

# **REPORT**

## **WARP TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING**

### **Special Objective 7:**

## **CONFLICT MANAGEMENT & ANTI-CORRUPTION**

**13-14 MAY, 2004 – ACCRA, GHANA**

### **Summary**

The objectives of the WARP Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting, which took place in Accra, Ghana on May 13 and 14, 2004, included mutually informing WARP and its USG partners (USAID missions and U. S. Embassies in USAID non-presence countries (NPCs) about conflict and anti-corruption issues and programs and discussing future directions for WARP and areas of mutual concern.

These objectives were met by the 16 participants attending the meetings. Several new WARP initiatives were discussed, including a revised Results Framework; two new Anti-Corruption Initiative (ACI) activities (monitoring the distribution of anti-retrovirals and an anti-corruption project aimed at promoting ACI activities within technical and sector programs); a program to strengthen the communications and networking capacity of anti-conflict and anti-corruption NGOs in the ECOWAS region (starting with the Mano River Union countries); the expansion of two existing peace building programs (in Guinea Bissau and the Gambia); and seven conflict mitigation proposals submitted in response to WARP's Annual Program Statement were summarized.

Working with ECOWAS on conflict management was highlighted at the TAG with presentation by Sam Doe, the Director of the West African Network for Peace-

building on conflict prevention and the ongoing development of the conflict early warning system; and a presentation by General Cheick Oumar Diarra, the ECOWAS Deputy Executive Secretary for Political Affairs, Defense and Security (DES/PADS) on the workings and vision of ECOWAS in regard to conflict management. The increasing activity of Islamic extremists was discussed with special reference to Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, and Senegal. It was pointed out that their activities have increased substantially in Mali and continue to be a threat in Nigeria. Ghana and Senegal appear to be largely free from their activities. The need to obtain more information on the Islamic belt across Africa and to create development programs (e.g. income generation, jobs, and education) was pointed out.

The workings of the Conflict Management and Mitigation Office (AID/Washington) the USAID Regional Economic Development and Support Office (REDSO/Nairobi) and the Food For Peace Office (Dakar and Washington) were described as well as the potential for working with these offices on conflict issues. There was a consensus on the need to follow up the TAG meeting with more networking and exploring collaborative actions with various units of USAID represented by the participants in the TAG, such as working with the Conflict Mitigation and Management Office (CMM) on research and technical assistance, utilizing Food For Peace resources in post-conflict situations and greater sharing of information and activities between REDSO and WARP.

End of Summary

## **Opening Session and WARP Objectives:**

1. USAID West African Regional Program Office for Conflict Management and Anti Corruption held its annual Technical Advisory Group Meeting on May 13 and 14, 2004 in Accra, Ghana. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Orient USAID and Embassy partners in the region to the goals and expected achievements of the WARP conflict management regional program, describing how the new program will provide support to countries in the region;
- Provide an overview of key WARP changes and initiatives;
- Discuss regional program issues;
- Provide an update on key USAID/W and other issues
- Obtain feedback from partners on the Special Objective's (SpO) current and planned programs.

2. The meeting began with a welcome statement by Carleene Dei, USAID/WARP Mission Director in which she stated the purpose of WARP and categorized WARP activities into the new and the old. The old activities included activities in Casamance and the Mano River Union (MRU), programs with the ECOWAS Office of Political Affairs and Conflict Management. The new activities included: anti-Corruption as a cross-cutting activity and a revised Results Framework that is sufficiently flexible to absorb new ideas from Washington.

## **Overview of the Meeting Objectives and Agenda**

3. The USAID and Embassy partners from the region were introduced to the goals and expected achievements of the WARP/Sp O 7 regional program. The current areas of focus for WARP/Sp O 7 places emphasis on the following areas: Improving the capacity of ECOWAS to prevent, and mitigate conflict including the development of a conflict early warning system; strengthening civil society peace-

building organizations; and cross-border peace-building initiatives. How Sp O 7 will provide support to countries in the region was also highlighted. Revisions in the Sp O Results Framework and PMP were introduced and current programs and new starts in areas of conflict and corruption reviewed.

