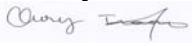



## ANNEX 5: NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

### Six-Month and Annual Reporting

version 50622

| General information  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Name of the Organisation:</b> West Africa Network on Peacebuilding (WANEP)</p> <p><b>Report Prepared by:</b> The Program Manager</p> <p><b>Signature:</b> </p> <p><b>Report Approved by:</b> Emmanuel Bombande</p> <p><b>Signature:</b> </p> | <p><b>Contract Ref. No.:</b><br/>01/Core/57/WANEP</p> <p><b>Report Period:</b><br/>January - June 2006.</p> <p><b>Report Date:</b> July 19, 2006</p> <p><b>Contact Tel. No.:</b> 021 221318</p> |

**1. What changes did you see in pro-poor government policies (in design, implementation or review)? How did such change come about and what is your interpretation of the changes?**

Increasingly, there has been collaboration between the government and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in pro-poor government policies. CSOs are increasingly participating in the design, implementation and review of pro-poor government policies. Furthermore, the government has been more transparent about these policies and efforts are being made to increase awareness on these issues. At the District level, major improvements have been made to make the process more inclusive by engaging the communities.

The WANEP network in Ghana contributed to these positive changes. For instance, GHANEP built the capacity of various District assemblies in managing resource-based conflicts. The groups strategically targeted for the training included various department heads, elected and appointed members of the assemblies, the political party leadership as well as traditional authorities. Also, through the activities of some of our members and collaborators e.g. IBIS Ghana and SEND Foundation, there has been increased understanding, participation, monitoring and implementation of the development plans and other government policies like the HIPC funds in the various districts.

This is genuine community and local level mobilisation by civil society groups in partnership with local government structures and institutions.

**2. Collaboration and networking**

**2.1 Indicate changes or progress in your working relations with the Parliament, Government Services, MDBS Partners, Donors, NDPC, District level Authorities or Services etc.**

There has been an enhanced engagement between GHANEP and the local government structures at various levels. This is demonstrated by the level of response, interest and commitment in the design and implementation of GHANEP's activities. The credibility of GHANEP has increased appreciably in the view of local government structures, communities, and various CSOs. This is largely a result of our approach of using peace as a catalyst for development and of emphasizing partnerships. Also as a network, GHANEP represents the interest of many reputable local, national and international CSOs working at various levels of society in the interest of the masses.

**2.2 How has collaboration been strengthened (i.e. joint campaigns, collaboration, networking) with other RAOs / CSOs / CBOs?**

As a network, GHANEP has consistently worked to facilitate collaboration, partnership and networking among its members and other NGOs. As a result GHANEP has organised and participated in joint activities such as policy advocacy, capacity strengthening, and consultations in which learning and sharing of experiences and information occurs with both members and non members.

The WANEP Secretariat has always worked in collaborative peacebuilding by forming strategic partnerships with community based organizations (CBOs), but also regional and internationally recognised institutions. In May 2006, in collaboration with Oxfam GB, WANEP mobilised all the major actors working on peace and security issues for a two day consultation to develop conflict reduction strategies for Ghana. The following month, in June 2006, through the GPPAC (Global Partnership for the Prevention of Violent Conflict), WANEP mobilized CSOs and CBOs in Ghana to develop a national agenda for the prevention of armed conflict. This national action plan will inform the regional, continental and global agenda at the UN level for the prevention of armed conflict.

At the regional level, WANEP's main strategy is collaborative peacebuilding whereby it engages regional and international actors to address peace and security issues. WANEP, in collaboration with the United States Institute for Peace (USIP), organized a special consultation on the challenges for Peace and Reconstruction in Cote D'Ivoire. The participants, representing key civil society organizations from all the provinces of the country

met in Accra from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2006. Throughout the two days consultation, participants deliberated on the challenges of the peace process and re-defined the role of and contributions of CSOs in durable peace. Whereas one key argument was the lack of institutional recognition of the role of CSOs, it was appreciated that CSOs could do better in terms of their own institutional building and credibility.

In partnership with the Woodrow Wilson Centre, WANEP brought together almost all government officials including the President of Liberia, heads of warring groups, the religious community, women groups, various youth associations, CSOs and the main opposition party for a workshop on National Reconciliation and Collaboration. The activity was timely as Liberia is working on nation-building and trying to rebuild their war thorn society from the ground. The aim of the workshop was to form coalition and build consensus on national reconciliation issues. The enthusiasm that characterizes this initiative cannot be over-emphasized as participants have already formed a network under the banner, "Liberia Reconciliation and Collaboration Network" (LIRCON).

WANEP is also collaborating with regional and international organizations. WANEP just renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ECOWAS for three more years.

**2.3 How has the credibility and legitimacy of RAOs changed in the eyes of GoG and the Ghana public? How did such change come about and what is your interpretation of the changes?**

Most RAOs are directly working with people at the community level and built some trust and among their constituencies. Government increasingly recognized the indispensable roles CSOs at community level. So both the government and the Ghana public have an appreciation of the undeniable roles played by CSOs.

As a professional civil society group working in peacebuilding, we have been able to build a good reputation and credibility with both the government and the public. We have been able to build constituency legitimacy in peacebuilding and human security through our unique skills in participatory identification, mitigation, management and resolution of various violent conflicts.

