



*UN Women West and Central Africa Regional Office*

## *Mid-Term Review of the Project:*

*Strengthening the Participation of West African Women to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)*



**Done at the request of  
UN Women WCARO  
by Cyuma Mbayiha  
September 2013**



## Executive Summary

### Objective of the evaluation

The Project entitled "*Strengthening the Participation of Women In West Africa to the CSW*" was initiated in early October 2013. The overall purpose of this Mid-Term Review – as defined in the Terms of Reference (see [Annex 1](#)) was to conduct:

- a summative review of what has been accomplished between October 2012 and July 2013, and
- a forward – looking assessment to help inform
  - project re-adjustments as deemed necessary to achieve intended results
  - UN Women's future intervention strategy and programme replication.

### Method

The Mid-Term Review is based on mixed methods, with emphasis on participatory approaches during data collection and analysis phases. The evaluator team used a variety of methods of data collection, including literature review, interviews with key informants, group discussions and observations at CSO grantee level.

The collected data have been analyzed using descriptive analysis, content analysis, and contribution analysis. The Mid-Term Review was conducted in three phases: i) preparation and planning, including the logistical preparations for the visit to the country and review of documents, ii) data collection in Ghana, Mali and Senegal and iii) data analysis and report writing.

Its approach involved and engaged various stakeholders. Stakeholder participation was absolutely necessary for accountability, promoting ownership, facilitating buy in, and further use of the evaluation recommendations. The participatory

approach was very useful in engaging stakeholders and gaining their insights, experiences with the project and the benefits accrued to them as a result of the programme.

### Findings

**Finding 1: The project is highly relevant to West African countries legal, policy and institutional contexts and aligned with national orientations and priorities along with UN Women's vision.**

The Project objectives and activities were found to be relevant to the needs of the diverse stakeholders, including its intervention logic. The project is very well aligned with national laws and policies and has relevance to priorities outlined in national and regional commitments.

Its goal and specific objectives fall under priorities identified in the UN Women – WARO Programme Outlook.

This year's CSW theme (Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls) was particularly a mobilising factor for all the ten countries covered by the project. In most of these countries, violence against women is perceived among the general public as a family matter to be resolved at family or community level, not yet as a security issue. Interview respondents felt that speaking for implementation of improved GBV laws and policies would greatly contribute to reducing all forms of violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and prevention of child marriage in West Africa.

**Finding 2: UN Women and grantee organisations use of limited resources has been efficient.** Many pre-CSW activities were conducted successfully, albeit with limited funds. Regarding the CSW proper, while many potential delegates did not receive necessary funding to travel to New York, those who took part in the CSW prided themselves on being very cautious in

their expenditures. Thus looking back at the number of activities that were conducted, consulted staff from women networks expressed satisfaction given the very limited financial resources that were made available to them. Arguably, it was evidence that they could reduce the number of people travelling without having any adverse impact on the quality of their contribution to the CSW sessions.

However, there is a very clear, unison voice from grantee organisations as well as project beneficiaries on the insufficiency of financial resources. Furthermore, implementing partners reported administrative and programme management delays which forced a number of them to borrow required funds from sister organisations as they could not afford to skip preparatory activities for the CSW. UN Women staff pointed out in return that stakeholders are not always aware of approval procedures and this might have had an adverse effect on fund disbursement, project implementation, and reporting.

**Finding 3: The project has largely contributed to improved mobilisation and preparation of West African women to the CSW.**

The project was reported as being instrumental in putting in place coordinating mechanisms in each country which were conducive to elaboration, articulation and transmission of a collective message from the female section of civil societies to the CSW. Several output level results were achieved through pre-CSW joint activities: production of training module, awareness raising on the CSW and training sessions for increased advocacy skills, consultations on alternative report, etc... West African women delegates were quite active at the CSW, mainly by organizing parallel events. Overall, it has been highlighted that a more coordinated participation of civil society representatives was observed during the CSW and was made possible by activities conducted prior to the CSW. For instance, findings from a study on VAW in ten West African countries and from a study on VAW in Mali were presented to the diversified audience of the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW. However, with the rare exception of Mali, none of the planned post-CSW activities were conducted.

**Finding 4: The project had two positive but unintended results**

A significant benefit identified by grantee organisations was their strengthened credibility resulting from their association with the UN Women - funded project. An equally unplanned but predictable outcome of the CSW project has been the strengthened collaboration between delegates from the government and from civil society during the pre-CSW stage and the CSW itself. The project has demonstrated the potential for collaboration between Ministries of Gender and women’s rights organizations networks. It was noted that the Pre-CSW preparations provided opportunities for organised cooperation between both sides as compared to previous years.

**Finding 5: Major challenges remain regarding sustainability of results,**

due to CSO grantees considerable dependence on funding from UN Women. Most grantee organisations are still waiting for extra-funds to conduct follow-up activities related to the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW. This delay will probably affect preparations for the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2014)<sup>1</sup>, considering that CSW58 will be highly demanding due to its summative reflexion on 14 years of multi-sectoral collaboration toward the MDGs. If left on their own, civil society organisations will not meet the conditions required for facing the concomitant demands of consecutive Commissions on the Status of Women. The need to simultaneously follow up previous CSWs while, at the same time, preparing for the next CSWs is not impossible. But it requires proper organisational and resource mobilisation capacities both at regional and national levels. One can confidently predict that unless properly supported, the dual mission will threaten to overstretch stakeholders organisational capacities, energy, focus and resources.

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<sup>1</sup> CSW58 (2014) will be on “Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls”

## **Conclusions**

### **Conclusion 1:**

The Project objectives and activities were found to be relevant both to the legal, policy and institutional context of West African countries and to UN Women's Regional Programme priority themes [Leadership and Participation, Elimination of Violence against Women, Women's leadership in peace, security and humanitarian response], including follow-up mechanisms on the status of implementation of CEDAW committee recommendations in the region as part of UN Women Inter-Governmental results.

### **Conclusion 2:**

The project has been efficient in terms of use of limited resources, but less efficient when it came to timely implementation and reporting. This was partly a consequence of delays in disbursements resulting from non-compliance with approval procedures and insufficient support by some country offices. More effective communication would have improved delivery of outputs in accordance with plans.

### **Conclusion 3:**

West African delegates did conduct several parallel events in New York which left lasting impressions on participants, particularly on women rights violations in DRC and Mali. However, the initiative has been moderately effective in influencing conclusions of the CSW as there is only limited evidence demonstrating that West African delegates exerted an influence on the outcome of the CSW, namely its Agreed Conclusions. Nevertheless, the African Women Caucus' Position statement and the Agreed Conclusions raised concerns over the plight of women in conflict zones, which can be seen as a reference to Mali and DRC among other zones in conflict.

### **Conclusion 4:**

In the countries visited, the increased collaboration for the CSW between the Ministry of Gender and Country Coordinating Organisations of women was widely perceived as sustainable, even in the

hypothetical event that the flow of funds would be interrupted. However, major challenges remain regarding sustainability of results, mainly due to CSO grantees considerable dependence on funding from UN Women.

### **General conclusion**

Overall, the mid-term review observed that project's performance within less than a year of implementation has been satisfactory in strengthening participation of women of West Africa to the CSW. It was challenged however by insufficient attention to monitoring and reporting, limited resources and communication gaps between UN Women and implementing partners.

The project is still young and is a worthwhile investment that necessitates continuous support, especially in a context where global preparations for Beijing+20 and MDGs-Post-2015 are picking momentum. All in all, the project has the potential to prove itself as an impressive vehicle for West African women's collective voice in the global arena.

## **Recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1: UN Women and her implementing partners should update the project design in light of lessons learned so far**

Project design revision should mostly concern the second outcome: "Participants adhere to the views expressed by West Africa Women". There were up to 3000 CSW participants and only about 70 delegates from West Africa. More discussions should help formulate a more realistic outcome that would result from the set of activities intended to take place during participation to the CSW.

All necessary time (and resources) must be allocated to ensure a simplified system of project monitoring is included in project design amendment. This should be a pre-requisite to signing the next Project Cooperation Agreement.

**Recommendation 2: UN Women Country Offices should provide supportive monitoring to implementing partners to strengthen their approach to monitoring and reporting on results progress and achievement**

Coordination and harmonisation is critical to successful project implementation across the ten countries of the region. A much better orchestrated execution should follow if each UN Women Country Office decided to have a staff acting as project focal point responsible for providing technical and administrative support to women network organisations. These programme officers would maintain close contacts with CSO grantees, including those located in countries where UN Women does not have office presence. They would provide more supportive monitoring assistance to guide grantees through successful implementation and consult with each other to streamline action using ordinary channels of communication within UN Women West and Central Africa.

**Recommendation 3: UN Women Country Offices should build a strong resource mobilisation case based on the experience of the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW and consider undertaking a joint resource mobilization exercise with other UN bodies**

Resource mobilization efforts may tap into opportunities offered by the multi-sectoral dimension of the 58th CSW priority theme: "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls". All United Nations agencies will have a stake in these global debates and consequently can be called upon to help support together a significant participation of West (and Central) African women's rights organisations. The 57th CSW Edition of the project has set an example of the sweeping mobilisation that is possible in the future. As the prestige of UN Women brand continues to hold firm and lends legitimacy to the work associated with it, UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, to name a few) will be highly motivated to jointly build synergy around the spectrum of Post-2015 development goals.

## Acronyms

AAWORD	Association of African Women for Research and Development
CLVF	Comité de Lutte contre les Violences faites aux Femmes
C-CSO	Country Coordinating CSO also called “national implementing partner”
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
FEMNET	African Women's Development and Communication Network
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development -
NETRIGHT	Network for Women's Rights in Ghana
NGO	Non Government Organisation
MDG	Millenium Development Goal
PCA	Project Cooperation Agreement
UNEG	UN Evaluation Group
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund (formerly United Nations Fund for Population Activities)
TOR	Terms of Reference
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
VAW	Violence against Women



## **Acknowledgement**

Evaluating the progress made so far by the Project entitled "*Strengthening the Participation of Women In West Africa to the CSW*" was a challenging opportunity for this evaluator. I am grateful to UN Women West Africa Regional Office for entrusting me with the privilege and for their exemplary dedication to strengthening women leadership in the region; to UN Women Country Offices in Ghana, Mali and Senegal for their tremendous support and valuable feedback; to the leaders and staff of AAWORD for their insightful guidance and their amazing cooperation; to the CSO grantees for the inspirations that they radiated while sharing their individual and collective experiences; and to all others who contributed to this evaluation with their perspectives and aspirations. Although this report was made possible by a collaborative effort, any inaccuracy or omissions are entirely my own.

