



**Mr. Daniel Morris, the Deputy Director, Peace and Democratic Governance Office and Mr. Muktari Shittu, of USAID visited the Abuja office of WANEP-Nigeria.**

*Ben Morris seen here, going through Security Checks.*

## Editor's Note

This quarter has been a period of significant progress and impactful engagements as we continue our mission to foster peace and stability across Nigeria. We were honored to host representatives from USAID, the esteemed funders of the PARTNER Activity implemented by WANEP-Nigeria. We had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Dan Morris, Deputy Director of the Peace and Democratic Governance Office at USAID, and Mr. Muktari Shittu, to our Abuja office. Their visit, part of USAID's routine partner engagements, provided us with an invaluable opportunity to showcase our ongoing initiatives and discuss future strategies.

Also, in this quarter, our collaboration with the Plateau Peacebuilding Agency (PPBA), under the PARTNER activity made remarkable strides in peacebuilding. In Naraguta Community, Jos North LGA, we successfully facilitated discussions around farm encroachment issues. The community collectively agreed on the establishment of designated cattle routes to prevent future conflicts. This achievement underscores the importance of dialogue and collaboration in building peace. The PARTNER activity also conducted series of Interest-Based Negotiation (IBN) trainings for community-based structures; and conflict-sensitive reporting workshop for media practitioners in Benue, Nasarawa, Kano, and Katsina states.

These sessions aimed to equip participants with the skills necessary for effective conflict resolution and constructive media engagement.

Our commitment to empowering women peacebuilders continued with a 3-day online mentoring program for the next generation of women leaders in peacebuilding. This initiative is crucial in fostering inclusive peace efforts and ensuring diverse perspectives in conflict resolution.

Find these and many more updates on our activities and the impactful work happening across Nigeria.

I hope that you would enjoy reading and also send us your feedback. Thank you for your continued support and engagement with WANEP-Nigeria.

Warm regards,  
Aveseh Asough  
Communications Officer,  
WANEP-Nigeria



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# NEWSLETTER

April-June, 2024

## Goodwill Message



Osariemen Amas-Edobor

Dear Esteemed Colleagues and Partners,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to everyone as we reflect on the achievements of WANEP-Nigeria for the April to June 2024 quarter. Our collective efforts and unwavering commitment to peacebuilding have led to remarkable progress across our target locations. One of the highlights of this quarter has been the ongoing success of the USAID-funded PARTNER Activity. Through this initiative, we have continued to engage with communities, fostering open communication and collaborative problem-solving. These community engagement have been instrumental in addressing local security challenges, building trust and cohesion among community members.

Additionally, our capacity-building activities for community-based structures have yielded impressive results. The Interest-Based Negotiation and Mediation (IBN+M) trainings facilitated by WANEP-Nigeria in collaboration with the Kaduna State Peace Commission (KSPC) and the Plateau Peace Building Agency (PPBA) in tier two states of Kano, Katsina, Benue and Nasarawa stand out as a significant achievement. These trainings have empowered community leaders and groups with the requisite skills necessary to promote peace and resolve disputes non-violently.

As we look ahead to the next quarter, we are excited to consolidate our community peace interventions with renewed vigor. We anticipate even greater engagement from our youth, women, and persons with disabilities, whose active participation is vital for sustainable peacebuilding. Their involvement will further enrich our initiatives and ensure that our peacebuilding efforts are inclusive and far-reaching.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners for their support and commitment to the realization of our overarching goal of 'an enhanced citizens and state capacity for sustainable peace and security' in Nigeria.

God bless Nigeria !!!

Warm regards,

Osariemen Amas-Edobor  
Deputy Chief of Party (DCoP) - PARTNER  
WANEP-Nigeria

## IBNM ToT

The PARTNER activity in collaboration with WANEP-Nigeria and supported by KSPC and PPBA conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on IBN for PARTNER consortium members on April 18 to 20, 2024 in Kaduna state. The training engaged 18 participants (M:11/F:7) from The Kukah Centre, Mambayya House and the Independent State Peace Architectures (ISPAs) in Kano, Katsina, Nasarawa and Benue states.