### **Current WARP Programs**

4. WARP manages the following programs in concert with partner USAID Missions:

- A program in the Casamance conflict area of Guinea Bissau to promote peace and a similar program in the Casamance conflict area of Western Gambia
  
- A program headquartered in Sierra Leone to assist the victims of the civil war in the border areas of Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea.
  
- A radio soap opera program to prevent trafficking of children within Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Burkina Faso.
  
- A grant to UNODC to work with ECOWAS to assess the gaps in legislation of ECOWAS countries in the area of trafficking in persons.
  
- A project to develop an ECOWAS conflict early warning system and strengthen local peace-building capacity.

### **Field Mission Up-dates**

5. WARP partner missions made brief presentations on their governance and conflict programs.

- USAID/GHANA'S focus is to consolidate democracy by supporting civic participation at national and local levels. The goals to be achieved at these levels

were also outlined and include: national focus (enhance responsiveness of Parliament to citizens); local level focus (strengthen District Assembly capacity); and grassroots level foci (advocacy and performance).

- The USAID/LIBERIA program concentrates on community peace-building, locally-initiated networks for community strengthening, women and child soldier reintegration, infrastructure rehabilitation, and psycho-social support and protection for war-affected children and youth.

- USAID/BENIN's presentation emphasized how the lack of transparency and accountability coupled with rent-seeking behaviors reduce the capacity of the GOB to absorb foreign assistance and impede major development efforts. Consequently, its governance program looks to improve governance in the social and productive sectors and strengthen mechanisms to promote transparency and accountability.

- USAID/SENEGAL'S conflict resolution program focuses on the southern region of Senegal where, a 20-year armed conflict led by the separatist rebellion Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de la Casamance, has been a major constraint to Senegal's development. To address the conflict and its impacts, USAID applies a broad-based approach to conflict resolution, including improved living standards for the affected population. Activities supported include people-to-people reconciliation; increased awareness of conflict factors and conflict management strategy; rehabilitation of basic infrastructure; improved management skills of local development actors; enhanced vocational skills; and better use of decentralization mechanisms.

- USAID/NIGERIA has three main areas of activity: 1) responding to crises and mitigating conflict through analysis, early warning, and mediation; 2) implementing projects that integrate conflict management into traditional development sectors

(e.g. Ag/NRM, DG, Health, etc.) and 3) providing at-risk youth with constructive opportunities for social, economic and political engagement.

- USAID/MALI focuses on the North there was a civil war from 1991-1995, and where the problems of drought, poverty, political isolation, and ethnic differences still persist. Corruption remains a major problem in Mali. USAID's D/G program's principal activity focuses on conflict mitigation training for 250 communes of the 703 in which USAID works. In addition, transparent budget management is integral to the decentralization program. Funds have been provided to set up a system and train local administrative officials in transparent budget management locally.

- USAID/GUINEA'S Special Objective focuses on the return and reintegration of IDPs in the Forest Region. The emphasis is on economic growth, agricultural activities, education, and health. The USAID/Democracy and Governance program focuses on civil society and integrates conflict mitigation activities throughout the work of all its partners (including CLUSA, IFES, NDI and TOSTAN). There is a political/economic crisis in the country, fueled by corrupt practices, ranging from fraudulent elections to widespread abuses of power.

- Cote d'Ivoire does not have a USAID presence, however, we were briefed by the U. S. Embassy/Cote d'Ivoire Economic Officer on the evolution of the current conflict situation in Cote d'Ivoire which can be traced back to the large influx of immigrants to Cote d'Ivoire from neighboring countries during the reign of Houphouet Boigny and their continued disenfranchisement as well as deteriorating economic conditions. The difficulties involved in brokering a sustainable peace between the different factions, and the questionable leadership and political will to resolve the causes of conflict were also highlighted.

## **Future WARP Programs**

6. Several expanded, new, and potential WARP conflict management and anti corruption activities were described:

- Continuation and expansion of the two Casamance projects in Guinea Bissau and Gambia. These programs have been approved for an additional year's funding.