**Cyuma Mbayiha**

16 September 2013



## Contents

<b>1. BACKGROUND</b>	11
<b>2. PURPOSE OF THIS MID-TERM REVIEW</b>	12
<b>3. METHOD</b>	13
<b>3.1 Evaluation Questions</b>	14
3.1.1 Desk Review	15
3.1.2 Data sources	15
3.1.3 Limitations in data collection method	17
<b>3.2 Data analysis</b>	18
<b>4. PROJECT OVERVIEW</b>	19
4.1 Project Development Objective:	19
4.2 Project Specific Objectives	19
4.3 Project Management	21
<b>5. FINDINGS</b>	23
5.1 Relevance	23
5.2 Efficiency:	24
5.3 Effectiveness:	26
5.4 Sustainability:	32
<b>6. DISCUSSION</b>	33
6.1 Communication	35
6.2 Day-to-day collaboration(between UN Women and implementing partners)	36
6.3 (Insufficient) use of result monitoring & tracking tools	36
6.4 Limited resources	37
<b>7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	38
7.1 Conclusions	38
7.2 Recommendations	39



# 1. BACKGROUND

The Commission on the Status of Women is the principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

From 1947 when the Commission on the Status of Women first met to the recent years, the Commission has established itself as the main coordinating mechanism for promoting the global agenda on economic and social issues regarding women's empowerment. As a result, the Commission's efforts shifted to promote women's equality as a cross-cutting theme in economic development, human rights, political, cultural as well as social policy issues. At present, its approach is to handle women's issues as part of the mainstream rather than as an issue on its own.

The idea of reinforcing West African women's advocacy capacities for the CSW first came up during UN Women Regional Office annual retreat of 2010. The Regional Office Team wanted to devise ways of ensuring that West African women brought an inclusive, coherent and coordinated regional perspective in future CSW recommendations, their implementation and further actions and initiatives. UN Women later identified a regional NGO, AFARD/AAWORD<sup>2</sup>, that could coordinate the effort at the regional level. It was agreed right after the 56<sup>th</sup> Commission (February-March 2012) that a set of national and regional preparatory meetings to the next CSW were necessary if a collective West African women perspective was to be heard during the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW which would be followed with a set of relevant recommendations and actions articulated in one voice.

Several technical sessions were held last year between UN Women – Regional Office and AFARD/AAWORD and, as a result, both parties decided to formally engage in a Project Collaboration Agreement to support the preparation, participation and contribution of West African delegates to the CSW in 2013 and subsequently follow-up implementation of the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW in West Africa. The object of the agreement was thus a project entitled "*Strengthening the Participation of Women In West Africa to the Commission on the Status of Women*".

Under the overall coordination and guidance of the UNWOMEN West & Central Africa RO, AAWORD would provide support to a total of ten national networks of women's rights organizations located in ten West African Nations including coordination, technical

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<sup>2</sup> Association of African Women for Research and Development

assistance and capacity building, reporting, and monitoring. In specific terms, AAWORD and UN Women partnered to achieve the following results:

- Women in West Africa are mobilized to effectively contribute to the CSW;
- Women of West Africa actually influence the outcome of the CSW;
- Governments implement policies and support gender equality at country level laws.

To accomplish that, a number of activities were thus implemented including national consultations that would be carried out in ten countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo) culminating in a regional forum ahead of the 57th CSW sessions aimed at enhancing women participation and influence in CSW intergovernmental dialogues.

## **2. PURPOSE OF THIS MID-TERM REVIEW**

The Mid-Term Review was commissioned with a view of informing decision-making processes concerning project performance and management, providing concrete recommendations for action. Thus the objective of the present exercise is to assess the progress made and the results achieved in the period between 08 October 2012 and 30 June 2013 against the proposed outputs and outcomes as per project document entitled "*Strengthening the Participation of Women In West Africa to the Commission on the Status of Women*".

The overall purpose of this evaluation – as defined in the Terms of Reference (see [Annex 1](#)) was to conduct:

- a summative review of what has been accomplished thus far, and
- a forward – looking assessment to help inform
  - o project re-adjustments as deemed necessary to achieve intended results
  - o UN Women's future intervention strategy and programme replication.

The specific objectives of the Mid-Term Review, as outlined in the TORs are:

- To evaluate project activities: relevance, planning, extent to which they were participatory, quality of execution, challenges encountered;
- To evaluate level of stakeholder engagement to support project implementation;
- To identify problems or challenges encountered during implementation;
- To describe key factors worth bringing to attention in order to improve results and replication possibilities in the following years;
- To examine implementation of project monitoring and evaluation;
- To articulate main lessons learned in terms of activities and methodologies.

The users of the Mid-Term Review are first and foremost UN Women – West and Central Africa Regional Office (in particular the Governance Programme Unit) and AAWORD. The Mid-Term Review is seen as an internal learning, planning and accountability mechanism. It is intended to account for what worked and guide the next steps. More immediately, lessons drawn from the exercise will be shared with other UN Women units/offices, government and non-government project partners at national levels, as well as other donor and UN organizations regularly involved in CSW processes. So after the completion of the mid-term evaluation, a final stage of the process will take place, including the dissemination strategy for sharing the lessons learnt, and the management response of the midterm review results. These activities will be managed by the UN Women Regional Office.

### **3. METHOD**

The Mid-Term Review was carried out during the period of 18 July – 3 September 2013, and the Field Mission in Ghana, Mali and Senegal comprised 11 days within that period. It is a consultative/participative evaluation with a strong learning component.

The Mid-Term Review is based on mixed methods, with emphasis on participatory approaches both in data collection and in the analysis. The evaluator team used a variety of methods of data collection, including literature review, interviews with key informants, group discussions and observations at CSO grantee level.

The collected data have been analyzed using descriptive analysis, content analysis, and contribution analysis. The Mid-Term Review was conducted in three phases: i) the preparation and planning, including the logistical preparations for the visit to the country and review of documents, ii) data collection in Ghana, Mali and Senegal and iii) data analysis and report writing.

Its approach involved and engaged various stakeholders. Stakeholder participation was absolutely necessary for accountability, promoting ownership, facilitating buy in, and further use of the evaluation recommendations. The participatory approach was very useful in engaging stakeholders and gaining their insights, experiences with the project and the benefits accrued to them as a result of the programme.

The evaluation approach was also results oriented to provide evidence of achievements accomplished (or not) by the project as set out in the project Logical Framework. Despite the intention to combine quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible, the Mid-Term Review met limitations particularly in obtaining quantitative data on indicators outlined in the project proposal, an issue highlighted in this report.

Conclusions presented are based on stakeholder interviews and qualitative information, documentation and evaluator’s own interpretations on this basis. There was no particular baseline /capacity assessment for this.

The evaluation work was guided by UNEG Ethical Code of Conduct and UN Women evaluation guidelines with strict compliance regarding the values of confidentiality and independence. Stakeholders’ participation was voluntary.

### 3.1 Evaluation Questions

The evaluation questions revolved around the following OECD/DAC criteria : **Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency** and **Sustainability** as shown below.

<b>Relevance</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are the programme objectives addressing identified rights and needs of the target groups in national and local contexts?</li> <li>2. Do the activities address the problems identified?</li> </ol>
<b>Efficiency</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Which planned activities did or did not get implemented? To what extent were they implemented? Which were the main factors that affected their implementation?</li> <li>4. How appropriate and close to plan were expenditures?</li> <li>5. How timely was the availability of required financial and human resources?</li> </ol>
<b>Effectiveness</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. How effective was the partnership development process and the collaboration among Implementing Partners?</li> <li>7. How adequate were the Result Based Management tools used throughout the programme implementation? Were they implemented in a regular and effective way by implementing partners?</li> <li>8. How effective was the partnership development process and collaboration schemes among Implementing Partners?</li> <li>9. In your opinion, to what extent has the advocacy capacity of women organizations increased?</li> <li>10. To what extent have West African women's organizations assumed their responsibilities in owning mechanisms of participation and advocacy of the CSW?</li> <li>11. To what extent have participants to the CSW adhered to the views expressed by women's organizations in West Africa?</li> </ol>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. How do you consider the sustainability level of the results achieved (or in the process of being achieved) through the programme?</li> <li>13. What are the positive elements that will contribute to the sustainability of the initiatives started in the framework of the programme?</li> <li>14. To what extent were key stakeholders involved? What was their level of response and participation throughout the implementation process?</li> <li>15. How do you think the sustainability level could be increased before the end of the programme?</li> <li>16. Which are the main actions you would implement and/or actors you would involve? How?</li> </ol>

Additional questions:

17. In your opinion, what are the key lessons learned?
18. Are there any best practices that proved to be successful in overcoming limitations and constraints during programme implementation?

On the basis of the above evaluation criteria of Programme/Project **Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency** and **Sustainability**, instruments /questionnaires for the field mission were prepared for stakeholders and included in the Inception Report together with an Evaluation Planning Matrix and Questions for stakeholders.

### **3.1.1 Desk Review**

In the preparatory phase to the field mission, various documents and records shared by the programme team were reviewed and information was gathered concerning:

- i. programme rationale;
- ii. planned results and corresponding indicators;
- iii. organisational arrangements and partnership development;
- iv. work plan
- v. various reports (e.g. “Report of a study on VAW conducted in ten countries”) and other materials produced within the scope of the programme.

The desk review covered a variety of sources of information such as:

- project documents (including officially approved project document and additional administrative project documentation);
- official project collaboration agreements
- official records using a management information system (ATLAS)
- administrative data collected and/or compiled by UN Women, AAWORD and Implementing Organizations at country level ;
- project work-plan;

The secondary data was triangulated with information collected through interviews, focus groups and field visits. The wide range of sources of information formed the basis of cross-referencing of the evaluation findings. Only corroborated observations were considered for further analysis.

### **3.1.2 Data sources**

The main aim of the field mission was to obtain primary data and information, observe at first hand field level operations, validate the information provided in the documents through a participatory process of engaging diverse stakeholders and programme beneficiaries.



Discussions held with project stakeholders were particularly useful to ascertain the benefits that have accrued to the target group of beneficiaries.

