



**WEST AFRICA NETWORK
FOR PEACEBUILDING**

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE

INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE & PEACEBUILDING:

**Pathways to Conflict
Prevention and Resilience**

2022
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

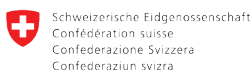


OUR PARTNERS

Adam Smith
International



Brot
für die Welt





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OUR NETWORKS



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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

| | |
|----------------|--|
| ADA | Austrian Development Agency |
| ADR | Alternative Dispute Resolution |
| AfDB | African Development Bank |
| AGA | African Governance Architecture |
| APSA | AU Peace and Security Architecture |
| ASI | Adam Smith International |
| AU | African Union |
| AUC | African Union Commission |
| BMZ | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| CBO | Community Based Organisation |
| CDMT | community/ district monitoring team |
| COPAC | Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for Peace and Conflict Prevention in Central Africa |
| CORDAID | Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development |
| COVID | Coronavirus Disease |
| CPAID | Citizen Participation for Accountable and Inclusive Democracy |
| CRF | AU Continental Results Framework |
| CSO | Civil Society Organisation |
| CSVRA | Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment |
| CVE | Countering Violent Extremism |
| DPA | Department of Political Affairs |
| DRC | Danish Refugee Council |
| ECCAS | Economic Community of Central African States |
| ECOSOCC | AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council |
| ECOWARN | AU Early Warning and Response Network |
| ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States |

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

| | |
|----------------|---|
| ECPF | ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework |
| EMAM | Electoral Violence Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation |
| EMB | Election Management Body |
| ESPAO | GIZ/ ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations |
| ESR | Election Situation Room |
| EU | European Union |
| EWD | ECOWAS Early Warning Directorate |
| FCT | Federal Capital Territory |
| FEMWISE | The Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation |
| FES | Frederick Ebert Stiftung |
| GBV | Gender-Based Violence |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GIZ | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit |
| GNWP | Global Network of Women Peacebuilders |
| IDP | Internally Displaced Persons |
| IEC | Information Education and Communication |
| IOM | International Organisation for Migration |
| IPCR | Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution |
| IRI | International Republican Institute |
| IWD | International Women's Day |
| KAIPTC | Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre |
| K.R.A. | Key Result Area |
| LASUBEB | Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board |
| MARAC | Early Warning Mechanism of Central Africa |
| MOU | standing Memorandum of Understanding |

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| NAP | National Action Plan |
| NAPE | Active Nonviolence and Peace Education |
| NCCRM | the National Centres for the Coordination of Response Mechanism |
| NERG | National Election Response Group |
| NeTT4Peace | African Union Network of Think Tanks for Peace |
| NEWS | National Early Warning System |
| NGO | Non Governmental Organisation |
| NNC | National Network Coordinator |
| NWC | National Women Coalition |
| OSIWA | Open Society Initiative for West Africa |
| PAPS | AU Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security |
| PMC | Peace Monitoring Centre |
| PRAPS | Participatory Review and Analysis Processes |
| PWD | Persons With Disability |
| REcAP | Research and Action for Peace Network |
| RBA | UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa |
| SACs | Security Advisory Committees |
| SBMC | School Based Management Committee |
| SDS | Stakeholder Dialogue Series |
| SIDA | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency |
| SIPRI | Stockholm International Peace Research Institute |
| SITA | Supporting Inclusive Transitions in Africa |
| SOP | Standard Operating Procedure |
| SWIP | Sahel Women Influencers Portal |
| UN | United Nations |

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------------|---|
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNOWAS | United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel |
| UNOY | United Network of Young Peacebuilders |
| UNSCR | United Nations Security Council Resolution |
| UNV | United Nations Volunteers Program |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| VE | Violent Extremism |
| WANEP | West Africa Network for Peacebuilding |
| WAPI | West Africa Peacebuilding Institute |
| WARM | WANEP Alert and Response Mechanism |
| WARN | The West Africa Early Warning and Response Network |
| WGWYPS | Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security |
| WILPF | Women's International League for Peace and Freedom |
| WIPNET | Women in Peacebuilding Network Programme |
| WODI | WANEP Organisational Development Index |
| WPS | Women Peace and Security |
| YTEaM | Youth Transformational Empowerment and Mentorship |

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

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. 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).

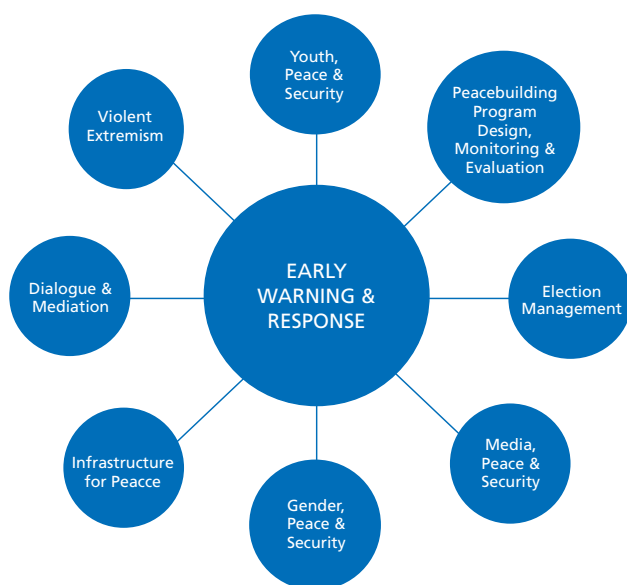
OUR APPROACH

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 as well as 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

WANEP has succeeded in establishing strong national networks in every Member State of ECOWAS, with over 500 member organizations working in peacebuilding across West Africa. WANEP has a niche in implementing programs to equip the youth, business owners, women, traditional leaders and state agencies with requisite skills in conflict prevention and supports them to find local solutions to their unique conflict situations across the region.





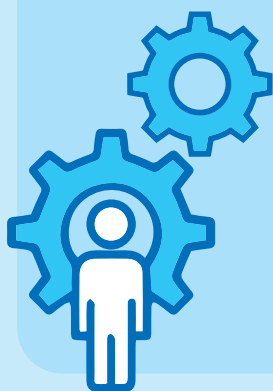
OUR VISION

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 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.



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

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

A year ago, in my message on behalf of the Board for the 2021 Annual Report, I was optimistic that we would have put the Covid 19 pandemic effects behind us but unfortunately, we have not. While we were wishful in our thinking, the year we have just put behind us will almost certainly be defined by the effects—health, social, psycho logical and economic—of the COVID-19 pandemic. But, despite the sameness of the last and this year's circumstances, the fundamental truth is that Africa and the global community remained, to varying degrees and intensity, in crisis mode for a third consecutive year. Communities continue to be disrupted, supply chains struggled, businesses scrambled, GDP grossly depleted. The pandemic eroded hard-won gains in security, poverty reduction and gender equity, and showed signs of becoming a permanent fixture in our lives. Despite efforts from the global community to reduce global warming, climate change continues to present itself as catalyst for conflict with brutal drought, heat, and flooding affecting the ecosystem and increasing community vulnerabilities. Similarly, it is impossible to ignore the Ukraine-Russia crisis as another angle to the storm with its resulting global food shortage, high food prices, hunger, and malnutrition — not to mention tragic loss of life and destruction of livelihoods.



“ *The GenderTalk series initiated by WANEP has not only taken root and attracted more women groups and advocates in the region but also encouraged other organisations to organise similar educative initiatives for their constituents to broaden the women, peace and security agenda and attracted the policy makers into the talks.”*

The region has also recorded four military takeovers within nine months to further complicate governance and security challenges. There were also over 500 protests and demonstrations either against poor governance, state security agencies or poor living conditions and worsening cost of living by the end of September¹. The year was certainly a test of our collective resilience in which WANEP stepped up,

again to find new ways to respond to the constantly shifting circumstances and challenges of human security in West Africa. In this regard, we continued to support the efforts of ECOWAS, AU and its member states in finding solutions to our common challenges.

Our early warning system in support of AU and ECOWAS peace and security architecture recorded over 10,000 outputs including thematic reports, policy briefs, annual conflict report, incident and situation reports, conflict census among others. These reports analyzed dynamics of human security and provided options for response that continue to inform response and review of key peace and security instruments.

Our contribution to increasing the credibility of electoral processes through our “Electoral Violence Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation” (EMAM)² project, phase two ended with a Regional Lessons

1 NEWS

2 The EMAM project, launched in 2018 was implemented in 11 West African countries over a period of 42 months and covered 17 electoral processes

Learned and Experience Sharing Workshop in Accra. The workshop, organised in collaboration with ECOWAS and UNOWAS brought together 70 key stakeholders including the EU, GIZ, National Peace Council of Ghana and 11 Election Management Bodies (EMB) in the region. The EMBs and partners drew insights which will be used to prevent election related violence in subsequent elections in West Africa. It also provided insights on how to coordinate effective partnerships with various actors (local, regional and international) to enhance peaceful and successful elections in Africa and elsewhere.

“WANEP has been able to reach these extraordinary achievements, despite financial hardship because of the consistency and generosity of its partners. We are well aware that every dollar spent on peace and security in West Africa must reflect on the people and communities we serve, and this is why WANEP will continue to remain prudent and judicious in its development of priorities and application of funds.”

WANEP continued to accompany ECOWAS in the decentralizing of early warning and early response mechanisms through training on data collation and thematic analysis of the staff of national early warning centers as well as providing mentorship to enable them to manage the early warning centers. The GenderTalks series initiated by WANEP has not only taken root and attracted more women groups and advocates in the region but also encouraged other organisations to organise similar educative initiatives for their constituents to broaden the women, peace and security agenda and attracted the policy makers into the talks.

In the year under review WANEP was nominated by ECOWAS to be part of the team representing West Africa at the global forum for Youth Peace and Security. This came on the heels of WANEP's/ Expertise France and partners Africa Youth Summit that brought together 70 youth drawn from Africa to Accra to review governance and democracy decay in Africa and proffer recommendations.

As part of the continuous capacity enhancement for the region's peacebuilders, WANEP, from January to October, trained 3,095 practitioners selected strategically to enhance peacebuilding in the region. Topics and thematic areas in the capacity building included, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Advocacy, Dialogue and Mediation, Participatory Analysis, Gender Analysis, Conflict Sensitive Communication, Democratic Principles and Accountability, installation and operationalisation of Conflict Early Warning and Early Response systems and resilience to Violent Extremism.

WANEP Organisational Development Index (WODI) shows tremendous institutional growth in key areas of governance, fund raising, advocacy and impact among others. I am therefore incredibly proud and humbled by the commitment of WANEP's staff, which has earned us credibility as the leading peace and security CSO on the continent.

As I end my tenure on the Board at the next General Assembly, I am proud of what we have achieved in the last six years and particularly within the period of my administration - the new building (Research and Documentation Centre, acquisition of a new standby generator, increased staff strength in the Research and Finance units, policy review including child education support among others.

WANEP has been able to reach these extraordinary achievements, despite financial hardship because of the consistency and generosity of its partners. We are well aware that every dollar spent on peace and security in West Africa must reflect on the people and communities we serve, and this is why WANEP will continue to remain prudent and judicious in its development of priorities and application of funds. I thank my colleagues on the Board especially my Vice, Dr. Salamatu Suleiman, WANEP management, staff and network members for their support and cooperation and beseech them to extend same and more to our successors.

WANEP Regional Board Members



Left: Professor Oumar Ndongo, Regional Board Chair

Right: Mr. Gaye Sowe



Left: Mrs Carla Maria Borges Bettencourt

Right: Mrs Salamatu Hussaini Suleiman



Left: Mrs. Florence Iheme

Right: Prof. Daniel K. B. Inkoom



Mrs Fatoumata Dembélé Diarra

MANAGEMENT REPORT

The year 2022 for WANEP saw significant strengthening of the institution at both regional and national level amidst mounting challenges in the peace and security arena across the West Africa region. While the national networks grew in membership and national secretariats reviewed and aligned their strategic plans and policies with those of the regional plans and policies, the regional office instituted various mechanisms and processes to strengthen institutional resilience, capacities of staff and member organisations, as well as to facilitate the development and strengthening of partnerships with critical stakeholders at national, sub-regional and regional levels. Key among these are the review of the indicators for the WANEP Organisational Development Index (WODI) to broaden the dimensions of assessment, the institution of quarterly virtual sessions to review progress of National Networks ranked lower on the WODI scale, the creation of peer to peer/cross-Network teams to support resource mobilisation, program development and implementation across all national secretariats and multiple virtual and face to face learning platforms for staff and member organisations.



“With global economic shocks emanating from a combination of the lingering cascaded effects of COVID-19 pandemic, climate-change induced hazards and the Russia-Ukraine war, WANEP like most civil society organizations faced its share of financial resource scarcity in 2022 and therefore had to make difficult choices in determining activities to implement.”