IBN ToT for consortium members in Tier-two states

## Migration, Urbanization, and Conflict in African Cities (MUCA)

The MUCA Close-out Event, which held on June 16, 2024, at the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) in Abuja, showcased several key outcomes aimed at fostering sustainable peace and development in African cities by tackling urbanization and migration challenges.

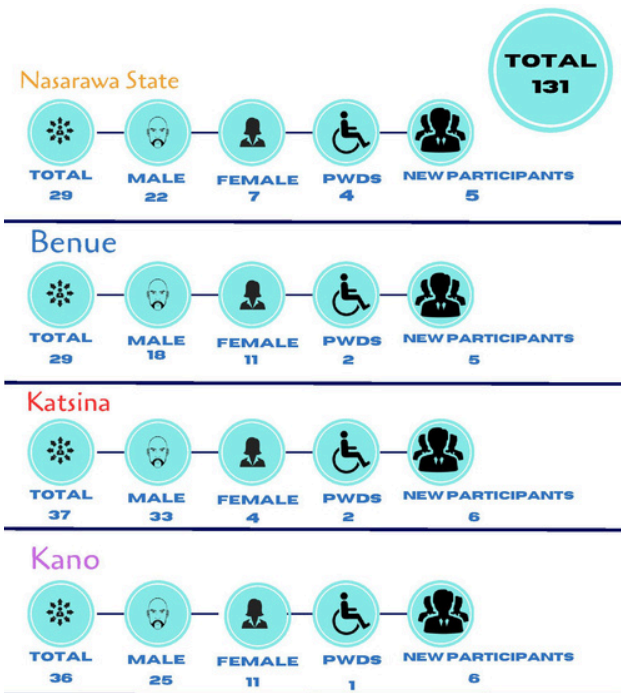
A major outcome was the creation of inclusive urban policies designed to meet the needs of both migrants and residents, thus minimizing potential conflict sources. These policies, supported by evidence-based recommendations, are intended for adoption at local, state, and federal levels to improve the management of migration and urbanization in Nigeria. Additionally, the event underscored the importance of increased collaboration and networking. Strengthening partnerships among academic institutions, government agencies, civil society, and community-based organizations was highlighted as essential.



## IBNM Trainings in tier two states

Following the ToT, the PARTNER consortium led community-level step-down Interest-Based Negotiation (IBN) training for members of the PARTNER Community-Based Reconciliation Committees (CBRCs), selected key community stakeholders, media and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The training took place in Nasarawa and Benue states from May 6 to 8; and in Kano and Katsina states from June 3 to 5, 2024. The objectives were to enhance the existing capacity of the community-based structures to address local issues and introduce new approaches to conflict management. The presence of media personnel heightened the visibility of the PARTNER activity within the Indigenous social media community, contributing to raising awareness of the PARTNER community's activities.

A total of 131 participants attended the workshop across the four (4) states, including 98 females, 33 males. Out of the 131 participants, 9 were Persons with Disabilities (PWDS).



IBNM Participants in Katsina



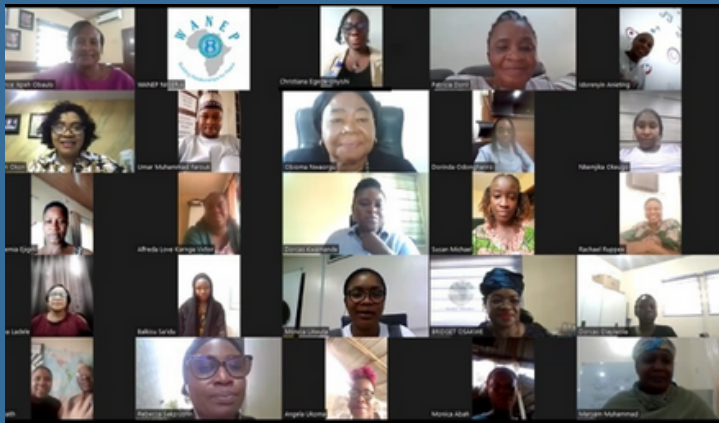
IBNM Participants in Kano

## NATIONAL YOUTH FORUM ON INTERGENERATIONAL PEACEBUILDING

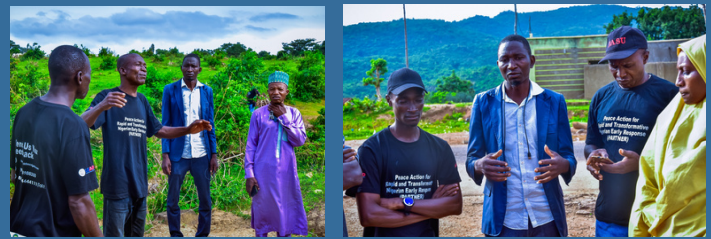
**(Mentoring the Next Generation of Women Peacebuilders)**