A total of 17 meetings were held respectively with UN Women Regional Office (2), UN Women Country Offices (3), AAWORD (2), Women Organizations Networks (6), delegates from individual women organizations (4). A total of 39 participants responded to questionnaires, either in person or by email. Email responses were still received beyond the period that was pre-determined for data collection (up until 27 August 2013).

The geographical areas covered in the field mission included the cities of Accra, Dakar and Bamako. No rural area was visited due to the limited time of the field mission. A list of interviewed persons is provided in [Annex 2](#) and there were three categories of respondents:

Category	Organization	Type of personnel	Nr.
<b>Regional Implementing Partner</b>	AAWORD	Management/programme staff	2
<b>National Implementing Partners</b>	CLVF (Senegal)	Management/programme staff	2
	FEMNET (Mali)	Management/programme staff	5
	NETRIGHT (Ghana)	Management/programme staff	2
<b>Beneficiary Organisations</b>	GSHRDC (Ghana)	Programme staff	1
	GVSSN (Ghana)	Programme staff	1
	ODPR (Mali)	Programme staff	1
	COFEM (Mali)	Programme staff	1
	Men to Men (Mali)	Programme staff	1
	AMAFH (Mali)	Programme staff	1
	ANAFa (Senegal)	Programme staff	1
	AJS (Senegal)	Programme staff	1
	COSEF (Senegal)	Programme staff	1
	CAEDHU (Senegal)	Programme staff	1

Email responses were received as well and came from the following organizations:

Organization	Country
CRIGED	Burkina Faso
ONG Voix de femmes	Burkina Faso
AMPJF	Mali
CONGAFEN	Niger

Organization	Country
CONAG-DCF	Guinée
WILDAF	Togo

The evaluation questions/instruments were prepared, pre-tested and refined prior to the field mission. Finalized instruments included:

- Interview guide for Implementing Organization,
- Interview guide for Beneficiary Organizations,
- Focus group guide for Beneficiary Organizations.

During the field mission and throughout the Mid-Term Review process, views were sought from both implementing partners and primary stakeholders. When logistically possible, efforts were made to consult key decision makers of country coordinating organisations (ex.: Netright – Ghana) residing out of capital-cities, in addition to project managers. Project stakeholders who could not make it at the interviews were asked to fill questionnaires by email.

The evaluator reviewed interview notes and exchanged information on all 18 questions to be covered as per the inception report. It was ensured that questions and answers were triangulated with diverse stakeholders who brought in their perspectives on results achieved, issues, recommendations. A field mission debriefing meeting was held with UN Women Country Offices on the final day of each country mission. A power point presentation on preliminary findings was carried out at the Regional Office on August 15, 2013. Notes were taken on observations made during the discussions that followed.

### **3.1.3 Limitations in data collection method**

While the Mid-Term review used primary and secondary data sources for data collection as explained, there are limitations related to obtaining accurate, objective and in-depth data. Result indicator data were not collected during the previous project cycle, this implied limitations in terms of reliability and validity of secondary data in documents and various reports.

The evaluator was conscious that nuances were sometimes lost in French or English. While conducting focus group discussions and semi structured interviews, it was clear that key informants were offering responses that may not be entirely accurate. It appeared at times that participants provided limited answers or considered the safest to share with the “consultant”.

The sampling size may have been biased and in the case of the beneficiaries it covered only a small number of participants given limited time. Whereas the project is implemented in 10

countries, the evaluation was conducted by a single consultant on a short period. Thus, the number of respondents and country-level implementation evidence-sets that could be examined closely was smaller. Lastly, a difficult factor at times was that the mission schedule coincided with summer time vacations.

In spite of those challenges, the evaluator managed to collect sufficient evidence – through cross-referencing the other available sources – to ascertain the validity of the findings. The evaluator attempted to mitigate limitation issues by triangulation of information from stakeholders and corroborating the information obtained from all perspectives, including UN Women Programme Team.

Time constraints were ever present in a short field mission covering numerous individuals spread in three capital-cities and one coastal town in a fully packed programme of 9 days. Nevertheless, participants made themselves available for interviews, thereby giving the evaluator valuable feedback.

## **3.2 Data analysis**

The evaluation consultant used descriptive, content, and comparative analyses to analyze the data for this study and to develop findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

**Descriptive analysis** was used to understand the context in which programming at the regional and country levels takes place. It further describes main programming components and strategies and management structures and processes.

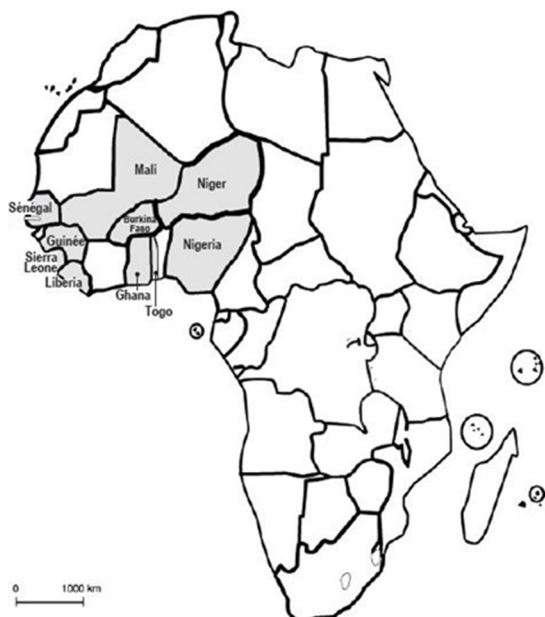
**Content analysis** constituted the core of the analysis. Documents and interview notes were analyzed to identify common trends, themes, and patterns for each of the key units of analysis.

**Comparative analysis** was used to examine findings across studied countries and different programming components.

**Data triangulation** (convergence of data from multiple sources) was used to ensure reliability of findings.

## 4. PROJECT OVERVIEW

UN Women Regional Office for West and Central Africa launched a programme to undertake a set of comprehensive activities aimed at strengthening the quality of West African women organisations’ contribution to the CSW along with their ability to monitor implementation of commitments endorsed by their respective governments at the CSW.



It was implemented in ten countries of West Africa: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Its Program Development Objectives and Program results areas were defined as follows:

### 4.1 Project Development Objective:

The influence and participation of women in the West African intergovernmental and national processes are improved.

### 4.2 Project Specific Objectives

- Women in West Africa are mobilized to effectively contribute to the CSW
- Women of West Africa actually influence the outcome of the CSW;
- Governments implement policies and support gender equitable laws at country level.

The project intends to achieve three expected outcomes (see also [Annex 3](#): Project intervention logic)

**Outcome 1:**

West African women's organizations assume their roles and responsibilities by owning mechanisms of advocacy and participation to the CCF

**Outcome 2:**

Participants to the CSW adhere to the views expressed by West Africa Women

**Outcome 3:**

West African Women contribute to improvement of policies and laws on gender equality in their respective countries

Strategies proposed to achieve the Programme Outcomes included:

**Partnership development and strengthening strategic alliances** with key stakeholders at the regional, national, institutional and local levels (including Africa-wide women's rights organizations, international organisations, networks involving national government representatives, academia, media, ...).

**Capacity building and awareness raising** among civil society, gender equality advocates (both existing and potential), rural women .....

### 4.3 Project Management

UN Women Regional Office entered into a formal agreement with AAWORD whereby UN Women would avail \$ 100,000.- so that AAWORD can coordinate execution of the project in ten countries of West Africa through partnership with ten national implementers of the project in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. In each of the ten countries, UN Women Country Offices identified national implementers and concluded with them a \$ 20,000.- Project Cooperation Agreement. CSO grantees from countries where UN Women does not have office presence (Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Togo) signed the contract with the Regional Office.

The following illustrates UN Women’s collaborative arrangement for country and regional level coordinations.

UN Women RO partnered with AAWORD so that the latter coordinates execution of the project in ten countries of West Africa through collaboration with ten national implementers



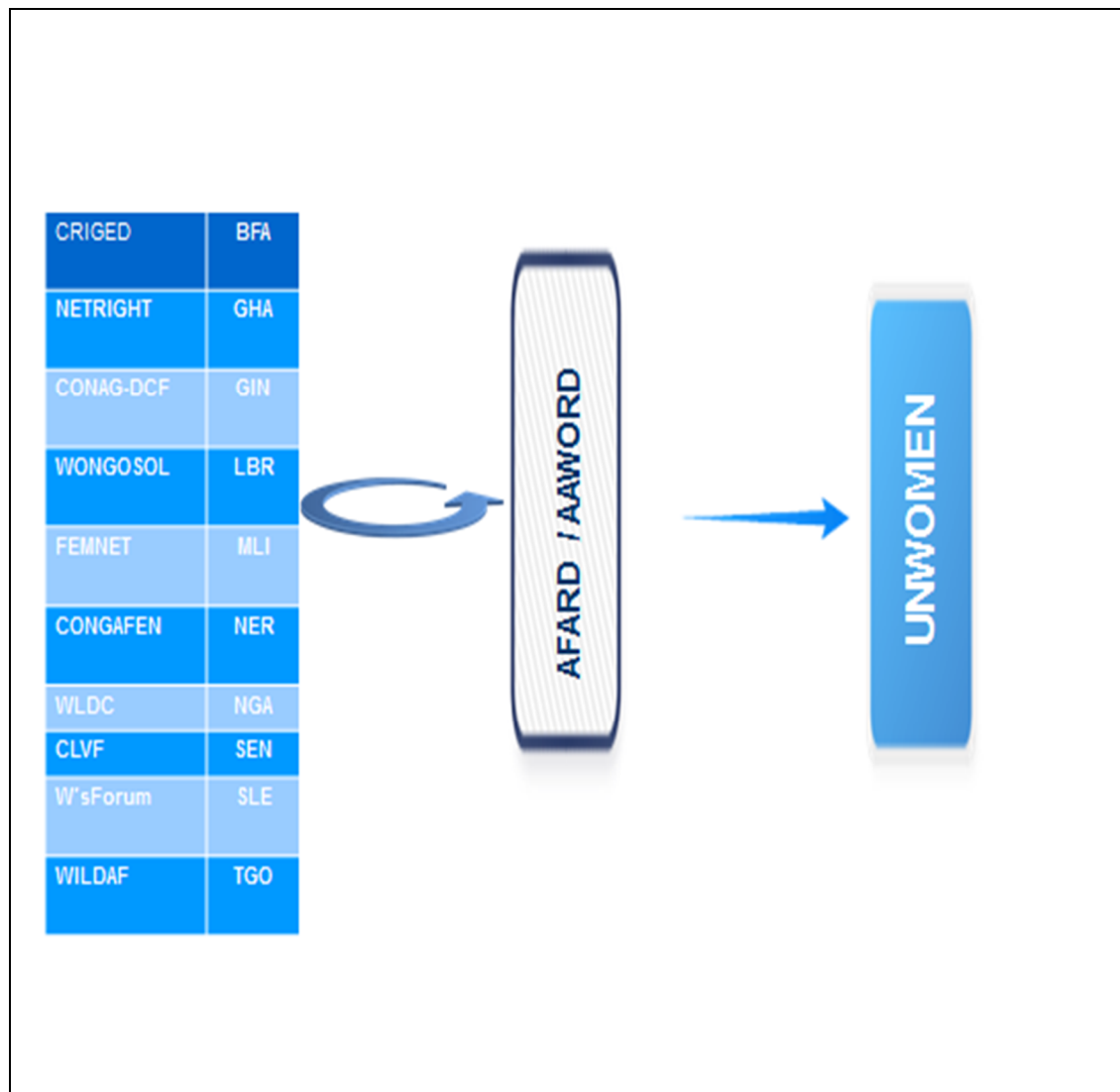
a PCA was signed between UN Women Country Offices and their respective Implementing Partners