These measures enabled the institution to navigate the tides of the changing context and dynamics of CSO engagement in the peace and security landscape occasioned by a multiplicity of factors, namely, the growing insecurity across communities in the region as a result of the combined effects of the threat and spread of violent extremism, criminality, climate change, agro-pastoral and other community and intercommunal conflicts. Coupled with this are the lingering cascading effects of the

COVID-19 pandemic and a global economic crisis which present financial resource scarcities as well as increasing geopolitical interest and contestation within the West Africa region. Additionally, are several political, social and economic challenges which continue to expose fault lines and fragilities in the governance systems of States within the region, with their attendant impact on widening the trust deficit between the State and citizens in the region.

These dynamics continue to increase the burden of response and raise expectations on Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) such as WANEP, to step in the gap to help enhance human security while working with state and non-state actors to rebuild and restore trust between the State and its citizens. With global economic shocks emanating from a combination of the effects of COVID-19 pandemic, climate-change induced hazards and the Russia-Ukraine war, WANEP like most civil society organizations faced its fair share of financial resource scarcity in 2022 and therefore had to make difficult choices in determining activities to implement. To this end, a significant component of our resources was expended on

developing new and reinforcing existing frameworks for collective response, particularly around Early Warning and Response, Democracy and Good Governance and Violent Extremism. We have done this by leveraging on our long-standing partnership with ECOWAS and the African Union Commission, to harness a multiplicity of capacities to strengthen both State and community resilience across the West Africa region.

Our ability to design appropriate preventive and mitigative responses continues to be premised on our robust WANEP Alert and Response Mechanism (WARM), which in the year under review gained more impetus from enhanced capacities in data collection and analysis of our NEWS Managers and Community Monitors across all our National Networks. The various products generated by WARM, such as policy briefs, thematic reports, situation reports, and weekly highlights served as critical inputs for various policy discourses and formulation processes as well as program design and implementation. A notable result to mention in this regard is the WANEP 2022 Peace and Security Outlook which among many far-reaching impact, was the key reference document for the first briefing session in 2022 of Ambassadors of ECOWAS member states accredited to the ECOWAS Commission. Through WARM and with funding support from GIZ, we intensified our capacity strengthening support to the National Centres for the Coordination of Response Mechanisms (NCCRMs), through training sessions and facilitating multistakeholder consultative sessions to enhance their visibility, legitimacy and relevance. WARM through the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund funded project, also serves as the linchpin for strengthening civil society capacity for Early Warning and Response in the Central Africa Region.

“In the area of Democracy and Good Governance, the increasing interrogation of the value of democracy by citizens and shifts in democratic scorecards being based on just free, fair, and peaceful elections and political transitions to calls for new inclusive social contracts, has seen WANEP transcend our interventions beyond elections to other areas of Democracy and Good Governance. In this regard, WANEP in the year under review launched with support from UNDP Regional Office in Addis Ababa, the Citizens’ Participation for Accountable and Inclusive Democracy (CPAID).”

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In this reporting year, we upscaled our investments in young people’s transformation agenda in line with our strategic objective aimed at laying the foundations for future peaceable communities through developing credible and responsive leadership among young people. In partnership with ECOWAS and the Africa Union and with support from our core funding partners ADA, SIDA and the Embassy of Denmark in Ghana, we launched the Y-TEAM initiative, a new component of WANEP’s Youth, Peace, and Security Program. This initiative seeks to groom a new generation of youth peacebuilders capable of driving transformational change and sustainable peace in their communities and countries. It is intended as an annual youth empowerment program targeting, about thirty (30) graduate students across West Africa, between the ages of 18 and 35. Our commitment to enhancing inclusivity in peace and security was further demonstrated through prioritising our efforts to support various national, regional, continental and global agendas on Women, Peace and Security working through our National Networks, and within the framework of our partnership with ECOWAS and Africa Union. Among these efforts were a series of capacity strengthening and advocacy engagements with ECOWAS and the Africa Union to increase the participation of women and youth in peace missions.

These were organised within the framework of the Just Futures Project funded by the Dutch Government through a consortium led by CORDAID.

With regards to our strategic objective of strengthening community resilience and the capacity of institutions to perform their mandate effectively in human security, our national networks across 14 ECOWAS member states continue to provide the frame upon which our capacity building and resilience strengthening efforts are anchored. Under the leadership of our national secretariats and some member organisations, approximately 4,000 state and non-state actors were trained across the region in diverse thematic areas in peace and security. Additionally in various communities particularly in the Sahel sub-region and parts of Nigeria, our national networks led various community dialogue processes and facilitated sessions aimed at strengthening relationships between State Security actors and citizens.

In February 2022, WANEP signed a new contract with the European Union to fund the Research and Action for Peace Network (REcAP Network) project. The project has an overall objective to strengthen the role of Civil Society, including regional, national and community practitioners and researchers in effective peacebuilding, crisis management and prevention of conflict and violent extremism to enable more informed decision-making by policy makers. Being implemented by WANEP, in partnership with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the project responds to key capacity gaps and limitations to collaboration between peacebuilding experts, policy makers and practitioners to improve the impact, progress, and sustainability of peacebuilding research, policy, and practice and seeks to establish a sustainable, more inclusive, and effective regional network of experts specialised in peacebuilding, the prevention of conflicts and violent extremism in West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin.

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As we move into the third year of our strategic plan implementation, we continue to reflect on lessons learnt and consult critical stakeholders on how best to consolidate efforts towards collective peace and prosperity as aspired in agendas 2030 and ultimately 2063. Although we were unable to achieve a hundred percentage implementation rate on our planned activities as a result of exogenous challenges within our operational field, we are grateful for the various forms of financial and technical support we received throughout the year that has seen the institution achieve all its major expected results for 2022. We applaud the sense of common purpose and relentless efforts of our member organisations, Board members and staff across all our National Networks, Regional and Liaison Offices. At both the levels of our national secretariats and our regional office, almost all our partnership agreements were renewed, and new partners signed on. This is a clear demonstration and testimony of confidence by partners in our ability to deliver on our common interests and goals. We express our profound appreciation to our various funding partners for the continued belief and investments in our vision and look forward to achieving greater results together in 2023!

WANEP Management Team



Left: Executive Director, Dr. Chukwuemeka Eze



Right: Deputy Executive Program Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah



Left: Mrs. Esther Gordon-Mensah, Administrative/ Human Resources Manager



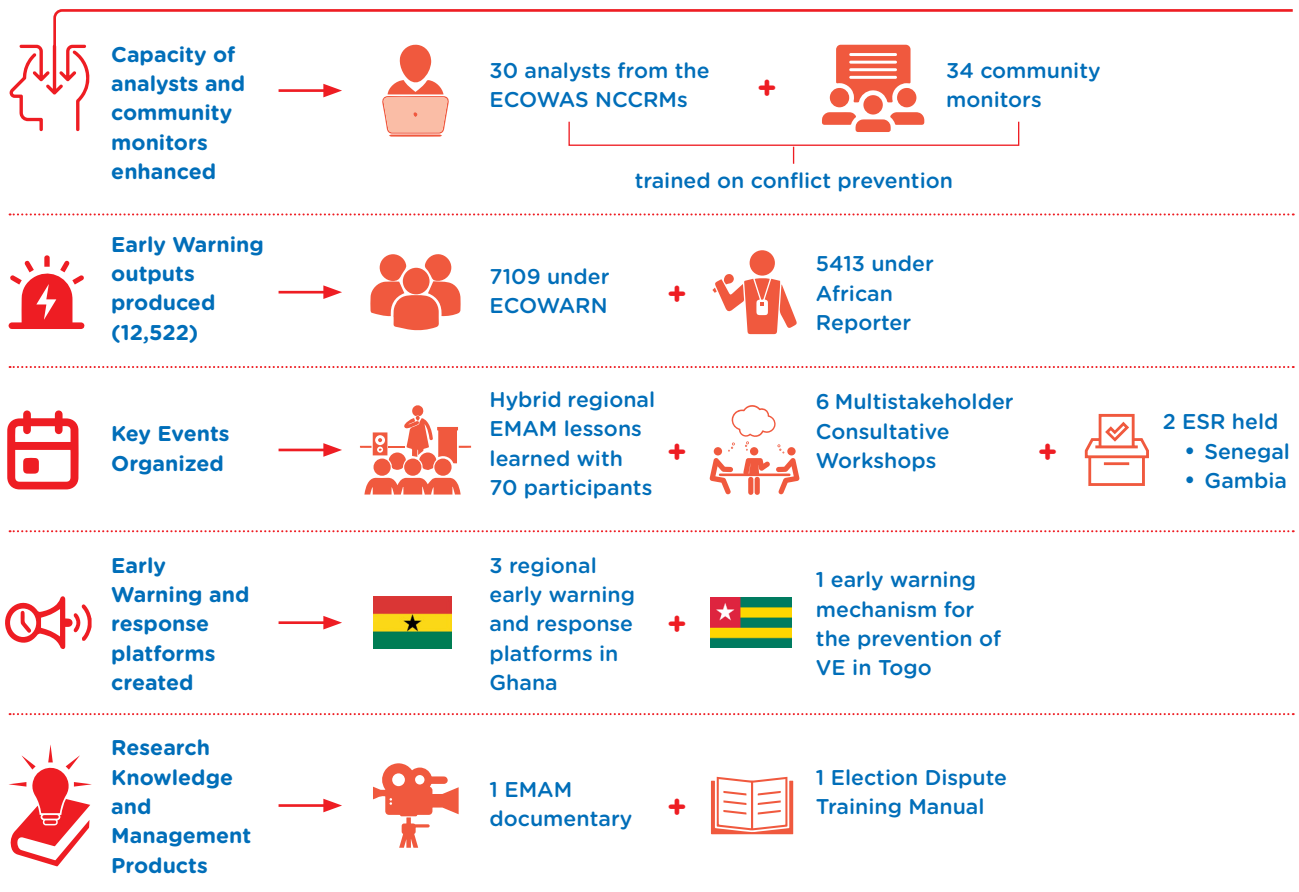
Right: Mr. Raymond Darko, Finance Manager

OUR PRIORITIES/IMPACT

| OUR PRIORITIES | OUR GOAL |
|--|--|
|  Enhanced Early Warning and Response Mechanisms | <p>WANEP will enhance the use of early warning to promote quality and effective early response and the effectiveness of actors in West Africa</p> |
|  Women, Peace and Security | <p>WANEP utilises international instruments including UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions, the ECOWAS Conflict Resolution Framework (ECPF), the AU Continental Results Framework (CRF) and other normative frameworks, to broaden discourse on the Women Peace and Security Agenda. WANEP also relies on its ideology of Women's Peace Activism to advance, broaden and strengthen meaningful participation and inclusion of women in governance, economic and political space.</p> |
|  Youth, Peace and Security | <p>WANEP's peace education programme has been broadened to support youth participation in peace and security. Beyond capacity building, WANEP is increasing dialogue platforms and spaces for youth at local and national level to engage duty bearers and all stakeholders in inter-generational dialogues to address the concerns and contributions of the youth in peacebuilding.</p> |
|  Institutional Capacity Building and Citizen-State Relations | <p>WANEP builds community resilience and the capacity of institutions to perform their mandate effectively in human security. Through this mandate, the relationship between citizens and States in advancing inclusive and participatory governance and peace and security will also be improved.</p> |
|  Research and Knowledge Management | <p>WANEP undertakes research to inform capacity building, engage in policy advocacy in peace and security, and leverage on its organisational capabilities and partnerships to increase its institutional visibility.</p> |
|  WANEP Institution Building | <p>WANEP strengthens and sustains the effectiveness of its Regional and Liaison offices, National Networks and the capacity of its member organisations to perform their mandate in West African states.</p> |



K.R.A. 1: STRENGTHENING FUNCTIONAL RESPONSE MECHANISMS



1.1. Enhanced Early Warning to Support Response Initiatives

The WANEP Early Warning and Response Mechanism (WARM) is a credible mechanism for effective monitoring, reporting and responding to the growing human security threats plaguing West Africa and the Sahel region. With a functional National Early Warning System (NEWS) in 14 ECOWAS Member States, a highly developed Peace Monitoring Centre (PMC), WARM has been utilized to enhance the use of early warning to promote and improve the quality of response and effectiveness of peacebuilding actors in the region. In the reporting period, WANEP under WARM enhanced capacity of 30 Analysts of the ECOWAS national centers for the coordination

of response mechanisms (NCCRMs), on gender, governance and human rights. WANEP-Togo with funding support from the United States Department trained 34 community monitors on key indicators for reporting violent extremism (VE) related incidents for rapid response. These capacity building initiatives has resulted to effective integration and gender mainstreaming into ECOWARN while the trained monitors are now producing quality and timely early warning reports.

