

FIRST QUARTER

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - MARCH

# 2025



*Happy New Year*

# EDITORIAL GREETINGS

Happy New Year! As we embark on the first edition of the WANEP-Nigeria Quarterly Newsletter for 2025, we do so with deep appreciation for our readers, partners, and the communities we serve. Your unwavering support and collaboration continue to inspire and strengthen our resolve in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

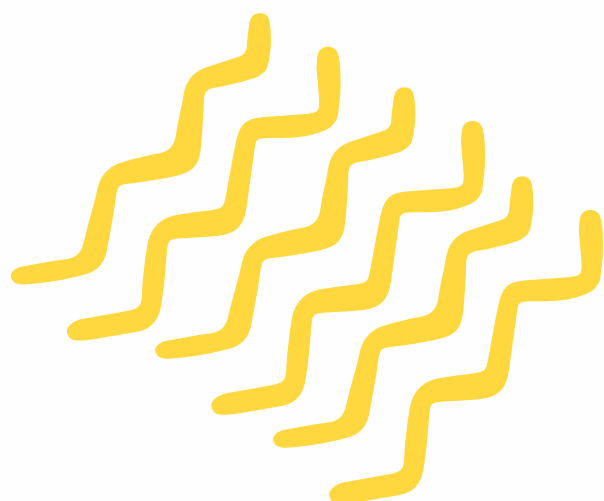
We began the year with the commemoration of the International Women's Day (IWD) through online campaign and in-house capacity-building training session. These reaffirmed our dedication to gender equality and the empowerment of women in peacebuilding, amplifying their voices and advocating for their rights.

As you explore this edition, we invite you to engage with the compelling stories that highlight our work this quarter. From supporting local communities to fostering reconciliation and dialogue, each initiative reflects our unwavering commitment to sustainable peace. We extend our sincere gratitude to our partners, stakeholders, and supporters for their continued trust and collaboration. Together, we remain beacons of hope, driving positive change and laying the foundation for a future defined by peace, unity, and prosperity.

Warm regards,

**Sarah John Musa,**

Communications Officer.





# GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM THE NNC

## Dear Partners, Stakeholders, and Peace Advocates,

As we step into 2025, I extend my warmest greetings and appreciation to each of you for your unwavering support, dedication, and collaboration in advancing peacebuilding and conflict prevention across Nigeria. Your commitment has been the driving force behind WANEP-Nigeria's success, and together, we continue to make significant efforts toward a more peaceful and resilient society.

Reflecting on the past year, WANEP-Nigeria achieved remarkable milestones, fostering dialogue, strengthening community resilience, and empowering local peace actors. Through our collective efforts, we have addressed pressing challenges, promoted gender equality, and reinforced early warning mechanisms to prevent violence and instability.

This year we renew our commitment to deepening partnerships, enhancing our impact, and expanding our reach to ensure that every community in Nigeria benefits from sustainable peace and security initiatives. Our journey is one of collaboration, innovation, and resilience, and we are confident that with your continued support, 2025 will bring even greater successes. I encourage us all to remain steadfast in our resolve, championing peace, justice, and inclusivity in every space we find ourselves. Together, we are stronger, and together, we can build a future where peace is not just an aspiration but a reality.

On behalf of WANEP-Nigeria, I thank you all and look forward to another year of impactful peacebuilding efforts.

