



REPORT ON THE WOMEN'S SITUATION ROOM IN GHANA



Norwegian Embassy



December, 2016

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ACRONYMS

MIC: Middle Income Country

ABIC: Angie Brooks International Centre

WSR: Women's Situation Room

WSR-Ghana: Women's Situation Room-Ghana

EC: Electoral Commission

YWCA: Young Women's Christian Association

GenCED: Gender Centre for Empowering Development

GFD: Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations

CDD: Centre for Democratic Development

CODEO: Coalition of Domestic Elections Observers

NCCE: National Commission for Civic Education

LTOS: Long Term Observers

LC: The Laity Council

NCS: National Catholic Secretariat

NCCW: National Council of Catholic Women

CMA: Christian Mothers Association

IMCS: International Movement of Catholic Students (Pax Romana)

LMAE: Ladies of Marshall Accra East

GNCYC: Ghana National Catholic Youth Council

NPC: National Peace Council

FOSDA: Foundation for Security and Development in Africa

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

UNOWAS: United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

AU: African Union

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

IEC: Information, Communication and Communication

VAW: Violence Against Women

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Events leading to Ghana's December 7th 2016 general elections emanating from In-country political analysis and reports from print, broadcast and social media all point to a serious potential of increased violence during the elections. A lot of citizens lived in an atmosphere of uncertainty with threats to the peaceful democratic transitions and stability with which the country has generally prided itself for decades. These tensions became a cause of concern to women's organizations as an enabling environment for women to participate and be represented in the elections was critical to the process.

Given its record as an effective tool to actualize UNSCR 1325 on the critical role of women in peace processes and to prevent and minimize electoral violence before, during and after elections, the women of Ghana at a conference on 10th of May, 2016 took a decision to replicate the Women's Situation Room (WSR) process in Ghana to contribute to the consolidation of peace, before, during and after the December 7th elections in Ghana. The implementation of the WSR process in Ghana was the sixth in Africa after Liberia in 2011, Senegal and Sierra Leone in 2012, Kenya in 2013, Nigeria in 2015 and Uganda in 2016.

The WSR in Ghana was aimed at creating an awareness on the importance of peace among the Ghanaian public as well as establish and operate an Early Warning and Early Response Mechanism. The process started with broad engagement with key stakeholders including the Electoral Commissioner, The Inspector General of Police, Political parties, The Chairman of the National Peace Council, Muslim and Christian religious leaders, traditional leaders, and the National Media Commission among others. Then structures for the efficient running of the situation room such as the selection of national Eminent Women, the establishment of a secretariat headed by a national coordinator, establishment and training of regional hubs, training of journalist on responsible and gender sensitive reporting, dialogues with women and youth political party organizers across the country, recruitment and training of Focal Persons in the ninety-six (96) hotspots in all the ten (10) regions in addition to training and deploying four hundred (400) female Election Observers of in the hotspots for the December 7, 2016 Presidential and Parliamentary elections. All these activities culminated in the setting up and operation of a physical Situation Room at the Holiday Inn Hotel with an Operations Centre that housed forty-five (45) Call Operators, working in three (3) shifts of fifteen (15), receiving calls from the field through the WSR Toll Free number 0 800-100-100. The WSR-Ghana provided an early response mechanism through a team of Eminent Women Mediators from Ghana and Africa who made timely interventions to incidents reported to the room with the support of the Electoral Commission (EC) and Police Intervention Desks. During and post-elections in Ghana, a total of two hundred and fifty (250) reports were received and responded to as of 10th December 2016 when the situation room was formally closed. The incidence reports categories included; late start of the polls, electoral offences, inadequate security presence and spontaneous violence upon the announcement of results.

The WSR process in Ghana was convened by five (5) women's organizations in Ghana (Abantu for Development, The Women's Manifesto Coalition, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), Gender Centre for Empowering Development (GenCED), and Ghana (GFD) Federation of Disability Organizations) and was rolled out by the WSR-Ghana Secretariat in

Accra and Regional Coordinating Hub, comprising of Women and Youth Coordinators and their Deputies in all ten (10) regions.

A Reflections Meeting held at the close of the physical situation room revealed that the process was a success especially because of the presence of Intervention Desks which ensured rapid response to threats/incidents of violence from the field. The Youth Room that was manned by youth gang leaders was highlighted as a best practice as these youths reacted in a timely manner to diffuse rising tension among their gangs as a result of the rhetoric from the two (2) main political parties before the formal announcement of the results by the EC. It was recommended that this be continued in future WSRs.

This report documents the Women's Situation Room process in Ghana from its inception to the closure of the physical Situation Room after the elections. The WSR-Ghana process was funded by the, UN Women, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNOWAS, Governments of Norway and Canada.

REPLICATION OF THE WOMEN'S SITUATION ROOM IN GHANA

1. INTRODUCTION

Ghana has been framed by the international community as a unique bastion of democracy and peace on the African continent. Nevertheless, the country has come from a military regime like many of its democratic African counterparts and is still prone to some of the problems faced by its more turbulent neighbours. Although pockets of violence during elections in Ghana may be comparatively less severe than in many other countries on the continent, to ignore the indicators of the 2012 elections and emerging issues around the December 2016 elections was considered foolhardy on the part of Ghanaians.

Events leading to Ghana's December 7th 2016 general elections emanating from In-country political analysis and reports from print, broadcast and social media all point to a serious potential of increased violence during the elections. A lot of citizens lived in an atmosphere of uncertainty with threats to the peaceful democratic transitions and stability with which the country has generally prided itself for decades. These tensions became a cause of concern to women's organizations as an enabling environment for women to participate and be represented in the elections was critical to the process.

There was perception among key stakeholders that the political stakes were higher for the 2016 Ghana elections. This they thought was because there is a general thinking among the populace that each party should have a maximum 2-term mandate; the ruling NDC party has held office for 2 terms with 2 different Standard Bearers; however, the incumbent President and his party believe he deserves a second term as he has only served one term in office. The opposition NPP's Standard bearer on the other hand, has unsuccessfully contested the past 2 elections, the December 2016 elections would be his third and last opportunity to vie for the Presidency. This situation was worsened by tensions and pockets of violence that was associated with the voter registration exercise, pressure from opposition political parties for a new voter's register and the perceived low level of public confidence in important institutions like the Electoral Commission and the Police.

Considering the above and in a move to be proactive and ensure that violence from the 2012 elections did not recur, the women of Ghana saw the need to replicate the Women's Situation Room to enable them to mitigate any potential conflict and provide a rapid response if violence occurs while guarding against violations of citizens' human rights during the elections.

The WSR is a women's peacebuilding mechanism to mitigate conflicts before, during and after elections in African countries. It was initiated by The Angie Brooks International Centre with the support of a coalition of Liberian women and youth organizations including MARWOPNET and the YWCA. The success of the initiative in contributing to promoting peaceful elections in Liberia resulted in The Gender Is My Agenda Campaign of the African Union (AU) adopting the WSR as a "best practice" in January 2012 and asked that ABIC replicates it in countries having elections and are threatened with elections violence. The GIMAC at that AU Summit also invited President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia to be the Champion of the Situation Room to which she agreed to support its replication in all countries in Africa.

The WSR is not a room but a process that mobilizes women to ensure their active participation in peaceful and democratic electoral processes as a peace and security measure in accordance with UNSCR 1325. Women in collaboration with youth, engage and lobby all key stakeholders in countries of replication to commit to peace before, during, and post elections. This is achieved by the rolling out of systems and structures through which the essential activities of the WSR process are replicated and culminate in the setting up of a physical Situation Room where women are involved in advocating for peaceful elections, intervention and mediation, coordination, political and legal analysis, observation of the polling process and recording and documentation of information and statistics.

Since its adoption as a best practice by GIMAC, the WSR has been successfully replicated in Senegal in February 2012, Sierra Leone in November 2012, Kenya in March 2013, Nigeria in March 2015 and Uganda in February 2016 with ABIC providing technical support. While ABIC, on behalf of President Sirleaf, provided technical guidance and oversight, it was the women peace activists who led the process in all five (5) countries where the process has been replicated. Keeping the principles and goal of the WSR intact, its implementation took different shapes, adopted new strategies and activities to address and respond to local specificities and the countries' political contexts with lessons learned and best practices recorded for use in future replications.

The WSR was replicated in Ghana under the theme "Peace is in our hands" with the goal of ensuring Women's active participation in peacebuilding through the WSR replication, thereby contributing to Peaceful Elections in Ghana with the election results being accepted by everyone. The key objectives include; (a) to provide a platform for women's groups to strategize, plan and respond rapidly to elections related issues in a coordinated manner; (b) to establish a network of peace activists in African countries during elections who are equipped with the requisite skills and knowledge to prevent and respond to political and electoral violence and emergencies before, during and after the elections; and (c) to strengthen women's solidarity beyond borders and showcase their ability to constructively launch preventive measures to ensure elections take place in a manner that fosters an enabling environment and an inclusive process.

The WSR which was convened by the women's movement comprising of coalitions of women's groups/networks, grassroots community women's groups and youth groups in country of replication adopted mobilization of women, youth, engagement of key stakeholders including the media, capacity building of women and youth, advocacy and lobbying as strategies to facilitate the achievement of results.

For the efficient replication of the initiative a national secretariat was established headed by a National Coordinator working with an Administrative Assistant, A communication Officer and a Logistics Officer. These officers coordinated the activities of the ten (10) regional hubs across the country. Activities in each regional hub was coordinated by a four (4) member team made up of A Women's Regional Coordinator and Deputy as well as A Regional Youth Coordinator and Deputy. Apart from the Regional Youth Coordinators, all the other staff both at the national and regional levels were females.

2. ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE WOMEN'S SITUATION ROOM

a) Assessment Mission

The WSR process in Ghana started with an assessment Mission conducted by two technical officers from the Angie Brook International Centre (ABIC). The objectives of the mission were to assess the potential for violence during the December 2016 presidential and parliamentary elections in Ghana; to introduce the concept of the WSR to actors and stakeholders at national and regional levels, especially women's groups to find out if it is a tool they would like to use, and to identify potential partners and areas of possible collaboration for a possible replication of the WSR in Ghana. At the end of the Mission, consensus was reached among key stakeholders, especially the women's groups that the WSR was an important tool that can contribute to the promotion of peace, during Ghana's December, 2016 elections.

The Assessment started with meetings with various relevant stakeholders and actors including the Media, Youth groups, the Police, the National Peace Council, the Ministry of Interior, Political Parties, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Development Partners, the Electoral Commission and ended with a conference of women's groups and organizations across the country in Accra, the capital of Ghana. The following were the key findings and conclusions of the Mission;

- There was consensus among key stakeholders that the political stakes are higher for the 2016 Ghana elections. This they thought was because there is a perception among the populace that each party should have a maximum 2-term mandate; the ruling NDC party has held office for 2 terms with 2 different Standard Bearers; however, the incumbent President and his party believe he deserves a second term as he has only served one term in office. The opposition NPP's Standard bearer on the other hand, has unsuccessfully contested the past 2 elections, the December 2016 elections would be his third and last opportunity to vie for the Presidency.
- They also saw the emergence of political youth militia groups, as well as intra party conflicts as threats of possible violence during the elections
- High rate of unemployment among the youth provided a high potential fertile ground for the politicians to use them to perpetrate violence
- The discussions around the voter's register has also added to the tension and the perception of potential violence during the elections
- The media has the potential to play a role in instigating violence because of the way they report news. The increasingly partisan divide in the media was attributed to the fact that a significant number of radio stations and newspapers are owned by key members of the leading political parties and this was a source of concern
- The perception that the Electoral Commission and the police are in bed with the ruling government
- The WSR was seen by all stakeholders consulted as a good initiative that could contribute to promoting Peace during the elections, they therefore called for its replication in Ghana

The Women's conference which concluded the Mission was attended by a cross section of women's groups from across the country, they include; the Independent Women Network, the Queen Mother's Association, Christian Mothers' Association, Aglow Ghana, Ahmaddya Women's wing, Market Women/Petty Traders Association, Federation of Muslim Women's Association, GNAT(Teacher Ladies, Abantu for Development, GenCED, YWCA, Netright (a coalition of Women's NGOs/Gender Activist), Women's Manifesto Coalition, among others. At the end of the conference, the women by a

consensus agreed to the replication of the WSR in Ghana and subsequently formed a fourteen (14) member working group from among themselves to work with the technical team to take the process forward. The group was tasked with the following:

1. To work with the ABIC Team to develop a concept note, budget and work plan for the period June – December, 2016 to ensure the successful operationalization of the WSR in Ghana leading to peaceful elections.
2. To provide advice, support and assistance in the implementation of the WSR-Ghana.
3. To validate the work and activities of the Conveners and the WSR-GH Secretariat to ensure it rolls out the activities of the WSR process in Ghana per the Work Plan.

The Mission ended with the drafting of a concept note and implementation plan to guide the replication of the WSR in Ghana.

b) Planning Mission

During the planning phase of the WSR in Ghana which lasted from July – August 2016 the ABIC technical team worked with the working group to establish the Secretariat, plan, structures and systems as well collaborations that were required for the successful replication of the WSR in Ghana. The following were the activities undertaken during the planning mission.

- (i) **Identify Conveners for the WSR-Ghana:** - The WSR-Ghana was convened by five (5) women's organizations/networks (Abantu for Development, The Women's Manifesto Coalition, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), Gender Centre for Empowering Development (GenCED), and Ghana (GFD) Federation of Disability Organizations). They supervised the daily activities of the Secretariat and met on a regular basis with the Secretariat to plan and roll out the work plan for the successful implementation of the process in Ghana. They also worked closely with the team of Eminent Ghanaian Women Mediators to reach out to key stakeholders including political party leaders, the EC and the Police through meetings to ensure that they understood and supported the WSR process in Ghana.
- (ii) **Establish a WSR-Ghana National Secretariat:** - the replication of the WSR-Ghana was coordinated by a four (4) person team led by a National Coordinator working with an Administrative Assistant, a communication Officer and a Logistics Officer. They were supported by an International Coordinator and three (3) volunteers. All contractual and financial matters were handled by GenCED one of the convening organizations. The secretariat was hosted by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), situated at 46, Castle Road, Adabraka, Accra, Ghana and was equipped furniture, Wi-Fi, a printer and other necessary logistics.
- (iii) **Identify and Select Ghanaian and African Eminent Women Mediators:** - with the support of the WSR working group, a list of Ghanaian women were identified as potential Eminent women; after which a two point criteria (1) Not known or perceived to be involved in active politics, (2) available and willing to serve, was used to select the final list of nine (9) national Eminent women during the planning phase. They are; Prof. Akua Kuenyehia, Prof. Ama Ata Aidoo, Mrs. Sabina Ofori-Boateng, Eng. Hajia Safuratu Muhammed-Andani, Ms. Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame, Prof. Henrietta Abena Nyarko Mensa-Bonsu, Ms. Hajia Afi Yakubu and Naa Koshitsoo Aframanso I. The Eminent women after their selection were given a day's training to acquire skills in mediation, advocacy and lobbying for the promotion of peace and conflict prevention before, during and after the elections.

ABIC assisted based on their experience in other countries to select Four (4) African Eminent women namely Juliet Chibuta (Zambia), Turrie Akerele-Ismail (Nigeria), Hajia Alari Cole (Sierra Leone) and Christiana Tah (Liberia) who joined the Eminent Ghanaian women mediators and supported their intervention for peaceful elections. They used their experience to ensure that all threats of violence were dealt with in real time. Apart from educating key stakeholders on the WSR process, all the Eminent women discussed and resolved elections related incidents reported from the field in real time acting on the advice of a team of Analysts provided by the WSR-Ghana. In addition, they engaged key stakeholders including leaders of political parties, the Electoral Commission and the Police as and when necessary to prevent and resolve threats and incidents of violence.

- (iv) **Establish Regional Coordinating Hubs:** - As part of the replication of the WSR in Ghana, regional coordinating structures were set up in all ten (10) regions to roll out the process and ensure the call of the WSR-Ghana for peaceful elections in December 2016 was fully achieved. The youth were mainstreamed into every aspect of the WSR-Ghana structure which was a best practice for the WSR process. The Regional Coordinating hubs were responsible for carrying out advocacy and peacebuilding activities among women, youth and the general public in a targeted way at the regional and community levels. There engaged key stakeholders such as the Electoral Commission, political parties, religious and traditional leaders/groups, vigilante groups to preach the message of peace and the consequence of violence and conflict, before, during and after the elections.

Sex disaggregated data of members of the WSR-Ghana Regional Coordinating Hubs

S/N	REGIONS	NO OF WOMEN	NO OF MEN	NO OF YOUTH (Below 35 years)
1	Greater Accra	3	1	3
2	Upper East	3	1	3
3	Upper West	3	1	2
4	Brong-Ahafo	3	1	3
5	Ashanti	3	1	3
6	Central	3	1	3
7	Northern	3	1	3
8	Eastern	3	1	2
9	Western	3	1	3
10	Volta	3	1	3
	TOTAL NUMBER	30	10	28
	Total Number in %	75%	25%	70%

- (v) **Introductory and Advocacy Meetings with Relevant Stakeholders**

Advocacy visits were made to various stakeholders during the month of August 2016 during which Conveners, working group, the Secretariat and ABIC team appraised the various institutions about the WSR process and sought possible areas of collaboration and/or partnerships.

Stakeholders met during these meetings include the Chairperson of the EC, the Inspector-

General of Police and his management team, women's groups, members of the diplomatic corps, religious and traditional leaders, the media and civil society to introduce to them the concept of the WSR-Ghana, the process of replication and where applicable, explore areas of collaboration. Such meetings were important as they raised awareness about the need for peaceful elections among key stakeholders, highlighted the complimentary and supportive role of the WSR to their work and opened channels of communication which were utilized before, during and after polling day. Highlights of these meetings include;

- An agreement reached with the **Centre for Democratic Development (CDD)/ Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO)** to share information including data specific relevant to the WSR-Ghana to advance their process including training and deployment of elections observers
- Most Reverend Bishop Palmer-Buckle head of the Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference who met the WSR team with some leaders of the women and youth wings of the church urged them to inform their members in Accra and across the regions to actively engage the WSR in its activities as more youth need to be empowered as capillary activists for peaceful elections. He also called for the active engagement of Queen Mothers as part of the process.
- **Ms. Charlotte Osei, Chairperson, Ghana Electoral Commission** indicated that the Commission was working with their communication Department to put in place a mechanism to receive and respond to complaints from voters during the elections. She saw the WSR process as very important contribution to the call for peaceful elections. Ms. Osei stressed the need to educate political party's Women's Commissioners and Women's Wings as they represented the constituency of women even more than the constituency of their political parties. She shared her belief in the power women had in terms of determining the outcome of the elections and how peaceful the elections should be as majority of the registered voters were female.
- **The Inspector-General of Police and the Police Management Team** described the timing of the replication of the WSR as appropriate as elections are a "Do or Die" affair in Africa, Ghana being no exception. They predicted that elections of December 2016 will be keenly contested and tense and were happy that the WSR will be replicated by women in civil society. The Director of Police Operations and the Human Resource Director were identified as focal persons authorized to support the WSR-Ghana in whatever they needed for a successful WSR in Ghana
- **The Chair of the National Peace Council (NPC), Rev. Emmanuel Asante** in welcoming the initiative to Ghana, described it as an interesting concept particularly as it involves educating the youth about the constitution and election laws of Ghana. He was particularly happy with the innovativeness in the introduction of both a Police and an EC Desk in the physical situation room as these officials would take the perspective of their institutions into the WSR-Ghana. He said women were mothers and have their children's ears so can get the youth to listen to them. He explained that the market women's commitment to peaceful elections is important so it was a good idea to reach out to them and bring them on board the process. He advised that the Eminent National Women must be carefully selected to ensure they are not seen as actively political in the current politically sensitive environment. He pledged the Council support to the replication of the WSR in Ghana to ensure its success and impact.
- **Political Parties** shared their views about the electoral process bringing out their concerns which ranged from issues with the EC on the voters' register, the role being

played by some media houses, the vulnerability of the youth who were mostly unemployed, to traditional and religious leaders not being neutral. Some of them, especially the opposition parties had concerns about the ‘Winner Takes All syndrome’ which has created a lot of tension especially amongst the two leading parties the NPP and NDC. Concluding, party representatives recommended that the WSR-Ghana emphasizes on the need for responsible reporting by the media.