1.2. Facilitating Credible Electioneering Process in West Africa

The EMAM program showcases WANEP's efforts in managing election disputes and proffering workable solutions in collaboration with key partners and relevant stakeholders in West Africa. In the reporting year, WANEP deployed its expertise in election monitoring, analysis and mitigation in two electioneering processes within the reporting year. WANEP-The Gambia with support from ECOWAS, operationalised the Election Situation Room (ESR) for the National Assembly Elections, held on 9 April 2022. Setting up and managing the ESR helped build local civil society's capacity to advocate for high voter turnout and complemented the national Government's efforts to promote a peaceful and credible electoral process.

WANEP held a hybrid Regional Lessons Learned and Experience Sharing Workshop in collaboration with the ECOWAS and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) to mark the end of the EU funded EMAM program.

The program was initiated in 2018 and implemented across 11 countries in the region. About 70 participants attended the conference to discuss the successes and challenges of the program and deliberate on strategies to improve future electoral security interventions in West Africa. Two key outputs of the program included a well-researched documentary and a comprehensive Election Dispute Training Manual. The outputs provide a rich resource for understanding the electioneering cycle in West Africa and will serve as a guide for the training of monitors/observers and election management bodies on the rudiments of conducting elections in the region.

To further complement facilitating credible electioneering processes in West Africa, WANEP with support from GIZ through the ESPAO project facilitated a multistakeholder consultative workshop in partnership with the NCCRMs in six (06) countries in West Africa, namely Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, The Gambia. The workshops presented an opportunity to bring visibility to the relevance of the NCCRMs and facilitate cooperation between NCCRMs and key institutions responsible for response.

ECHOES FROM THE ESR

"Thank you very much for sharing and providing insights on such an important day for Senegal. Congratulations to the entire WANEP team and we are very grateful."

- *Caroline Hauptmann, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Dakar*

"Congratulations to the WANEP teams for the work done, in progress and yet to be done in this electoral process, with very good results so far! Thanks for the visit, hoping that calm and reason remain until the end."

- *David Bouanchaud, European Union*

"Congratulations to WANEP for the work accomplished with limited means. The commitment of its members and collaborators made the difference. Thank you again in the name of all civil society and the Senegalese people."

- *Prof Babacar GUEYE*

"Remarkable organisation. Motivated teams, skills, expertise, and unique professionalism of WANEP in the service of peaceful and transparent elections. I have no doubt that Senegal will confirm through these elections its status as an exemplary democracy in the region."

- *Sébastien Cocard, European Union*



WANEP Gambia observers during the Gambian parliamentary elections



ECOWAS election observers visit the ESR during the parliamentary elections in The Gambia



WANEP Senegal Electoral observers ensuring that the electoral violence monitoring system is up and running

1.3. Influencing Policies and Response Actions through Early Warning Outputs

The WANEP early warning outputs continue to serve as a credible resource material to key policy makers and major partners and guides their intervention strategies. WANEP through its highly developed PMC continued to monitor security threats in the region and generate evidence-based outputs including policy briefs, situation-tracking, incident reports among others. In the reporting period, WANEP churned out 12,522 early warning products with

7,109 submitted to ECOWARN and a total of 5,413 submitted to the Africa Reporter. Trained monitors in Togo produced over 508 incident reports, which provided a resource for decision-makers to formulate their response actions and intervention strategies. A breakdown of the early warning outputs are shown on the table below:

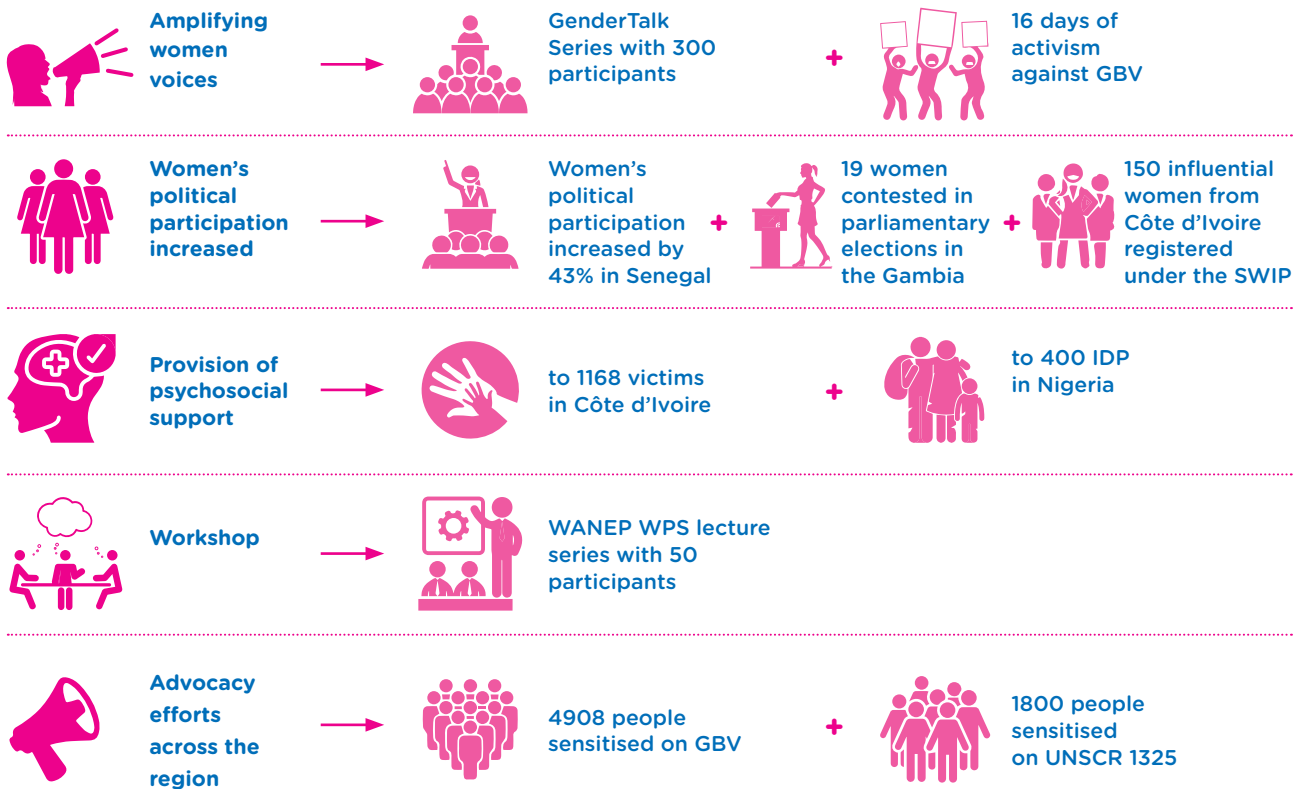
| OUTPUTS | ECOWARN | AFRICA REPORTER | TOTAL |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Events Report | 3785 | 3785 | |
| Situation Report | 1,573 | 82 | |
| Incident reports | 1704 | 1260 | |
| Monthly bulletins | 42 | - | |
| Situation tracking | 3 | 286 | |
| Quick updates | 2 | - | |
| TOTAL | 7109 | 5413 | 12522 |

1.4. Establishing functional community level early warning and response structures

WANEP-Ghana facilitated the establishment of a 75-member Early Warning and Response Platform in the Savannah, North-East, and Upper West regions of Ghana. The platform is mandated to share security intelligence and design workable response strategies and contribute to inter-regional collaborations for mitigating security threats in the region. The network also facilitated the establishment of community/district monitoring teams (CDMTs) comprised of various peace actors across the country charged with monitoring community peace processes and ensuring that commitments are respected and sustained. These efforts have led to the successful management of recurring land and chieftaincy conflicts in the Savannah, Upper West and Upper East Regions of the country. The fight against violent extremism was boosted in Togo with the establishment of an Early Warning Mechanism for the Prevention of Violent Extremism facilitated by WANEP-Togo. The network also contributed to the efforts of the Togolese Government in the development of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Fight against Violent Extremism. The document is expected to become operational once adopted by the Government.



K.R.A. 2: STRENGTHENING WOMEN AND GIRLS' CAPACITY FOR POLICY INFLUENCING



2.1. Leading Change through Gender-Informed Initiatives and Platforms

WANEP's ideology of women peace activism provides the basis for broadening and strengthening women and girls' meaningful participation and inclusion in decision-making levels. Towards achieving this, WANEP employs a multi-pronged strategy, which includes robust capacity building initiatives, advocacy campaigns, collaboration with relevant stakeholders and creating sustainable platforms as a mechanism for amplifying women's voices. One of such platforms is the GenderTalk Series, which is a digital mechanism for ensuring that women's key concerns are at the center of conflict prevention, resolution and reconstruction. Five editions of the series held successfully at the regional and national levels in the review period with over 300 participants

and provided opportunity for gender experts and peacebuilding actors to proffer workable solutions to addressing issues of gender-based violence, women's economic empowerment and women's meaningful participation and inclusion in peace and decision-making processes among others.





Additionally, WANEP marked the 2022 International Women's Day (IWD) under the theme: "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow," with a fourteen-day digital campaign, which profiled women's contributions and resilience in breaking bias to achieve gender parity in their localities/communities. Flagging off the campaign, WANEP Deputy Executive Director/Program Director, Mrs. Levinia Addae-Mensah attested that women have achieved a measure of success in the quest for gender parity but noted that a lot still needs to be done. She commended the AU and ECOWAS for the strides they have made and the commitment to breaking gender bias, adding that "WANEP is committed to supporting all forms of processes that seek to empower women and that seek to break the biases...."



Left: two members of the high table; Maj- Gen Francis Ofori, Commandant, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center and Mr. George Amoh, Executive Secretary, National Peace Council listening with rapt attention to the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Angela Lusigi, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-GH)

2.1.1. WANEP WPS Lecture Series: In recognition of the growing impact of climate change on the gender discourse, the second edition of the Lecture Series explored the theme: "Gender, Security and Climate Change: Building Strategic Action for Sustainable Peace". The hybrid event was preceded by a virtual segment aimed at capturing youth perspectives for addressing climate change and increasing intergenerational space for climate action. Dr. Angela Lusigi, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-Ghana), who delivered the keynote address, pointed out that

climate change also exacerbates pre-existing gender inequalities leading to volatile homes and increased domestic violence situations. Dr. Lusigi thereafter called for deliberate efforts to amplify voices of women, youth and other marginalized groups and urged all stakeholders to support implementation of gender-sensitive legislations and policies as the panacea for tackling the climate change menace. The event brought together over 50 experts and professionals in the field of gender, women, research, the academia, civil society as well as development partners.

Leading Transformative Change Through Empowerment of Women and Girls

ESTHER JUMA JIBRIN is a passionate gender activist and peace advocate with a love for humanity. With a B.Sc. Degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from University of Maiduguri, and a diploma in Environmental management, Esther has carved a niche for herself in areas of feminism, economic independence for women, gender education and peacebuilding. Over the years, Esther has been able to translate this passion into practical action aimed at increasing women's economic empowerment in order to provide them with secured livelihood. Presently, Esther, who is also the Secretary of the WANEP initiated Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET), Borno State Chapter, Nigeria is working assiduously with her team to bring succor to the young women and girls' victims of Boko Haram.

Through the 'Barka De Zuwa' initiative or 'welcome' in Hausa lingo, Esther and her team have so far empowered over 50 young women recaptured from the insurgents including homeless women and girls and supported them with seed loans to start up small scale businesses in Maiduguri, Borno State. The state is prone to boko haram attacks and the women and girls released from their captivity are often stigmatized, so this initiative has aided their easy rehabilitation and re-integration into their communities. In addition, the Barka De Zuwa girls have been capacitated to play active part in promoting peace in their communities. Esther is well versed in community mobilization and was engaged in educating the local population on COVID- 19 safety measures, particularly on how to access gender-based violence referral services with the rise in domestic violence incidences experienced during the COVID 19 lockdown.



Above left, the women and girls of Barka De Zuwa with the initiator, Esther (above right) recording the seed loans provided for women economic empowerment.

2.2. Strengthening women and girls' capacities for effective policy influencing

WANEP's work in the WPS interventions gained visibility in the reporting year allowing meaningful participation and inclusion of women in the political sector. For instance, WANEP-The Gambia robust capacity building and sensitization activities for active participation of women in politics saw the emergence of 19 women contestants for five parliamentary seats in the 2022 elections, marking the first time in the history of Gambian politics where this number of women have contested for elective offices. WANEP continued to partner with key stakeholders and relied on existing platforms towards increasing

meaningful inclusion and participation of women in leadership and political arena. Under the auspices of the UNOWAS-initiated Working Group on Women, Youth, Peace and Security-Ghana (WGWYPS-GH) convened by WANEP, series of advocacy initiatives were embarked on in the reporting year by the Group to promote the WPS agenda. In line with its mandate of providing oversight and coordination support to the WPS program across the region, the regional WPS desk holds quarterly coordination meetings with national network coordinators and WPS focal points of the 14 WANEP national networks. The meetings are specifically meant for the networks to provide regular updates on their WPS interventions, progress made and challenges.

