
PROJECT:	Consolidating CSO Training of Trainers in West Africa (Post-CAPPA)
DISARMAMENT FOCUS:	Conventional arms
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS:	West Africa
PROJECT TIMEFRAME:	2010-2012 (15 months)
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BACKGROUND

Sub-regional efforts have been deployed in West Africa through political and legal measures to curb the destructive effects of the misuse of SALW. West African States adopted the Declaration on the Moratorium on the Import, Export and Manufacture of Light Weapons in ECOWAS Member States in 1998, the ECOWAS Protocol relating to Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, Peace-keeping, and Security in 1999, and the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials in 2006, which entered into force in 2009.

Since the adoption of the Convention, the ECOWAS Commission has established a Small Arms Unit (SAU) and launched the ECOWAS Small Arms Programme (ECOSAP) to coordinate and develop joint efforts by National Commissions (NATCOMS) in Member States. In parallel, civil society organisations (CSOs) under the West Africa Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA) work with ECOSAP through awareness-raising and lobbying Governments to implement the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) and the ECOWAS Convention.

Four years since its adoption, eleven out of fifteen States have ratified the Convention while the proliferation of SALW continues to be a major destabilising factor in ECOWAS Member States. This situation calls for a concerted effort to consolidate the working capacities and synergies of key stakeholders to ensure efficient action at the sub-regional, national and local levels. In particular, the role of civil-society and grassroots organisations in the promotion of disarmament, conflict resolution and peace-building in West Africa needs support.

In this context, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Agency through Oxfam GB implemented in 2007 the project entitled “Capacity building on practical disarmament and peacebuilding: Strengthening grassroots and civil society organisations” (CAPPA) with the aim of equipping West African CSOs with tools, techniques and skills to enable them to more effectively assume their responsibilities. The major outputs of CAPPA have been the development of a training of trainers’ curriculum on practical disarmament and peace-building, the establishment of a sub-regional database on West African CSOs working in the field of peace and security, the organisation of a sub-regional workshop during which the modules of the training curriculum were pre-tested, and the publication of a training manual on practical disarmament and peace-building. The beneficiaries who have now become trainers themselves were drawn from civil society and grassroots organisations in the 16 ECOWAS Member States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Liberia, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo).

Considering the success and the momentum of this initiative, WAANSA and ECOSAP have asked UNREC to put in place strategies that would lead to the consolidation of the

results achieved under the CAPPA project. This will include the materialisation of training at the ECOWAS zonal and national levels, to be known as Post-CAPPA project.

OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this project is to consolidate the CSO training of trainers' programme on practical disarmament and peace-building in West Africa to help civil society organisations become instrumental in the fight towards peacebuilding, promotion of arms control, arms limitation and practical disarmament, and the reduction and prevention of violent armed conflict.

CONTENT AND DESIGN

The project will be implemented by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) with inputs from ECOSAP and WAANSA, with the support of the UNDP Country Office in Togo.

The project implementation will take place:

- At the national level in the replication programmes of the first CAPPA graduates;
- At the sub-regional level through the institutionalisation of the CAPPA training of trainers' format as an annual event.

Technically, the replication process will target the already existing four-country ECOWAS zonal bureaux, including Mauritania:

- Zone 1 (Gambia, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde) + Mauritania
- Zone 2 (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger)
- Zone 3 (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ghana)
- Zone 4 (Benin, Togo and Nigeria)

This will be followed by a programme evaluation workshop bringing together all the graduates.

The project will achieve the following major outcomes:

- A pool of 85 CSO representatives will be trained in West Africa to train other trainers in their respective countries;
- Capitalisation and experience sharing of the first training of trainers' workshop before the follow-up and evaluation workshop;
- A West African database on resource persons working in the field of practical disarmament and peace-building.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The intended impact of the project is enhanced cooperation between ECOWAS and West African civil society on the one-hand and improved cooperation between governments and civil society in the consolidation of peace and security in the sub-region in accordance with existing mechanisms in this field on the other. Existing West African civil society coalitions such as WAANSA and WANEP will also be strengthened through this project.

BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiaries of this project will be civil society organisations and NATCOMS in West Africa in particular, and civil society in general through awareness-raising in communities on practical disarmament and peacebuilding initiatives.

PARTNERS

UNREC will work in collaboration with other sub-regional organisations such as ECOWAS, ECOSAP and WAANSA. Other important partners will be associated in the implementation process such as WANEP, OXFAM GB, PANAFSTRAG and GRIP.

Budget Items In USD	AMOUNT
Project Personnel	75,000
Operations And Implementation Costs	775,000
Total Budget Required	850,000
Total Secured Funding	0
Funding Gap	1,700,000