Editor's Note

Welcome to our office Newsletter for June /July, 2023. This is special because it is our first! And I am excited to let you know that in every two months, you will be hearing from us.

In this edition of the Newsletter, we bring you a compilation of the exciting events that took place in June and July, 2023 across our offices and zones.

We are delighted to share a heartfelt goodwill message from Dr. Bridget Osakwe, our esteemed National Network Coordinator, who expresses her appreciation and encouragement to all our dedicated members and staff.

Furthermore, we proudly announce that WANEP-Nigeria was honored with three prestigious awards, in recognition of our continuous efforts towards peace and development.

Also in this edition, WANEP - Nigeria, Oyo State Chapter, in collaboration with the Kazeem Olubunmi Isolagbenla Foundation, launched an innovative project named “She4Peace” in Ibadan. This initiative holds great promise for empowering women and promoting peace in the region.

Additionally, we bring you exclusive highlights from The PARTNER activity during this period, showcasing our commitment to fostering collaboration and driving positive change. We also took a moment during the period to celebrate the birthdays of our cherished colleagues.

WANEP South South also launched their peacebuilding dialogue on Twitter Spaces, which though the first, was a huge success.

We hope you find this edition engaging and inspiring as we continue to work together towards a peaceful and sustainable world.

Warm regards,
Aveseh Asough
Communication Officer

From the NNC

Dear Members and Friends of WANEP-Nigeria,

I sincerely appreciate your unwavering dedication to our vision of peace and development. My special appreciations go first to the Nigerian board members, the various Coordinators, our members and all regional office staff. Together, we've achieved significant milestones, and I'm confident our unity will conquer challenges.

I am proud to announce WANEP's recognition with three prestigious awards for our commitment to peacebuilding. The "She4Peace" initiative, was launched in Oyo State in collaboration with the Kazeem Olubunmi Isolagbenla Foundation to empower women and promote peace in the region. Our Peace Education in schools brings me joy as well.

Let's stay united, embracing diversity, as we build a peaceful world. Warmest wishes to those who celebrated their birthdays within the period; May your new age bring you strength and happiness.

Thank you for your dedication. Together, we'll create a brighter future, making a difference in many lives.

With heartfelt appreciation and encouragement.
Awards

ActionAid Award
The National Network Coordinator, WANEP-Nigeria, Chief Dr. Bridget Osakwe, received the prestigious 5 Star Award for being part of the 2 million movement of Nigerians championing social justice and contributing to lifting Nigerians out of poverty in the last five years.

Justice and Security Dialogue
WANEP-Nigeria was recognised by the United States Institute of Peace for an outstanding commitment and dedication to the justice and security dialogue (JSD) project in the last 3 years.

The United States Institute of Peace is a national, nonpartisan, independent institute, founded by the U.S Congress and dedicated to the proposition that a world without violent conflict is possible, practical, and essential for the U.S. and global security. In conflict zones, the Institute works with local partners to prevent, mitigate, and resolve violent conflicts.

Women, Peace and Security Awards Program (WPS)
West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) - Nigeria received the 2022 Women, Peace and Security Civil Society Leadership Award for outstanding achievements in gender-transformative interventions, specifically aimed at addressing conflicts related to climate change.

This distinction was awarded by Global Affairs Canada as part of their second annual WPS Awards.
Prioritizing Peacebuilding

WANEP - Nigeria, Oyo State Chapter, in collaboration with the Kazeem Olubunmi Isolagbenla Foundation, launched an innovative project called She4Peace in Ibadan.

This is in line with the United Nations Security Council's advocacy for women, peace, and security carried out globally, highlighting the importance of prioritizing the involvement and well-being of girls and women in matters relating to peace, security, and development.

The goal of this project is to enable girls and women to actively participate in crucial peacebuilding processes, especially in situations of conflict.

Team bonding activities

Team bonding in the workplace is crucial for fostering a positive and productive work environment. When team members feel connected, have confidence each other, and communicate effectively, they are more likely to collaborate efficiently and achieve shared goals.

In June, WANEP-Nigeria staff in Lagos office, had their team bonding event, as depicted in the pictures shared.
PARTNER Activity is funded by USAID and implemented by Mercy Corps Nigeria, WANEP-Nigeria, IPCR, KSPC, PPBA, Mambayya House, Kukah Centre, Kano Peace Committee, Katsina Peace Committee

Advocacy Engagements

The PARTNER consortium conducted advocacy visits to security, government, and community stakeholders in Kano and Katsina States in line with the planned expansion of the activity to those states.

PARTNER Activity is funded by USAID and implemented by Mercy Corps Nigeria, WANEP-Nigeria, IPCR, KSPC, PPBA, Mambayya House, Kukah Centre, Kano Peace Committee, Katsina Peace Committee

Advocacy Engagements

The PARTNER consortium conducted advocacy visits to security, government, and community stakeholders in Kano and Katsina States in line with the planned expansion of the activity to those states.
Capacity building workshops

EWER Training

PARTNER Program conducted Early Warning Early Response training for community-based structures in Zango Kataf LGA of Kaduna State and Mangu LGA of Plateau State. The community structures consist of the Early Warning Monitoring and Reporting Groups and the Community-Based Reconciliation Committees.

A total of 145 persons including 109 Males, 33 Females and 3 PwDs were trained between June 5-10, 2023. PARTNER activity recognizes inclusivity.

PARTNER at CIPP

As part of the ongoing mentoring and secondment program at Mercy Corps, Nigeria, WANEP-Nigeria program staff attended the FY23 Quarter three (Q3) review meeting of the Community initiative to promote Peace (CIPP), a USAID-funded peacebuilding project.