- **The Minister of interior** lauded the initiative which he described as timely. He explained that his Ministry was ready to collaborate and partner with such initiatives as they were all working for a common purpose of the peace and security of Ghana.
- **Rev. Dr. Kwabena Opuni-Frimpong - General Secretary of Christian Council of Ghana (CCG)** and his team emphasized the need for all stakeholders to collaborate to maintain the peace Ghana has enjoyed over the years while taking into consideration lessons from previous war/conflict torn countries like Sierra Leone, Liberia and even Kenya. He said that the CCG had been engaged in electoral processes and mediation in Ghana during the eighty (80) years of its existence and stressed on the need to enhance the capacity of Ghanaian women to be able to engage in public discourse on issues of paramount importance to them, thereby de-masculinizing public discourse and governance issues.
- **Ms. Margaret Alexander Rehoboth, Head of Women Peace and Security Institute (WPSI) of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC)** was excited about the replication of the WSR in Ghana and talked about her visit to the physical Situation Room in Sierra Leone in 2012 and indicated. She briefed the team about their four (4) phased “Special Gender Sensitive and Women Focused Elections Observations Project”, works to support women’s candidacy, enhance their prospects at the elections, ascertain how gender sensitive and favourable the political terrain is or not and issues of violence or potential violence against women. Expanding on the project, she shared the rationale underscoring the concept which was borne from observations in the situation room to complement its work but with a focus on what it takes to have more women participate in elections and factors that undermine their prospect to participate in elections. Areas of collaboration were explored.
- Ms. Yakubu of the **Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA)** indicated they could collaborate with WSR as FOSDA had trained Peace Ambassadors who could double up as focal persons for WSR-Ghana in some of the identified flashpoints; that their Peace Ambassadors could capture incidents of violence against women before, during and after the elections on behalf of the WSR-Ghana and that security reports sent in by the Peace Ambassadors from areas not covered by the WSR-Ghana Focal Persons could be shared with the WSR-Ghana.
- **Mr. Gyan Apenteng, Chairman of the Media Commission, Ghana** lauded the initiative and stressed that because it was women advocating for peace, he believed that they will do it better and should therefore be encouraged to do what they know best, bringing peace to the home and the society at large. He facilitated access to media houses which accorded the WSR Ghana with more publicity.

- **The Queenmother of the Mampong Traditional Area, Nana Agyakumah Duffie met with the WSR team on behalf of the leadership of Queen Mothers Association of Ghana**, she lauded the initiative and said it was in line with the effort of the Queen Mother's Association of Ghana towards ensuring peace during the elections indicated that the association was happy to collaborate with WSR on activities such as the Women's March for Peace in order not to duplicate efforts. She asked that their association is informed and involved in all WSR related activities.

c) Orientation and Training of Regional Hubs

Several communities and key stakeholders across the 10 regions of Ghana became aware of the importance of choosing Peace over violence before, during and after the December elections. This was made possible due to the recruitment and training of members of regional hubs.

A 2-day Orientation Workshop was held on 21st and 22nd September 2016 at the Miklin Hotel, Kumasi, Ashanti Region for forty (40); comprising thirty (30) female and ten (10) male Regional Women and Youth Coordinators and their Deputies recruited to roll out the WSR process in all ten (10) regions of Ghana. The orientation workshop sought to build the capacity of the coordinating teams to ensure they had a clear understanding of the WSR process and their roles and responsibilities as part of the process.

At the workshop, members of the regional coordinating hubs demonstrated an understanding of the WSR concept, the systems and structures of the process in Ghana, their clearly defined roles in the process and could develop regional work plans to facilitate the rolling out of the process in the regions.

They were trained on the Constitution of Ghana, the Electoral Laws of Ghana, Conflict Resolution, mediation and Gender roles in Peace building as well as advocacy for peace. The training was facilitated by Ms. Melody Darkey, a lawyer and Executive Director of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)-Ghana and Ms. Euphemia Akos Dzathor, the African Regional Coordinator of African Women's Active Non-Violence Initiative for Social Change (AWANICH). The sessions were interactive and catered to the everyday lives of participants who were able to relate what they learnt to what is happening in their communities and regions. Ms. Dzathor explained the legal basis for women's participation in peace processes which included UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 as well as the Ghana National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (GHANAP). Role plays and simulations were used as part of the methodology to ensure that participants understood negotiation and mediation and could mediate in low grade conflicts in their communities.

The Youth Coordinators after the training explained that their newly acquired knowledge of the Ghana Constitution and Electoral Laws had strengthened their capacity to engage community youth. They were confident to share peace building concepts and skills with focal persons and members of the Youth Peer to Peer Peace Process to ensure they also were equipped to roll out the process in designated hotspots in the regions. Indeed, members of the Coordinating Hubs proved the relevance of the training as they actively participated in the design and dissemination of peace messages in their regions using social media and other platforms.

d) Training of Journalist on Responsible and Gender Sensitive Reporting

The Ghanaian media by observation were more responsible in terms of reportage and the coverage of women during the 2016 elections compared to the 2012 elections. The WSR can be said to have contributed to this improvement through a training they organised for a cross section of media personnel across the country on responsible and gender sensitive reporting. This training was organised as the WSR recognised the important role the media plays in elections and the impact their action and inaction has on the creation of a peaceful environment for elections as well as the creation of spaces for the active participation of women during election. This was also emphasised by some engaged stakeholders during the assessment and planning phases of the process. The WSR team therefore prioritised the training of journalists from the print and electronic media as part of the process.

A total of Sixty-Eight (68) journalist comprising nineteen (19) Females and Forty-Nine (49) males benefitted from the training. The training was held in Koforidua for the Southern Zone participants (Central, Western, Eastern, Volta and Greater Accra Regions of Ghana) and in Kumasi for participants in the Northern Zone. The workshops were facilitated by Francis Ameyibor, a senior journalist of the Ghana News Agency and Frank Bodza, a senior program officer from WILDAD with support from Adwoa Bame and Barbara Sangare National and International Coordinators of the WSR respectively. The aim of the workshop was to provide media practitioners with the knowledge and skills to enable them play a positive role in ensuring peaceful elections and create a level playing field for women and men to contest the December 2016 elections in Ghana.

At the end of the workshop, participants demonstrated an understanding of the key role of the media in ensuring peaceful elections in December 2016, and their ability to use the skills and knowledge acquired to play a positive role in reporting responsibly and with a gendered lens on elections related issues and share newly acquired knowledge and skills with colleagues to ensure peaceful elections with full participation of women.

To ensure responsible reporting during the elections, the facilitator; Mr. Francis Ameyibor urged participants to be professional, wise, sensitive and alert and research their facts reporting as elections is an emotional event and no politician will provide a cover for a journalist who let himself loose. They were given instances where media practitioners have reported without having the facts. They were implored to focus on informing and educating the public and refrain from reportage that breeds segregation. They were admonished to watch the choice of words they use in reporting, especially for the electronic media as people get incited by words. Examples of countries where irresponsible reporting by journalist led to violence and loss of lives was discussed.

The participants were taken through the 'Principles for responsible reporting' which included, impartiality; understanding the potential political gains and losses; refraining from allowing personal opinions to sway their reportage. For example, avoid wearing distinctive signs and paraphernalia of political parties; guaranteeing the smooth Conduct of Elections by not intervening in the work of the Electoral Commission officers at the polling station.

They were taken through practical steps for responsible reporting covering eleven (11) areas;

- Journalistic Ethos - Clear separation between fact and comment; journalist ought to clearly distinguish between comments of their panellists during interviews and facts that have been researched and proven as credible.