- A program to strengthen peacebuilding and anti-corruption CSOs and NGOs in the region through ICT starting with those in the Mano River Union countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. This activity is being designed.

- An anti-corruption proposal to ensure the correct distribution of anti-retroviral drugs in ECOWAS countries. The implementers are the West African Health Organization (WAHO) of ECOWAS and Tulane University

7. Proposed minor revisions the Conflict and Corruption Results Framework were discussed. The revised framework would revise the existing Special Objective from *“Enhanced West African regional capacity to detect and respond to conflict”* to *“Improved enabling conditions for peace and stability in West Africa”*. The three revised intermediate results are:

- Enhanced capacity of regional organizations to address conflict;
- Causes and consequences of conflict mitigated; and
- Strategic cross-border U. S. Government priorities furthered.

## **Presentations and Panel Discussions**

8. Individual or panel discussions included the following:

- Post conflict peace-building was discussed and the difficulty of USAID working in the areas of small arms reduction was highlighted as well as the potential of developing community development activities in post conflict situations.

- Islamic extremism in the region was discussed with attention to Mali, Senegal, Nigeria and Ghana. It was pointed out that that situation in Mali and Nigeria is particularly tense, while Ghana and Senegal appear to be calm. In Mali there are several increasingly active Islamic fundamentalist groups, the Dawa (from Pakistan) and the Wahhabi (from Saudi Arabia), as well as the Algerian terrorist group allied with the Al Qaeda, the Salafists, which are gaining support from the large numbers of unemployed and economically desperate youth. In Nigeria, tension and violence between Christians and Moslems often cannot be separated from ethnic tension. But these tensions, as in Mali, often center on economic deprivation, unemployed youth and the competition for scarce resources. There was a consensus that this is an important area that must be researched throughout the Islamic belt in North/Central Africa and greater attempts made to mount a developmental, poverty reduction strategy to meet this problem.

- General Cheick Omour Diarra, the ECOWAS Deputy Executive Secretary for Political Affairs made a brief but pointed presentation on the role and vision of his office for conflict prevention and mediation as well as peacekeeping. Participants were presented with a sense that real progress is being made in this area by ECOWAS despite the frustrations involved in developing consensus among 15 sovereign nations.

- In his presentation on the West Africa Early Warning and Response Network (WARN), the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) Executive Director Sam Doe discussed WANEP's objectives to build the capacities of communities and CSOs for the early detection of violent conflicts, early warning and early response mobilization and to foster collaborative relationships with and between civil society and existing national, sub-regional/regional and international

early warning, conflict prevention, and peace-building organizations. He highlighted the unique features of WARN, namely its emphasis on “prevention” not just “intervention”, identifying and strengthening the internal and external peace generating factor; and keeping the balance between peace generating factors and conflict generating factors.

- Ned Greeley described REDSO's Regional Conflict Management and Governance

Office, with its emphasis on effective program approaches and service to client USAID

Missions. These include innovative and successful programs in media, cross-border conflict prevention amongst herders, and education through the use of radio. REDSO also can assist West African Missions through its management of the MAC Indefinite Quantity Contract to provide technical assistance to USAID missions in the area of conflict management. This IQC was developed by the three African regional Missions/Programs: REDSO, WARP and the Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA).

- Sharon Morris explained how AID/W's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) supports the programs of USAID's overseas missions, geographic and sector bureaus, and partners focused on conflict and potential conflict settings. Its support capabilities include technical assistance, research and analysis, training and information dissemination, and donor coordination.

- Carolyn Hughes described the workings of the Food for Peace (FFP) Office and suggested the potential for using food for peace resources for post conflict situations by working through FFP's potential partners.

### **Future Synergies and Directions - Where do we go from here?**

9. Several important areas for follow-up were identified in the course of the TAG

deliberations including:

- More active collaboration between the regional and Washington organizations represented (e. g. CMM, FFP, REDSO, WARP);
- The need to address the issue of Islamic extremism in North and Central Africa with more information and developmental solutions;
- The importance of continuing capacity building activities from two directions: civil society and governmental/regional institutions; and
- Maintaining the communication links established by the TAG between USAIDs, Embassies and AID/W offices.