

REPAOC, West and Central Africa network of National NGO platforms

Civil Societies Dialogue for Democracy in West and Central Africa: A UNDEF funded project



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REPAOC

A Network of 8 National NGO platforms:



CONGAD
Senegal



FONGTO
Togo



FONGDD
Guinea



FECONG
Mali



RODADDHD
Niger



CFRONG
Benin



CILONG
Chad



SPONG
Burkina Faso

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REPAOC

8 national NGO platforms from West and Central Africa for a vibrant democracy



REPAOC gathers through its 8 national platforms, more than 500 local, national and international NGOs working in the field on a daily basis.

1. Collectif des Fédérations et Réseaux d'ONG (CFRONG) – **Benin**
2. Secrétariat Permanent des ONG (SPONG) – **Burkina Faso**
3. Forum des ONG de Développement Durable (FONGDD) – **Guinea (Conakry)**
4. Fédération des Collectifs d'ONG (FECONG) - **Mali**
5. Réseau des ONG de Développement et des Associations de Droits de l'Homme et de Démocratie (RODADDHD) – **Niger**
6. Conseil des ONG en Appui au Développement (CONGAD) – **Senegal**
7. Centre d'Information et de Liaison des ONG (CILONG) – **Chad**
8. Fédération des ONG au Togo (FONGTO) - **Togo**

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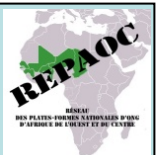
REPAOC

REPAOC aims to organize a regional dialogue between NGOs to collectively promote good governance, defend human rights and fight poverty. REPAOC was created to reinforce the weight of civil society organizations in public policies in sharing expertise and interacting with governmental bodies at the national, regional and international levels.

4 main goals for a lively West and Central African civil society:

- ▶ **Ensure a better participation of West and Central African NGOs** in regional and international governmental and non governmental arenas
- ▶ **Take policy positions** towards national, regional and international public institutions and lead common advocacy campaigns through a bottom up process
- ▶ **Reinforce the structuration of national NGO platforms** to develop internal good governance, provide services to NGOs, facilitate dialogue with national authorities and provide the necessary space for the right of association to be effective in the region
- ▶ **Address key issues of concerns to national, regional and international medias** on behalf of our own civil society

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UNDEF's added value for REPAOC

Despite the action of hundreds of international actors in the West and Central African region, national NGOs face a crucial lack of resources and support for the emergence of an independent civil society. Few NGOs and bilateral donors provide the kind of support UNDEF delivered for NGOs to be organized at the national and regional levels.

« The lesson to learn is that the support of UNDEF definitely provided our respective national platforms and REPAOC a high visibility. It allowed us to dialogue with our government, West African Economic and Monetary Union, financial and technical partners, embassies.

Last but not least, this support allowed us to gain endogenous expertise on relevant issues such as aid effectiveness, EU-Africa Union joint strategy, EPAs, among others. »

Laoual Sayabou, RODDADHD coordinator from Niger

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What does UNDEF support in West and Central Africa?

EXPECTED ACTIVITIES

1- Reinforce capacities of national NGO platforms in West and Central Africa to deliver services to its members and communicate to an internal and external audience

RESULTS:

→ 8 national NGO platforms are now fully equipped with a cyber centre for its secretariat and members:

→ 8 national NGO platforms benefit from their own website in which they publish information from their members

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What does UNDEF support in West and Central Africa?



**CFRONG
(Benin)**



**FECONG
(Mali)**



**FONGTO
(Togo)**



**SPONG
(Burkina Faso)**

REPAOC: www.repaoc.org

Benin: www.cfrong.org

Chad: www.cilong.org

Guinea: www.forumdesong.org

Mali: www.fecong.org

Togo: www.fongto.net

Niger: www.rodaddhd.org

Senegal: www.congad.sn

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EXPECTED ACTIVITIES

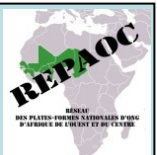
2 – Adopt and address common positions to national, regional and international governmental actors and lead effective advocacy actions in the field of democracy, human rights and sustainable development.