- State Media - State-owned media shall not express an editorial opinion in favour of or against any party or candidate. Publicly owned media have a duty to be balanced and impartial in their election reporting and not to discriminate against any party in granting access to air time.
- Advertising - He advised media houses to accept payment for political advertising on a non-discriminatory basis and at equal rates for all parties. News, interviews, information or current affairs programmes or articles in the state-owned media shall not be biased in favour of or against any party or candidate.
- Democratic Values - the media shall encourage and provide access to the voters to express their opinion and views. The media shall promote democratic values such as the rule of law, accountability and good governance.
- Retraction - Any candidate or party that makes a reasonable claim of having been defamed or otherwise injured by a broadcast or publication shall either be granted the opportunity to reply or be entitled to a correction or retraction by the broadcaster or publisher or by the person who made the allegedly defamatory statement. The reply or correction shall be broadcast or published as soon as possible.
- Press Conference Coverage - News coverage of press conferences and public statements concerning matters or political controversy (as opposed to functions of state) called or made by government ministers, or members of parliament shall be subject to a right of reply or equal time rules. This obligation acquires even greater force when the person making the statement is also standing for office.
- Voter Education - Publicly owned media shall publish or broadcast voter education material. Voter education material shall be accurate and impartial and must effectively inform voters about the voting process, including how, when and where to vote, to register to vote and to verify proper registration, the secrecy of the ballot (and thus safety from retaliation); the importance of voting; the functions of the offices that are under contention; and similar matters.
- Political parties - Journalists should accord all political parties and candidates respect and create room for them to reach out to electorates.
- Election Day Activities - Accredited media representatives should not interfere with the voting process at the Polling Station. Media representatives are not permitted to interview any voter, Agent, Observer or Polling Official inside the station. They may interview the Presiding Officer as the representative of the team of Officials with her/his consent.
- Confidentiality & Secrecy of Electorate - a journalist must be in the polling station at any time from opening to closing activities and observe all stages of the voting processes, provided this does not violate the confidentiality and the secrecy of the vote. Move around the station, if her/his movements do not interfere with, or obstruct, the flow of voters or the work of polling officials.
- Interviews at Polling Stations All interviews must take place outside the station. During interviews, the presiding officer may respond to general factual questions, but may not offer interpretations or opinion

On Reporting with a gender lens, the issues were discussed. The journalists were reminded that it was important for them to report with a gender lens, especially during elections because by doing this, they will contribute towards women's participation as voters and candidates as well as highlights issues affecting women throughout all cycles and processes of the elections. Participants were taken through the concept of Gender and Elections as it relates to the media. The following was emphasised;

- Stereotyping of Women in Politics: - Stereotyping women includes reporting on their sexuality instead of their abilities and achievements. An example was given of a Ghanaian female politician who was always being portrayed in the media by what she is wearing and her marital status. Such attitude makes women shy away from the media and impact negatively on women's ability to participate fully in the political discourse
- The issue of low coverage of women political candidates was also discussed. There are a lot of good women in politics the media is yet to highlight and showcase them. It was indicated that much of the media attention on women political candidates has been on their appearance, personality and family when compared to men.
- Reasons for the low coverage of Women in the Media was attributed to the lack of women leadership in the Media, Gender not an integral part of the media training in Ghana, media houses do not have gender policies to guide them in their operations, Gender policies are not being complied with as they should among others.
- The strategies proposed to improve coverage of women in the December 2016 elections in Ghana include; the need for media houses to create women only programmes and print media to dedicate columns to highlight women political candidates; promote legislations and policy that promotes gender parity for both men and women; research and publish the relevant background and achievements of women candidates as well as the trend of women political candidates in the past and compare them to the present; provision of special advertisement prices to the women political candidates to give them visibility and exposure; avoid reporting on trivial issues about women political candidate and rather highlight on the core issues that the women are dealing with in their political campaigns.

The workshops ended with interactive sessions where participants identified how they would support the WSR-Ghana Regional Coordinating Hubs. This included free airtime on community radio stations, reduced costs of airtime, invites to be panellists on prime-time programs and coverage of regional activities of the hubs. Most of the media houses lived up to their promise.

e) Orientation and Training of Early Warning Focal Persons

A key element of the WSR process was the Early Warning and Early Response mechanism that enabled the WSR-Ghana mitigate conflicts to ensure the December 2016 polls were peaceful. For this to happen, Focal Persons were recruited to report on threats and incidents of violence from identified hotspots in all ten (10) regions of Ghana as well as to Serve as Peace Ambassadors in these areas. They were trained on Early Warning and Response Systems and Structures as well as their roles and responsibilities to ensure these systems worked well and were impactful in the replication of the process in Ghana. They were asked to report immediately any incidents that falls within the following categories;

Pre-Election Period

1. Violence or attempted violence involving political opponents
2. Tensions and violence due to electoral processes, e.g. Voter registration/ exhibition process, concerns and complaints
3. Mass destruction of posters and other materials of political opponents
4. Violence between rival groups of supporters, which can reduce participation; especially for women and create no go areas for campaigning
5. Attack (Physical or verbal)/Violence against women as candidates or voters

6. Threats or intimidation of supporters, which can cause internal migration or fear of participating in electoral processes

Election Day and Post-Election (in addition to the above)

7. Threat and intimidation of Voters; especially women
8. Attacks at or near polling stations
9. Destroying elections related materials
10. Protest that turn violent, either due to protesters or authorities
11. Sensitive and divisive comments, e.g. Ethnic in nature by political opponents

A total of one hundred and twenty (120) Focal Persons were trained to monitor ninety-six (96) hotspots in all ten (10) regions of Ghana. These hotspots were identified by the women's groups, and finalised by the regional hubs in collaboration with the Electoral Commission and the Police. The training which was zoned into two was facilitated mainly by Euphemia Akos Dzathor with support from Adwoa Bame and Barbara Sangare, National and International Coordinators of the WSR.

The workshops ended with the Focal Persons breaking into regional groups facilitated by the Regional Women Coordinators, validating the hotspots by region and confirming the posting of each focal person. Channels of authority and communication were clearly defined. When a focal person picks up a signal for potential violence, he/she must first report it to the Regional Women Organisers who will identify stakeholders within the Region to deal with the issue. Most of the cases reported by the focal persons involves pockets or threats of violence involving supporters of the two main political parties; NDC/NPP.

f) Launch of the WSR-Ghana & 1000 Women Peace March

The Women's Situation Room-Ghana was officially launched at the Accra International Conference Centre on Thursday 17th November, 2016. The goal of the launch was to showcase Ghanaian women's peace building capacity and initiative as well as to mobilise women to understand and own the WSR process in all ten (10) regions of Ghana. The launch which was well attended by a cross section of women's groups, civil society organizations, UN and donor agencies, members of the Diplomatic Corps, women, youth representatives and the media. The ceremony was planned to coincide with a women's march for Peace across the 10 regions of Ghana.

Solidarity messages were delivered by Mrs Christine Evans-Klock, the United Nation Resident Coordinator, Norwegian Ambassador, the Representative of the Canadian Government, Ms. Charlotte Osei Chairperson of the Electoral Commission and Ms. Janet Sarney of the National Peace Council (NPC). Before presenting a 10-minute video goodwill message from President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, the Champion of the WSR, Cllr. Yvette Chesson Wureh; Initiator of the WSR gave a brief overview of the origins and history of the WSR. She indicated that although a number of vigilante groups, such as the Kandahar Boys, Azorka Boys, Bamba Boys, and Invincible Forces had been recorded unleashing terror on fellow citizens, she was optimistic that the elections of 7th December 2016 will be peaceful, credible, transparent and inclusive. In her goodwill message to Ghanaian women, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf expressed her dismay at politicians who engage young men and women to disrupt peace which has resulted in young people being killed or injured for someone to be elected into office or to express their dissatisfaction with election results. This according to her is why the WSR is so important and critical during elections in Africa. The WSR has never been the same in any two

countries but is always designed to suit each country's context by the women of the country. President Sirleaf said that the success of the WSR can never be modulated since it has received a worldwide recognition as women led intervention which has helped mitigate eruption and escalation of violence before, during and after elections.

Delivering the keynote address, Queen Mother Nanahenemaa Adwoa Awindor stressed that women have played key roles in ensuring peaceful elections but their efforts have not been acknowledged. She reinforced the role of women as peace builders and called upon the media to trumpet it far and wide as Ghana's democracy serves as a benchmark for the rest of Africa. She thanked ABIC for bringing the process to Ghana and invited all women to the Queen Mothers of Ghana national women's walk and thereafter declared the WSR-Ghana officially launched.

A women's march for Peace dubbed '1000 women Peace March' was held across the ten (10) regional capitals of Ghana. Women from all backgrounds; teachers, traditional leaders, religious groups, market women, petty traders, female youth groups, among others took part in the March with the message 'Ghanaian Women Want Peace'. The women carried placards with over Forty(40) peace messages including; Different parties one Ghana, We have nowhere to go Ghana is all we have, We stand for peace, Peace is in our hands, Ghana needs you alive, Keep Ghana peaceful, say no to election-related violence, One nation, one people, We don't want war, we want peace, United we stand, divided we fall, I am for peace, are you?, Election is no war, Politicians – Peace is in your hands, Religious Leaders – Peace is in your hands, Young Men and Women – Peace is in your Hands and We need Peace for sustainable development.

In all the 10 regions, the March ended with a presentation of a petition/ statement by the group of women to the offices of the two main political parties. The Message which was customised to each party is as follow;

‘We, the Women of the Republic of Ghana under the auspices of the Women’s Situation Room-Ghana call on the Membership, Leadership and Flagbearer of the National Democratic Congress (NDC)/ New Patriotic Party (NPP), to affirm your absolute commitment to peaceful elections before, during and after the December 7 2016 polls.

As women, we suffer most with our children when there is violence and will not look on as the security of our beloved country is compromised in the name of politics. We are here to reiterate the call for peaceful elections. As women, we are gathered here today to call on your executives and supporters to do all in their power to remain calm and resolute as the Election Day unfolds.

Development cannot take place in the midst of conflict and violence. The situation in some of our conflict afflicted sister African countries is an example for us as a country to choose the path of Peace. Ghana is touted as a shining example of Democracy in Africa and we the women of Ghana trust that the NDC/NPP Party will ensure there is peaceful elections, so the country will continue to shine on the sub-region.

We the women of Ghana call on the NDC /NPP party and its leadership to contribute to peace by respecting the electoral process and accepting the outcome after the polls

The flagbearer,, members of the NDC/NPP party, the motto of the WSR-Ghana is “Peace is in our Hands” so we say to you all, “THE PEACE OF GHANA IS IN YOUR HANDS”. Let us all commit to peaceful processes before, during and after December 7’

Interestingly, some males who share in the women’s message of Peace joined the March. The below table shows the number of people who participated in the March per Region disaggregated by sex and age;

Regions	Adults		Youth		Persons with Disability		Total		Grand Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Ashanti Region	24	426	250	675	1	2	275	1128	1403
Brong Ahafo Region	36	480	264	720	0	0	300	1200	1500
Upper West Region	20	700	255	350	4	2	279	1052	1331
Central Region	25	1050	55	500	0	0	80	1550	1630
Volta Region	10	854	14	299	3	20	27	1173	1200
Northern Region	14	506	42	722	0	3	56	1231	1287
Greater Accra Region	58	798	157	473	1	5	216	1276	1492
Western Region	28	497	113	319	5	10	146	808	954
Eastern Region	60	609	26	436	3	9	89	1054	1143
Upper East Region	30	667	68	486	1	3	98	1153	1251

g) Inter-party Dialogue for Women/Youth Organizers of Political Parties

Women and Youth Organizers of six (6) political parties (the Convention People’s Party (CPP), National Democratic Party (NDP), National Democratic Congress (NDC), Progressive People’s Party (PPP), New Patriotic Party (NPP) and People’s National Convention (PNC)) contesting the December 7th elections committed themselves and their constituents to Peace before, during and after the elections. They did this during two separate Inter-Party Dialogues were organized to engage them as part of the WSR process. The aim of the dialogue was to discuss with them election related issues as a way of opening channels of communication with the WSR-Ghana to build consensus on the need for peaceful elections. Each party was represented by at least one participant per region.