For countries such as Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and Togo where UN Women does not have office presence, implementing partners signed a PCA directly with UN Women Regional Office



Under the direction and oversight of UN Women Deputy Regional Representative, AAWORD ensures effective and efficient implementation of the project, coordinates monitoring processes and submits reports to UN Women Regional Office whose Country Offices provide administrative and technical assistance, as necessary.





## 5. FINDINGS

The findings of this evaluation combined the perspectives of the project’s primary stakeholders (i.e. CSOs, CO staff, ...), feedback from UN Women personnel; and the evaluator’s own perspective and analytical lens. The findings are organized to highlight programme relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability including summary of responses to the questions pertaining to each of the criteria as required in the Terms of Reference.

### Assessment against OECD/DAC Evaluation Criteria:

#### 5.1 Relevance

(extent to which the objectives of the project are consistent with beneficiaries’ requirements, country-needs, global priorities and partners’ and donors’ policies):

Most consulted stakeholders agreed that the project has been fitting to the vision of more coordinated and lasting West African contributions to the CSW. The project is also highly relevant to West African countries various legal, policy and institutional contexts and is in line with UN Women’s vision.

Its goal and specific objectives fall under priorities identified in the UN Women – WARO Programme Outlook. UN Women works towards establishment of a comprehensive set of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women’s empowerment, that are able to respond to new and emerging issues, challenges and opportunities and provide a firm basis for action by Governments and other stakeholders at all levels. In particular, the project intersects with the following themes of the Regional Office priority areas: Leadership & Participation, Elimination of Violence against Women (57<sup>th</sup> CSW), Women’s leadership in peace, security and humanitarian response. Moreover, the project outputs not only promote adherence to international conventions of which countries are signatory but also contribute to UN Women Inter-Governmental results, including follow-up mechanisms on the status of implementation of CEDAW committee recommendations in the region.

The Project objectives and activities were found to be relevant to the needs of the diverse stakeholders, including its intervention logic. The project is very well aligned with national laws and policies and has relevance to priorities outlined in national and regional commitments.

This year’s CSW theme (Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls) was particularly a mobilising factor for all the ten countries covered by the project. In most of these countries, violence against women is perceived among the general public

as a family matter to be resolved at family or community level, not yet as a security issue. Interview respondents felt that speaking for implementation of improved GBV laws and policies would greatly contribute to reducing all forms of violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and prevention of child marriage in West Africa. This perception was particularly present among participants from Mali's network of women's rights organizations. The scale of violence in Northern Mali galvanised women's rights organizations and increased their felt need to be heard beyond national borders. Thus the project component on strengthening women's advocacy capacities was appreciated in general but it was particularly welcome in the Malian context. This could explain the relatively higher participation of women in Mali as compared to the other countries that were visited.

## **5.2 Efficiency:**

[Measure of how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) are converted to results]

Various sessions were organised prior to the CSW: consultations with other CSOs on the alternative report, drafting sessions and workshops aimed at strengthening advocacy capacity. While many potential delegates did not receive necessary funds to travel, those who took part in the CSW prided themselves on being very cautious in their expenditures in New York. Thus looking back at the number of activities that were conducted, consulted staff from women networks expressed satisfaction given the very limited resources (staff, money) that were made available to them. Arguably, it was evidence that they could reduce the number of people travelling without having any adverse impact on the quality of their contribution to the CSW sessions.

However, there is a very clear, unison voice from grantee organisations as well as project beneficiaries on the insufficiency of financial resources. Furthermore, partners's views were not positive regarding the efficiency with which resources were released to them. They reported administrative and programme management delays which forced a number of them to borrow required funds from sister organisations as they could not afford to skip preparatory activities for the CSW. The fact was confirmed by UN Women staff who pointed out in return that stakeholders are not always aware of approval procedures and this might have had an adverse effect on fund disbursement, project implementation, and reporting.

Furthermore, there was a clear view amongst consulted UN Women personnel that limited resources could have been used more efficiently by national implementing organisations. These were national networks who had at their disposal a wealth of information from member-organisations located in different provinces or districts of their respective countries.

It was argued that national networks could have strategically used previously available knowledge to avoid costly research on women’s priorities, thus availing more resources to participation of delegates to the CSW and subsequent follow-up activities at country level.

Regarding partner collaboration, AAWORD observed that some country offices have not been very responsive from the beginning of this project. This, they added, has impeded progress of project implementation. Overall, stakeholders were unanimous in confirming that the project benefitted from support availed by UN Women Country Offices, AAWORD’s technical assistance (guidelines for CSW preparations, training modules), and contributions from highly skilled committees of gender experts that drafted shadow reports.

Yet, the project work plan could have been more realistic in relation to the timeframe for the implementation of project activities. This is true particularly for activities that were meant to prepare women’s rights organizations for the CSW. The amount of time and human resources necessary for the initial stage of the project were underestimated. This implied reducing the number of sessions that were originally planned and the scope of consultations mentioned in the original work plan. For instance, according to the original work plan, a regional forum was planned to take place a few weeks ahead of the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW. Delegates from the ten countries would converge in Dakar for the regional forum and harmonise views and strategies in view of the CSW. However, due to limited time and funds, the pre-CSW regional forum was cancelled.

57th CSW Delegates from CSOs/country <sup>3</sup>	
<b>BFA</b>	6
<b>GHA</b>	12
<b>GIN</b>	5
<b>LBR</b>	5
<b>MLI</b>	5
<b>NER</b>	8
<b>NGA</b>	12
<b>SEN</b>	10
<b>SLE</b>	3
<b>TGO</b>	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>70</u>

The lesson learned by all parties is that time and funds available constitute a valuable asset and need to be carefully managed throughout the implementation of project activities.

<sup>3</sup> UN Women supported two delegates per country to attend the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW

### 5.3 Effectiveness:

(Extent to which objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance]

This section presents an analysis of the extent to which the project has achieved its expected outputs and contributed to envisaged outcomes as shown in the intervention logic presented in [Annex 3](#).

The Mid-term review took place approximately ten months after the project was launched in October 2012 and five months after the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW had taken place. So in theory, we should be able to look at what has been achieved in the three stages of the project work-plan: *prior* to the CSW, *during* the CSW and *after* the CSW. However, most countries managed to execute their work plan until March 2013 and suspended execution of post-CSW activities pending disbursement of their second instalments to the agreement signed with UN Women.

#### **Outcome 1:**

West African women's organizations assume their roles and responsibilities by owning mechanisms of advocacy and participation to the CSW

Country coordinating organisations were appreciative of the deliberate efforts made by AAWORD to keep everyone informed about preparation processes to the CSW and related documents.

All participants to the mid-term review were grateful for the learning opportunity offered by the project and acknowledged the significant capacity building – in terms of advocacy skills, as well as a better understanding of the CSW and its ultimate impact on the policy and legal environment of their own countries.

Several output level results were achieved through activities that were conducted prior to the CSW:

1. Awareness raising on the CSW and training sessions on the practice of advocacy were conducted. In particular, role playing workshops have certainly enhanced advocacy capacities ;
2. Training modules on the practice of Advocacy were produced and used;
3. Up to 500 hundred women's rights organizations were mobilised (each of the three visited countries reported having mobilised 50 women's rights organizations) around

the priority theme of the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW<sup>4</sup>. Ghana is the only country that managed to mobilise rural women organizations, albeit with some difficulties<sup>5</sup> ;

4. 20 delegates from civil society organisations (out of a total of 70 delegates) were supported by UN Women to attend the CSW in New York.
5. Most Country Coordinating Organisations relied heavily on strong technical committees (Mali, Senegal) or on a consultant (Ghana) for their Alternative Report writing;

These activities culminated in the release of the shadow report in each of the ten countries covered by the programme. Another important output-level result of the project is that for the first time all delegates from civil society had an access badge to the CSW. This was widely seen by respondents as a tangible improvement in comparison with previous sessions.

Mobilisation campaigns around the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW were also successful in terms of the number of women who attended workshops and meetings. Information gathered from stakeholders shows evidence of increased awareness of what is at stake at the CSW. Yet, several respondents pointed out that the high attendance was often grounded on mistaken expectations that hundreds of women would converge “*en masse*” in New York<sup>6</sup>. But as it turned out, UN Women had planned to fund participation of a total of twenty delegates from West Africa (two per country). Hence, what was deemed more practical was to have delegates from the fifty organisations representing women’s views in country consultation meeting.

Overall, it has been highlighted that a more coordinated participation of civil society representatives was made possible by the pre-CSW joint activities. The project allowed women from a wide range of organizations to consult, discuss and prioritize issues around a global intergovernmental process like the CSW. This contrasted sharply with previous CSWs where representatives

<b>PRE-CSW OUTPUTS</b>	<b>SEN</b>	<b>MLI</b>	<b>GHA</b>
<b>50 organisations mobilised</b>	yes	yes	yes
<b>Advocacy capacities increased</b>	yes	yes	yes
<b>Country alternative report</b>	yes	yes	yes
<b>West Africa Regional Forum</b>		cancelled	

<sup>4</sup> it is difficult to assert that all women from the five hundred organisations have “owned mechanisms of advocacy and participation to the CSW”. The time and resources of the project would not have allowed such a comprehensive process.