The two-day Young Women Forum which held between May 15 to 16, 2024, in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 2250 and 1325, underscores the vital roles of youth and women in peace and security. The Young Women Forum focused on fostering mentorship, leadership, and collaboration among future female leaders. The forum's theme, "Mentoring the Next Generation of Women Peacebuilders," highlighted its mission to support young women in becoming influential advocates for peace.

The virtual meeting organized by WANEP-Nigeria with support from the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) and the Government of Canada, brought together 115 participants, including young women and male champions across Nigeria.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN JOS NORTH LGA ON FARM ENCROACHMENT ISSUES.



The PARTNER activity in collaboration with PPBA, with support from WANEP Nigeria assisted the community-based structures in Naraguta Community, Jos North LGA of Plateau State in resolving farm encroachment issues.

The goal was to foster dialogue, understanding, and collaboration aimed at resolving the long-standing conflict between farmers and herders in the community.

During this engagement, it was unanimously agreed that the establishment of designated cattle routes is essential to preventing future farm encroachment during cattle grazing activities. The communities proposed to identify two (2) cattle routes. These routes will enable herders to navigate their cattle safely to grazing areas without encroaching on farmlands, thus, addressing farmers' concerns around crop damage and other conflicts.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Community-Based Reconciliation Committee (CBRC) and the Traditional Council of Rigiza District. This meeting is part of an ongoing effort to resolve the persistent farmer-herder conflicts in the Naraguta Kunga intervention site of Jos North LGA.

**“Women are the real architects of society.”**

– Harriet Beacher Stowe.

## Selection Of Community-Based Gender Focal Persons In Benue, Nasarawa, And Katsina States



The selection, validation, and documentation of community-based gender focal persons took place from June 5 to 28, 2024, in Benue, Nasarawa, and Katsina States. This initiative, conducted by the PARTNER Consortium—which includes IPCR, WANEP-Nigeria, and Mercy Corps Nigeria (MCN), was focused on sensitizing community women about the need to identify and report gendered threats, such as various forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and the importance of gender inclusivity in peace processes.

A total of 84 female participants from Dutsinma and Kurfi were engaged. The initiative also highlighted the importance of empowering women at the community level to recognize and address gender-specific challenges, thereby fostering a more inclusive and peaceful environment.

## Capacity Building On Prevention Of Conflict, Peacebuilding, And Violent Extremism

Adhering to the principles of effective peacebuilding and conflict management, a 3-day training workshop on Conflict Prevention, Violent Extremism, Crisis Management, and Peacebuilding in Nigeria was organised in FCT-Abuja to enhance the skills and knowledge of participants in these essential areas. Funded by the European Union (EU), the Research and Action for Peace Network (REcAP project is implemented by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), DRC and SIPRI, the workshop convened a diverse group of stakeholders including CSOs.

Twenty (20) participants were engaged, as the training also provided a platform for networking and partnership.



“

**Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.**

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

”

## Theory of Change Training, Abuja

WANEP-Nigeria's Programs Manager, Kevin Aboyi and Aveseh Asough, the Communications Officer, represented WANEP-Nigeria at a 3-day training on 'Theory of Change', organized by ActionAid, Nigeria and SERVE III.

The workshop is for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) Knowledge, Innovation & Resource Hub (KIRH) in pursuance of the "System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalization to Violent Extremism (SARVE III) project in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and Sokoto States.

Also attending the workshop are WANEP's Zonal Coordinator, North West, Dr. Muhammed Mustapha and Saviour Akpan - WANEP's Early Warning Monitor in Akwa-Ibom state.

## Empowering Women In Kwata Zawan: Building Peace And Resilience.



The PARTNER activity on June 25, 2024, held an event titled "Empowering Women in Kwata Zawan: Building Peace and Resilience" in collaboration with the established community-based structures in Kwata Zawan. The event aimed to raise awareness for women's rights, enhance economic independence, and the importance of collective action. The event also highlighted the community women's role in building peace and social cohesion within their communities.

