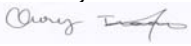



ANNEX 5: NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

Six-Month and Annual Reporting

version 50622

General information	
<p>Name of the Organisation: West Africa Network on Peacebuilding (WANEP)</p> <p>Report Prepared by: The Program Manager</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Report Approved by: Emmanuel Bombande</p> <p>Signature: </p>	<p>Contract Ref. No.: 01/Core/57/WANEP</p> <p>Report Period: June 2006- January 2007.</p> <p>Report Date: January 8, 2007</p> <p>Contact Tel. No.: 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?

WANEP during the six-month period under review has continued to advocate for conflict sensitive approaches to development as a pro-poor policy. In this regard, WANEP has observed remarkable improvement in government policy direction towards local and regional capacity for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

The Minister of the Interior has initiated a bill in parliament to grant legal backing to the establishment and functioning of a National Peace Council and ten Regional Peace Councils for each region. These councils will provide the institutional framework from the regional to the national level to enhance and sustain capacity for the prevention of violent conflict. They will also underscore the importance of local ownership as best practice in peacebuilding. Above all, the Peace Councils will mainstream the prevention of violence and resolution of conflicts through dialogue and mediation. This is significant in moving away from the traditional approach to managing security through military and police enforcement of peace which has never been sustainable as underlying issues are often not discussed nor mutually shared.

Other institutions such as the regional houses of chiefs have opted more and more for peacebuilding approaches through dialogue and mediation to deal with Chieftaincy disputes. As a government response to the queries of the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to improve the management of Chieftaincy disputes, government has established a Ministry for Chieftaincy Affairs. The use of dialogue and mediation is now a preferred approach. These policies are pro-poor because violence in and unresolved conflicts make the poor more vulnerable. Furthermore, when the conflicts are around natural resources, including extractive resources, the livelihoods of the poor are also threatened. It is important to note that is a serious challenge for development to take place in an environment of conflicts and the absence of structures and mechanisms for the protection of human security. WANEP is currently reviewing policies and effective approaches to engage vulnerable groups in the resolution of conflicts that affect them.

It is increasingly appreciated that peacebuilding is integral to development and cannot be regarded as marginal in the efforts of nation building. In the coming six-months, WANEP will continue to focus on the imperatives of effectively managing local conflicts in order to promote democracy and development in order to sustain national cohesion and unity in diversity and tolerance.

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 significant progress in WANEP working relationships with various agencies.

1. WANEP worked with the UNDP in Ghana and the Ministry of the Interior to conduct capacity building training workshops with Regional Peace Councils. Three regions have received such training and the program is continuing.
2. WANEP co-facilitated with UNDP the training and design of the functions of the National Peace Council (NPC). This body has people of national repute such as the Head of the Catholic Church in Ghana, His Eminence Cardinal Turkson, the Chief Iman Sharabu and the Head of the Amadiya Muslim Mission, Emir Wahab Adam.
3. WANEP designed a concept for “an expanding and deepening engagement” as a peacebuilding process in the Dagbon Traditional Area to facilitate the implementation of the “Road Map” signed last year at the Asantehene’s palace. This concept has been discussed with some donor agencies for active engagement in 2007 to promote peace in Dagbon.
4. WANEP in support of a Mediation Committee set-up by the Government facilitated dialogue and provided training in the Nkonya-Alavanyo conflict in the Volta Region. There is now a noticeable improvement in the security status of the communities which is now hailed by the Government as a good example of resolving intra and inter-communal conflicts in Ghana. A road linking Nkonya-Alavanyo which has been deserted for three decades as been adopted by Government for reconstruction as a symbol of reconciliation as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Ghana’s independence.

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

Considering that WANEP is structured as a Network organization, collaboration with RAOs / CSOs / CBOs continues to be strengthened and sustained. In the three regions of the Upper East, Upper West and Northern Region, WANEP promotes collaborative approaches to peacebuilding through its Ghana Network Office in Tamale. WANEP has a good number of CSOs and CBOs on the ground in the North Eastern corridor of the Northern region have been monitoring indicators of conflict and feeding it into WANEP conflict Prevention System (ECOWARN). In December 2006, the activities of monitoring were very useful in averting the outbreak of violence.

WANEP and the Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) have collaborated on very important peace support activities. WANEP's peacebuilding expertise and IDEG's governance expertise was a resource for galvanizing and redefining the role of civil society peacebuilding in Togo which contributed immensely towards national dialogue and the setting up of a unity government.

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?

On key thematic areas that range from peace and security to governance, anti-corruption and public accountancy etc. RAOs have demonstrated expertise and sound judgment that the GoG now refers to CSOs in major policy statements. The expertise of RAOs is integral in Government planning and policy-making.