<sup>5</sup> “The main challenge was the number of interested organisations who wanted to be part of the two-day consultative meeting. We were unable to bring on board all the groups as a result of limited resources. We hope to reach out to more rural and women’s organisations in subsequent activities to enhance their advocacy skills and facilitate the creation of spaces for their voices to be heard.” Netright CSW Report, January 2013

<sup>6</sup> In Senegal, a workshop poster read : « En route pour New York »

from the same country would meet in New York with little prior consultation, beyond their own organizations. The project was reported as being instrumental in putting in place coordinating mechanisms in each country which were conducive to elaboration, articulation and transmission of a collective message from the female section of civil societies to the CSW.

**Outcome 2:**

Participants to the CSW adhere to the views expressed by Women from West Africa

Although many consultations of the Commission on the Status of Women are restricted to government delegates, there are several ways in which NGOs that are accredited to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) can actively participate during CSW sessions. NGOs can:

- observe the meetings
- present written and/or oral statements
- meet official government delegations
- lobby delegations in the context of negotiations of agreed conclusions and resolutions
- and organize parallel events during the session.

Apart from the CSW plenary sessions (4-16 March 2013), UN Women-funded delegates from West Africa actively participated<sup>7</sup> in three distinct ways:

1. Attendance of side events organised by other African Women NGOs:
  - o African Women Caucus meetings (4,5,9 and 13 March 2013);
  - o AAWORD's Alternative Report Event dedicated to dissemination of findings on the current status of SGBV in ten West African countries;
  - o WILDAF Conferences on "Access to justice for women victims in Ghana and Mali" (06 March 2013) and on "Female Genital Mutilations" (11 March 2013);
  - o Solidarity March for Malian Women (8 March 2013);
  - o Workshop on « ECOWAS Protocol On Equal Rights Between Men And Women For Sustainable Development » organised by coalitions of CSOs in partnership with CECI, OXFAM NOVIB, UNDP, UNHCR, UN Women (8 March 2013).
  - o Panel Conference on violence against women in the social and professional environments \_ the case of Senegal (11 March 2013);
  - o A.C.O.R.D Conference on positive masculinity for prevention of VAW (12 March 2013)
2. Networking with donors or multilateral organisations
  - o Meeting between the Malian branch of Réseau Paix et Sécurité des Femmes de l'Espace CEDEAO (REPSFECO/Mali) and UN Women Peace and Security Officials
3. Presentation of written and/or oral statements:
  - o "Declaration of Support to Malian Women" (See [Annex 5](#))

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<sup>7</sup> As indicated by various reports about the 57th CSW *Rapport de la 57<sup>e</sup> session de la Commission De La Condition De La Femme Des Nations Unies* New-York 04-15 mars 2013, FEMNET-Mali and *Renforcer la participation des organisations de femmes de L'afrique De L'ouest A La Commission Sur La Condition de la Femme (CCF/CSW), AFARD, September 2013*  
These reports outline an impressive list of side events but do not give details of attendance records.

The question at hand, as per project document, is *to what extent did West African Women delegates achieve the objective of making other participants to the CSW adhere to their views as expressed during activities outlined above?*

Consulted stakeholders had varying levels of appreciation of West African Women delegates' actual influence on the outcome of the 57th CSW. There is hardly any documented evidence of such influence exerted by delegates on participants to the CSW. It is indeed difficult to know if participants to the CSW shifted their own views about gender issues in West Africa as a result of the advocacy work and influence accomplished by delegates from women of West Africa. Draft versions of the Agreed Conclusions were often discussed during the African Caucus meetings, but their final version is articulated in a condensed document with a language and scope that are too broad to refer to a particular theme or issue that is strictly specific to West Africa or might be directly connected to interventions from West African women delegates.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Outputs delivered during the CSW</b>
<b>Senegal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness raised on domestic violence in Senegal</li> <li>- Minister's speech partly inspired by alternative report</li> <li>- Networking</li> </ul>
<b>Mali</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Substantive advocacy on</li> <li>- care/compensation of VAW victims</li> <li>- Awareness raising and advocacy during the Mali/DRC joint side event on VAW in conflict contexts</li> <li>- Solidarity March for Women in Mali</li> <li>- Declaration of Support to Malian Women</li> <li>- Networking</li> </ul>
<b>Ghana</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- side event on monitoring law enforcement (the "Court Watch initiative)</li> <li>- Networking</li> </ul>

However, both the Agreed Conclusions and the African Women Caucus' Position statement raised concerns over the plight of women in conflict zones. In addition, there is consistent evidence of several output-related results. Many consulted stakeholders were unanimous in their accounts on how the side events left a lasting impression on the general public. In particular, the much applauded joint events of Mali and DRC attracted a lot of participants



who later joined the Solidarity March for Women in Mali<sup>8</sup> which ended with a Declaration of Support to Malian Women (see [Annex 5](#)).

Findings from a study on VAW in ten West African countries<sup>9</sup> and from a study on VAW in Mali<sup>10</sup> were presented to the diversified audience of the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW. In addition, a documentary film on VAW in Eastern DRC triggered a lot of questions and discussions.

It is also worth mentioning that a significant benefit identified by grantee organisations was their strengthened credibility resulting from their association with the UN Women - funded project. An equally unplanned but predictable outcome of the CSW project has been the strengthened collaboration between delegates from the government and from civil society during the pre-CSW stage and the CSW itself.

Speeches delivered at the CSW by Heads of Government Delegations from Ghana, Mali and Senegal were partly inspired by shadow reports shared with them by NETRIGHT, FEMNET and CLVF, respectively. To quote one of the participants, *“we could hear the Minister pronounce long excerpts of our own shadow report”*. Consulted stakeholders questioned however the composition of government delegations, deploring that selection criteria were not clear as some government delegates were bottom-level employees of the Ministry in charge of Gender.

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<sup>8</sup> 8 Mars : « Marche des femmes contre les violences et pour les droits des femmes de la 1er Avenue 42nd Street à 3e Avenue à Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza », Mali Post-CSW report

<sup>9</sup> “For the elimination and prevention of all forms of VAWG in West Africa”, Odile Ndoumbe, AAWORD

<sup>10</sup> Presented by Madame Fatoumata TOURE (from the NGO « GREFFA »)

**Outcome 3:**

West African Women contribute to improvement of policies and laws on gender equality in their respective countries

The work plan provided that after the CSW, each of the ten countries's coordinating organisations would convene a restitution workshop to be attended by representatives from the 50 women organisations. In this workshop, returning delegates would brief the audience on the outcome of the CSW, and in

particular translate relevant sections of the Agreed Conclusions into an action plan

<b>PRE-CSW OUTPUTS</b>	<b>SEN</b>	<b>MLI</b>	<b>GHA</b>	<b>AAWORD</b>
<b>Restitution workshop conducted</b>	no	yes	no	No
<b>Post-CSW Action Plan</b>	no	no	no	No

aimed at holding their respective governments accountable to commitments made at the CSW.

With the rare exception of Mali, none of the remaining countries had conducted the restitution workshop by August this year. The reason of the considerable delay is apparently the time it takes for CSOs to submit all required supporting documents for approval of second instalment<sup>11</sup> disbursements. The bulk of supporting documents were submitted to UN Women by June 2013, which is quite late considering that the CSW ended in mid-march 2013. Many civil society respondents are under the impression that an additional financial support will be extended by their corresponding UN Women country offices and do not understand the two month delay observed by the time of this project review in obtaining UN Women country offices' clearance for "second instalment disbursements"<sup>12</sup>.

After consulting primary documentation, it appeared that only AAWORD should expect a second instalment, as all CSO organisations received their full funding in one instalment. This is obviously a case of mis-understanding or mis-communication.

FEMNET-Mali, by contrast, managed to organise a restitution workshop in mid-July and had started commissioning a drafting committee for an Action Plan that will hold key national institutions accountable on the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW commitments. A few weeks later, an event was organised by FEMNET and attended by representatives from the Ministry of Gender and UN Women (see [Annex](#)

<sup>11</sup> The alleged second instalment is not supported under the agreements signed with UN Women Country Offices

<sup>12</sup> Again this is not backed by the Project Cooperation Agreements

6) on the outcome of the CSW. Copies of the shadow report and the *Declaration of Support to Malian Women* were distributed to the large audience attending the event.

## 5.4 Sustainability:

(probability of continued long-term benefits from the project; resilience to risk of the net benefit flows over time)

The project has demonstrated, within less than one year of activities, the potential for collaboration between Ministries of Gender and women's rights organizations networks. It was noted that the Pre-CSW preparations provided opportunities for organised cooperation between both sides as compared to previous years. And this is a benefit that is more likely to last longer than the project itself.

However, many interviewed respondents saw little prospect that the benefits recorded so far would be maintained for a reasonable time if support to the programme were to cease. This is certainly based on their considerable reliance on funding from UN Women which financed 100% of pre-CSW activities and significantly contributed to West African delegates<sup>13</sup> participation to the CSW.

Furthermore, at this point in the year's calendar, CSO organisations should be organising for CSW 2014 which is on "*Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls*". Preparations for the 58<sup>th</sup> CSW will be much more demanding based on the multi-sectoral dimension of the priority theme, and the large amount of information to consider as the period under consideration is 14 years. Hence, related activities should start at least by mid-September 2013. Yet, the follow-up work related to the 57<sup>th</sup> CSW has not yet started.

If left on their own, civil society organisations will not meet the conditions required for facing the concomitant demands of consecutive Commissions on the Status of Women. The need to simultaneously follow up previous CSWs while, at the same time, preparing for the next CSWs is not impossible. But it requires proper organisational and resource mobilisation capacities both at regional and national levels. One can confidently predict that unless properly supported, the dual

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<sup>13</sup> both from the government (ex.: Mali) and civil society organisations

mission will threaten to overstretch stakeholders organisational capacities, energy, focus and resources.