Other issues discussed include, community commitment towards GBV reduction and other discriminatory practices and actions towards promoting increased women participation in peacebuilding processes. Participants resolved to organize awareness sessions for teenagers on SGBV; advocacy for the punishment of sexual exploiters; and to seek for women's representation in traditional councils.

The community initiative brought together 50 women from diverse ethnicities including Geomai, Yoruba, Tangale, Ngas, Marawa, Igbo, Michika, Ron, Mushere, Chakphem, Tarok, and ethnic Fulani women from neighboring community of Kwata Zawan. A major milestone achieved is the recognition and inclusion of other ethnic minorities in a context largely dominated by Berom ethnic group.



## Success stories

Aligning with the PARTNER objectives, particularly Outcome 3, which focuses on “fostering collaboration among key stakeholders to build trust and confidence within communities and between communities and security forces”, community-based structures in the PARTNER intervention sites in tier one states of Kaduna and Plateau have been actively involved in initiatives promoting social cohesion and dialogue. These efforts are crucial for addressing the root causes of violence and creating a safer environment. Below are some of the initiatives undertaken:

### ***Kaduna: Kakuri and Zangon Kataf***

Through active engagement in the PARTNER activity, communities in Kaduna State have recorded various transformative initiatives that have paved pathways for peace and social cohesion.

In Angwan Wakili community of Zango Kataf LGA in Kaduna State, a group formerly dubbed ‘Okada Boys’ known for unsettling the vicinity’s peace experienced a profound transformation and gradually evolving into law-abiding individuals dedicated to promoting peace in Zangon Kataf. Their inclusion and active engagement in the PARTNER community framework facilitated the desired behavioural change.

Also, in the Kakuri community of Kaduna South LGA in Kaduna State, the Community-Based Reconciliation Committee’s (CBRCs) intervention proved pivotal in resolving a feud that had fractured two families. The discord had escalated to the extent of involving security authorities at the Military Strike Force Base in Kakuri. However, following the committee’s mediation, the feuding families reconciled, choosing to embrace peace, leaving behind the shadows of their past grievances.



*Advocacy Visit*

### ***Plateau: Augwan Rukuba and Naraguta/Kunga***

**Advocacy by PARTNER community structure in Anguwan Rukuba (Jos North LGA in Plateau State):**

On April 26, 2024, representatives from the CBRC and EWMRG in Anguwan Rukuba engaged in advocacy efforts to increase awareness of the PARTNER activity as well as strengthen collaborative partnerships with key traditional and religious stakeholders, and institutions in the community, such as the traditional council and elder’s forum. Acknowledging the significant influence wielded by these stakeholders, the advocacy aimed to garner support and commitment to community initiatives targeted at preventing and mitigating violence. The impact of community awareness and effective partnerships can significantly enhance program outcomes by fostering support, collaboration, and sustainability.

The advocacy engagement serves as a strategic entry point for the PARTNER activity to establish partnership with the traditional council and to develop locally-driven solutions towards enhancing peace and social cohesion.

The PARTNER community-based structures in North Bank, Makurdi LGA of Benue State, initiated advocacy efforts with the District Head of North Bank community to secure support towards the implementation of the community Peace Action Plans and to introduce the PARTNER activity.



*Benue Advocacy Visit*

## Success stories

### **Plateau: Bible Faith/Rafin Pa ('Feast of Peace')**

In another development, the women of Bible Faith/Rafin Pa PARTNER structures in Jos North, Plateau State organized a joint sallah and easter celebration tagged 'Feast of Peace' on April 15, 2024. The feast, which brought together women from varied ethnic and religious backgrounds, was targeted at promoting community peace by encouraging inclusivity and dialogue among women. The event also served as an avenue to create awareness on progress made thus far on the PARTNER program particularly as it relates to building relationships to strengthen future community engagement. As part of their commitment to strengthen the ideals of peace, the community women of Bible Faith/Rafin Pa collaboratively pledged to create platforms for young girls to engage in peace-related activities through mentoring and coaching.