The first dialogue was with Women Organisers. After the women were briefed about the WSR process, there was an open forum where they discussed with the WSR team issues of concern around the elections which included the safety and security of the electorate as a result of pockets of violence among political opponents. They also spoke extensively about challenges facing women in politics which they said included financial constraint, unfair representation of women in male dominated party structures and environment, lack of training/education in leadership and political organization, lack of interest by women to stand for political positions, religion and cultural stigmatization of women among others.

At the end of the dialogue, the women were grateful for the platform offered them to discuss their concerns and issues affecting them as women in political parties. Through this they had realised that they shared common issues and challenges irrespective of their party affiliation, and therefore saw the need to come together as women to advocate for policies and programs

to be put in place to address the challenges confronting women to enable them participate effectively in the governance processes of the country. To continue the dialogue on women's participation in Politics, they created WhatsApp group of participants. The dialogue ended in a press conference where they shared issues from the dialogue and committed themselves and women in their parties to advocating for peaceful elections on December 7, 2016. In all Sixty – Nine (69) women's organizers from across the country participated in the Dialogue

The Youth Dialogue was the next for the National and Regional Youth Organizers of the six (6) political parties contesting the December 2016 elections. The dialogue was meant for the Youth Organizers to discuss their issues and highlight their concerns if any, on the electoral process ahead of the polls as well advocate for their support for promoting peace around the elections among their constituents.

The youth were briefed on the WSR-Ghana concept after which they posed questions on the activities of the Regional Coordinating Hubs, Elections Observations and the Youth Peer to Peer Peace Process. The main concerns of the youth organizers was about the engagement of vigilante groups and macho men by some political parties to intimidate their opponents on Election Day. They stressed the need for party agents to provide accurate information to their parties on polling day and that parties should desist from declaring election results on voting day to allow the EC to do so as stipulated by the election laws. The youth from the smaller parties bemoaned the lack of engagement by stakeholders compared to the two main political parties

Like the women, they were equally grateful for the platform created for them to discuss issues affecting them in their various political parties. They acknowledged that as youth they share common issues and challenges irrespective of their party affiliation and appreciated the camaraderie and respect they had shown to each other during the dialogue. They indicated that the dialogue had opened channels of communication for them which they needed to sustain as there were issues that needed to be discussed as Youth Organizers in political parties beyond the elections. The meeting ended with a press conference where they all made a commitment to Ghanaians to work with their parties to ensure elections. In all Sixty – One (61) Youth organizers, thirteen (13) of whom were females from across the country participated in the Dialogue.

h) Youth Peer to Peer Process

The WSR Youth Coordinating hubs led a process to mobilize and involve youth across their regions in peacebuilding activities targeting youth from all backgrounds, thereby contributing to Ghana's Peaceful elections. Since the youth are always tagged to be the perpetrators of violence, the approach by WSR as part of the process was to select youth coordinators across the regions and train them to mobilize their constituents to preach the message of peace to them. This process targeted youth of all categories with emphasis on unemployed youth and members of vigilante groups. The trained youth coordinators and their deputies were given the necessary logistical support such as IEC materials including banners and t-shirts and the platform including airtime to raise a sustained awareness on the need for peaceful elections among their peers. This they did reaching out to youth on the street, in churches and mosques, in local communities using street broadcast, film shows, floats, radio discussions, sharing of flyers, market outreach from August to end of November, 2016. In the first week

of December, four (4) days leading up to the elections, Youth Coordinating Hubs in all ten (10) regions held mass mobilization campaigns dubbed the 'The Youth Peace Torch' where the Youth Hubs selected five (5) districts each, perceived to be hotspot districts in their regions to conduct peace campaigns, in a "peace torch caravan". There was mass participation of youth in both formal and informal youth in raising awareness on the need for peaceful elections.

The process also sensitised key stakeholders such as politicians, traditional leaders, religious leaders on the need for everyone to promote peace before, during and after the 2016 general elections with the youth indicating their commitment to peace. The Youth Coordinators carried out these activities in the hotspot in coordination with the WSR hotspot focal persons. During the process, they also publicized the WSR toll free number, 0 800 100 100, across the districts in the Region.

i) Training and Deployment of Elections Observers

Four Hundred (400) Ghanaian women/female youth from across the country observed the December 7th elections to ensure free, fair and transparent elections, ensuring that women participate freely without any intimidation.

To enable them to be equipped with the required knowledge and skills to observe the elections they were provided with training on elections observation in the last week of November and then deployed with the necessary logistics to observe. The training sessions included topics on the Ghana Elections System, Step by Step Polling process in Ghana and the WSR-Ghana Elections Observation Process which included the observer checklists forms A, B and C that were designed to ensure that gender issues including Violence Against Women in Elections and challenges faced by persons with disabilities were captured.

The team of Observers were deployed two days to the elections and in pairs for security reasons. They were assigned to polling units where they were required to observe the entire voting process as stationary Observers. A special check list was designed for them to enable them capture the voting process from a gendered perspective with a section on violence against women. All Regional Coordinators and Deputies were to serve as mobile observers, tasked with observing as many polling stations as possible and recording their observation of the polls on 3 sets of checklists developed by ABIC, just like all the observers. Several role plays were used to ensure that the observers understood their role as well as their limitations very well.

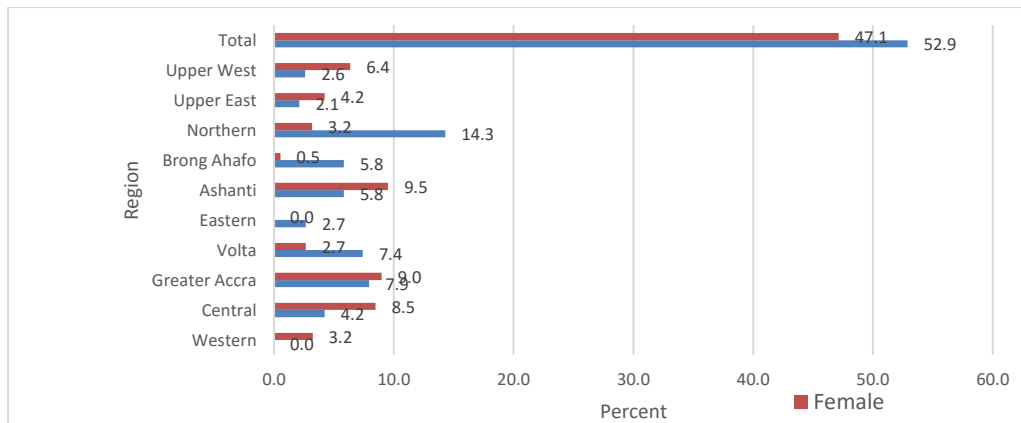
The Observers were given logistical supplies including observer kits comprising of a t-shirt, a cap and a bag containing information packs. They worked in pairs under the supervision of their Regional Coordinating Hubs. They also served as whistle blowers of threats and incidents of violence from the field as they made calls to the Call Centre of the physical Situation Room at the Holiday Inn Hotel to report mostly electoral related issues interspersed with few incidents of violence.

j) The Setting up and Operations of the Physical Women's Situation Room

The WSR-Ghana provided an early response mechanism through a team of Eminent Women Mediators from Ghana and Africa who made timely interventions to incidents reported to the room with the support of the Electoral Commission (EC) and Police Intervention Desks positioned in the Physical Women's Situation Room. Before, during and post-elections in

Ghana, a total of two hundred and fifty (250) reports were received by call operators and responded to as of 10th December 2016 when the situation room was formally closed. The incidence reports categories included; late start of the polls, electoral offences, inadequate security presence and spontaneous violence upon the announcement of results. Over forty-seven percent (47.6%) of the two hundred and fifty (250) calls received in the Room were made by females and a little over fifty-two (52.4) percent by were made by males. The percentage breakdown of cases received per region disaggregated by sex is found in Figure 2 below;

Figure 2: Sex of Person Reporting Incidence by Region of Occurrence



The Physical Situation Room was opened officially on the 5th of December, 2016 with a short ceremony attended by key electoral stakeholders, the media, development Partners, Women’s Groups, CSOs and Donors support the WSR-Ghana. The ceremony was crowned with the presentation of the ten (10) Youth Torches that have been going through five districts in each region to the Eminent Women to indicate the commitment of the Youth to peaceful elections.

The physical Situation Room was setup at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Accra. The work of the Eminent Women was supported by a team of four (4) analysts comprising of a female Legal Analyst, a male Political Analyst, a female Data analyst, a male Data Entry Clerk and a female Media Analyst who worked closely with the WSR-Ghana Secretariat to ensure the smooth functioning of the Room. The physical Situation Room comprised of three (3) rooms:

- i. **The Eminent Women Mediators’ Room:** - This is where incident reports from the field were resolved in a timely manner by the team of Eminent Women Mediators with technical support from ABIC and the team of Analysts. This room also hosted visitors to the Situation Room who were taken through the entire peace building process including a conducted tour of the Operations Centre which was the nerve center of the entire process. Visitors to this room had the opportunity to sign the Peace Cloth with their peace messages and were given brochures of the WSR-Ghana.
- ii. **The Youth Room:** - The room hosted twelve (12) ECOWAS Youth who had been brought in to support the Ghanaian Youth to ensure peaceful elections, as well as eight (8) Ghanaian Youth leaders of known gangs who are normally used by political parties to “settle scores” which often result in violent acts. This room was situated next to the Eminent Women Mediators’ Room.