## 6. DISCUSSION

The month-long review was not a one-way exercise. Not only did the consultant collect a lot of information, but during dialogues with participants a number of difficult questions were asked. The most challenging set of questions revolved around the fundamental issues related to intergovernmental processes:

- What are the institutional and political barriers for women understanding, influencing and benefiting from these processes (i.e.: such as the CSW initiative)?
- Are there entry points for institutionalization?
- How can this be envisaged in the WCARO socio-political environment regardless of the CSW “theme”?
- What advice UN Women, AAWORD can get on this particular institutionalization aspect?

The series of questions are unfortunately beyond the scope of this review and might require a specific macro- and meso-level inquiry whose systemic approach would contrast with what the reader must have noticed thus far: the operational nature of this mid-term review, as it is based<sup>14</sup> on OECD-DAC evaluation criteria.

The approach of this review exercise is consistent with the prevailing understanding of a (mid-term) review: in May 2004, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) published a glossary of key terms which remains a global reference to this day. The TERM “review” is described as « an assessment of the performance of an intervention, periodically or on an ad hoc basis. Frequently “evaluation” is used for a more comprehensive and/or more in-depth assessment than “review”. Reviews tend to emphasize *operational* aspects »<sup>15</sup>.

Yet, arguably, we may not assess performance of the project without considering, even briefly, the political and institutional contexts (see [Annex 4](#): a very short description of Ghana, Mali and Senegal contexts) in which implementing organisations operate. The variety of political and institutional contexts account, to a certain extent, for some of the differences observed in project performance. Consequently, it would be inappropriate to compare results achieved by NETRIGHT in Ghana to those accomplished by FEMNET in Mali or CLVF in Senegal without taking into

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<sup>14</sup> as announced in the inception report

<sup>15</sup> Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results Based Management, DAC, 2004, Paris, France: OECD, p.30

account their respective political environments. Each of the national implementing partners had specific institutional challenges that are unique to the country they serve, respectively. For instance, in a post-conflict context such as that of Mali, non government organisations tend to have a relatively high margin of maneuver as governments are still weak and struggling to coordinate national response mechanisms to pressing security challenges.

To better set the stage for an operational assessment of the project performance, it is worth reminding the rationale of the initiative. In its situation analysis section, the project document does not refer to any political and/or institutional barrier that might have prevented West African women from understanding, influencing and benefiting from these processes<sup>16</sup>. UN Women and AAWORD simply observe that delegates were not appropriately prepared (as a West African Collective) for effectively influencing the CSW. Both organizations are convinced that, with sufficient pre-CSW consultations on the priority messages to deliver and an efficient division of labor, West African delegates would be in a better position to have their voices heard and their proposals adopted in New York and acted upon in their respective home countries.

Additionally, when an agreement was signed between UN Women and AAWORD, provisions for a successful project implementation were grounded on a number of supportive factors:

1. AAWORD is known for her long-standing<sup>17</sup> experience in action-focused research on Gender and Development. It has a network of dedicated collaborators spread on the African continent that provided expert support to the project capacity building activities and drafted the shadow report (ex.: Mali and Senegal)
2. UN Women's institutional presence in ten countries of West Africa and strong relationships with NGOs and government partners is able to provide needed support, considering the geographic spread of the project.
3. The presence of pre-existing coalitions of women organizations (ex.: Ghana and Mali) with the relatively high number of committed and highly skilled women in their leadership committees.

Although these three factors were never questioned, key actors in the project wondered during the review exercise if national implementing partners "were the right ones". Further enquiry will need to be made as to "what in the partner organizations (at country level) has allowed or

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<sup>16</sup> This is in reference to the fundamental question raised at p.29

<sup>17</sup> AAWORD was created in Dakar in 1977 by a group of African Women Researchers who felt the need for an organisation focused on advocacy and publications in the area of Gender and Development with an African perspective.

prevented the achievement of project goals”<sup>18</sup>? In all fairness, all CSO grantees in the visited countries (NETRIGHT - Ghana, FEMNET-Mali, CLVF-Senegal) had previously accumulated experience in CSW participation and in galvanizing collaboration with women organisations. As to CSO grantees from the countries that were not visited during the review process, we can reliably refer to the process of identification of civil society organisations: AAWORD worked with UN Women Country Offices to select NGOs that are most familiar with the CSW and are capable of coordinating participation. For countries where UN Women does not have office presence, AAWORD worked with its national branches to identify national implementing partners and received approval from the Regional Office in a signed Project Cooperation Agreement.

To sum up, implementing partners in Ghana, Mali and Senegal are quite capable organisations and there is no available evidence to demonstrate that the remaining implementing partners were inadequate. The main area for future improvement is coordination. This review identified a number of factors that could, if they remain unchanged, impede optimal performance. These factors are related to communication, day-to-day collaboration between UN Women and implementing partners, use of result monitoring and tracking tools and lastly, limited resources.

## 6.1 Communication

There were information gaps on various aspects of project implementation between UN Country Offices and country coordinating organisations and between the latter and AAWORD. For instance, FEMNET-MALI were convinced that the \$ 20,000.- cash transfer from UN Women – Mali were dedicated to pre-CSW workshops only. So they spent the funds on preparatory activities, services and products and had to seek extra-funds to support participation to the CSW. Another example is that AAWORD was also convinced that the Regional Forum Meeting of delegates from the ten countries would be funded by UN Women Regional Office. On top of that, when we talked to country coordinating organisations during the field work phase of the mid-term review and telephone interviews, they were expecting an alleged “second instalment” for implementation of Post-CSW activities. UN Women Regional Office on the other hand was disappointed that they could not conduct a restitution on their own when they came back from the CSW.

The most important instance of communication gap, as it involved a considerable number of people, has been over the composition of delegations to the CSW. In the initial stages, many

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<sup>18</sup> The question was raised during the review.

stakeholders attending advocacy workshops were convinced they were being trained for representation at the CSW. While a number of women were resourceful in identifying potential funding sources for their trip to New York, the majority were frustrated for not being able to attend the CSW and this created a clear tension between and within gender equality organisations. There were no clear and pre-determined criteria that would guide decisions on who among pre-CSW workshop attendees would travel to New York.

## **6.2 Day-to-day collaboration** (between UN Women and implementing partners)

Stakeholders acknowledge the need for clear guidelines on reporting procedures and required forms and documents in various steps preceding fund disbursements. Beyond financial aspects, programmatic support was also mentioned. Clearly, implementing partners would wish to have a dedicated staff at Country Office level who could interact with them on both technical and administrative matters, on a daily or weekly basis, depending on the stages of the project.

The current global momentum for Beijing+20 and MDGs-Post-2015 will imply special efforts from both UN Women and her implementing partners to take full advantage of the events.

## **6.3 (Insufficient) use of result monitoring & tracking tools**

Monitoring and follow up presented a challenge to AAWORD, as there was no system in place to ensure follow up in the ten countries of project implementation, establish credible baselines, or measure the effects of initiatives on targeted communities. There was limited evidence in the primary and secondary documents of a record of result indicator data. The lack of attention to result monitoring has had consequences on the quality of reporting. Consulted staff pointed out that limited human resources and time constraints were considered as important factors explaining neglect of result monitoring. Project staff struggled so much to keep up with the workplan prior and during the CSW, that there was no time remaining for monitoring and recording performance.

Nevertheless, AAWORD took advantage of the Mid-term review exercise to catch up on the latter: their Executive Secretary took part in the field visits alongside the evaluator.

## **6.4 Limited resources**

All consulted stakeholders mentioned financial resources among the challenges encountered. A considerable proportion of them think that the project would use more funding than was previously allocated.

Obviously, any project with the same geographic scope as the one under review is bound to be expensive in nature. Its component related to CSW participation absorbed more than 50% of C-CSOs expenditures as it involved support for delegates' attendance to the CSW and funding activities in North America. It is thus not surprising that available funds would be quickly felt as insufficient.



## **7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **7.1 Conclusions**

#### **Conclusion 1:**

The Project objectives and activities were found to be relevant both to the legal, policy and institutional context of West African countries and to UN Women's Regional Programme priority themes<sup>19</sup>, including follow-up mechanisms on the status of implementation of CEDAW committee recommendations in the region as part of UN Women Inter-Governmental results.

#### **Conclusion 2:**

The project has been efficient in terms of use of limited resources, but less efficient when it came to timely implementation and reporting. This was partly a consequence of delays in disbursements resulting from non-compliance with approval procedures and insufficient support by some country offices. More effective communication would have improved delivery of outputs in accordance with plans.

#### **Conclusion 3:**

Capacity building activities have yielded promising short-term outputs on the basis of which future editions of the project can build. West African delegates did conduct several parallel events in New York which left lasting impressions on participants, particularly on women rights violations in DRC and Mali. However, the initiative has been moderately effective in influencing conclusions of the CSW as there is only limited evidence demonstrating that West African delegates exerted an influence on the outcome of the CSW, namely its Agreed Conclusions. Using the said Conclusions to measure influence might be grounded on an unfair expectation as the language of the text is extremely broad. The African Women Caucus' Position statement and the Agreed Conclusions nevertheless raised concerns over the plight of women in conflict zones, which can be seen as a reference to Mali and DRC among other zones of conflict.

#### **Conclusion 4:**

In the countries visited, the increased collaboration for the CSW between the Ministry of Gender and Country Coordinating Organisations of women was widely perceived as sustainable, even in the hypothetical event that the flow of funds would be interrupted. However, major challenges

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<sup>19</sup> Leadership and Participation, Elimination of Violence against Women, Women's leadership in peace, security and humanitarian response

remain regarding sustainability of results, due to CSO grantees considerable dependence on funding from UN Women.

### **General Conclusion:**

Overall, the mid-term review observed that project's performance (i.e., its relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency) in less than a year of implementation has been satisfactory in strengthening participation of women in West Africa to the CSW. It was challenged however by insufficient attention to monitoring and reporting, limited resources and communication gaps between UN Women and implementing partners.

However, the project is still young and is a worthwhile investment that necessitates continuous support, especially in a context where global preparations for Beijing+20 and MDGs-Post-2015 are picking momentum. All in all, the project has the potential to prove itself as an impressive vehicle for West African women's collective voice in the global arena.

## **7.2 Recommendations**

Based on the findings and analysis of this exercise, the mid-term review can make the following recommendations to improve performance of the project.

### **Recommendation 1:**

**UN Women and her implementing partners should update the project design in light of lessons learned so far**

Project design revision should mostly concern the second outcome: "Participants adhere to the views expressed by West Africa Women". There were up to 3000 CSW participants and about 70 delegates from West Africa. More discussions should help formulate a more realistic outcome that would result from the set of activities intended to take place during participation to the CSW.