“My Passion is Defending Women and Girls’ Rights,”

MRS. LAURE AMOUSSOU-AMANA is a human rights defender in Togo, specializing in gender issues. Her foray into peace and security took root from her encounter with WANEP-Togo through its Women Peace and Security (WPS) programme, which prepared her for a career in Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution and Transformation, especially Gender related issues. The skills acquired from the several capacity building activities prepared Laure for taking up leadership initiatives in Togo, leading her to contribute significantly to the promotion of peace and stability in her locality. She has deployed these skills in building capacity of community leaders, women and youth as well as in creating awareness for increased women and youth participation in elections.



In October 2022, Laure serving as Mobilization and Partnership of the United Nations Volunteers Program (UNV) in Togo, organized a session for young people from the Youth4Peace platform of WANEP-Togo, on the selection opportunities in the United Nations Volunteers programme. She also initiated the Women Mediators of Peace platform and the Youth Academy for Peace and Development during her tenure as the Program Officer for Peace Education/WPS with WANEP-Togo.

Laure now heads the Global Alliance for the Protection of Children and Women (AGPEF-Togo) on a voluntary basis and continues to collaborate with WANEP on the Peace Education program and on gender issues. She attributes her rapid progress in peace and security sector to the several opportunities WANEP Togo offered stating, “I am particularly grateful to the opportunities I got working with the network, particularly, I benefited from coaching from the National Network Coordinator, who spares no effort to guide, advise and help me to further develop my leadership potentials.”

2.3. Driving transformative community-led action for Implementation of UNSCR 1325

As the community is at the heart of WANEP's engagements, the reporting year saw increased community interactions by the national networks as a deliberate effort to provide opportunity for women at the community level to amplify their voices on issues of peace and human security. Some of the actions undertaken at the national level include the following:

- WANEP Senegal's efforts to advance the WPS agenda saw a remarkable increase in women's engagement in peace and security at the community level, which rose from less than 5% in 2019 to more than 43% in 2022. Some of the milestones chalked include the establishment of a gender office in the local police station to manage GBV cases, the passage of the law on rape and paedophilia by the National Assembly. They also led efforts to enhance capacities of the local GBV monitoring committee for better

management of GBV cases and produced a reference document on relevant information on women, peace, and security issues.



A woman expressing her joy over her new agricultural equipment, in Togo.

- The Sahel Women Influencers Portal (SWIP) established within the framework of the UNDP-funded project tagged ‘Building an inclusive post Covid-19 recovery, crises transitions and governance reforms in the Sahel – phase II’, was

boosted with the onboarding of 150 influential women in Cote d'Ivoire by the trained System Administrators.

- WANEP Côte d'Ivoire, with funding from the Victims' Trust Fund, provided psychological and material support to victims of the violence that occurred during the women's march. A total of 1168 victims benefitted from the support whereas 66 received material support.
- WANEP Togo's awareness and sensitization messages against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) reached more than 4,500 people across the communities.

WANEP Nigeria, in collaboration with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), validated the guidelines for the implementation of Nigeria's

local action plans under the project on 'Localisation of the WPS Resolutions in Nigeria.' The network also provided humanitarian assistance to 400 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who are victims of the communal conflict in Gombe State, Nigeria under the Project on Amplifying the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda.

- WANEP-Mali in partnership with the Association of Bloggers of Mali (ABM) and through the National Women Coalition (NWC), carried out series of digital campaigns to raise awareness on GBV and UNSCR 1325 reaching more than 1800 people.
- WANEP-Liberia, with support from UN Women reached 408 people with messages aimed at ending violence against women and girls.



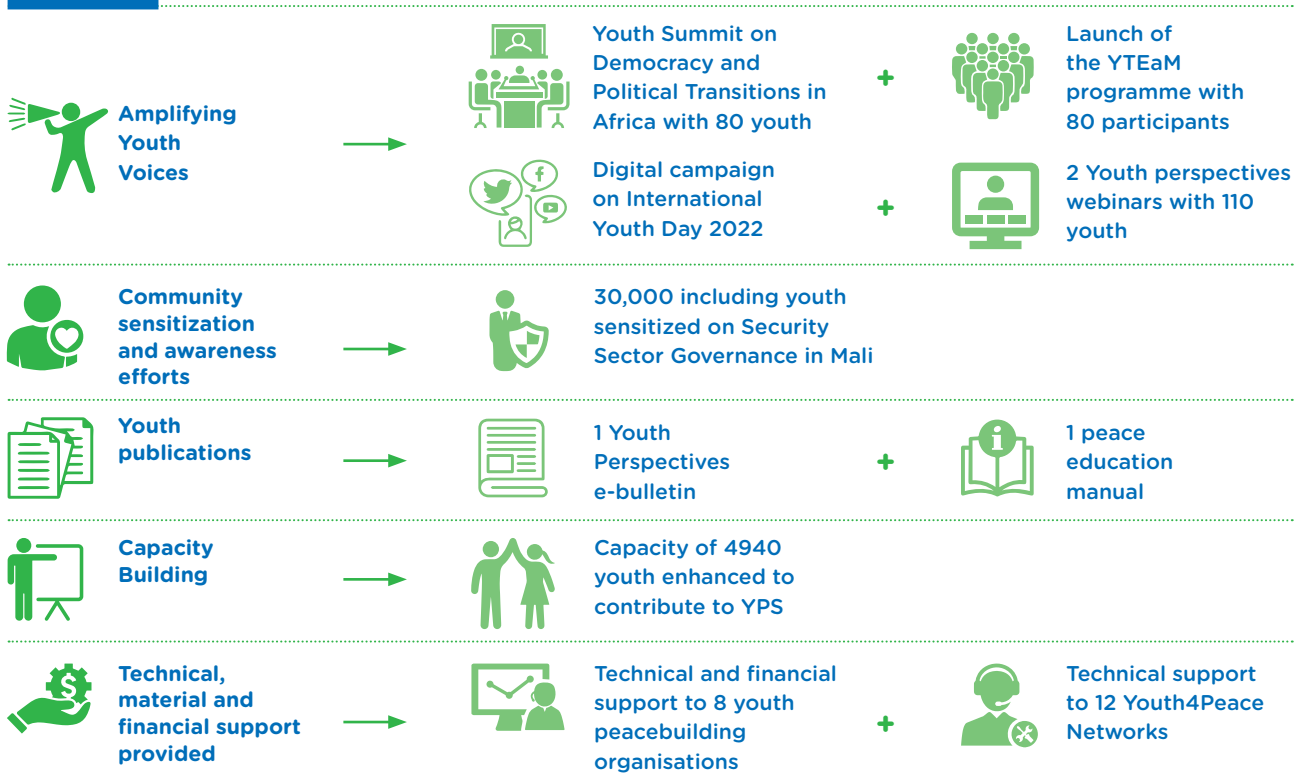
Community sensitization and awareness campaign to enhance social cohesion in Togo

NATIONAL ACTION PLANS (NAPs) on 1325 supported by WANEP

| COUNTRY | FIRST | SECOND | THIRD | REMARKS |
|---------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| BENIN | | | | |
| BURKINA FASO | 2012 - 2016 | | | |
| COTE D'IVOIRE | 2008-2012 | 2019-2023 | | |
| GAMBIA | 2012 | | | NAP2 in progress |
| GHANA | Adopted in 2010, launched in 2012 and implemented in 2014 | 2020 - 2025 | | |
| GUINEA | 2009 - 2013 | | | |
| GUINEA BISSAU | 2010 - 2011 | | | |
| LIBERIA | 2009 - 2013 | 2019 - 2023 | | |
| MALI | 2012 - 2014 | 2015 - 2017 | 2019 - 2023 | |
| NIGER | 2016 - 2018 | 2020 - 2024 | | |
| NIGERIA | 2013 - 2017 | 2017 - 2020 | | NAP 3 in progress |
| SENEGAL | 2011 - 2015 | 2020 - 2024 | | |
| SIERRA LEONE | 2010 - 2014 | 2019 - 2023 | | |
| TOGO | 2011 - 2016 | | | |



K.R.A. 3: BROADENING THE PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR GREATER YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY



3.1. Youth Meaningful Contribution and Participation in Peace and Security

The WANEP youth, peace and security (YPS) program has been expanded over the years to include emerging peace and security threats to youth in Africa. On the strength of its partnership with ECOWAS, WANEP partnered with the ECOWAS Youth and Sports Development Centre to facilitate Youth networks across the region to participate in the hybrid World Youth Development Forum, held in China with over 400 youth delegates across the globe in attendance. An international advocacy document that seeks to prioritise youth development

was drafted at the forum. WANEP also collaborated with ECOWAS, the AU and the African Governance Architecture (AGA)-Support Project, funded by the European Union and implemented through Expertise France, to hold a Youth Summit on Democracy and Political Transitions in Africa aptly tagged “YouthVoices4Change”. The Summit presented a unique opportunity for 80 youth from the 15 ECOWAS Member States to contribute and share perspectives on the implications of unconstitutional changes of government in West Africa and the resurgence of military coups in the region. As an outcome of the summit, an advocacy document was developed to guide youth-led advocacy to policymakers to demand youth inclusive participation in governance and peacebuilding in their respective countries.



Youth delegates from Guinea display their flag at the Summit



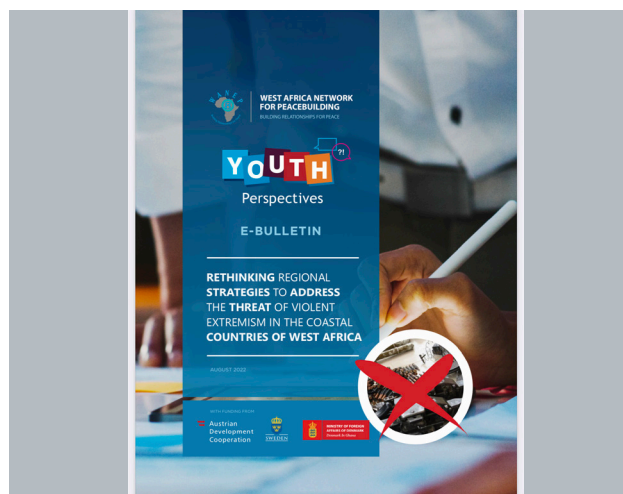
Youth from across West Africa attended the Youth Summit

3.1.1. Enhancing Youth capacities for promoting the Youth Peace and Security Agenda: Towards achieving this goal, WANEP, on the strength of its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) and ECOWAS, built capacity of 100 members of the Youth4Peace Networks across Member States in the areas of networking and advocacy.

WANEP held two editions of the Youth Perspective Webinars, a digital platform created to harness youth perspectives on the YPS agenda with a total of 110 youth in attendance. Discussions, recommendations, and lessons learned from the webinars formed part of the e-bulletin titled: "Rethinking Regional Strategies to Address the Threat of Violent Extremism (VE) in the Coastal Countries of West Africa". WANEP-Togo with support from UNFPA, provided technical, material, and financial support to eight youth peacebuilding organisations to carry out preventive actions in various parts of Togo reaching 20,307

youth. As a result, about ten identified community conflicts in the Savannah region were successfully averted.

Youth Perspectives E-Bulletin



MY JOURNEY WITH WANEP – BOUDO MALIKI, National Coordinator Peace Club, Burkina Faso

“I am BOUDO MALIKI, 3rd year student in the Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences, at the Thomas Sankara University, Burkina Faso. My journey with WANEP started right from the secondary school in 2019 through the Peace Education program. I was actively involved in peace clubs’ activities and peace camps organized by WANEP. This was an opportunity for me to improve on my knowledge and skills in peace education, conflict prevention and leadership.



The skills acquired allowed me to mediate successfully in conflicts in my school and I later became the National Coordinator of WANEP peace clubs in Burkina Faso since 2020. Having understood the important role of sports in promoting peace among youth, in 2021, with support from WANEP and its partners, I developed a manual titled: “Peace Education through Sports”, as a resource to guide effective engagement with youth on peace education in a playful and interactive manner. I have been able to train so far, seven young people on the use of the manual and sensitized about 100 students. I have also developed some training materials on civic and citizen engagement and on advocacy strategies. These tools are being used by the peace club members and the students’ associations in selected schools in Burkina Faso as an advocacy resource to solicit the buy-in of relevant stakeholders for the effective integration of peace education in the school curricula.

For me, capacity building is key to youth development and for positive contribution to society. I therefore urge my peers to seek opportunities to build their skills and make contribution to their communities or country. Joining WANEP Peace club was a life transforming experience! This is an opportunity for me to say thank you to WANEP Burkina Faso and its partners for supporting youth development and participation in peace initiatives.”