These changes occur because of WANEP's effective use of participatory approaches to peacebuilding and strengthening of local structures to enable them to manage their own conflict, thus, have ownership of peacebuilding processes

| <b>3. 1 Output ranking on research and advocacy products and/or services delivered</b>  |  |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <b>#</b>  | <b>Outputs presented in submitted Workplan</b>             | <b>Target groups that received or used the output delivered</b> | <b>Documents describing output delivery</b>   | <b>Attached Copy yes/no</b>                |
| 1   | Draft of the Newsletters “The Links”                       | The network members and partners                                | The newsletters require input from WANEP’s network members. The draft for the most recent edition will be ready for publication this quarter. | No (copy will be available in a few weeks) |
| 2   | A policy brief on Côte d’Ivoire                            | The network members and partners                                | Please check website for copy of the policy brief at: <a href="http://www.wanep.org">www.wanep.org</a>  | Yes  |
| 3   | A policy brief on Togo                                     | The network members and partners                                | Please check website for copy of the policy brief at: <a href="http://www.wanep.org">www.wanep.org</a>  | Yes  |
| 4   | WIPNET Hand Manual translated in Diola, Mandinga and Wolof | Communities in The Sene-Gambia region and other network members |   | Yes  |
| 5   |  |   |   |  |
|   |  |   |   |  |
|   |  |   |   |  |
| <b>3.2 Please explain the basis of the ranking; what criteria were you using for the ranking?</b>   |  |   |   |  |
| <p>The outputs were ranked based on the level of ascertainable dissemination. The WANEP newsletter was distributed to our member organizations. The policy briefs have been posted on the website and to date we have not been able to determine the number of hits to these links, but we know that they are widely read from the comments we receive from people.</p> |  |   |   |  |

#### **4. Organisation: evidence of significant progress / change / results in the following areas**

##### **4.1 Strategy, planning, decision making, knowledge management**

WANEP uses the following strategies: direct engagement with CSOs and IGOs; targeted capacity building; consultations; context-adaptable methodology; bottom-up and top-down approaches; collaboration; networking; dialogue and strategic partnerships; integrated methodology, research and publications; gender analysis; right-based approach; human security approach.

Planning and decision making are done through teamwork and consultation. WANEP holds weekly meetings where staff can discuss institutional issues, planning and decision-making processes. Staff usually consult and agree on a decision before bringing it before the Executive Director for approval.

WANEP is designing platforms for knowledge sharing in-house, but also with its network members and partners. WANEP, which is basically an advocacy and networking organization, is currently building its research capacity to document its peacebuilding processes in West Africa. This will require developing strategies and tools to share knowledge with its wide networks in the sub region.

##### **4.2 Funding base development and financial management**

WANEP is developing strategies to become financially sustainable. In the coming years, WANEP will hold annual fundraising campaigns such as gala shows and donor roundtables. WANEP already has the trust and confidence of the donor community; therefore it has donors that are highly committed to its work. WANEP also intends in diversifying its funding sources by approaching European and Japanese donor agencies.

Throughout the year, WANEP established a more comprehensible and user-friendly accounting system. WANEP also undertakes annual audits to better monitor and manage its finances.

##### **4.3 Recruitment, development and retention of staff; HR planning; incentives**

The restructuring of WANEP has just been completed and the number of staff at the Regional Office has been significantly reduced. WANEP is currently recruiting for the positions of Program Coordinator positions. The recruitment has been advertised on the website and also through all the networks. Qualified national network members are encouraged to apply. WANEP has a policy to recruit within its networks before seeking for external candidates. Frameworks are being developed to hold periodic internal training for staff development. Furthermore, WANEP is currently looking at its salary scheme for improvement. In the past, low salaries have been a source of de-motivation for staff, thus impacting the retention rate. WANEP will work hard to offer more competitive salaries to its staff. The Human Resources Handbook is also being revised and incentives such as the welfare fund are currently being established.

##### **4.4 Organisational structure, board, management team**

WANEP is a regional framework for peacebuilding. Its national networks serve as umbrella organizations in their respective countries. In essence, the national networks are the expression of WANEP at the national level while each member organization has its own autonomy. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the highest governing body of WANEP. A seven-member professional board elected at the AGM informs and directs the management of the Regional Secretariat. Currently, the management team is composed of the Executive Director, the Program Director, the Program Manager and the Administrative Manager. Decisions are taken on a consultative basis; however, the Executive Director makes the final decision in consultation with the board.

##### **4.5 Marketing, public relations, communication**

WANEP is already widely recognized as a credible organization regionally, at the continental level and internationally. Despite its international recognition, WANEP continues to work on outreach activities to increase its visibility, especially at the national level. WANEP just produced brochures and updated its website. Major initiatives are underway to make WANEP a household name not only in the field of peacebuilding, but among ordinary West Africans. WANEP is currently developing communication strategies to increase its visibility regionally and in Africa.

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| <b>5. Grant and report related issues</b>   |
| <b>5.1 Details of any notable challenges or unexpected developments encountered during the reporting period. Indicate the reason for such change and what impact this could have on the execution of your original Annual Workplan as attached to the Grant contract.</b> |
| N/A   |
| <b>5.2 Please indicate any issues you wish to raise relating to the Grant or to G-RAP management, monitoring or financial procedures.</b>   |
| N/A   |
| <b>5.3 Please indicate any aspects of this report which are confidential and should not be communicated beyond G-RAP without prior consent.</b>   |
| N/A   |