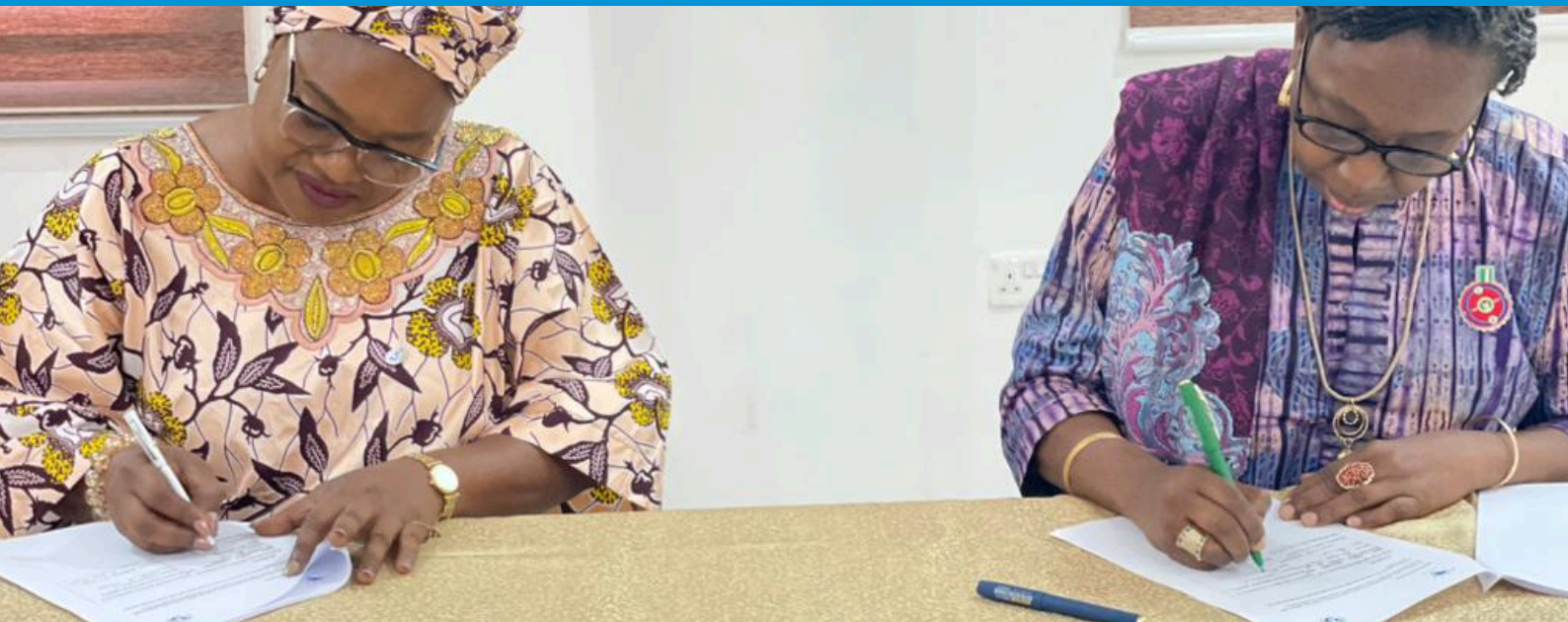


Warm regards,

**Bridget Osakwe PhD,**

National Network Coordinator, WANEP-Nigeria.

# KICK-STARTING 2025



## Renewed Commitment to Peace and Security

As 2025 unfolds, WANEP Nigeria has kickstarted the year with a renewed commitment to advancing peace and security through strategic policy advocacy, grassroots interventions, and evidence-based programming. In response to the country's evolving security dynamics, we are strengthening our Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) systems, ensuring timely and community-informed action for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Through the Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET), we expanded efforts to integrate gender perspectives into peacebuilding dialogues.





The Research and Action for Peace (REcAP) Network is a regional initiative led by WANEP, in partnership with SIPRI and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), with funding support from the European Union (EU). REcAP aims to build a sustainable, inclusive, and effective network of peacebuilding experts across West Africa



As part of its ongoing efforts to promote peace and security in Nigeria, WANEP-Nigeria attended a three-day training workshop on conflict prevention in Kwara State from February 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 2025. The workshop brought together community leaders, security personnel, civil society organizations, women peacebuilders, and youth representatives, equipping them with essential skills in early warning, mediation, and conflict resolution. Participants engaged in discussions on the root causes of conflict, practical strategies for dispute resolution, and the role of communities in fostering long-term peace.

The training emphasized strengthening early warning and response mechanisms, ensuring that local actors can identify and address potential conflicts before they escalate. Through interactive sessions and role-playing exercises, participants gained hands-on experience in mediation techniques, negotiation strategies, and crisis management. Special attention was given to the role of women and youth in peacebuilding, recognizing their contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable development. By the end of the training, attendees expressed a strong commitment to applying their newly acquired skills within their communities.



WANEP-Nigeria remains dedicated to empowering local actors in peacebuilding and will continue to provide mentorship, follow-up support, and collaborative engagement to sustain the impact of this initiative. As 2025 progresses, the organization looks forward to expanding its capacity-building programs, strengthening stakeholder partnerships, and advocating for policies that enhance peace and security. WANEP-Nigeria appreciates the support of all partners and participants in advancing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda and remains committed to ensuring a more peaceful society.



# HUNGER RELIEF PROJECT 2025



On February 1, 2025, The lions club in collaboration with WANEP Nigeria West Africa Network for Peacebuilding Nigeria, implemented the Hunger Relief Project 2025 in Eti-Osa LGA, Lagos State. This initiative aimed to combat food insecurity and support vulnerable households.

The project brought together 20 volunteers (10 males, 10 females) and engaged 250 community members (120 males, 130 females). WANEP-Nigeria representatives, Femi Emmanuel and Valerie Edem, were present to oversee and contribute to the initiative.



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDES:

- Breakfast for 250 community members.
- Palliative distribution to 150 individuals – Food packages containing rice, beans, salt, peppers, tomatoes, garri, soup spices, and a bowl were given to selected beneficiaries.