3.2 Heightened Advocacy and Campaign Efforts

As part of continuous efforts to increase youth led engagements at national and community levels, WANEP national offices embarked on robust sensitization and awareness initiatives geared towards mobilizing the youth to play active roles in community peacebuilding initiatives. For instance, WANEP regional office and national networks commemorated the 2022 International Youth Day with a 14-day campaign, centred on the theme: “Intergenerational Solidarity in Shaping Policies and Sustaining Peace in West Africa” to raise awareness about the significance of intergenerational dialogue and inclusive governance for long-term peace and development. Additionally, WANEP Regional Secretariat and National Networks collaborated with Youth4Peace Networks across ECOWAS Member States to draw attention to issues related to youth, peace and security through advocacy visits, vox pops, webinars as well as live radio and television discussions driven by young persons. All these efforts

were achieved through a robust capacity building strategy as detailed below;

- In the Gambia, about 90 youth were trained in community mediation and sensitized to vie for elective positions in local government elections and also serve as peace agents in their communities.
- In Mali, more than 30,000 persons including youth and young people were reached through various awareness programmes under the project titled ‘Community Engagement for Security Advisory Committee.’ The network also supported six micro-projects as a means to promote Income Generating activities and contribute to the economic empowerment of women and youth.
- 50 young peace ambassadors trained in Guinea contributed to avert conflict during Guinea’s transition period, which was marred by violent demonstrations.

- In Niger, over 400 youth are now actively engaged in various community peace initiatives such as the construction of a delivery room in Kantamawa, construction of four classrooms and Income Generating Activities.
- Youth groups in Niger played a key role in monitoring dangerous and hateful speeches in the media, particularly on social networks, during the July 2022 legislative elections, which contributed significantly to reduced electoral violence.

3.2.1. Youth Transformational Empowerment and Mentorship (Y-TEAM) Programme: Recognizing the crucial role of youth in peacebuilding, WANEP launched the Youth Transformational Empowerment and Mentorship (Y-TEAM) Programme that intends to groom a new generation of youth leaders capable of driving transformational change and sustainable peace in their localities. This landmark initiative is in support of ongoing efforts towards implementing UNSCR 2250 towards achieving sustainable peace and security in West Africa. The Y-Team programme is a yearly programme targeting 30 fresh graduates across West Africa, between the ages of 18 and 35 with keen interest and commitment to peace, security, governance, and development. The launch was supported by ECOWAS, the African Union, The Austrian Development Cooperation, the Sweden Embassy, the Just Future Consortium and the Ghana National Peace Council and was attended by 80 participants.

3.3. Peer Mediation/Peace Education Initiatives

The WANEP peace education has continued to expand over the years to accommodate emerging and contemporary peace and security threats and trends. Under this mandate, WANEP regularly built capacities of members of the peace/peer mediators clubs to carry out sensitization initiatives in order to deepen the culture of peace among in-school and out-of-school youth. The Clubs are enhanced to take complete ownership of preventive peacebuilding initiatives for sustainability purposes. A total of 3,300 youth were reached with messages of non-violence in and out-of-schools by peace clubs in Nigeria, Burkina Faso and the Gambia in the reporting period. Additionally, WANEP Burkina Faso produced a peace manual to guide the activities of peace clubs in selected schools in the communities. WANEP also produce resources to aid quality delivery of the peace education program. Accordingly, a total of 20 schools, 60 teachers and over 1000 students in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria benefited from the Teaching Manual on Preventing Violent

Extremism produced by WANEP. The Manual has been affirmed by teachers, school administrators as well as supervising Ministries as a relevant tool for promoting a culture of tolerance and non-violence among the pupils as attested to by a teacher from Burkina Faso.

“One of the beneficiaries of the PVE Teaching Manual is Sylvie, who used to be violent in her relationship with friends and was renowned in the school for such behaviour. Through the PVE teaching sessions, Sylvie was exposed to the values of love, tolerance, and non-violence and today, I can attest that Sylvie has changed. She is more tolerant and amicable. This program is very relevant, and we need to foster its implementation.”

Teacher, Burkina Faso

What if we say Yes to Peace

What if we
Silence our divergences
to magnify our differences
And see them as a source of wealth and beauty
In the acceptance of diversity

What if we
Love each other beyond our tribal differences
Embrace beyond prejudice, cultural tolerance
And see in the Fulani, the Yoruba, the Mossi, the same virtue as in the Lobi,
the Temne, the Ewe, the Baoulé ...
Grant the same dignity to the Mandinka and the Pkelle ...

What if we
Accept each other despite our diverse religions
In respect of our societal values
Understand that in the quest for holiness, tolerance is paramount

What if we
Offer the same chance to the schoolboy of the central region
as to that of the Northern part
And without sparing any effort to
Give them the same opportunities for success

What if
In our societies, we perceive women more than a body
That we equate to our chores wrongly
And allow them to express their talents and skills
And walk in equal dignity with men on the path of emergence

What if we
Learn to live together without discrimination,
Accept each other without distinction,
And value our differences,

Won't we build more resilient and peaceful societies?
A more stable West Africa?
Where citizens live in perfect symbiosis under a serene and radiant sky?

Let's say NO to Discrimination, NO to Violence and YES to PEACE!

By Carole Sanogo,
Peace Club member, WANEP Burkina Faso
This poem was translated from French.

International Day of Peace 2022
#youthmakingpeace #peaceday

Heightened advocacy and campaign efforts

 WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE

#IYD2022


Inter-Generational Solidarity in Shaping Policies & Sustaining Peace in West Africa *Theme*



Dr. Onyinye Onwuka
Head of Mediation and Coordination of Regional Political Affairs, Directorate of Political Affairs, ECOWAS Commission

“We must be creative and intentional to open the space for inter-generational dialogues around governance, peace and security issues in the region.”

 @WANEPRegional  WANEP Regional  @WANEP_Regional  www.wanep.org

 WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE

#IYD2022

Inter-Generational Solidarity in Shaping Policies & Sustaining Peace in West Africa *Theme*



Hon. Koanda Saidou
President of the National Assembly, National Assembly, Burkina Faso

“Les conseils Généraux sont des mécanismes mis en place pour créer un cadre de dialogue inter-générationnel autour des politiques de gouvernance. Malheureusement, ces cadres ne sont pas exploités assez par les jeunes pour influencer les politiques.”

 @WANEPRegional  WANEP Regional  @WANEP_Regional  www.wanep.org

 WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE

#IYD2022

Theme **Inter-Generational Solidarity in Shaping Policies & Sustaining Peace in West Africa**



Mr. Diakaridia Diakité
Senior Actor Politiques et Consultant sur les politiques de Jeunesse, Mali

“L'adoption de la loi sur le quota pour la participation des jeunes aux instances décisionnelles est un autre levier pour combler le fossé intergénérationnel.”

 @WANEPRegional  WANEP Regional  @WANEP_Regional  www.wanep.org

 WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE

#IYD2022

Theme **Inter-Generational Solidarity in Shaping Policies & Sustaining Peace in West Africa**

Understanding the way each generation works, helps navigate the challenges in finding common grounds for collaboration.

For instance, (i) the young generation asks questions and the old generation acts. (ii) the young generation focuses on creativity while the old generation lays emphasis on structures and processes.



Dr. Margaret Ellis
Founder & Program Facilitator, Coaches of Influence Foundation (COIF)

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 WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE

#IYD2022

Theme **Inter-Generational Solidarity in Shaping Policies & Sustaining Peace in West Africa**

“My call to the young people: Meaningful participation also means engaging. Don't be afraid to engage with the older generation on issues that matter to you.

Non-violence engagement works rather than taking to the streets. The streets provide us with the energy for the momentum. But as much as possible, use the table or use social media.”



Dr. Onyinye Onwuka
Head of Mediation and Coordination of Regional Political Affairs, Directorate of Political Affairs, ECOWAS Commission

 @WANEPRegional  WANEP Regional  @WANEP_Regional  www.wanep.org

 WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE

#IYD2022

Theme **Inter-Generational Solidarity in Shaping Policies & Sustaining Peace in West Africa**



Mama Kiebetesi III
Young Queen Mother of Mamfe, Mamfe & Betsi Queens Mother of Betsi Clan, Ghana

“Succession plan is an important strategy to prepare and pass on power from one generation to the other.

It takes a deliberate effort to achieve that.”

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K.R.A. 4: ENHANCING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, AND CAPACITY FOR OPTIMUM PERFORMANCE



Sensitization and awareness efforts



4782 sensitised on conflict prevention (2199 males+2583 females)



Capacity building efforts



**A total of 3855 trained across the region
1588 females • 1734 males
553 not gender disaggregated**

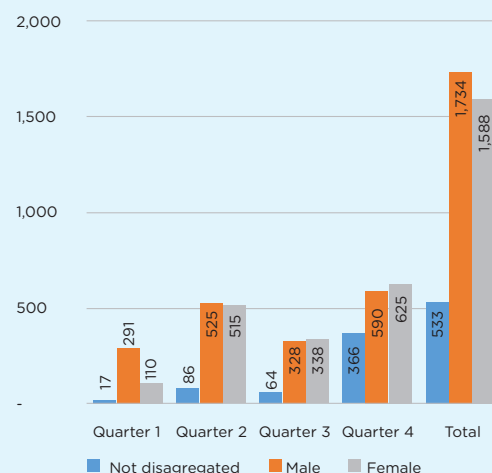
4.1. Strengthening Resilience and Capacities for Sustainable Peace

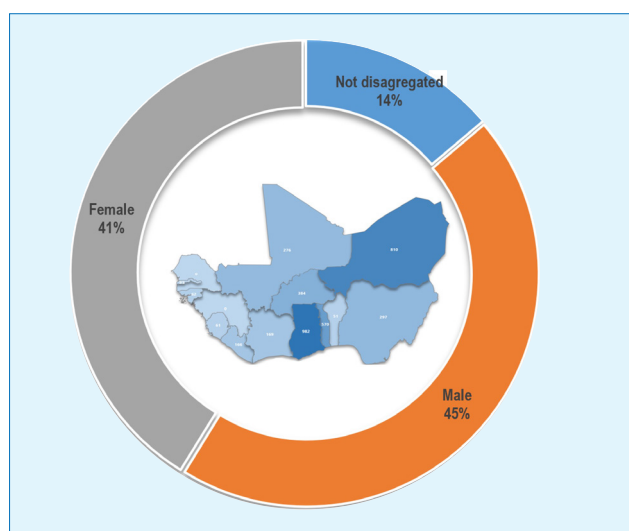
WANEP remains committed to entrenching sustainable peace at the community level in recognition of the critical role the community can play in promoting peace and stability. In its quest to strengthen community resilience for optimum performance, WANEP embarked on laudable initiatives in the reporting period to boost community involvement and engagement in sustainable peace. WANEP's community peacebuilding efforts saw remarkable increase in citizens' capacities to effectively engage on issues of human security, expanded spaces for citizen engagement in dialogue and mediation and other conflict prevention programmes. The various community resilience programmes carried out by WANEP in the period under review led to the institutionalization of dispute management mechanisms, which enabled WANEP and relevant stakeholders to co-create dialogue platforms for policy influencing and conflict prevention. In Ghana, a total of 4,782 people comprised of 2,199 males, 2,583 females in 46 communities of Northern Ghana benefitted from sensitization exercises on conflict prevention/management. The exercise has helped to improve relationships between state security officials, CSOs, traditional authorities, women groups, and youth in border communities in the area culminating in improved early detection and reporting of identified security threats. In Mali, 329 people were sensitized in Segou region on the Crisis Management

Policy Framework to ensure community ownership of the document.

A total of 3,855 people made up of 1,588 females, 1,734 males and 553 who were not gender disaggregated benefitted from several WANEP capacity building initiatives in the review year as shown in the diagrams:

**Training organized by WANEP in 2022
Attendance per gender**





Attendance per country and per gender

| | Not disaggregated | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Guinea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Senegal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gambia | 0 | 20 | 7 | 27 |
| Benin | 0 | 20 | 31 | 51 |
| Sierra Leone | 0 | 31 | 30 | 61 |
| Guinea Bissau | 12 | 21 | 29 | 62 |
| Liberia | 0 | 116 | 50 | 166 |
| CDI | 60 | 81 | 28 | 169 |
| Mali | 57 | 119 | 100 | 276 |
| Nigeria | 0 | 217 | 80 | 297 |
| Burkina Faso | 30 | 187 | 167 | 384 |
| Togo | 274 | 91 | 205 | 570 |
| Niger | 100 | 407 | 303 | 810 |
| Ghana | 0 | 424 | 558 | 982 |
| Total | 533 | 1734 | 1588 | 3855 |

4.2. Enhancing partnerships for community participation

In tandem with its collaborative peacebuilding approach, WANEP engaged with various stakeholders and partners to jointly implement conflict prevention programmes geared towards strengthening effective community participation in dispute management. Some of these interventions addressed issues of post-electoral conflict, cattle rustling, community

resilience and cohesion, among others as detailed below:

- WANEP Cote d'Ivoire with funding from OSIWA worked with traditional rulers as part of efforts to manage and reduce tensions that commenced after the 2020 elections.
- The national networks of Senegal and Guinea Bissau with support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) conducted a baseline study to address the persistent phenomenon of cross-border cattle rustling between Senegal and Guinea Bissau. Full implementation of the project will commence in 2023.
- WANEP Senegal is implementing a project in the Kédougou region to complement governments' efforts to promote community-based inclusive actions in the prevention of violent extremism in the area.
- WANEP Guinea Bissau with support from the UNDP reached over 100 people with peace messages aimed at finding lasting solutions to identified threats in the country.
- WANEP Burkina Faso in collaboration with the International Republican Institute (IRI) conducted capacity building activities for Election Management Bodies and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on strengthening Electoral Processes through Early Warning and Early Response,"



A traditional ruler receiving a certificate of participation at the end of the multistakeholder training on alternative dispute resolution in Côte d'Ivoire.