RESULTS:

→ 12 advocacy studies realized on issues of concern for the region

→ Participation in the main regional and international conferences

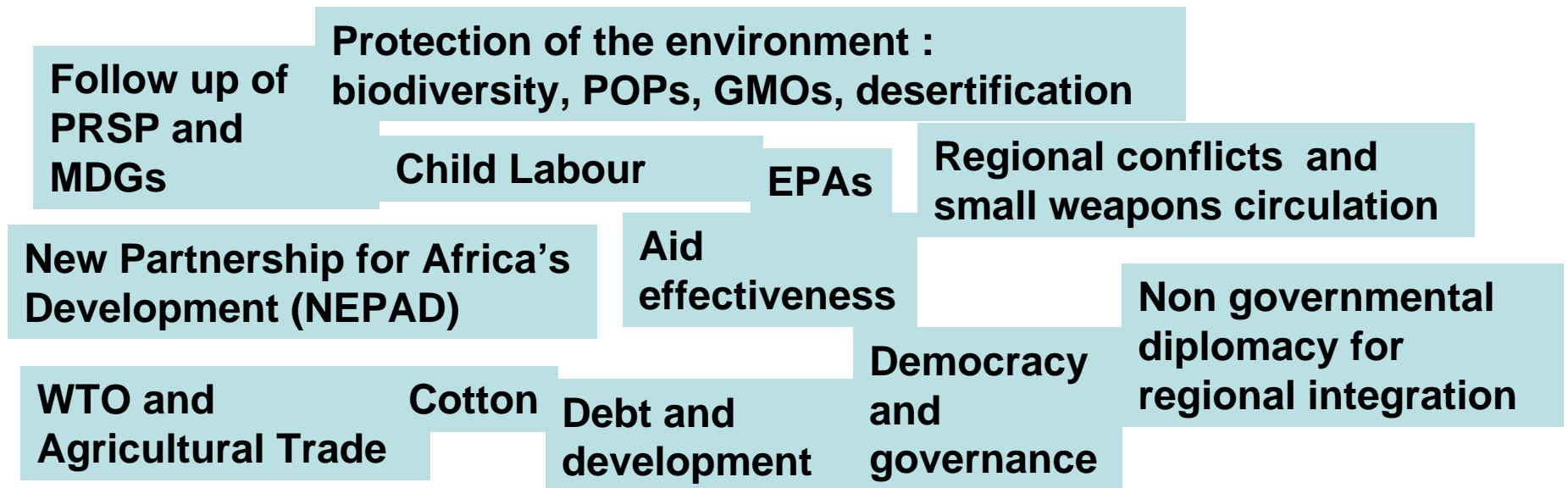
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What does UNDEF support in West and Central Africa?

Publication of studies for advocacy actions

Thanks to the support of UNDEF, REPAOC members launched advocacy studies allowing West and Central african civil societies to speak on their own behalf in mobilizing local expertise on the main issues of concern we identified.



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What does UNDEF support in West and Central Africa?

EXPECTED ACTIVITIES

3 – Facilitate exchange of information on capacity building programs, national issues, and regional concerns

RESULTS:

- **509 emails** exchanged during the first year of the program among partners
- **Structural support to 8 national platforms** (secretariat functioning, meetings with members, national and regional consultations)
- **Innovative recruitment of the first South-South volunteer** to coordinate REPAOC (a Togolese national based in REPAOC headquarter in Dakar).

N.B.: This first experience has since been implemented in 5 other national NGO platforms in the region through additional support from bilateral donors.

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CONCLUSION

Democracy relies on a vibrant civil society to organize the public debate on any important policies before being implemented.

Since governments are given a mandate by their national citizens to represent their interests, it is our common duty to organize this debate at the national level and circulate the results of these debates in our common region.

Democracies can not be implemented from abroad. They need local participation to be peacefully constructed in the long run.

UNDEF's support is allowing REPAOC and its members in 8 countries to take an active part in the regional policy process to promote democracy despite the real lack of resources and expertise of common citizens.

We, as citizens of West and Central Africa, mandated by our 500 NGOs and their constituency gathering millions of people in our region would like to express our sincere thanks to UNDEF and its stakeholders on this occasion.

Thank you again.

Voré SECK, President of CONGAD, President of REPAOC

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