This change has come about, first, as a result of the credibility of RAOs in terms of their institutional capacity to research, network and form informed opinions that are insightful on key policy issues. Secondly, RAOs have demonstrated professional competence and expertise in their fields of operation and are therefore respected by Government for their competence. RAOs are also demonstrating leadership through sound organizational management. Furthermore, they have leverage, thus earn respect from state actors because of their reputation and integrity.

It must also be admitted that at the global level, there is a no orientation for civil society participation in nation building. Sometimes it is not clear whether the governments pretend to consult with RAOs to satisfy conditionalities or that they are truly and genuinely committed to draw on the expertise of RAOs.

3.1 Output ranking on research and advocacy products and/or services delivered; Please rank the outputs in order of relative success, according to your own appreciation and evaluative judgment				
#	Outputs presented in submitted Workplan	Target groups that received or used the output delivered	Documents describing output delivery	Attached Copy yes/no
1	Training with UNDP	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
2	A policy brief on The Gambia	The network members and partners	Please check website for copy of the policy brief at: www.wanep.org	Yes
3	A policy brief on Niger	The network members and partners	Please check website for copy of the policy brief at: www.wanep.org	Yes
4	A policy brief on Guinee-Bissau	The network members and partners	Please check website for copy of the policy brief at: www.wanep.org	Yes
5	A policy brief on Nigeria	The network members and partners	Please check website for copy of the policy brief at: www.wanep.org	Yes
3.2 Please explain the basis of the ranking; what criteria were you using for the ranking?				
N/A.				

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

4.1 Strategy, planning, decision making, knowledge management

During the period under review, WANEP worked extensively on its restructuring process. A consultant was recruited to develop a road map on the way forward. WANEP began the restructuring process in 2003 after recognizing that the national networks were becoming too dependent on the Regional Secretariat. Most of WANEP's activities on the ground were being coordinated and implemented by the different program coordinators from the Regional Secretariat. Although national secretariats were in place, the initiative for activities to be planned and implemented usually came from the Regional Secretariat. This structure did not empower the national networks nor give them ownership. Furthermore, the national networks did not have much visibility on the ground.

Restructuring WANEP meant delegating more responsibilities to national networks and giving them ownership in their context. This approach would make WANEP more efficient, viable, and sustainable.

Over the next three years WANEP would like to achieve the following objectives:

- ◆ To strengthen ownership of the work of WANEP at the national level;
- ◆ To ensure the WANEP members on the ground are taking the lead to present their own work instead of being represented by the Regional Secretariat;
- ◆ To ensure that the national networks put in place sound management procedures and focus on their comparative advantage by developing their niche;
- ◆ To ensure financial sustainability, increase the visibility of WANEP in West Africa to become a household name.

WANEP uses a human security framework and focuses mainly on integrative and collaborative peacebuilding. All programs of WANEP are integrative, but furthermore, WANEP ensures that gender, youth, human rights, research and monitoring and evaluation cross-cut with its works. WANEP do not compete with other organizations, but instead seek collaboration from the grassroots to the national, regional and international to effectively implement its peacebuilding activities

Planning and decision-making are done through teamwork and consultation. WANEP holds daily senior management, informal meetings, weekly program meetings and monthly staff meetings.

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 January 2008, WANEP will celebrate its 10th Anniversary. This will be a good opportunity for WANEP to organize a peace gala to raise money. Other fundraising strategies are underway. WANEP already has the trust and confidence of the donors community; increasingly funders are contacting WANEP to offer funding for various projects.

WANEP has the tally system and undertakes annual audits to effectively monitor and manage its accounts.

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

During the last AGM, more work has been done to strengthen the human resources manual of WANEP. Each national network will adopt it at their national levels to harmonize the various documents. WANEP down-sized its staff at the regional office. The core staff in WANEP are the Executive Director, Program Director, Administrator, an accountant and a support staff. Currently, WANEP is recruiting for the positions of program coordinator. 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.

Furthermore, WANEP is currently looking at its salary scheme for improvement. It has been a challenge to improve the salary of as donors are reluctant to provide support for salary or core funding.

4.4 Organisational structure, board, management team

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. Tremendous work has been done on the website. WANEP is planning to hold the AGM at various networks to increase its visibility at the national level and give legitimacy to its networks.

5. Grant and report related issues

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.

N/A

5.2 Please indicate any issues you wish to raise relating to the Grant or to G-RAP management, monitoring or financial procedures.

N/A

5.3 Please indicate any aspects of this report which are confidential and should not be communicated beyond G-RAP without prior consent.

N/A