- iii. **The Operations Center:** - The Operations Center hosted a fifteen (15) unit Call Centre, Police and EC Intervention Desks, the team of Analysts, the Conveners and the Secretariat as well as Ghana Decides, a blogging communications project that partnered with the WSR-Ghana Secretariat.

A best practice was the introduction of desks for groups from some agencies and African countries who came to Ghana to observe the process for possible replication in their countries; these include, a mission from Kenya comprising a representative from UN Women Kenya and two (2) representatives from government and the Uwiano Platform for Peace-Kenya, a mission from Somaliland comprising a representative of UN Women from the Greater Horn of Africa that covers Somaliland and two representatives from the NAGAAD Movement of Women's Organizations in Somaliland; the UNOWAS Mission comprising a Communications Officer at UNOWAS Senegal and three (3) women from the UNOWAS Working Group of Women Peace builders from Togo, Mauritania and Benin as well as two (2) representatives of UN Women from the Dakar office.

The Call Center comprised of fifteen (15) computers manned by forty-five (45) youth on a three (3) shifts a day schedule, as Call Operators. They received reports of threats and incidents of violence from the field via the toll-free number, 0-800-100-100, recorded all reports on Incident Report Forms which were then handed over to the team of Eminent Women Mediators. The Eminent Women sorted them out, assigning them to the appropriate Intervention Desks for resolution. The Eminent Women Mediators also resolved some of the issues with guidance from the team of Analysts. The Call Centre solution including the toll-free number was provided by Airtel Ghana, a communication company at a discounted rate.

3. COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Regional Coordinating Hubs particularly built on existing partnerships/platforms that their organizations had and are part of, to propagate WSR-Ghana message of peace and security. There were effective and impactful collaborations with institutions such as the National Peace Council, the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), The Electoral Commission and the Regional Election Early Warning and Response Group (REEWAG). A few of these partnerships/collaborations are elaborated below;

FOSDA

The WSR-Ghana had close collaboration with FOSDA whose trained Peace Ambassadors were recruited as Focal Persons in some of the WSR-Ghana hotspots. The agreement was to have their Peace Ambassadors capture incidents of VAW in Elections on behalf of the WSR-Ghana and send in security reports from areas not covered by the WSR-Ghana Focal Persons.

THE GHANA NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL

The Regional Offices of the National Peace Council (NPC) supported the activities of the Coordinating Hubs by hosting some of the hubs, inviting each other to program activities and the Regional NPC Officers created platforms for the hubs to speak and engage stakeholders to support the call for peaceful elections.

The NPC also participated in major activities of the national process including giving goodwill messages at the Launch of the WSR-Ghana and the Formal Opening of the physical Situation Room. The Team of Eminent Women Mediators also paid a formal visit to the NPC/WANEP Situation Room after the polls to update them about their work and get updates on the political situation after the polls of 7th December 2016. Both groups agreed to monitor the situation closely and call on the Eminent Women Mediators to intervene in the event of threats/incidents of violence.

GHANA DECIDES PROJECT

The WSR-Ghana collaborated with Ghana Decides known as The VOICES Campaign which is a Blogging Ghana project supported by STAR-Ghana. The project seeks to promote the youth and marginalized VOICES towards a peaceful, credible, issue-based and inclusive 2016 elections using online and offline collaborative platforms.

There were two (2) areas of collaboration namely access to TV Discussion Programs including the popular ‘State of Affairs’ on GH One TV and the assignment of teams of bloggers who worked in two (2) shifts to blog about activities in the physical situation room from 6th – 10th December 2016. In Blogging Ghana’s (BloGH) statement on the elections, they indicated “The vigilance of Ghanaian electoral observers and monitors like WANEP, CODEO, IDEG, and the Women’s Situation Room, as well as, international observer missions from the African Union, the Commonwealth and the National Democratic Institute also helped ensure successful elections”.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

The WSR Ghana used the media successfully as a tool for sensitization on the need for peace before, during and after the December 7th 2016 elections. Communication and media engagement was guided by a communication strategy which had the objective to ensure that the Women’s Situation Room’s organizational identity is not compromised or distorted; that key stakeholders and audiences understand the concept and objectives of the Women’s Situation Room in Ghana; that information about the Women’s Situation Room’s activities reach target stakeholders; that the media propagates the concept, messages and objectives of WSR Ghana and provide visibility for WSR Ghana’s toll-free number.

Media Attendance at WSR Ghana events during the period

Event	Media Present
Cocktail with President Sirleaf – 2nd December, 2016 @ Labadi Beach Hotel	GTV
	TV3
	Ghana News Agency
	Business Day
	GBC Radio
	Ghanaian Times
	Pulse.com
WSR Ghana Press Conference Calling for Peace – 8th December, 2016 @ Holiday Inn (Eminent Women’s Room)	Citi FM
	GTV
	3FM
	Crusading Guide
	Ghana News Agency
Ghanaian Times	

	Business Day
WSR Ghana Final Press Conference – 10th December, 2016 @ Holiday Inn (Physical Situation Room)	Viasat One
	Joy News
	Metro TV
	Ghana News Agency
	Class FM
	Crusading Guide
	Daily Graphic

Media Coverage Report on WSR Ghana

Date	Media	Headline/Web Link
	Online	
12/05/16	Ghana News Agency	http://www.ghananewsagency.org/social/women-s-situation-room-process-started-in-ghana-103757
04/08/16	Graphic.com	http://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/women-s-role-relevant-in-violence-free-elections.html
27/09/16	Graphic.com	http://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/women-situation-room-to-collaborate-with-police-to-deal-with-election-violence.html
18/10/16	Peacefmonline	http://www.peacefmonline.com/pages/politics/politics/201610/295477.php
24/10/16	Myjoyonline	http://www.myjoyonline.com/politics/2016/October-24th/women-group-to-help-mediate-elections-violence.php
26/10/16	Today	http://www.todaygh.com/wsr-ghana-support-dec7-polls/
11/12/16	Ghana News Agency	http://www.ghananewsagency.org/politics/guard-your-peace-jealously-sirleaf-johnson-to-ghanaians-110852
02/12/16	Ghana Web	http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Guard-your-peace-jealously-Sirleaf-Johnson-to-Ghanaians-491883
03/12/16	Peacefmonline.com	http://www.peacefmonline.com/pages/local/news/201612/300023.php
03/12/16	Newsjs.com	http://www.newsjs.com/za/guard-your-peace-jealously/dp3s_pcaNkibM9M4f305PkopoNKMM/
03/12/16	Announcernewsonline.com	http://announcernewsonline.com/guard-your-peace-jealously-sirleaf-johnson-to-ghanaians-p21211-122.htm
06/12/16	Modern Ghana	https://www.modernghana.com/news/741417/airtel-business-supports-women-situation-room-with-call-ce.html
08/12/16	Todaygh.com	http://www.todaygh.com/airtel-business-supports-wsr-call-centre-observe-2016-polls/
09/12/16	News Ghana	https://www.newsghana.com.gh/group-calls-on-all-to-remain-calm-ahead-of-results-declaration/
11/12/16	Ghana News Agency	http://www.ghananewsagency.org/politics/women-s-situation-room-ghana-congratulates-ghanaians-111252
11/12/16	Ghana News Agency	http://www.ghananewsagency.org/politics/ghana-has-made-africa-proud-councillor-chesson-wureh-111251
14/12/16	Graphic.com	http://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/women-s-situation-room-ghana-congratulates-all.html
	Print	
03/12/16	Ghanaian Times	Make Africa proud - Front page and 3

07/12/16	Daily Graphic	WSR Ghana Advert – Page 22
07/12/16	Ghanaian Times	Women’s Situation Room Opened – Page 25
08/12/16	Ghanaian Times	Women’s Situation Room calls for Peace – Page 18
08/12/16	Crusading Guide	WSR Ghana’s Eminent Women call for Calm and Peace – Page 6
14/12/16	Daily Graphic	Women’s Situation Room Ghana congratulates all – Page 13
Radio		
18/10/16	P	
03/12/16	Citi FM	President Sirleaf calls for peaceful election
03/12/16	Peace FM	Guard your peace jealously, President Sirleaf Advises
06/12/16	3 FM	Women Situation Room to help achieve peaceful polls
08/12/16	GBC Radio	Women’s Situation Room calls for peace
10/12/16	Joy FM	Women’s Situation Room congratulates Ghana
Television		
03/12/16	TV3	President Sirleaf urges peaceful polls in Ghana
06/12/16	Joy News	Interview with WSR Ghana on PM Express
06/12/16	GH One	Interview with WSR Ghana on State of Affairs
07/12/16	Viasat One	Interview with WSR Ghana on This Morning
09/12/16	GTV	Interview with WSR Ghana on Midday News
10/12/16	Metro TV	Live coverage of Final Press Conference of WSR Ghana
10/12/16	Joy News	Live coverage of Final Press Conference of WSR Ghana
10/12/16	Joy News	Post press conference in-studio interview with WSR Ghana

SAMPLE MEDIA CUTOUTS



Women's situation room opened

THE Women's Situation Room (WSR), a women-led peace building mechanism that embraces the youth to mitigate conflict before, during and after elections, has officially opened the Physical Women's Situation Room.

It has also handed over Youth Peace Torches from all 10 regions of Ghana to Eminent Women at a ceremony in Accra.

The event was attended by all major stakeholders in the peace and development spectrum in Ghana, including dignitaries from organisations sponsoring the initiative: United Nations Development Programme, African Women Development Fund, UN Women, UNOWAS, Canadian and the Norwegian governments.