The review meeting which held for three days from 20th to 22nd June, 2023, served as an opportunity to enhance staff understanding of various aspects of the project, including program implementation, integration of gender and social inclusion, the monitoring and evaluation framework, and the communication strategy.

Niger Delta peacebuilding dialogue

WANEP-Nigeria South South zone launched their peacebuilding dialogue on Twitter Spaces on the 29th of July, 2023. A total of 105 people tuned in and participated in the conversation.

This is a monthly Twitter event, and you are all cordially invited to join in next month. Follow us @WANEPNigeria
The West Africa Network for peacebuilding, WANEP-Nigeria, successfully launched the "SHE 4 PEACE" Project in Oyo state, in collaboration with the Kazeem Olubunmi Isolagbenla Foundation. It was an incredible event that garnered immense support from various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education, Nigeria Police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, National Emergency Management Agency, and the Society for Peace Studies and Practice.

As a direct result of the project launch, the stakeholders unanimously agreed that Peace Education can be effectively mainstreamed in our secondary schools. This decision opens up incredible opportunities to train a new generation of passionate advocates for Women, Peace, and Security. Our team will be closely collaborating with the Secretariat to gain technical support and learn from the successful templates used in Lagos for mainstreaming Peace Education.

Looking ahead, our next milestone is the development of modules on Women, Peace, and Security. These modules will play a vital role in the training and capacity building of secondary school girls, who will serve as strong advocates for WPS. We are committed to keeping you updated on our progress, ensuring that we all stay informed and aligned on this transformative journey.

Together, we can create a future where peace and security thrives, where women's voices are amplified, and where our schools become nurturing grounds for empowered change-makers. Stay tuned for more updates on the "SHE 4 PEACE" Project.

Peace Education

WANEP-Nigeria in partnership with Kosofe School Based Management Committee (SBMC) launched a Peace Education program, and carried out trainings for students in four public secondary schools in Lagos State.

The schools engaged were Wahab Folawiyo Junior/Senior High School and Government Junior/Senior College Maroko, Lagos. The training aimed to equip the students with peer mediation skills to wade into disputes within and outside the school environs to ensure peaceful resolution.

As part of the training, the students were introduced to the harmful effects of drug abuse. The school authorities applauded the initiative and promised to have the students step down their learnings to students in other schools.
FY23 Q3-QRM

The Quarterly Review Meeting for Q3 RM took place from 5th to 7th July, 2023 at the Hotel 2030, Abuja.

Approximately 40 stakeholders attended from organizations including WANEP-Nigeria, IPCR, KSPC, PPBA, USAID, and new partners: Kano and Katsina Peace Committees, Mambayya House and OSPRE. Notable attendees included the DG IPCR, Country Director Mercy Corps, Nigeria and the Agreement Officer USAID.

During the programme, the USAID Agreement Officer appreciated PARTNER consortium for completing the EWER training in the previous quarter and expanding it to tier 2 states. WANEP-Nigeria’s leadership in implementation was acknowledged. Kano and Katsina Peace Committee reaffirmed commitment to collaboration and shared their aligned mandate. Communication and Gender Work Plans were presented, and the MCN Security Officer proposed a security assessment for tier 2 states.

Several action plans emerged from the discussions. Hajiya Safiya Nagogo will lead the integration of gender into the PARTNER consortium. The EWER advisors and gender team will work towards establishing gender desks in each of the implementing states. Moreover, the PARTNER consortium will spearhead tree-planting activities in line with the International Youth Day(IYD23) celebration on 12th August 2023, focusing on the theme “Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World.” The programme concluded with an appreciation message from the Country Director Mercy Corps, Dr Ndubisi Anyanwu.

Budget alignment workshop

The PARTNER Activity held a budget realignment workshop from the 19th -21st July, 2023 at Mercy Corps Office in Abuja. Key stakeholders from the finance and program departments were there from WANEP-Nigeria, Mercy Corps, KSPC and PPBA.

The workshop was to realign the budget for the activity in recognition of what the donor requirements are in implementation.

Using the current trends of economic forces and exchange rates, the workshop participants worked on individual budgets of departments and consortium members: PPBA and KSPC, including tier 2 states of Benue, Nasarawa, Kano and Katsina.
Birthday celebrants

Owor-Agbor Nkifan
JUNE 17

Patricia Unegbu
JUNE 30

Victoria Emereole
JUNE 13

Idris Suleiman
JULY 28

Humour prevents hardening of the attitudes

When was the last time you cracked a joke or laughed? I don’t mean smiling politely and feigning amusement at someone else’s joke, but engaging in belly-ripping laughter that makes your stomach hurt and leaves you in tears?

In 1964, American journalist Norman Cousins was diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis, a debilitating form of arthritis, which gave him severe pain and almost caused his jaws to lock. His doctors thought the condition was irreversible. Faced with the grim reality, he turned to positive emotion to heal his body.

Instead of falling into an emotional black hole and turning to alcohol or other substances to cope, Cousins decided to check into a hotel room and do something rather unusual: he started laughing. He watched TV shows and movies that would fill his body with positive emotion. “I made the joyous discovery that 10 minutes of genuine belly laughter had an anaesthetic effect and would give me at least two hours of pain-free sleep,” he wrote in a 1976 article for the New England Journal of Medicine.

As Joel Goodman, founder of The Humor Project, says in his TEDx Talk, “humour prevents a hardening of the attitudes”. Problems that might otherwise make us feel like we’re drowning become a little less threatening and stressful. And the momentary respite we get might be the very thing we need to feel some peace of mind and gain energy to start tackling the issues facing us.

Excerpts from:
Dr. Olivia Remes
https://www.vogue.in

"I need a peace offering for my human. What’s your take? Dead bird or half eaten rat?"