph Kelvin Merdiemah, Director of the National Early Warning and Response Centre (NEWRC-Ghana) (4th from left).



Delegation of Austrain Parliamentarians led by Hon. Prof. Axel Kassegger (at the centre).

Regional Events

Courtesy visits



Dr Chukwuemeka B. Eze, WANEP Executive Director engaged in a hearty discussion with Dr. Jide Martyns Okeke, Coordinator, UNDP Africa Regional Programme (right)



Engaging session at the PMC with representatives from the AU, RECs and CSOs from the Southern Africa.

Regional Events

Courtesy visits



Ms. Jelena Raketec, UNDP Regional Programme Management Specialist (6th from the right).



Visit of a team from the Ghana National Early Warning and response Centre.

Regional Events

Youth Advocacy Workshop



Group picture of participants.



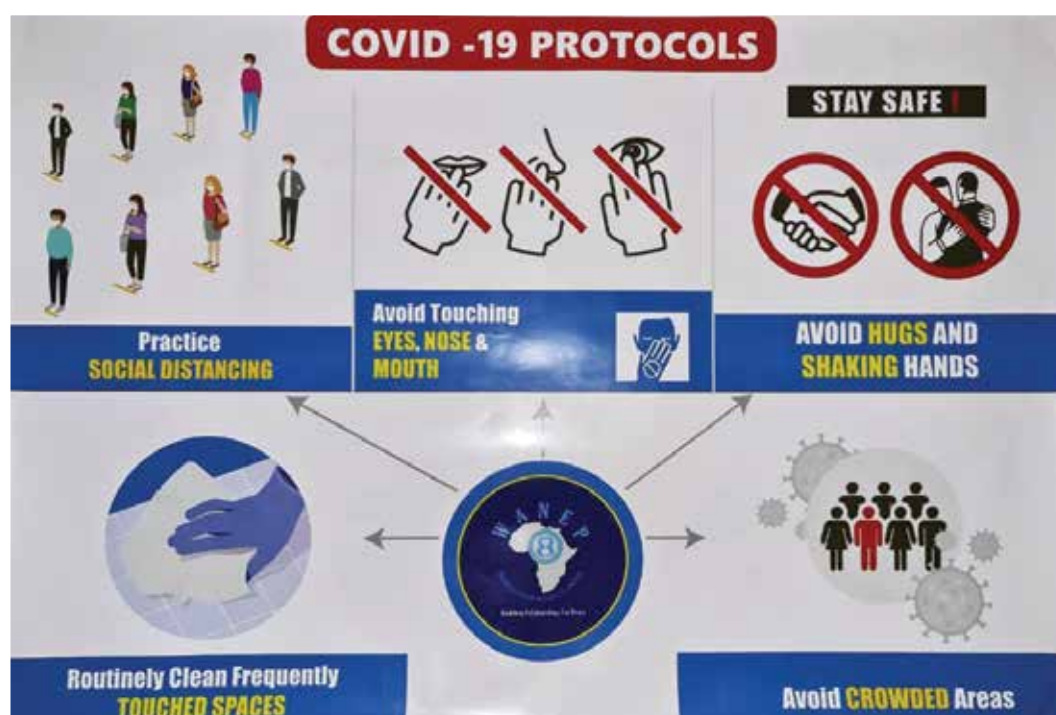
Participants engaged in a practical session.

Regional Events

Activities



From left: H.E. Tom Nørring, Danish Ambassador to Ghana; Dr. Chukwuemeka B. Eze, WANEP's Executive Director; Mr. George Amoah, Executive Secretary of the National Peace Council and H.E. Mette Frederiksen, Prime Minister of Denmark.



COVID-19 Protocols.

From Our Networks

Activities



Interactive sessions with women victims of GBV in Tillabery, Niger.



Women parliamentarians (Front row) inducted as Women, Peace and Security Ambassadors in Niger.

From Our Networks

Activities



Cascade training on human security vulnerabilities in Maradi, Niger

Election Situation Room



ESR in the Gambia - member of the Gambia Federation for the Disabled visits the ESR in the Gambia.

From Our Networks

Election Situation Room



ESR in the Gambia - visit of the UK High commissioner.



From Our Networks

Election Situation Room



Election Situation Room_2021 Beninese presidential election.



Election Situation Room_2021 Beninese presidential election.

From Our Networks

Election Situation Room



The Women Election Security Observation Centre (WESOC) during Niger's presidential election runoff.



A monitor explaining the mechanism of the ESR to a visitor_Niger's Presidential runoff.

From Our Networks

Sahel Women Influencers Portal (SWIP)



The Coordinator of the Women National Coalition of Mali addressing participants at the launch of the Women Portal. At her left is the Executive Director of WANEP, Dr. Chukwuemeka B. Eze.



Women organisations, TFPs, Staff from WANEP Regional and WANEP Mali during launch of Women Portal in Mali.

From Our Networks

Visits to VIPs in the UNDP project countries



Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze, WANEP's Executive Director in discussions with the 1st Vice-President of the Malian National Transition Council, Assarid AG Ambarcaouane.



Advocacy visit to the Directorate for the promotion of women and gender in Niger.

From Our Networks

Visits to VIPs in the UNDP project countries



Courtesy visit to UNDP Resident Representative in Niger, Diana Louise Ofwona.



L-R: Diana Louise Ofwona, UNDP Resident representative in Niger receiving the 2020 annual report from Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah, WANEP Deputy Executive Director.

From Our Networks

Visits to VIPs in the UNDP project countries



Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah, WANEP's Deputy Executive Director, Programmes Director in a hearty chat with the Mediator of the Republic of Niger, Mr. Ali Sirfi.



Visit to Niger's High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace (HACP).



WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE