

NEWSLETTER

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August/sept 2023



Chukwuemeka B. Eze
Executive Director, WANEP

From the Executive Director

Dear WANEP-Nigeria Family,

It is with immense pleasure and gratitude that I bring you this good wishes. Following my recent visit to our Abuja office. The warmth, dedication, and solidarity I experienced during my recent visit to our Abuja and Lagos offices were truly remarkable and deeply inspiring.

I want to take this opportunity to applaud and celebrate each and every one of you for your continued dedication and remarkable achievements.

Your work has never been more critical, and I encourage you to stay resolute in pursuing our common objectives. The transformative influence we collectively wield serves as a beacon of hope for West Africa, and I have no doubt that our finest moments still lie ahead.

I extend my deepest appreciation to you all—the extraordinary WANEP-Nigeria team, our invaluable network members, dedicated partners, and cherished friends—for your steadfast commitment and tireless efforts. Each of you plays a pivotal role in our organization's success, and I am humbled and honored to stand beside you in this noble endeavor.

Together, we will continue to build a more harmonious and prosperous West Africa.

With heartfelt gratitude and unity,

Chukwuemeka B. Eze
Executive Director,
WANEP

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends,

We are excited to bring you the latest updates on the activities that have taken place in our region over the past two months. From youth initiatives to advocacy efforts and strategic stakeholder engagements, our commitment to promoting peace and reconciliation in Nigeria remains steadfast.

It was heartwarming to witness youth in our implementation communities, show dedication to environmental sustainability and community well-being during the activities marking International Youth Day in Kaduna and Plateau States.

Additionally, the thrilling football match between Hope Rangers FC and Peacebuilders FC in Kabala West, Kaduna, brought together youth from different backgrounds, fostering unity and sportsmanship.

Our PARTNER Team carried out advocacy visits in Nasarawa and Benue states, in line with requirements for expansion to Tie 2 States. In the same vein, our MEL team in collaboration with MERCY Corps, Nigeria MEL Team conducted a Gender and Rapid Assessment in Nasarawa and Benue States.

These and many more exciting stories of our activities are contained in this edition of our newsletter.

It is my hope that you would find it worth your time reading. I would also like to invite you to follow us on all our social media platforms to keep abreast with our work.

Warm regards,

Aveseh Asough

Communications Officer
WANEP, Nigeria

You can contribute to our newsletter by sending in your short articles, Poems, Jokes, short stories and cartoons to be featured in our next edition:

aasough@wanep.org

Inauguration of the National Early Warning Response Group

Our National Network Coordinator, Dr. Bridget Osakwe attended the Inauguration of the Early Warning Response Group at the National level on August 1st, 2023. She gave a keynote speech about the importance of mainstreaming Gender in Early Warning and Response.

The groundbreaking initiative took place during the National Strategic Stakeholders' Engagement Workshop

This remarkable step forward encompassed the participation of all key security agencies, signifying a united effort towards ensuring an effective early warning and response system for the safety and well-being of our nation.

This significant achievement was made possible through the remarkable synergy of the PARTNER program, funded by USAID, and skillfully implemented by esteemed organizations including Mercy Corps Nigeria, WANEP Nigeria, Plateau Peace Building Agency, Kaduna State Peace Commission, Mambayya House, and Kukah Centre. These collaborations underscore our collective dedication to fostering peace, resilience, and social cohesion within our communities.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2023



PARTNER activities to mark International Youth Day 2023 happened in Kaduna and Plateau states on the 12th of August simultaneously.

Activities included: Clean and Green: Aimed at Strengthening peace and social cohesion through Community Clean-Up in Tudun Wada/Kabala west and Kakuri (Kaduna South), Nariya/Rigasa (Igabi, Kaduna); Gyel, Kwata Zawan & Bukuru in Jos South and University of Jos, Angwan Rogo, Ubyel/Febuna in Jos North. In Kaduna, Christian Youth in Kakuri Community shook hands with their Muslim neighbors in a joint clean up activity to mark the International Youth Day.

These activities culminated in a football activity tagged "Green Goals for Peace: Uniting Through Football", which was aimed at creating a channel to promote social cohesion and prevention of conflict amongst youths, while creating awareness around sustainable environmental practices. (August 12, 2023)



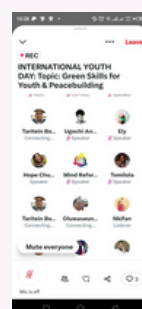
"Green Goals for Peace: Uniting Through Football"

Twitter Spaces

As part of activities lined up to mark the 2023 edition of International Youth Day, the USAID funded PARTNER program organized a Twitter discussion on Twitter Spaces on Thursday the 10th August, 2023 as a pre-event preceding the day.

The title of the Twitter discussion 'Green Skills for Youth in peacebuilding, was tailored in line with the theme for the year, which was 'Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World'.

The discussion, moderated by Aveseh Asough the WANEP, Nigeria Communications Officer hosted three main speakers: Ene Omoha: Youth Engagement for the Community Initiatives for the promotion of Peace (CIPP) Program at Mercy Corps Nigeria, She is also a Youth Champion at Mercy Corps, Nigeria; Ogunmade OlamiLekan, a member of the HR Team and a Youth Champion at Mercy Corps, Nigeria; Ugochi Oluigbo, an environmental journalist, a United Nations Environmental program journalist and winner of the 2022 Covering Climate Now Awards–Green Angle, France.



C-PAID LAUNCHED IN ABUJA, NIGERIA

The launch of the project on Citizens Participation for Accountable and Inclusive Democracy (C-PAID) in West Africa organized by WANEP - Nigeria in collaboration with UNDP in Nigeria took place on the 15th August, 2023. .

The launch includes a mobile application that is part of the broader project titled "Strengthening Mechanism for Assessment of Good Governance in West Africa", designed to enhance good governance through increased interaction between public service holders and citizens to facilitate the economic and social well-being of West African Societies.

Following this launch, the WANEP -Nigeria team received a Training on effective utilization of the App. The Training which held in Lagos, was facilitated by the WANEP Regional Communications Officer, Ms Golda Afidegnon



C-PAID Launch and Training

Executive Director's Visit

The office of WANEP-Nigeria in Abuja played host to the Executive Director during the period of the launch of C-PAID.



INTEREST BASED NEGOTIATION AND MEDIATION (IBNM) TRAINING

The PARTNER consortium, comprising WANEP, PPBA, and KSPC, spearheaded an intensive Interest-Based Negotiation and Mediation (IBNM) Training program. This program unfolded across eight Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the states of Kaduna and Plateau over the course of four weeks, commencing on August 14th and concluding on September 8th, 2023

The training garnered participation from a total of 305 individuals, representing a cross-section of members of the reconciliation committee and other relevant stakeholders drawn from 20 distinct PARTNER sites.

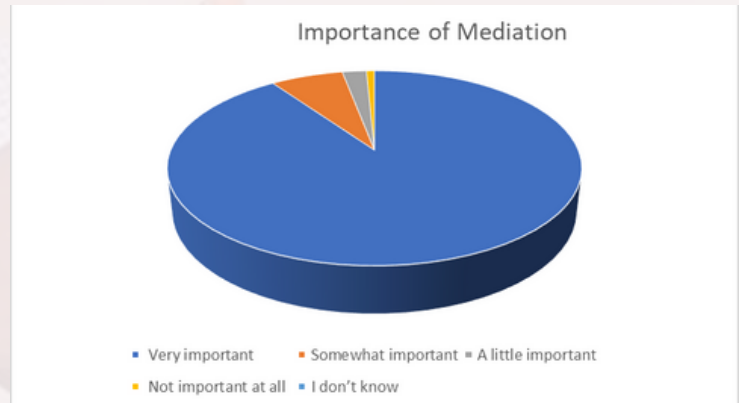
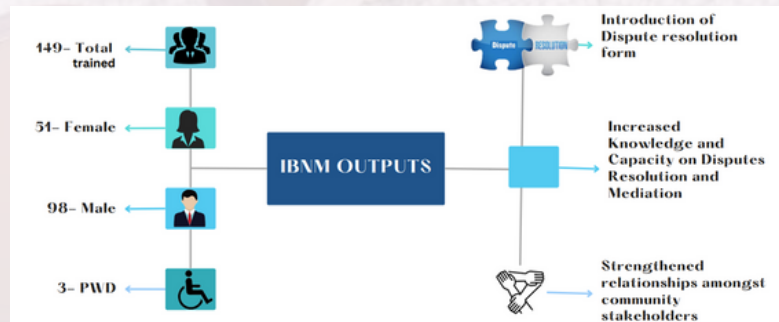
This diverse group consisted of 212 male participants, 93 female participants, and six participants with disabilities (PLWD).

The training had a primary focus on enhancing participants' capacity by utilizing best practices contextualized for effective impact on the principles of Interest-Based Negotiation and Mediation (IBNM). Its core objective was to increase the community's ability to effectively manage tensions and disputes.

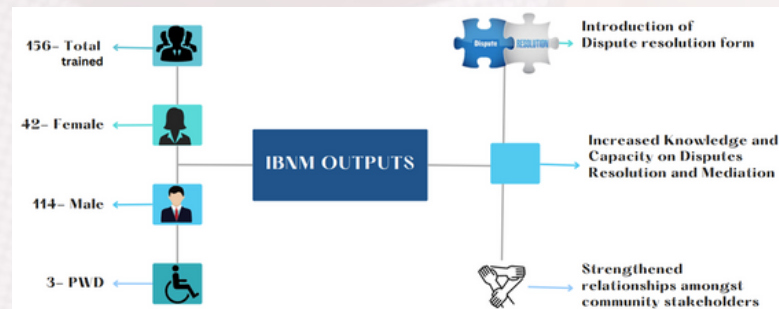


Participants

Kaduna State



Plateau State



Methodology

The training methodology employed a combination of experiential learning approaches, group discussions, role-playing, and simulation exercises. These sessions were skilfully facilitated by experienced trainers, all of whom had previously undergone training during a Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on IBNM.

These trainers used interactive and participatory methods to deliver the training, enabling active engagement of participants in the learning process."

GENDER & RAPID CONFLICT ACTOR ASSESSMENT

Colleagues from the Gender Desk and MEL units of #WANEPNigeria and #MercyCorpsNigeria carried out a Gender & Rapid conflict actor assessment in Kano, Katsina, Nasarawa and Benue states. This was in line with the Expansion plan to tier two states.

Gender and Conflict assessment conducted in 12 communities across 6 LGAs in 4 states



EXPANDING TO TIER 2 STATES

To ensure wide inclusion and ownership of the EWER system and related activities among diverse ethnic and religious groups, the PARTNER Activity conducted advocacy visits to key stakeholders in Nasarawa and Benue States from August 21 to September 1, 2023.

This engagement identified barriers to EWER implementation and secured commitments. It also validated intervention sites and LGAs as per PARTNER criteria. Organized jointly by WANEP Nigeria, Mercy Corps Nigeria, IPCR, The Kukah Centre, and ISPA in Benue and Nasarawa, this effort aligns with their MoU with The Kukah Centre.

In Nasarawa State, key stakeholders visited included the Emir of Awe LGA, HRH Alhaji Dr. Isa Abubakar Umaru II; CP Maiyaki M. Baba, Commissioner of Police; SP Bala Ali, DPO of Awe LGA; Muhammed Yankari, Director of DSS; Rev. Dr. Sunday A. Emmah, CAN Chairman; Prof. Aleruchi Chuku, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Federal University, Lafia; Jo John Efere, Deputy Commandant of NSCDC, Nasarawa State;

Military SF 4 Battalion; Musa Mati, LGA Chairman of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association (MACBAN); Musa Ibrahim, LGA Chairman of All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN); Hon. Usman Umar, Chairman of Awe LGA;

Others include, HRH Alhaji Muhammad BG Ibrahim Shuaibu IV, Sarkin Tunga (Awe LGA); Alhaji Dalhatu Abdullahi, Ward Head of Tsohon (Awe LGA); and Alhaji Shaibu Moh'D, District Head of Tunga (Awe LGA).



Peace Education

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) in collaboration with Kosofe School Based Management Committee (SBMC) in commemoration of the International Peace Day held a training on Peace Education for Pupils on September 26, 2023. In line with the theme of the year "Actions For Peace: Our Ambition for the #Global Goals" the pupils we educated on actions to take to resolve disputes amongst their peers making the school environment conducive for learning. In attendance at the training program were 50 pupils from 5 public primary schools in Lagos State.

The schools included Muslim Misson Primary School; Mosafejo Nursery and Primary School; Oworonsoki Primary School; Local Government Primary School and Aiyeroju Primary School Kosofe LGA. The program was very participatory and the pupils promised to be peace ambassadors and replicate the learnings in their schools.



FGD ON PEER MEDIATION IN SCHOOLS.

WANEP in collaboration with Dr. Collins Imoh Programme Lead for the Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, Politics and Security Studies and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Facilitator in the School of Social Sciences, University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, UK held a Focus Group Discussion with Relevant educational stakeholders in Lagos State.

Conversations were held on the strategies to ensure effective implementation of peer mediation in schools and how the Students Mediation Committee can be a success in schools. Concerns were also raised about where the mediation process will take place in the school environment as a quiet place is needed for the process, the role of teachers and issue of balancing the influence of teachers in the process and the willingness of students in accepting peer mediation.





Annual CLA Workshop for PARTNER Activity

The Annual Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting (CLA) Workshop for the PARTNER Activity was held in Abuja on September 28th, 2023.

It brought together representatives from Mercy Corps Nigeria (MCN), West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), Kaduna State Peace Commission (KSPC), and Plateau Peace Building Agency (PPBA).

The CLA workshop aimed to play a crucial role in fostering a culture of learning, adaptability, and collaboration within the consortium, with the following specific objectives:

- 1.To deepen the understanding of CLA within the PARTNER Activity.
- 2.To foster learning on how to make better decisions and adjustments in the PARTNER Activity through effective documentation.

- 3.To evaluate the PARTNER Activity using the CLA maturity framework concerning the program cycle and enabling conditions.
- 4.To promote a culture of learning and adaptation within the PARTNER Activity and the consortium.

The workshop employed a mix of presentations, highlighting an overview of CLA, its importance vis-à-vis contextualization to the PARTNER activity, and the utilization of the CLA maturity tool to evaluate the effectiveness of CLA in relation to the program cycle and enabling conditions. Furthermore, experiential learning activities were utilized, as well as group work (mind-mapping activities) and role-playing.

Participants showed enthusiasm regarding the potential of CLA in addressing several identified gaps. They also suggested practicable ways to address these gaps through improved collaboration and communication within the Consortium. These insights will form the basis for developing action points to improve program effectiveness.

STATE-LEVEL STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

PARTNER State-Level Strategic Stakeholders Engagement Workshop for Effective Early Warning Early Response System in Nigeria on 18th September 2023 at Butterfly Hotel, Kaduna.



INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY



Activities marking IDP 2023 started on Zoom followed by other physical activities held in Plateau and Kaduna States.

In Plateau: the Kunga/Naraguta community commemorated their own journey towards peace. Representatives from the Hausa, Fulani, and Anaguta ethnic groups, student union government (SUG), WISCOD-CBO, came together to celebrate the delicate/Fragile peace they now enjoy as a result of PARTNER Program's intervention. Notably, security forces, including the Nigerian Police, the Vigilante Group of Nigeria, and the Hunters Association, were also in attendance.

Fulani community leader ended his speech in Anaguta tribe seeking for peace and unity.

During the event, key stakeholders such as the woman leader, youth leader, Fulani community leader, and Hausa community leader delivered goodwill messages and words of advice. They reminisced about the peaceful past and encouraged the younger generation to follow in their footsteps.

The DPO Angwan Rogo presenting a speech and advocating that peace can only be achieved when relationship is built between parties. He admonished that communication should be increased and religious leaders should advocate for peace in their places of worship. He said all stakeholders should remember that they are creation of God and therefore, the need for coexistence.

Secondly, he encouraged the community to support the local security outfits by given them information about security threats on time. Thirdly, he requested the traditional council to support peace related issues.

Fourthly, the issue of youths selling and consuming drugs. He advised that such drug related issues should be reported to the police and other relevant bodies in the community.

Lastly, he advocated for all households to know who their community members are "know your neighbour" that he advised will help curb menace of unwanted visitors.



PEACE FOOTBALL MATCH

Also to mark the day, the Ubyel/Febuna community based structures, led by the RC organized a soccer match at the University of Jos Village Hostel. The event was aimed at fostering mutual trust and social cohesion through sport.



Birthday celebrants



Sheku Jemimah
August 8



Patience Ikpeh-Obaulo
August 15



Blessing Ezeugwu
August 20



Austin Eneanya
August 29



Femi Emmanuel
September 4



Ugochi Ugoji
September 8

ABOUT US

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) was established in 1998 as a regional Civil Society Organization focused on conflict prevention and peacebuilding in West Africa. With its headquarters in Accra, Ghana, WANEP has formed strong national networks in the 15 ECOWAS Member States, comprising over 750 member organizations in the region.

WANEP aims to foster collaborative relationships among peacebuilding organizations to prevent and resolve conflicts. Its expertise lies in facilitating structural and social reforms by providing a platform for concerted efforts among West African societies.

In Nigeria, WANEP-Nigeria was established and registered in 2001 and 2003, respectively, serving as an organized platform for indigenous Non-Governmental Organizations to collaborate on peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and development. Operating through a network membership structure, WANEP-Nigeria provides technical support to its members across all 36 states of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT-Abuja), while encouraging the development of context-specific intervention strategies.

The network's key focus areas include Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET), Early Warning and Response, Active Non-violence and Peace Education, Democracy and Good Governance, and Research and Documentation.



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