The award-winning Women's Situation room is endorsed by the African Union, and has been replicated successfully in Liberia, Nigeria, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

Earlier on Friday, the Liberian President, Champion of WSR and Chair of ECOWAS, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, praised the initiative, saying "The Women Situation Room is a successful peace-building and conflict mitigation initiative and it has been deployed, tested and result-oriented."

WSR Ghana's Physical Situation Room, on a 24-hour basis, will monitor the 2016 elections and assist in mitigating conflict before, during and after the elections through its carefully se-



Counselor Yvette Chesson-Wureh addressing the forum

lected Ghanaian and African eminent women, and over 120 focal persons situated in all the identified hotspots across the country.

Additionally, youth leaders across all 10 regions of Ghana who have been massively mobilised to support the women's call for peaceful elections, exem-

plifying the commitment of the Ghanaian youth across all regions of Ghana to peace, handed over peace torches to eminent women.

The initiator of the Women's Situation Room, Counselor Yvette Chesson-Wureh, reiterated the need for peace, stating: "We

cannot be complacent about peace, we need to keep working at it."

Representatives of partner organisations delivered goodwill messages and commended the initiative.

The WSR Ghana's Physical Situation Room has a toll-free

number (0800-100-100) that is accessible across all networks, and anyone from across Ghana could call to report any act of violence, voting anomaly or violence against women, for the intervention of WSR Ghana's robust conflict mitigation process.

Ghanaian Times, 7th December, 2016

The Ghanaian Times - Saturday, December 3, 2016 Website: www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh Page 3

News

Liberian President appeals to Ghanaians: Make Africa proud

By Yaw Kyei



PRESIDENT John Dramani Mahama has declared three days of fasting and prayers for continuous peace and stability as the country goes to the poll on December 7.

The prayers began yesterday and would end on December 4.

This was contained in a press statement issued in Accra on Thursday by the Ministry of Communications, and signed by the sector Minister, Dr. Edward K. Omasse-Boamah.

The President urged Christians and Muslims as well as people of other faiths to dedicate three days to fast and pray for the nation, ahead of the elections.

"As we fast and pray for continuous peace and stability in Ghana before, during and after the elections, the President is further urging all to dedicate their specific days of worship - Friday, Saturday and Sunday - to pray to God to intercede for Ghana," the statement said.

It said it was the belief of the President that through fasting and prayers, supported by appropriate measures and actions on the part of all stakeholders, "our dear nation will once again demonstrate to the world that Ghana is not only the beacon of hope for Africa's democracy but also a nation ready and willing to continue on the path of progress and prosperity for all."

The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, thanked the Liberian President for her contribution towards a peaceful election in the country.

While commending the various candidates for their pledge towards a peaceful election, he urged Ghanaians to "hold their feet to the fire" to ensure that they remained committed to their pledges.

He said the WSR's activities had a great impact on the successful elections in Nigeria and Guinea and urged the group to help Ghana to go through a successful election.

"I will continue to encourage you to advocate for peace and observe the election to ensure that it becomes a success," he said.

WSR is sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), African Women's Development Fund, UN Women, UNOWAS, Canadian government and the Norwegian Embassy.

Its goal is to ensure that in accordance with the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) of the African Union, women, in collaboration with the youth, play active and substantive roles in ensuring and sustaining peaceful elections in African countries where it exists.

Ms. Sirleaf, the president of Liberia, is leading the ECOWAS Observer Mission, to monitor the general elections on Wednesday, December 7. She said the continent would be looking forward to Ghana to make it proud, and added that Ghanaians could not afford to disappoint.

The Liberian President made these remarks at a ceremony organised by the Women's Situation Room (WSR) Ghana, a women-led peace building organisation, on Thursday night.

She said Ghana had gone through successful elections in the past, and was confident that the country would have another successful election, but urged peace advocates such as WSR Ghana to continue to preach peace.

She said Liberians would continue to support Ghana because her country enjoyed a lot of support from Ghana when it faced crises.

She commended the WSR Ghana, which had employed 400 female observers to monitor the election nationwide, and urged the members to continue to work hard to ensure a successful election.

Mr. Freddie Blay, NPP Chairman

Women's Situation Room calls for peace

THE Women Situation Room's (WSR) group of Eminent Women is appealing to all political parties and other stakeholders in this year's Presidential and Parliamentary elections to remain calm as we wait for the declaration of the elections results by the Electoral Commission. The WSR Ghana is also calling on the youth to remain committed to the electoral process and peace.

The group, which consists of eminent Ghanaian women and public opinion leaders, together with their international counterparts from across Africa, have been involved in a peace-building process for about six months leading up to this 2016 general elections.

"We are calling on all Ghanaians to continue to maintain the level of peace that was demonstrated yesterday throughout the country when voting occurred.

As mothers, we are appealing on youth across the country to remain calm and exercise patience as the Electoral Commission works towards declaring the results of the elections," they said in unison.

The group congratulates the political parties, security services, electoral commission, the media, women, youths and all Ghanaians for the peaceful exercise of their franchise.

The group encourages all Ghanaians to put Ghana first. Peace is in our hands.

The Women Situation Room was officially opened on Monday, and Youth Peace Torchets from all 10 regions of Ghana were handed over to the eminent women.

The award-winning Women's Situation Room is endorsed by the African Union and has been replicated successfully in Liberia, Nigeria, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

Earlier on Friday, the Liberian President, Champion of WSR and Chair for ECOWAS, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf praised the initiative, saying, "The Women Situation Room is a successful peace-building and conflict mitigation initiative and it has been deployed, tested and result-oriented."

WSR Ghana's Physical Situation Room, on a 24-hour basis, was to monitor the 2016 elections and assist in mitigating conflict before, during and after the elections through its carefully-selected Ghanaian and African eminent women and over 120 focal persons situated in all the identified hotspots across the country.

Additionally, youth leaders across all ten regions of Ghana had been massively mobilised to support the women's call for peaceful elections, exemplifying the commitment of the Ghanaian youth across all regions of Ghana to peace.

The WSR Ghana's Physical Situation Room has a toll-free number (0800-100-100) that is accessible across all networks and anyone from across Ghana can call to report any act of violence, voting anomaly or violence against women, for the intervention of WSR Ghana's robust conflict mitigation process.

In case of any act of violence or violence against women, please call 0800100100.



Mr. Dominic Sam (middle), UNDP Country Director with the eminent women

MODERN GHANA Mahama's Daughter Write

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Elections | 6 December 2016 20:27 CET

Airtel Business Supports 'Women Situation Room' With Call Center Solution To Observe 2016 Elections

By Raphael Aidoo Nyame

Previous | Next



Modern Ghana, 6th December, 2016



3FM, 6th December, 2016



GTV, 9th December, 2016- Initiator, WSR, National Coordinator, WSR Ghana and Prof. Kuenyehia, Eminent Woman being interviewed



Joy News, PM Express, 6th December, 2016 –Initiator, WSR and one of the eminent women being interviewed

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ELECTION 2016

Women's Situation Room Ghana congratulates all

GNA / 14 DECEMBER 2016

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Appendix II: Samples of some communications materials Backdrop for the Physical Women's Situation Room, Ghana



WSR Ghana Toll-free sticker for car branding, social media, etc



WSR Ghana flier and Newspaper advertorial



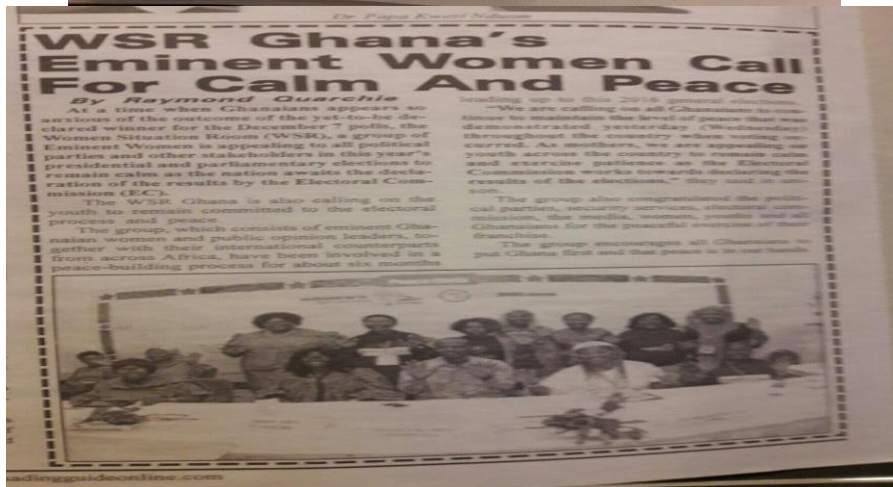
Front Cover of the WSR Ghana Update/Newsletter



The WSR Team with the AU Observer Team in the Physical Situation Room



WSR-Ghana featured in the Daily Graphic & the Ghanaian Times Newspapers.



WSR-Ghana at GTV Studios, Accra.



The Women's Situation Room congratulates Ghanaians for Peaceful Elections

- | Updated Dec 13, 2016 at 10:41am <http://www.gbcghana.com/1.10446279>

The Eminent Women Mediators to meet Youth Leaders of NDC and NPP Today

- | Updated Dec 09, 2016 at 4:50am <http://www.gbcghana.com/1.10339764>

Women Situation Room holds dialogue with political parties

- | Updated Nov 17, 2016 at 9:48pm <http://www.gbcghana.com/1.10190610>

Election 2016: Women's Situation Room launched to ensure peace

- | Updated Nov 15, 2016 at 9:41pm <http://www.gbcghana.com/1.10180059>

5. REFLECTIONS ON THE WSR-GHANA PROCESS

A Reflections Meeting was held on Saturday, 10th December 2016 at the Physical Situation Room of the WSR-Ghana at the Holiday Inn Hotel for thirty-nine (39) persons representing the Eminent Women Mediators, the Conveners, the Working Group Members, the Call Operators, the team of Analysts, the Youth and the WSR –Ghana Secretariat. The reflections were later extended to include all forty (40) Regional Women Coordinators, who individually shared their thoughts on the process by completing an evaluation form or by telephone interviews.