Strengthening community resilience through training







K.R.A. 5: UTILIZING RESEARCH CAPACITY TO SUPPORT POLICY ADVOCACY AND LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS

5.1. Utilizing research products to influence policy and response options


WANEP research products are aimed at providing knowledge on emerging peace and security dynamics and responses. State and non-state actors such as multinational organisations and the private sector rely on WANEP's evidence-based research products as a vital resource for informed policy advocacy and discourse. Additionally, WANEP utilizes its highly publicized research products to leverage partnerships, inform ongoing programme implementation to avoid duplication of efforts and re-inventing the wheel. Details of WANEP research engagements with key partners in the year in review were as follows:

-  WANEP collaborated with the UNDP Africa Borderlands Centre to produce and launch a report aptly titled: "Promise, Peril and Resilience: Voices of Agro-Pastoralists in Africa's Borderlands Regions" in Nairobi, Kenya. The report is a key output of the 2021 research conducted by WANEP to assess the coping mechanisms of Farmers and Pastoralists in African border regions (in Nigeria, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso) and how they respond to multiple vulnerabilities.
-  WANEP also collaborated with the UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa to undertake qualitative research on political transitions in Africa focusing on Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana in June. The outcome of the research led to the publication of a comprehensive report on political transitions in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana detailing the comparative lessons across the varied settings and the potential limitations of government delivery against citizens' expectations.

-  As part of the "Strengthening Mechanism for Assessment of Good Governance in West Africa" project funded by UNDP, WANEP conducted a quantitative research survey to gain understanding of citizen's perception and opinions on good governance and democracy in six countries viz; Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Nigeria, and The Gambia. A comprehensive report was produced after the survey to inform the development of the Citizen Participation for Accountable and Inclusive Democracy (CPAID) Mobile App indicators to measure the performance, inclusiveness, and responsiveness of state agencies to the needs and aspiration of citizens in West Africa.
-  To facilitate the establishment of the Research and Action for Peace (RECAP) Network, WANEP, SIPRI and the DRC conducted a scoping study in all the 18 countries covered by the project to identify the main actors, individuals, and institutions working in peacebuilding, the prevention of conflicts and violent extremism in West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin. WANEP covered nine (9) of the 18 countries for the scoping study - Ghana, Togo, Benin, Guinea, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria, and Cote d'Ivoire. A comprehensive report produced after the study informed the selection of 42 organizations, researchers and experts across the 18 countries in West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin to form the RECAP Network.
-  WANEP Togo, with support from UNFPA, produced and disseminated 1000 copies of a guide on conflict prevention and management.



Distribution of guides on conflict prevention and management in Togo

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WANEP Nigeria with Support from Urgent Action fund - Africa conducted research on “Conflict Impact Assessment and Stakeholders Perspectives for a Safer Nigeria”. The assessment analysed security threats and violent occurrences in selected states of Nigeria viz - Anambra, Enugu, Delta, Sokoto, Benue, Niger and the FCT Abuja. A user-friendly infographic version of the research report was produced for use in legislative advocacy.
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WANEP Mali with support from Adam Smith International (ASI), conducted a mapping of relevant actors with a specific focus on women and youth in 13 communes of Mali. The exercise is part of the project on “Community Engagement for Security Advisory Committee”, and is aimed at identifying potential actors to be included in the newly established communal security advisory committee.
- In commemoration of the 22nd anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, WANEP Nigeria teamed up with the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)-Nigeria to launch the Maiden Edition of the Women, Peace, and Security Journal.



The President of the Coordination of Women’s Associations and NGOs of the Nara Commune, Mali, explains the role of women in Security Advisory Committee.



Opening ceremony in Sio, Mali of the awareness campaign on Security advisory committee with the Staff of WANEP Mali, mayor of the commune, head of the security post, traditional and religious leaders



K.R.A. 6: STRENGTHENING WANEP'S INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL CAPACITY FOR EFFECTIVE DELIVERY



**WANEP
Expansion
and growth**



Regional | Research and documentary centre constructed

National | New office complex in Côte d'Ivoire acquired



**New
hires**



Regional | 2



National | 7



Reassignment



National | 7



**Enhanced
public
profile**



Regional



4829 to 5221 followers



2552 to 2898 followers



556 to 775 followers



increase of 26 subscribers



National



New website
launched in
Guinea Bissau

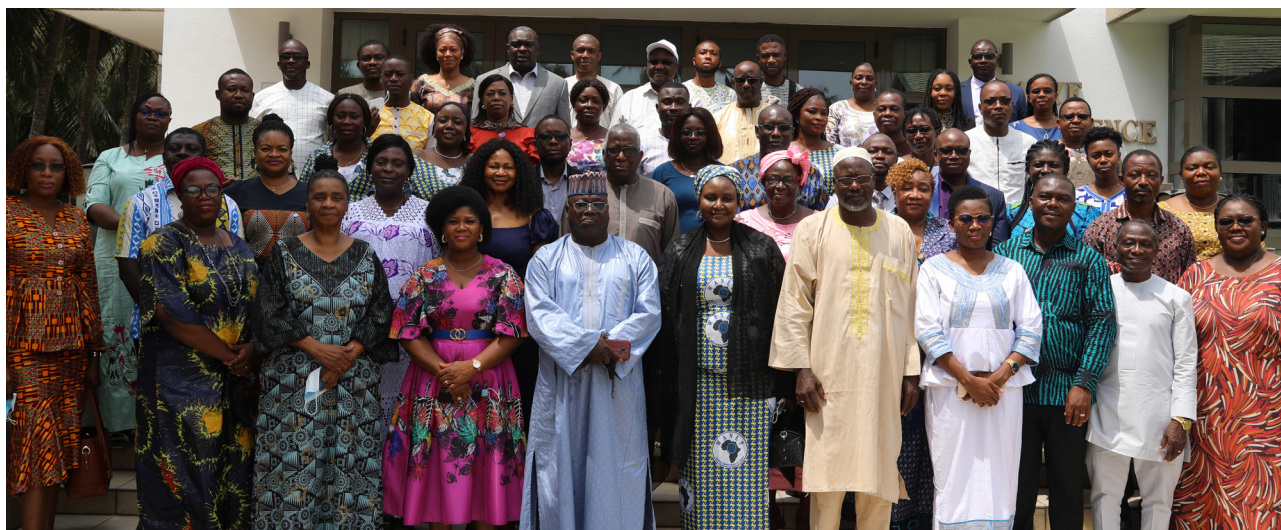
6.1. Strengthening Institutional learning, accountability and knowledge management processes

6.1.1. Inaugural Staff Retreat: In its quest to strengthen learning, accountability and improve knowledge management processes, WANEP held its inaugural staff retreat on February 25 -26, 2022 at the Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra-Ghana. The inaugural retreat themed: "Building Team Spirit and Resilience for a Stronger WANEP Brand," is a demonstration of WANEP's deliberate strategy to build a stronger team able to deliver on its vision and mission and strengthen collaboration with regional bodies. A total of 28 staff members attended the retreat, which provided opportunity for strategic reflections, knowledge sharing and socialization. Undoubtedly, the retreat led to improved regulatory procedures and processes, a more relaxed working environment and enhanced staff welfare. It was a great way for the staff to navigate the new world of work in the post COVID 19 era, improve morale, create a sense of belonging and boost staff esteem among others.



Staff during a role-play activity at the inaugural staff retreat

6.1.2. Participatory Review and Analysis Processes (PRAPS): WANEP's biennial Participatory Review and Analysis Processes (PRAPS) is a mandatory accountability and learning process integrated into the organisation's capacity development and Monitoring and Evaluation, learning and planning processes. The 2022 edition was held in Accra, Ghana, with the theme "Adapting Resilient Approaches and Synergies to Peacebuilding in the New Normal" and was attended by regional and national board chairpersons, regional office staff, and National Network Coordinators. PRAPS 2022 provided an opportunity for the critical analysis of the peace and security outlook for the year and helped in enhancing response strategies to minimize the effects of identified security threats in the region. Major outcomes from the 2022 edition included an agreed strategic focus and identification of new partnerships to enhance programme implementation. Organisational policy implementation gaps and need for institutional governance enhancements were also identified and appropriate action plans developed and implemented to support the most challenged National Networks.



Regional and National Boards, regional and national staff at the 2022 edition of PRAPS

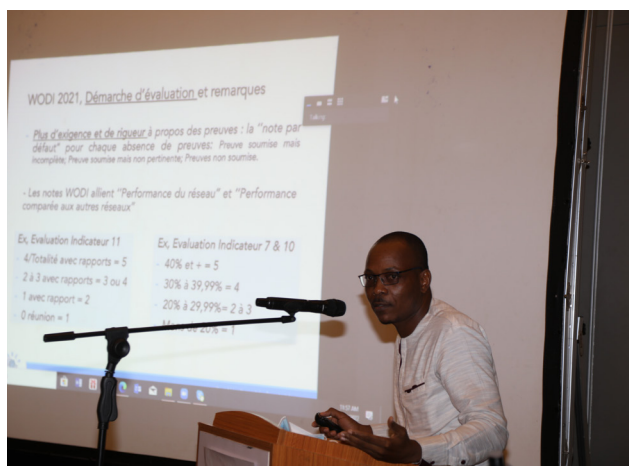
6.1.3. WANEP's Organisational Development Index (WODI):

The WANEP Organisational Development Index (WODI) remains a viable tool for building and sustaining a strong institution able to respond to the prevailing peace and security challenges in the region. In the reporting year, the WODI tool was used to assess partner organizations in Burkina Faso and Central Africa to determine their readiness for project implementation. The WODI was the key resource for the development of the Organisational Development Index for the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for Peace and Conflict Prevention in Central Africa (COPAC), www.indoc.copacnews.org.

WANEP utilizes WODI (www.wanep.org/wodi) to assess governance, accountability, institutional capacity growth as well as to identify and respond to institutional and programmatic needs of its National Networks. These assessments are significant as it allows the Regional Secretariat to identify and pair the weaker networks with the stronger ones to provide peer-to-peer learning towards improving their performance. In 2021 the WODI indicators were revised and reinforced to reflect the new WANEP strategic priorities and objectives covering 2021-2025.



WODI has witnessed significant improvement in operations, program delivery, and performance over a ten-year period as shown in the diagram. The overall performance index reveals an increase in performance rate of the national networks from 50.6% in 2011 to 71.7% in 2021. Findings from the 2022 WODI process will be validated and endorsed at the WANEP General Assembly scheduled for March 2023.



WANEP's Regional Coordinator for Network Development presenting an overview of WODI results at the 2022 edition of PRAPS

6.2. Improving Institutional Capacity for Optimum Delivery

Staff capacity building remains a key mandate of WANEP and is geared towards positioning staff for optimum programme delivery. With improved skills, WANEP staff are well sought after by relevant stakeholders to deploy their proven expertise, professionalism and hands-on experience in the field of peace and sustainable development. A few of these engagements are captured below:

- WANEP Executive Director provided training for the regional desk analysts of the African Union Continental Early Warning unit. The training covered the whole spectrum of early warning, conflict prevention and report writing.
- Regional Program staff partnered with ECOSOCC to build capacity of selected regional civil society organizations (CSOs) in community peacebuilding in Ghana.
- The WANEP Regional Coordinator, WPS provided technical support to the review and implementation of regional WPS mechanisms and led the review of the Communication and Visibility Plan for the institutionalization of FemWise West Africa.
- On the strength of its partnership with ECOWAS, the WANEP WPS and early warning units designed and facilitated a training workshop for the ECOWAS National Response Mechanism Coordination Centers (NCCRMs) held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on 30th May 2022.

6.2.1. WANEP Expansion and Growth: A new Research and Documentation Centre was commissioned at the WANEP regional office to generate data, research facts and document information about peace and security

in Africa. The Center was aptly commissioned by co-founder and the immediate past Executive Director of WANEP, Honorable Emmanuel Bombande. The Centre comprises offices for key research staff and a well-equipped, functioning resource library named after Hon. Emmanuel Habuka Bombande. Through the Centre, WANEP intends to foster learning by documenting regional and continental histories and experiences that shape and drive its identity. At the national level, WANEP Côte d'Ivoire now has its own office complex located in Bingerville that serves as the network's national secretariat.