All necessary time (and resources) must be allocated to ensure a simplified system of project monitoring is included in project design amendment. This should be a pre-requisite to signing the next Project Cooperation Agreement.

### **Recommendation 2:**

**UN Women Country Offices should provide supportive monitoring to implementing partners to strengthen their approach to monitoring and reporting on results progress and achievement**

Coordination and harmonisation is critical to successful project implementation across the ten countries of the region. A much better orchestrated execution should follow if each UN Women Country Office decided to have a staff acting as project focal point responsible for providing technical and administrative support to women network organisations. These programme officers would maintain close contacts with CSO grantees, including those located in countries where UN Women does not have office presence. They would provide more supportive monitoring assistance to guide grantees through successful implementation and consult with each other to streamline action using ordinary channels of communication within UN Women West and Central Africa.

### **Recommendation 3:**

**UN Women Country Offices should build a strong resource mobilisation case based on the experience of the 57th CSW and consider undertaking a joint resource mobilization exercise with other UN bodies**

Resource mobilization efforts may tap into opportunities offered by the multi-sectoral dimension of the 58<sup>th</sup> CSW priority theme: "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls". All United Nations agencies will have a stake in these global debates and consequently can be called upon to help support together a significant participation of West (and Central) African women's rights organisations. The 57<sup>th</sup> CSW Edition of the project has set an example of the sweeping mobilisation that is possible in the future. As the prestige of UN Women brand continues to hold firm and lends legitimacy to the work associated with it, UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, to name a few) will be highly motivated to jointly build synergy around the spectrum of Post-2015 development goals.

## Annex 1 Terms of Reference

### TERMES DE REFERENCE

#### Revue à mi-parcours du projet « Renforcer la participation des organisations de femmes de l’Afrique de l’Ouest à la commission sur la condition de la Femme »

##### I. Contexte et justification

En 2012, ONU FEMMES, l’entité des Nations Unies pour l’égalité des sexes et l’autonomisation des femmes a établi une série de dialogue appelée « The Platform » dont la vocation est de capitaliser les avancées les plus marquantes à ce jour en Afrique occidentale, les solutions alternatives et les projections en matière d’égalité genre. L’objectif de cette plateforme est de participer à la formation du patrimoine intellectuel qui servira de base aux défis que l’humanité se fixera pour les 15 ou 20 années après 2015.

Parmi les activités exécutées dans le cadre des séries de dialogue figure le projet de « *Renforcer la participation des organisations de femmes de l’Afrique de l’Ouest à la commission sur la condition de la Femme* ». Ce projet a été initié suite à l’évaluation de la participation des femmes lors de la 56<sup>ème</sup> Conférence sur la Condition de la Femme (CCF) en 2012. Lors des discussions il a été constaté que les organisations de femmes ne bénéficiaient pas de cadres de concertations claires et d’une préparation adéquate quand à leur participation aux débats afin de faire passer leur message et surtout de défendre leurs idées. La CCF étant un espace de construction de convergences entre les femmes, les organisations de femmes et les défenseurs de la question féminine et féministe, il est alors nécessaire dans ce cas d’examiner les défis et les actions à entreprendre avant, pendant, et après la conférence.

L’objectif de ce projet est de contribuer au relèvement de la qualité des participations des femmes lors des CCF et leur mobilisation autour d’une cause commune qui est la défense de leurs intérêts à travers leur participation dans les processus gouvernementaux et l’application des politiques et lois favorables à l’égalité de genre au sein de leur pays. Ce projet a été l’occasion de créer une dynamique favorable à la redynamisation des mouvements de femmes et de faire avancer l’agenda des femmes.

L’AFARD a été choisi comme partenaire d’exécution de ce projet. Elle a pour mission de mener des activités de sensibilisation et de formation des organisations de femmes sur les VFF, et de mener des consultations et un lobbying auprès des parlementaires, afin d’influencer les conclusions de la CCF. A la suite de ces séries d’activités une campagne de plaidoyer sera lancée afin que les recommandations et les engagements pris lors de la CCF soient respectés par les gouvernements des 10 pays concernés par cet exercice (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinée Conakry, Libéria, Mali, Niger, Nigéria, Sénégal, Sierra Léone, Togo).

Pour arriver à cet objectif final il serait pertinent de procéder à une revue à mi-parcours de l'ensemble des actions entreprises par les organisations partenaires lors des derniers mois précédents la CCF mais également pendant la CCF. Il est important de faire une évaluation à mi parcours de ce projet afin de parfaire les recommandations finales pour contribuer de manière efficace à l'agenda des femmes et de fournir aux femmes des outils pour la mise en œuvre des recommandations issues des CCFs.

## **II. Objectif général**

Cette revue à mi-parcours a pour objectif de faire le bilan des progrès accomplis à ce jour mais également de mettre en exergue les défis rencontrés dans la mise en œuvre des activités et de faire des recommandations.

## **III. Objectif spécifique**

Les objectifs spécifiques de cette revue à mi-parcours sont :

- Evaluation des activités du projet: leur pertinence, la planification, la dimension participative, la qualité de leur exécution, les problèmes rencontrés ;
- Evaluation du degré d'engagement des parties prenantes pour soutenir la mise en œuvre du projet.
- Identification des problèmes ou défis rencontrés pendant la mise en œuvre,
- Description des facteurs clés auxquels il faudra accorder de l'attention afin d'améliorer les résultats et les possibilités de réplcation pour les années suivantes
- Examen de la mise en œuvre du suivi-évaluation du projet.
- Description des principaux enseignements tirés en termes d'activités, de méthodologies

## **IV. Résultats attendus**

- Les activités du projet sont évaluées : leur pertinence, la planification, la dimension participative, le niveau d'engagement des partenaires, la qualité de leur exécution, les problèmes rencontrés, et le degré de résultats.
- Le degré d'engagement des partenaires parties prenantes pour soutenir la mise en œuvre du projet est évalué
- Les problèmes ou défis rencontrés pendant la mise en œuvre sont identifiées, et des solutions adoptées ;
- Identification des facteurs clés auxquels il faudra accorder de l'attention afin d'améliorer les perspectives de pérennité des résultats du projet et les possibilités de réplcation de l'approche.
- Le processus de suivi-évaluation du projet est évalué
- Capitalisation des principaux enseignements tirés en termes d'activités et de méthodologies.

L'évaluation à mi parcours constituera un processus autonome étayant les constatations de la mise en œuvre; et des recommandations pour la deuxième partie du projet: il s'agit de recommandations techniques, opérationnelles, méthodologiques et/ou de gestion.

## **V. Méthodologie**

Les objectifs de la revue sont de faire l'évaluation de la mise en œuvre du projet sur la période écoulée et de faire les recommandations pour la période restante. L'évaluation devra porter la pertinence des objectifs et de la stratégie appliquée, l'exécution, les résultats, les effets et impacts, le financement, les risques.

La méthodologie devra intégrer les éléments ci-après :

- la revue documentaire
- les entretiens réalisés auprès des organisations
- visites de terrain réalisées auprès de 4 pays

Le bureau ONU FEMMES apportera un appui quand à la logistique. Les déplacements seront également pris en charge par Onu Femmes

**VI. Délai d'exécution**

- Début la mission : 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 2013
- Fin de la mission : 31 juillet 2013

**VII. Budget**

Un contrat de prestation de service sera conclu avec le consultant, et la rémunération se fera sur la base de la grille des Nations Unies.

**Annex 2 List of interviewed participants**

<b>02/08/2013</b> SENEGAL		
<b>Ndeye Daro</b>	<b>FALL</b>	ANAFA
<b>Marième</b>	<b>DIOP</b>	AJS
<b>Fatoumata</b>	<b>CISSE</b>	COSEF
<b>Odile Ndoumbe</b>	<b>FAYE</b>	AFARD
<b>Faatou</b>	<b>DIOUF</b>	CAEDHU
<b>Mbarou</b>	<b>GASSAMA</b>	UN WOMEN
<b>Marie-Pierre</b>	<b>RAKY</b>	UN WOMEN
<b>05/08/2013</b> MALI		
<b>Bintou F. Samaké</b>	<b>BOUARE</b>	FEMNET
<b>Doumbia Mama</b>	<b>KOITE</b>	FEMNET
<b>Fanta Chérif</b>	<b>CAMARA</b>	FEMNET
<b>Fateygne Touré</b>	<b>DIOUF</b>	FEMNET
<b>Assilem</b>	<b>SIDIBE</b>	ODPF
<b>Fatoumata Koué</b>	<b>FOMBA</b>	COFEM
<b>Aissata</b>	<b>M'BAYE</b>	Men to Men
<b>Hatouma</b>	<b>DJIKINE</b>	AMAFH
<b>Adama</b>	<b>MOUSSA</b>	UN WOMEN
<b>Anne Marie Rachelle</b>	<b>MIAN DJANGONE</b>	UN WOMEN
<b>07/08/2013</b> GHANA		
<b>Joyce Lena</b>	<b>DANQUAH</b>	GSHRDC - Gender Center
<b>Gloria</b>	<b>KANKAM</b>	Gender Violence Survivors Support Network
<b>Patricia Blankson</b>	<b>AKAKPO</b>	NETRIGHT
<b>Akua</b>	<b>OPOKUA</b>	NETRIGHT
<b>Afua</b>	<b>ANSRE</b>	UN WOMEN