*The Feast of Peace organised by Bible Faith/Rafin Pa women*



*Naraguta/ Kunga football match*

### **Unity Football Match in Naraguta/Kunga (Jos North) organised by the CBRCs:**

As part of the violence prevention initiatives, the PARTNER Community-Based Reconciliation Committees (CBRCs) in Naraguta/Kunga organized a unity football match on April 11, 2024. The football event, which coincided with the Muslim sallah and Christian easter celebrations, aimed to strengthen social bonds and foster a sense of community among youths from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds. The sporting event reflects the community's shared commitment to creating a safe and inclusive environment where teamwork and respect are essential to reducing tensions and preventing conflict.



## INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING



In Angwan Rukuba community of Jos North LGA of Plateau State; and Samaru community in Sabon Gari LGA of Kaduna State, the Community-Based Structures on the PARTNER activity in collaboration with WANEP-Nigeria, Plateau Peace Building Agency (PPBA) and the Kaduna State Peace Commission (KSPC) conducted series of activities to mark the 'International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' on June 26, 2024, with the theme "The evidence is clear: invest in prevention." This initiative was from their community Peace Action Plan developed in 2023 as part of the community's efforts towards promoting peace and social cohesion.

Other commitments and strategies proposed towards by the communities include -

- a. A community task force to be established in Angwan Rukuba comprising of youth leaders, women's groups, elders, and local community security outfits and saddled with the responsibilities of eradicating drug peddling and public smoking in Angwan Rukuba. This will take effect on July 8, 2024.
- b. The Angwan Rukuba Youth Forum (AYF) to draft penalties for defaulters, and the Neighbourhood Watch assigned to enforce curfew to reduce peddling and drug/substance abuse.
- c. Educational rallies and banners proposed to raise awareness about the dangers of illicit drug/substance.



In Samaru community of Sabon Gari LGA in Kaduna State, the community-based structures partnered with the anti-drug free club at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, National Law Drug Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), and Red Cross, to raise awareness on the devastating effects of illicit drug and substance abuse. Also, the PARTNER community-based structures, led by the coordinator, hosted a session on a radio program at the ABU FM in collaboration with the ABU Drug-Free Club.





# NEWSLETTER

WANEP - NIGERIA

[www.wanepnigeria.org](http://www.wanepnigeria.org)

April- June, 2024

## Birthday celebrants



**Valerie Edem**  
April 19



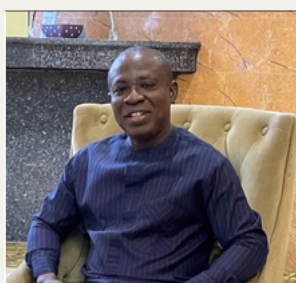
**Arinze Ononye**  
April 27



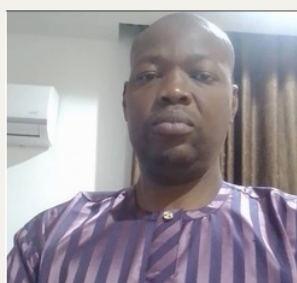
**Barau Emmanuel**  
April 29



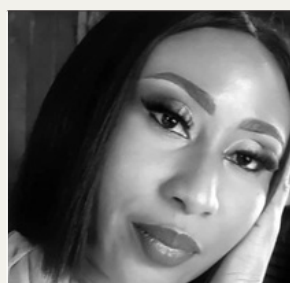
**Kolawole Olatosimin**  
April 30



**Kevin Abonyi**  
May 16



**Babalola Dawodu**  
May 17



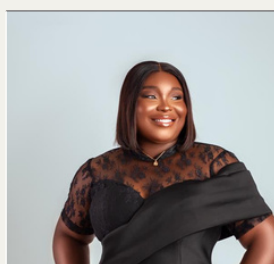
**Osariemen Amas-Edobor**  
May 21



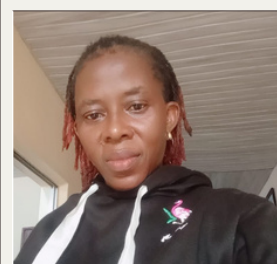
**Bridget Affiah**  
May 22



**Bolanle Omidiji**  
June 2



**Owor-Agbor Nkifan**  
June 17



**Patricia Unegbu**  
June 30

## 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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