# 5TH GENDER TALK SERIES



## Re-Assessing the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda

**SINCE 2020,**

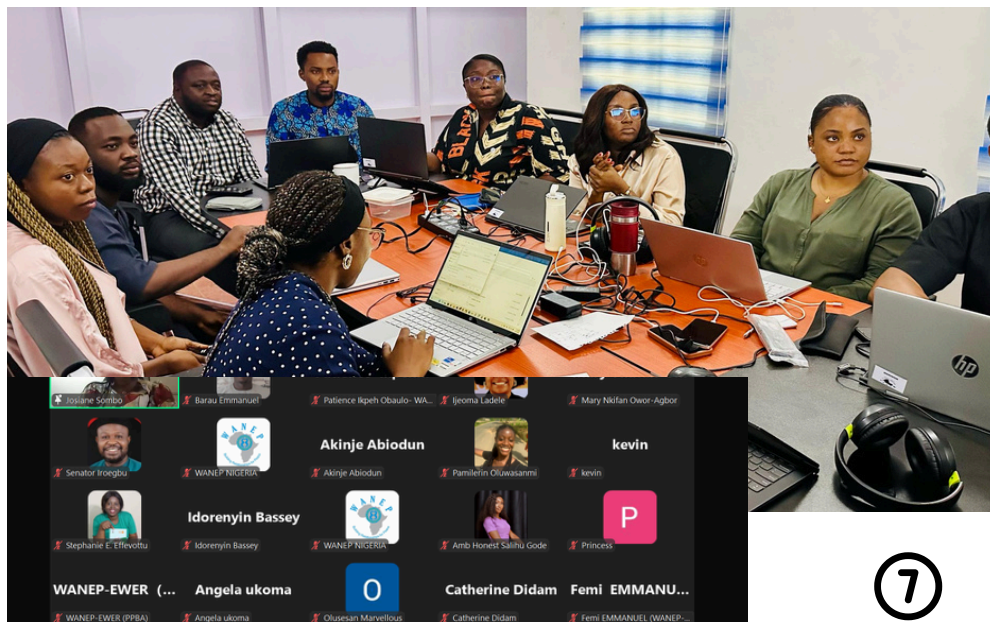
WANEP-Nigeria's Gender Talk Series has served as a strategic consultation platform for dialogue, advocacy, and solution-driven discussions on peace and security issues affecting women and girls in conflict zones.

On March 11, 2025, WANEP-Nigeria held its 5th Gender Talk Series under the theme "Beijing +30 Perspectives: Women and Armed Conflict – Re-Assessing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda in Nigeria." This virtual event brought together key stakeholders, including government representatives, civil society organizations, women peacebuilders, and youth leaders, to discuss Nigeria's progress in implementing the WPS Agenda in the context of armed conflict.

## KEY DISCUSSIONS & OUTPUT



- ✓ Gender desks should be established within security agencies as a vital step toward addressing GBV and increasing women's involvement in reporting.
- ✓ Extended to broader online audiences through livestreaming platforms.
- ✓ Increased awareness among participants about Nigeria's progress and gaps in implementing the WPS agenda.







## Safe School Declaration (SSD) Finance Training



WANEP Nigeria in partnership with the Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre (WARDDC) and support from the United Nations Democratic Fund (UNDEF) organises 2-day Meeting on Financing Plan for the effective Implementation of the Safe School Declaration (SSD) policies in Lagos State. The program which aims to engage stakeholders to draft a finance plan for the implementation of SSD in Lagos State hold on March 26 & 27, 2025.





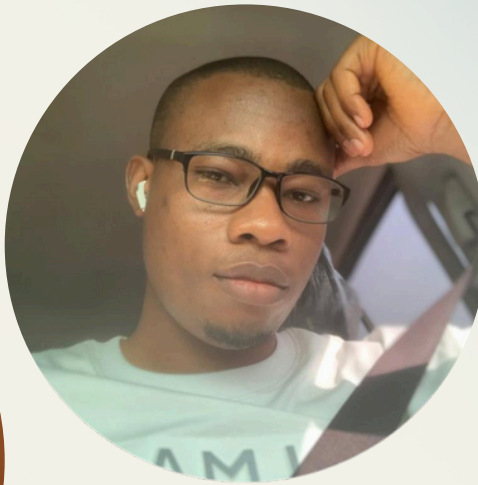
# BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS



**AWA KALU  
OKORIE**



**DORCAS  
OLAYIWOLA**



**CHARLES  
CHIDIEBERE**



**DR. ABIOLA  
AKIYODE-AFOLABI**



**SYLVIA OBEHI**



**ADEKUNLE ILORI**



**DR. IJEOMA  
LADELE**

# About Us

An icon depicting three stylized human figures in blue, with a white circle containing a lowercase 'i' (information symbol) positioned above the central figure.

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding Nigeria (WANEP-Nigeria) was established out of necessity to provide an organized platform for collaborative peacebuilding for conflict transformation and development in Nigeria by indigenous Non Governmental Organizations with diverse capacities and interest in human rights, conflict transformation and good governance. its operational framework was designed along the visions of the regional network operating in West Africa, Chad and Cameroun with the ultimate goal of building sustainable peace for growth and development in the region.

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