The library of the new Research and Documentation Centre named after Hon. Emmanuel Habuka Bombande, co-founder and immediate past Executive Director of WANEP

6.2.2. Staff Hires/Re-assignments: WANEP regularly hires and re-assigns staff as part of strategies to deal with its expanding programme portfolio and in accordance with its strategic direction. In the reporting year, nine new staff joined the Organisation – two at the regional office and seven at the national level while seven others were reassigned to different portfolios in accordance with their areas of strength.

6.2.3. Increased visibility and Recognition: The WANEP 'brand' continued to make waves in the reporting period garnering awards from critical stakeholders and recognition across the region. WANEP was appointed member of the African Union Network of Think Tanks for Peace (NeTT4Peace). The 20-member Strategy Group aims to enhance synergy and promote long-term, structured partnership between the AU Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) and African Think Tanks working

in the peace, security and governance domains. A letter signed by Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) stated that 'the appointment was in recognition of WANEP as a reputable research body' with expertise, knowledge and experience in addressing the challenges to peace and security in the region. The Network will be officially launched on February 8, 2023, in Addis Ababa-Ethiopia.



Left, Hon. Wahab Olawale Alawiye-King, SUBEB Chairman, presenting the award to Mrs. Patience Ikpehobaulo, Head of Programmes. (Right) NNC WANEP Guinea, Francois Tolno displays his Peace Ambassador award

Similarly, WANEP Nigeria was recognised as the most supportive NGO for the development of Basic Education in Lagos State, Nigeria. The event took place August 4, 2022, at the Community Education Development Forum organised by the Kosofe School Based Management Committee (SBMC) in collaboration with the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB) and other CSOs.

The National Network Coordinator of WANEP Guinea, Mr. Francois Tolno received honorary certificate as Ambassador for Peace from the Union of Young Leaders of Guinea, in recognition of his efforts toward peace in the country.

6.2.4. Enhanced Public Profile: WANEP's online presence and profile continued to rise in the review period with more and more networks launching new websites and re-activating moribund ones. For instance, WANEP Guinea Bissau launched a new website (<https://wanepguineabissau.org>) to increase visibility of its activities on the public domain. The social media platforms also recorded significant rise in followership. Between January and December 2022, Twitter followers rose from 4,829 to 5,221. Facebook increased from 2552 to 2898 while followership on LinkedIn rose from 556 to 775. YouTube also added 26 additional subscribers.

6.3. Deepening and Sustaining Relationships for Peace

WANEP's growing profile buoyed by its proven expertise in conflict management and peacebuilding has established WANEP as the 'go-to' organization within the context of Peace and Security in the region as detailed below:

- Ms Martine van Hoogstraten, Deputy Director of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms Ulla Andren, Head of Development Cooperation in Africa at the Swedish Embassy in Ethiopia, and Ms Helena Badagard, Policy Advisor, at the Swedish Embassy in South Africa visited WANEP to discuss and reflect on ways to improve and strengthen their existing partnerships.
- A team from the GIZ ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (ESPAO) project visited the WANEP regional office to discuss the deepening partnership between the two institutions and to explore additional areas of collaboration for joint planning and implementation.
- The Executive Director of the Building Blocks for Peace Foundation, Mr Rafiu Lawal, paid a visit to WANEP regional to explore areas of joint programming on YPS.
- WANEP shared its knowledge and experience as well as mode of operation on women and youth empowerment in the region with delegates from the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR-Nigeria), led by its Director General, Dr Bakut Tswah.
- A delegation of Malian women leaders visited the regional office as part of their mission to Ghana to solicit the lifting of the ECOWAS-imposed sanctions on Mali.
- Representatives of the Immigration and Border Management unit of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Mali paid a courtesy visit to WANEP Mali to discuss various projects focused on Security Advisory Committees (SACs) and the Prevention Committees supported by IOM.
- WANEP Guinea met with the ECOWAS mediator, H.E. Yayi Boni, to brief him on the country's socio-political and security situation.



Ms Ulla Andren, Head of Development Cooperation in Africa at the Swedish Embassy in Ethiopia (left), receiving a souvenir from WANEP's Deputy Executive Director, Mrs Levinia Addae-Mensah

6.4. Building Peace through Strategic Partnerships

In the reporting year, WANEP's impeccable reputation as a regional peacebuilding network of repute was an added fillip for strengthening its institutional and financial sustainability. Relying on this, WANEP expanded its scope of operations and reach with increased partnership pool towards delivering on organizational vision and mission. New strategic partnerships were formed in this dispensation while relationships with existing partners were deepened or at least maintained through consistent and regular joint programme design, planning and implementation at the regional and national levels as detailed below:

6.4.1. WANEP-ECOWAS Partnership: On the strength of its partnership, and as the civil society partner to ECOWAS in the operationalization of the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Mechanism (ECOWARN), WANEP and ECOWAS regularly carried out joint activities aimed at strengthening peacebuilding policy and conflict transformation across the region. In 2022, WANEP in partnership with the Directorate of Political Affairs held a thematic session with ECOWAS member states' Ambassadors on the 2022 security outlook amidst military incursion into politics and the limits of ECOWAS peace and security mechanisms. WANEP collaborated with ECOWAS to hold a two-day stakeholder consultative meeting with 55 participants to reflect on collaborative approaches and chart a roadmap for a multi-layered collaboration towards ensuring peaceful elections in Nigeria in 2023.

6.4.2. The United Nations System

Supporting Inclusive Transitions in Africa (SITA): Africa's democratic process is replete with recurrent broken promises by political elites, coups and counter coups culminating into violence, bloodshed and wanton destruction of lives and properties. Citizens have lost faith in democracy and completely mistrust the process. As part of efforts to change this narrative, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported a project tagged 'Supporting Inclusive Transitions in Africa' (SITA), led by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and implemented by WANEP. The project sought to interrogate the rise of coups in Africa and the underlying mechanisms that contribute as triggers to such transitions in the target countries of Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana to determine the current state of transition and inclusivity. Interestingly, the research shows that citizens have lost faith in political leadership and are disappointed with the current governance system in Africa, however, democracy is still the preferred choice of governance.

Strengthening Mechanism for Assessment of Good Governance in West Africa: In a bid to improve democratic practices and empower citizens' to demand accountability from duty bearers, WANEP with funding from the UNDP Africa Regional Programme commenced the implementation of the project on 'Strengthening Mechanisms for Assessment of Good Governance in West Africa,' in the review year. The citizen-driven project seeks to provide a forum for local community members to express their views on the state of governance in the region beyond national to subregional, state, and local government structures. It will also provide a comparative assessment of the levels of development and good governance across local political administrations to enable citizens meaningful participation in political governance towards an improved democratic practice in West Africa.



WANEP Staff and communication and IT specialists at the validation workshop of the CPAID mobile application

6.4.3. WANEP - African Union: WANEP continued to strengthen relationship with the African Union Commission through its Liaison Office as stipulated in the current MOU affirmed by the two institutions. In the reporting period, WANEP and the AUC collaborated and implemented several activities while WANEP also deployed its expertise to support several capacity building initiatives of the Commission. The AU Liaison Office provides opportunity for bilateral engagements with other partners such as Frederick Ebert Stiftung (FES), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). WANEP is currently exploring potential collaboration with FES to conduct research on women participation in conflict mediation in the Sahel scheduled for 2023 and with GIZ to build CSOs capacity to support the implementation of APSA, CSVRA in Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Zambia with AU funding.





6.4.4. WANEP -European Union Partnership

Electoral Violence Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (E-MAM) project: In the reporting period, WANEP successfully completed the four-year European Union (EU) funded project on Electoral Violence Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (EMAM) initiated in 2018. The project was borne out of a shared desire between WANEP and the EU to contribute to the overall political stability, peace and security of the West African region in 11 countries viz; Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Togo. The other countries were Mali, Ghana, Niger, and Benin. The project established sustainable platforms, which help stakeholders to continuously demand accountability from duty bearers throughout the electoral process. The collaborative nature of the project helped to strengthen partnerships between the EU, ECOWAS, UNOWAS and other relevant key stakeholders. A key outcome and impact of the project was that it enhanced the functionality of the WANEP National Networks in the target countries leading to the

upgrading of the peace monitoring centres (PMCs), improved collection/collation of standardized data in terms of frequency and reporting into the NEWS platform as well as strengthening capacity of community NEWS monitors. Another key outcome was that the National Election Response Group (NERG) platforms set up during the electioneering cycle are now engaged in conflict resolution in their localities with significant results.

- Research and Action for Peace Network (RECAP Network):** WANEP is leading a consortium comprised of WANEP, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to implement a project titled; Research and Action for Peace Network (RECAP Network). With funding support from the EU, the project seeks to establish a sustainable, more inclusive, and effective regional network of experts specialised in peacebuilding, the prevention of conflicts and violent extremism in West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin to act as an interactive platform for regional cooperation. The expected results of the project include a regional network of experts working in the areas of conflict prevention, preventing violent extremism and peacebuilding; an online platform to facilitate exchange of ideas, information, good practices and knowledge among network members; advocacy with policy makers and capacity strengthening of civil society actors including women and youth groups.
- Coping with Climate Change in Communities in Coastal West Africa (C-7):** WANEP through a consortium is implementing an EU-funded project titled Coping with Climate Change as a Cause of Conflict in Coastal Communities of West Africa led by Fondazione Accademia Italiana Della Marina Mercantile (C7-West Africa). The C7-WA project aims to improve the resilience of West African coastal communities to climate change and conflict, focusing on the interlinkage between the two dynamics. An expert brainstorming session was held during the review year to develop and validate climate change indicators and other related drivers of conflict and crime in West African coastal areas. Under this project, WANEP is expected to develop a pilot module for monitoring the impact of climate change as a driver of conflict, as well as to update and improve the governance of the existing regional ECOWAS early warning systems. Additionally, the project will utilize effective climate change adaptation measures to prevent environmental crimes using a conflict-sensitive approach.

6.4.5. WANEP-GIZ: WANEP's contribution to mitigating electoral violence was boosted in the reporting year through the implementation of the project titled "Strengthening Multistakeholder Response to Election Violence in West Africa" co-funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union (EU). This project is in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) implemented under the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture Operations (EPSAO). Specifically, the project aimed to enhance response mechanisms for electoral dispute management and resolution in West Africa in the target countries of Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Benin, The Gambia, Guinea, Ghana, Liberia, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Niger. Through these interventions, the following results were achieved;

-  Enhanced capacities of 133 representatives of political parties, and Election Management Bodies (EMBs) in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
-  A structured Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on political dialogue and mediation, adopted as a resource for ADR interventions.
-  Joint action plan to facilitate data collection, analysis and information sharing between ECOWAS EWD and DPA - responsible for election observation and monitoring - It also resulted in enhanced coordinated approach between early warning and response throughout the electoral cycles in the ECOWAS Member States.
-  Enhanced capacity of WANEP, ECOWAS-EWD, and National Centres for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanisms (NCCRM) analysts leading to improved reporting and facilitated responses to election dispute management in the region.

6.4.6. WANEP - Wellspring Philanthropic Fund:

WANEP proceeded with phase two of the Wellspring Philanthropic funded project on Strengthening a Gender Sensitive Early Warning and Response Mechanism for West and Central Africa. The project seeks to strengthen the relationship between ECCAS and CSOs, through gender-inclusive participation for effective MARAC operations. Under this project, WANEP trained and supported the Coalition of Civil Society Organisations for Peace and Conflict Prevention in Central Africa (COPAC) in developing early warning indicators and designing an online portal for reporting data on human security in Central

Africa. These efforts have yielded significant results. For instance, the trained COPAC staff conducted step down trainings for 33 community monitors, three each from the 11 Central African countries resulting in broad and balanced monitoring, analysis, reporting, and response to threats to peace and security in the region. COPAC reports are expected to supplement ECCAS and AU responses to human rights violations and gender-based atrocities, as well as ECOWAS regional responses to cross-border security threats in West Africa.



A COPAC focal point (right) receiving a laptop as part of WANEP's institutional support to the organisation

6.4.7. WANEP- KAIPTC: Within the context of the five-year Memorandum of Understanding (2020-2025) between the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and WANEP, the second edition of the KAIPTC Annual Stakeholder Dialogue Series (SDS) was held as a partnership with WANEP in Dakar, Senegal and Banjul, the Gambia on 22 March and 5 April 2022, respectively. The two organisations engaged CSOs and relevant stakeholders at national and regional levels to deliberate on collaborative approaches that seek to contribute to the Implementation of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF). The SDS promoted partnerships between development partners, civil society and the private sector on issues relating to conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the region.