**Annex 3 Intervention Logic**

Activities	Produits	Effets intermédiaires	Effets (Objectifs Spécifiques)	But
Organiser des séances de partage sur les procédures de participation et d'interpellation au niveau de la CCF	Les organisations de femmes Ouest Africaines sont formées sur les procédures de participation et d'interpellation au niveau de la CCF			
Organiser des séances de discussion en vue d'identifier le rôle et les responsabilités des organisations de la société civile avant, pendant et après la CCF	Les organisations de femmes Ouest Africaines acceptent leur rôle et leur responsabilité avant, la CCF	Les organisations de femmes Ouest Africaines assument leurs rôles / responsabilités en s'appropriant des mécanismes de participation et d'interpellation de la CCF	<b>Avant la CCF, participation:</b> Les Femmes Ouest Africaines sont mobilisées pour contribuer effectivement à la Commission de la Condition de la Femme	
Organiser des séances de réflexion sur le thème de la CCF, dégager les principaux axes pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et proposer les éléments de plaidoyer	Un rapport-fantôme évaluant les acquis, les faiblesses de l'égalité de genre en Afrique de l'Ouest, en rapport avec le thème de la CCF, est réalisé par les organisations de la société civile et soumis à ONU Femmes avant la CCF			
Organiser des événements parallèles; participer aux sessions plénières; participer aux activités de caucus et lobbies de la CCF	Les participant(e)s à la CCF sont informées des enjeux auxquels font face les organisations de femmes de l'Afrique de l'Ouest	Les participant(e)s à la CCF adhèrent aux positions exprimées par les femmes d'Afrique de l'Ouest	<b>Pendant la CCF, interpellation:</b> Les Femmes Ouest Africaines influencent effectivement les conclusions de la Commission de la Condition de la Femme	<b>L'influence et la participation des femmes Ouest Africaines dans les processus intergouvernementaux et nationaux sont améliorées</b>
Organiser des ateliers de dissémination des conclusions de la CCF				



"Strengthening the Participation of Women In West Africa to the CSW"

Activities	Produits	Effets intermédiaires	Effets (Objectifs Spécifiques)	But
Analyser le niveau de prise en compte des conclusions agréées après chaque CCF au niveau Pays	Les organisations de femmes Ouest africaines sont outillées pour assurer au niveau pays le plaidoyer, l'évaluation de la mise en oeuvre des conclusions de la CCF	Les Femmes Ouest Africaines contribuent à l'amélioration des politiques et lois en matière d'égalité de genre au niveau pays	<b><u>Après la CCF, leadership:</u></b> Les gouvernements appliquent les lois et politiques favorables à l'égalité de genre	

## Annex 4 Quick overview of Ghana, Mali and Senegal

**Ghana** is one of the more stable nations in the region, with a good record of power changing hands peacefully. It has largely escaped the civil strife that has plagued other West African countries. Ghana adopted the most comprehensive agenda for women’s empowerment, the Beijing platform for action. This they did through the implementation of programmes and projects that promote the full and active participation of women in all spheres of public and private life including equal share in economics, social, cultural and political decision making. A review of laws and regulations of Ghana shows that there is no law that bars women from participating in political, administrative, social or economic life of the country. But Ghana will need to improve its record in terms of women representation. In the last ten years, women representation went from 8% (16 women MPs out of a total of 200) to 11 %<sup>20</sup> (30 women MPs out of a total of 275).

UN Women is present in Ghana with two permanent staff: a Country Representative, her administrative assistant and a driver.

**Mali** on the other hand is one of the most unstable countries in the region and as widely known, most cases of violations of human rights and violence against women were reported in Northern Mali, particularly when rebel groups attempted to apply the charia law. In such context, non government organisations tend to have a relatively high margin of maneuver as governments are still weak and struggling to coordinate national response mechanisms to pressing security challenges, including sexual and gender based violence.

In terms of women representation, there are only 15 women out of a total of 147 deputies (10%) and 928 out of 10772 “conseillers communaux” (8,6%) and only 8 women out of 703 mayors (1%). Yet, Mali is signatory to regional and international conventions that support women’s participation in decision making processes and positions. UN Women has a full fledged office in Mali.

**Senegal** is well known for its deeply entrenched practice of political participation and peaceful leadership changes. Out of a total of 150 seats in the National Assembly, 64 are women (43%). Parliament passed a law against female genital mutilations and a draft law on domestic violence was drafted but has yet to be adopted. The country has a national gender strategy, Ministry of Gender, a law against gender violence and a law on equality between men and women in elected positions. UN Women – Senegal shares the same premisses as the West and Central Africa Regional Office.

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<sup>20</sup> <http://unwomenwestafrica.blog.com/about-un-women-west-africa-sub-regional-office/ghana-2/ghana-priority-1-expanding-womens-voice-leadership-and-participation/>

## Annex 5 Declaration of Support to Malian Women

### DÉCLARATION DE SOUTIEN AUX FEMMES MALIENNES

Nous, déléguées des Coalition pour les droits et la citoyenneté des femmes, en partenariat avec le CECI/Uniterra, et des représentantes et représentants de la société civile ouest africaine œuvrant pour l'égalité des droits entre les femmes et les hommes, participantes à la 57<sup>ème</sup> session de la commission des Nations Unies sur les conditions de la femme :

- **Considérant** : le thème prioritaire de la 57<sup>ème</sup> session de la Commission des Nations Unies sur la condition de la Femme à savoir « **L'élimination et la prévention de toutes les formes de violences à l'égard des femmes et des filles** »
- **Rappelant** l'engagement des chefs d'Etats et de Gouvernements de l'Union Africaine à respecter les principes de l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes, tel qu'énoncé dans l'Article 4 (1) de l'Acte constitutif de l'Union Africaine ainsi que les autres engagements, spécifiés dans divers instruments régionaux, continentaux et internationaux sur les droits de l'homme et de la femme, notamment/ ou de l'homme :  
La Plate-forme d'action africaine (1994) ;  
La Plate-forme d'action de Beijing (1995) ;  
La Convention sur l'Elimination de toutes les formes de Discrimination à l'égard des femmes (1979)  
CEDEF ;  
Le Plan d'action africaine pour l'accélération de la mise en œuvre des Plates-formes d'action de Dakar et de Beijing pour la promotion de la femme (1999) ;  
Le document adopté par la vingt-troisième session extraordinaire de l'assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur la mise en œuvre de la Plate-forme d'action de Beijing (2000) ;  
La résolution 1325 des Nations Unies sur les femmes, paix et la sécurité (2000) et les Résolutions connexes, 1820, 1888 et 1889 ;  
Et le Protocole à la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, relatifs aux droits de la femme en Afrique ou Protocole de Maputo (2003) ;
- **Constatant** les graves violations des droits de la personne exercées par les groupes armés au Nord du Mali et particulièrement sur les femmes et les filles ; notamment la manipulation des concepts religieux par ces groupes armés pour imposer le port du voile et instaurer un nouvel ordre d'existence fait de contraintes, d'interdits et d'exaction en tous genre ;
- **Préoccupées** par le fait que les femmes et les enfants sont les principales victimes des conflits notamment les viols, les massacres et les déplacements, et que les femmes sont généralement exclues des processus de négociation, de maintien et de reconstruction de la paix ;
- **Proclamons** notre attachement à la paix et par conséquent, appelons tous les belligérants dans cette crise malienne (tant les forces gouvernementales et alliées que les groupes armés) à respecter la Convention Internationale obligeant à la protection des populations civiles et au strict respect des droits humains, tout en les suppliant d'arrêter immédiatement toutes les violences faites aux populations notamment femmes et aux filles ;
- **Soutenons** les femmes Maliennes et exhortons tous les médiateurs et le facilitateur officiel dans la crise Malienne, à maintenir et à renforcer la participation des femmes dans le processus de médiation et dans tous les mécanismes visant à rétablir et promouvoir la paix et la sécurité dans le pays, tout en privilégiant une solution globale inclusive et durable des problèmes des femmes de l'ensemble de la zone sahélo-saharienne touchée par les conséquences de cette crise.

## Annex 6 Post CSW Event – Mali

### 57ème session sur les conditions de la femme : Femnet/Mali s'engage à la prévention des violences faites aux femmes



2 août 2013

En collaboration avec le Ministère de la famille, de la promotion de la femme et de l'enfant et l'ONU/Femmes, Femnet/Mali était en conclave, la semaine dernière au Centre International de Conférence de Bamako (CICB) pour exposer sur la 57ème session de la commission de la condition des femmes, tenue du 4 au 10 mars 2012 à New York. La cérémonie était présidée par Mme Touré Yaba Tamboura, représentante du Ministère de la famille, de la promotion de la femme et de l'enfant, en présence de Mme Doumbia Mama Koïta, présidente de Femnet/Mali et de Rachelle Diangonne Mian, Directrice de l'ONU/Femme.

Marquée par une série d'allocutions, la cérémonie a également procédé à la restitution de livret d'un "rapport parallèle" aux représentants des organisations par l'entremise des membres du présidium et ensuite à la distribution d'une déclaration de soutien aux femmes maliennes.

Selon Mme Doumbia Mama Koïta, du 4 au 10 mars 2012 "Nous avons participé à la 57ème session de la commission de la condition des femmes/CCF /CSW à New York". Ladite session de cette année, d'après Mme Doumbia était consacrée sur l'élimination et la prévention de toutes formes de violences faites aux filles. Nous organisons cette cérémonie, aujourd'hui, a-t-elle indiqué, pour exposer un pagne symbolique et vous distribuez le fruit d'échanges matérialisés en rapport parallèle sur les violences faites aux femmes et aux filles qui est une contribution au rapport sous-régional présenté à la session de cette année. La présidente ajoutera que les conclusions de cette 57ème session de la CSW a été difficilement adoptée surtout que l'année d'avant n'avait pas connu les conclusions finales. L'un des temps forts des activités des ONG africaines pour la présidente Mama Koïta a été une initiative prise par nos sœurs de la Guinée et du Sénégal qui ont organisé une marche de soutien aux femmes du Mali, le 8 mars et la signature d'un pagne pour manifester leur solidarité pour les dures épreuves endurées pendant l'occupation du nord Mali par les rebelles et les Jihadistes.

En bref, la directrice de l'ONU/Femmes, Rachelle Djangone Mian a réitéré le soutien de l'ONU/Femmes à l'endroit de Femnet/Mali pour toutes les activités portant sur la prévention de toutes formes de violences à l'égard des femmes et des filles.

Pour sa part, la représentante du Ministère de la famille, de la promotion de la femme et de l'enfant, Mme Touré Yaba Tamboura dira que la meilleure organisation d'un évènement, c'est de le rendre compte. Selon elle, Femnet/Mali a travaillé avec des organisations sur un thème bien déterminé et la moindre des choses, c'est de le rendre compte. Elle rapportera que la société civile malienne a montré sa détermination à chercher des voies et moyens pour prévenir et lutter contre les violences faites aux femmes et aux filles. M. Touré soulignera que le thème de cette année a suscité une attention et un intérêt particulier de la part du gouvernement malien et de la société civile. Pour Mme Tamboura, le département est disposé à travailler conjointement avec la société civile pour éliminer et prévenir toutes les formes de violences faites aux femmes à travers les conclusions concertées issues de la 57ème session.