6.4.8. Just Future Project Partners: WANEP continued its advocacy engagements and high-level consultations with key stakeholders and major partners under the Just Future Project to seek meaningful participation and inclusion of women and youth in peacebuilding missions and decision-making processes. As a result of these engagements,

ECOWAS supported a joint capacity building initiative for youth from Niger and Mali to prepare them for effective engagement with ECOWAS Ambassadors and peace missions at track one and two levels. WANEP also facilitated the meeting of women representatives from Niger and Mali with the FEMWISE at the AU who agreed to support the women groups in their inclusivity demands with African leaders and specifically, with heads of governments of Niger and Mali. These engagements were critical in building the women and youth capacity in the region to consult with ECOWAS ambassadors and advocate for meaningful participation and inclusivity. Over 296 Representatives of CSOs and CBOs comprising 97 women, 135 youth and 15 persons with disabilities (PWD) were trained under the Just Futures project to promote more inclusive and responsive governance, particularly in the context of the political transition in Mali.




Women advocates from Ghana, Mali and Niger brainstorming during a strategic consultation with continental and regional bodies.





Strategic partnerships are key to sustainable peace. Dr Monde Muyangwa (formerly Director of the Africa Programme at the Woodrow Wilson Centre, a key partner of WANEP) displays a souvenir from WANEP on her appointment as the Assistant Administrator in the USAID Bureau for Africa.




6.5. Strengthening Partnerships at National Level

In the reporting period, WANEP national networks benefitted immensely from financial and technical support from some strategic partners in various areas of focus including women, youth, governance, election-related matters, peace education, preventing violent extremism, climate change among others. Below highlights the support received by National Network Secretariats throughout the reporting year 2022:

| WANEP National Network | Name of Project | Amount in US Dollars | Period of implementation | Funding Partner |
|--|--|----------------------|--|---|
|  Benin | Citizens ensure and contribute to a free, transparent and peaceful legislative process in 2023 | 222,087 | From 30 November 2022 to 30 April 2023 (5 months) | European Union |
| | Contribution to the institutional development of WANEP-Benin for peace and human security in Benin | 211,886 | From 10 September 2022 to 10 September 2023 (1 year) | Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) |

| WANEP National Network | Name of Project | Amount in US Dollars | Period of implementation | Funding Partner |
|---|--|----------------------|--|---|
|  Mali | Support to the political framework for the management of the crisis in central Mali through the community mobilisation | 98,400 | April to June 2022 or (3 months) | UNDP |
| | Establishment of Communal Security Advisory Committees (CSAC) in the Bandiagara, Douentza, Koutiala, Mopti, Nara and Ségou Regions | 251,786 | 12 months (1 June 2022 - 31 May 2023) | UNDP |
|  The Gambia | Support to the electoral cycle and democratic processes in The Gambia | 74,635 | January 2022 to 30 th June, 2022 | UNDP |
|  Ghana | Building resilience of youth and women-led MSMEs, through innovation and digitalization for green and inclusive development | 8,345 | August to October 2022 (3 months) | UNDP |
| | Strategic Partnership Initiative for Ghana and West Africa | 58,593 | 1st May 2022 to 31 st December 2023 (19 months) | OXFAM |
|  Niger | Strengthening the resilience of communities in Southern Maradi against the risk of exposure to violent extremism | 361,274 | September 2022 to May 2023 (8 months) | UNDP |
| | Reduce the vulnerability of people in the targeted municipalities to the effects of drought | 121, 878 | November 2022 to February 2023 (4 months) | UNDP |
| | Support to parliamentarians' and CSOs' contributions to the implementation of recommendations arising from the assessment of the 2020-2021 elections | 86,725 | March 2022 - October 2022 (8 months) | NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (NDI) |

| WANEP National Network | Name of Project | Amount in US Dollars | Period of implementation | Funding Partner |
|---|---|----------------------|--|--|
|  Guinée | Contribute to calming the socio-political climate in Guinea | 50,000 | March 2022 to 30 September 2022 | Open Society Initiatives For West Africa (OSIWA) |
| | Sensitizing and informing communities affected by the rehabilitation, extension and upgrading of electricity networks in Dubréka | 43,500 | 3 June to 8 July 2022 (35 days) | World Bank and French Development Agency through the MINISTRY OF ENERGY, WATER AND HYDROCARBON RESOURCES |
|  Togo | Promoting youth participation in conflict prevention and strengthening social cohesion for sustainable peace in Togo | 44,501 | 15 September to 11 December 2022 (3 months) | UNICEF |
| | Support project for promoting the participation of youth organisations in the prevention of conflicts and strengthening social cohesion for sustainable peace in Togo - Phase 2 | 15,872 | August to October 2022 (3 months) | UNFPA |
|  Burkina | Prevent and mitigate electoral violence by building the capacity of INEC and election management stakeholders | 40,000 | 24 February to 31 March 2022 | International Republican Institute (IRI) |
| | The 'PPSII -Peace Promotion Programme' for the Implementation of the Education for Peace, Democracy and Good Governance theme | 100,000 | From 1st January to 31st December 2022 (12 months) | International Christian Service for Peace (EIRENE) |
|  Senegal, Guinée and Mali | The community policing approach as a means of preventing violent extremism in Senegal, Mali and Guinea | 29,500 | From 1st November 2022 to 31st January 2023 (3 months) | FESPSCC |

| WANEP National Network | Name of Project | Amount in US Dollars | Period of implementation | Funding Partner |
|---|--|----------------------|--|---|
|  Sierra-Léone | Make wi kam togeda to promote transitional justice issues through Alternative dispute resolution methods | 45,000 | From February 2022 to January 2023 (12 months). | Africa Transitional Justice Legacy Fund (ATJLF) |
| | Women for Water and Peace Project (W4WP) | 48,801 | July 1st to December 30th, 2022 (6 months) | Peace building fund through International Labour Organization (ILO) |
|  Senegal | Monitoring electoral violence through CIVIC-TECH" | 9,927 | From 1st June to 30th September 2022, (4 months) | GOREE INSTITUT |
| | Capacity building for humanitarian assistance in Senegal (West Africa) | 26,312 | From 24 October to 30 December 2022 (2 months) | ASPR (Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution) |
|  Nigeria | Peace Action for Rapid Transformative Nigerian Early Response (PARTNER) | 2,950,055 | July 1st, 2022 to July 30th, 2026 (5 years) | Mercy Corps under an USAID sponsored project |

WANEP NATIONAL NETWORK COORDINATORS (NNCs)



Maryse Glele Ahanhanzo
NNC WANEP - Benin



Alice Combarry
SOULAMA
NNC WANEP - Burkina Faso



Jean-Marc Hovi
Acting NNC WANEP - Cote d'Ivoire



Salama Njie
NNC WANEP - The Gambia



Albert Yelyang
NNC WANEP - Ghana



François Fadoua Tolno
NNC WANEP - Guinea



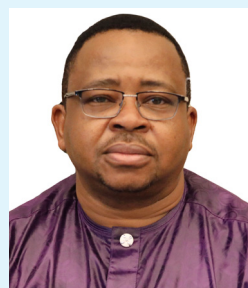
Denise Arcilla Cabras
Dos Santos INDEQUE
NNC WANEP - Guinea Bissau



Philip Kollié
NNC WANEP - Liberia



Mahamady Togola
NNC WANEP - Mali



Clement K. Gbedey
NNC WANEP - Niger



Chief Bridget Osakwe
NNC WANEP - Nigeria



Alfred GOMIS
NNC WANEP - Senegal



Isata Mahoi. PhD
NNC WANEP - Sierra Leone






Amedzenu-Noviekou P.
Da-do Y. Nora
NNC WANEP - Togo

WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING (WANEP) NATIONAL OFFICES

| OFFICE LOCATION/ CONTACT ADDRESS | COORDINATORS |
|---|--|
|  <p>WANEP - BENIN Godomey, Route de Ouidah, Rue après bar Parc des Princes, 1er immeubles à droite. Adresse Postale : 01 BP 5997 Cotonou, Bénin Tél: Office (229) 21 30 99 39 /// 61 00 53 53 Emails : wanep-benin@wanep.org Web site : www.wanepbenin.org</p> | <p>Maryse GLELE AHANHANZO <i>(NNC)</i> mahanhanzo@wanep.org</p> |
|  <p>WANEP - BURKINA FASO Via Boulevard Mouammar Kadhafi et N6, quartier Ouaga 2000. 11 BP 389 Ouagadougou CMS 11 Tel: office +226 25 50 57 14 /// 70 41 89 61 Email: wanep-burkinafaso@wanep.org Website: www.wanepburkinafaso.org Twitter: @Wanepbf1 Facebook: WANEP Burkina Faso</p> | <p>Alice Midibahaye COMBARY SOULAMA <i>(NNC)</i> asoulama@wanep.org</p> |
|  <p>WANEP - CAPE VERDE Email: wanep@wanep.org Website: www.wanepcapeverde.org/site ; www.wanep.org</p> | <p><i>Contact wanep@wanep.org for any enquiry</i></p> |
|  <p>WANEP - COTE D'IVOIRE Bingerville Akwe-Djemin, carrefour CEFAL 09 BP 3320 Abidjan 09 ; Tel: + 225 27 22 42 33 39 Cel: +225 05 56 94 02 97 /// 01 01 57 95 38 Email: wanepcotedivoire@wanep.org Facebook: wanepcotedivoire Web site: www.wanep.org</p> | <p>HOVI Jean-Marc, <i>(Acting NNC)</i> wanepcotedivoire@wanep.org</p> |
|  <p>WANEP - THE GAMBIA Off Mama Yakume Avenue, Fajara P. O. Box 2252, Serrekunda, The Gambia Tel: (office) +220 2777197 Email: wanep-gambia@wanep.org Website: http://www.wanepgambia.org ; www.wanep.org</p> | <p>Ms. SALAMA NJIE <i>(NNC)</i> snjie@wanep.org</p> |

| OFFICE LOCATION/ CONTACT ADDRESS | COORDINATORS |
|--|--|
|  <p>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</p> | <p>Albert Yelyang <i>(NNC)</i> ayelyang@wanep.org</p> |
|  <p>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 Web site : www.wanepguinea.org; www.wanep.org</p> | <p>François Fadoua TOLNO <i>(NNC)</i> ftolno@wanep.org</p> |
|  <p>WANEP - GUINEA BISSAU Avenue. Ermelida Gomes / Bluba-Bissau Telephone: (+245) 955118269 / 966084597; Email: wanep-guineabissau@wanep.org Website: www.wanepguineabissau.org/site; www.wanep.org</p> | <p>Denise Arcilia Cabral Dos Santos Indequé <i>(NNC)</i> ddossantos@wanep.org</p> |
|  <p>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</p> | <p>Philip KOLLIE <i>(NNC)</i> pkollie@wanep.org</p> |
|  <p>WANEP - MALI Badalabougou près de la messe des officiers, Tél.: + 223- 44 39 22 01 / 20 73 76 10 Cel.: +223 - 69 83 96 91 E-mail: wanep-mali@wanep.org Website: www.wanepmali.org ; www.wanep.org</p> | <p>Mahamady TOGOLA <i>(NNC)</i> mtogola@wanep.org</p> |

| OFFICE LOCATION/ CONTACT ADDRESS | COORDINATORS |
|--|---|
|  <p>WANEP - NIGER Avenue du Canada, Rue du Collège Mariama, Niamey, République du Niger Nouveau Marché NM 21 BP 12434-Niamey. Tel: +227 90 62 63 42 /// 96 97 27 53/// 20 74 17 96 Email: wanep-niger@wanep.org Web site: www.wanepniger.org ; www.wanep.org</p> | <p>Clément Kocou GBEDEY (NNC) cgbedey@wanep.org</p> |
|  <p>WANEP - NIGERIA 27 Adeniji street off Wemco Road, Ogba Lagos, Nigeria Tel: +234 8062072468 Email: wanep-nigeria@wanep.org website: www.wanepnigeria.org; www.wanep.org Twitter: @WANEPnigeria Facebook: WANEPnigeria Instagram: WANEP-NIGERIA</p> | <p>Bridget Osakwe (NNC) bosakwe@wanep.org</p> |
|  <p>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 : wanep-senegal@wanep.org Web site : www.wanepsenegal.org /// www.wanep.org</p> | <p>Alfred Gomis (NNC) agomis@wanep.org</p> |
|  <p>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 Web site: www.wanepsierraleone.org ; www.wanep.org</p> | <p>Isata Mahoi (NNC) imohai@wanep.org</p> |
|  <p>WANEP - TOGO Rue Dédjo, 253 AGBP, Quartier Agbalépédo BP: 80 909, Lomé -Togo Tel: +228 22 25 27 84 / 93 20 93 93 Email : wanep-togo@wanep.org Website: www.wanetogo.org ; www.wanep.org</p> | <p>AMEDZENU-NOVIEKOU Nora Da-do (NNC) namedzenu-noviekou@wanep.org</p> |



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BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PEACE