The objectives of the reflections were to assess the impact of the WSR process in Ghana, to identify the successes, challenges, lessons learned and best practices to guide replication of the process in other African countries for maximum impact. Below is a summary of issues documented.

k) SUCCESSES

- Women and the youth took charge of the process and their political awareness was increased during the elections. The process allowed for more women and youth to be involved in the process of elections.
- Training workshops were interactive and use of simulation and role plays made it easy for participants to understand concepts
- The 1000 women March was the most successful activity as Ghanaian women were mobilised to come out and advocate for peace.
- Mainstreaming of the youth in every aspect of the process ensured their full participation and facilitated the dissemination of peace message among their peers which were well received.
- Effective collaboration with key institutions such as the National Peace Council, the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Regional Election Early Warning and response Group(REEWAG) was important for the sustainability of results
- Acknowledgement of the role of the WSR-Ghana by the Chairperson of the Election Commission during her declaration of the results
- The Ghana Education Service approving WSR Clubs in Senior High Schools and Basic Schools in some regions.

- Women groups and youth groups invited the regional hubs for numerous peace programmes as well as settling youth political disputes.
- Effective team work. Good leadership displayed. High commitment of regional coordinating hub members. Effective community outreaches. Use of the Focal Persons made it possible to reach out to many women and youth on the WSR process.
- Communities calling the regional coordinating hubs from hotspot communities to organize peace campaigns and outreaches.
- Involvement of the ‘ghetto’ youth’ achieved a lot. They ensured that their people stayed put.

l) LESSONS LEARNT

- Dialogue meetings with political parties should be started early before campaign starts as once campaigning starts, it is difficult to access them.
- Improved and clear communication lines with the national secretariat to enable efficient work on the process.
- The planning process should be started at least six (6) months before rolling out the process in a country.
- Working with women’s associations requires improved social lifestyles, improved public relations and improved organisational skills.
- Peace advocacy works best with grassroots mobilization.
- Both formal and informal youth groups when properly engaged could promote peace rather than perpetrating violence
- Use of the Focal Persons made it possible to reach out to many women and youth on the WSR process.
- Working with major key stakeholders harnessed a lot of success for the WSR.
- The engagement with political parties and all introductory visits were very beneficial to the success of the process

m) CHALLENGES

- Inadequate funding and logistics to the regional hubs limited the number of outreach activities they could have undertake
- Three (3) months was too short a period for the implementation of work plans. This put a lot of strain on the Hubs.
- Observers and some Focal Persons were not in areas with a reliable phone network. Hence, it was sometimes difficult to communicate. This sometimes resulted in delays in the ability of the hubs to respond to issues.
- The limited choice of hotspot constituencies posed a challenge, as violence erupted in some key ones not selected. It took a while for Focal Persons to get information on them for timely response.
- Competing with politicians to mobilize the youth to talk to them was challenging as politicians mostly gave the youth money while the WSR team did not.

- Delay in the start of media engagement, which to some extent limited visibility of the process at the initial stages
- The Physical Situation Room did not have a first aid centre/ kit and/or a 24hr access to proper medical service.

n) BEST PRACTICES

- Uniformity of messages and materials for all activities in all ten regions made the voices of the WSR-Ghana teams one and loud. It showed oneness and purpose driven agenda for peace.
- Partnering with other organisations (including the Police, NCCE, EC) to identify hotspots, as well as carry out activities together enabled the coordinating hubs have more impact.
- Collaborating with other Partners activities to use their platforms for propagating the peace messages was equally a best practice in the face of inadequate funds.
- Mainstreaming of the youth into every aspect of the WSR-Ghana system and structure ensured ownership of the process by the youth of Ghana; ensured their active participation.
- The UNDP mode of payment even though slowed the process, was one of the best financial practices as it ensured transparency and accountability.

o) RECOMMENDATIONS

- The implementation of the initiative for effective impact must start at least six (6) months to the election.
- The toll-free number should be acquired and publicised long before the physical Situation Room is set up. The capacity of female political aspirants should be factored into the WSR to support them both morally and financially.
- Experience of other countries must be documented and published to inform new participating countries on the best way to effectively replicate the WSR
- Budgetary allocation should take care of the needs of persons with disabilities including hiring sign language interpreters when necessary
- Early recruitments of the National Coordinator and a National Youth Coordinator is critical for the success of the programme.
- All persons working with the WSR process such as members of the regional coordinating hubs and focal persons, must be provided with identity cards.

ANNEXES

6. Annex 1 – List of Regional Hub staff

List of Regional Women and Youth Coordinators and Deputies of the WSR-Ghana

S/N	Region	Name of Person	Occupation	Organisation
1	Upper West			
	Women’s Coordinator	Kate Bob-Milliar	Executive Director	Upper West Rural Women's Association
	Deputy Women’s Coordinator	Jane - Frances Lobnibe	Lecturer	University for Development Studies- Wa Campus
	Youth Coordinator	Mumuni Sulemana	Regional Director	National Youth Authority, Wa
	Deputy Youth Coordinator	Edna Rukayatu Bunkun	Unemployed	
2	Ashanti			
	Women’s Coordinator	Lily-Versta Nyarko	Teacher	Kumasi Senior High Technical School
	Deputy Women’s Coordinator	Cynthia Yaa Acquah	Teacher	Kumasi Senior High Technical School
	Youth Coordinator	Joshua Samson Amisah	Unemployed	
	Deputy Youth Coordinator	Mariam Abass Mohammed	Unemployed	
3	Greater Accra			
	Women’s Coordinator	Lois Aduamoah-Addo	Programme Officer	WILDAF
	Deputy Women’s Coordinator	Georgina Elinam Torkornoo	Project Coordinator	Women International League for Peace
	Youth Coordinator	Wisdom Nana Hedezome	National Service	Ghana Institute of Journalism
	Deputy Youth Coordinator	Cynthia Sunu	Programme Assistant	NETRIGHT
4	Western			
	Women’s Coordinator	Ms. Beatrice Ekua Ansah- Eshon	Executive Coordinator	ATCWAR
	Deputy Women’s Coordinator	Alberta Adua Attoh	Project Assistant	ATCWAR

	Youth Coordinator	Bernard Eshun	Member of the Private Stake holders Team	ATCWAR
	Deputy Youth Coordinator	Alberta A. K. Kwofie	Unemployed	
5	Volta			
	Women's Coordinator	Nana Kugbeadzor-Bakateyi II	CEO and Founder	GLOWA
	Deputy Women's Coordinator	Georgina Nutefe Akos Borlu	Project Coordinator (Part time)	GLOWA
	Youth Coordinator	Isaaka Abdul-Hakim	Project Coordinator	GLOWA
	Deputy Youth Coordinator	Edith Abla Amenuvor	Radio Presenter	GBC
6	Brong Ahafo			
	Women's Coordinator	Vida Korang	Lecturer	Catholic University College of Ghana (Fiapre)
	Deputy Women's Coordinator	Diana Kaabe	Unemployed	
	Youth Coordinator	Phebe Abugri	Grants and Training Coordinator	Global Alliance for Development Foundation
	Deputy Youth Coordinator	Emmanuel Taa-Amoako	Administrator	KinderCare Learning Complex
7	Central Region			
	Women's Coordinator	Gladys Afua Kwatema Yamoah	Radio Presenter	Ghana Golden Star Fm (Agona-Swedru)
	Deputy Women's Coordinator	Peace Gyadu	Unemployed	
	Youth Coordinator	Nanette Keeba Adutwum	Secretary/ Programme Coordinator	(CSIR- STEPRI), Action Against Rural Poverty-Ghana
	Deputy Youth Coordinator	Isaac Affum	Unemployed	

8	Eastern			
	Women's Coordinator	Lucy Anim	Founder/ Coordinator	Women Development & Youth Based Association
	Deputy Women's Coordinator	Assinyo Evelyn	Organizer	Women Development & Youth Based Association
	Youth Coordinator	Stephen Eghan	Accounts Officer	Women Development & Youth Based Association
	Deputy Youth Coordinator	Gertrude Victoria A. Addy	Teacher	Obretema Basic Primary School
9	Northern			
	Women's Coordinator	Ali Dawud Nadiatu	Program Director	Youth Entrepreneurship Social Advancement Centre (YESAC) P.O. Box 169 TAMALE
	Deputy Women's Coordinator	Safia Musah	Facilitator	West African Dialogue on Private Climate Financing Project, IBIS Ghana, Tamale
	Youth Coordinator	MohammedAwal Abdallah	Unemployed	
	Deputy Youth Coordinator	Yussif Sa-ada	Unemployed	
10	Upper East			
	Women's Coordinator	Fati Abigail Abdulai	Director	Widows and Orphans Movement (WOM) Bolgatanga, Upper East Region

Deputy Women's Coordinator	Patience Azuah Kachana	Administrative & Finance Officer	PRADA Bolgatanga
Youth Coordinator	Christopher Asima Kevin	Broadcast Journalist	Radio A1 Bolgatanga
Deputy Youth Coordinator	Cynthia Lola	Unemployed	

7. Annex 2 – WSR Hotspots

Hotspots

S/N	REGION	# OF HOTSPOTS	# OF FOCAL PERSONS
1	Northern Region	13	13
2	Western Region	12	12
3	Eastern Region	05	05
4	Upper West Region	06	06
5	Brong Ahafo Region	06	06
6	Greater Accra Region	12	14
7	Ashanti Region	11	13
8	Central Region	09	09
9	Volta Region	14	28
10	Upper East Region	10	10

8. Annex 3 – List of Focal Persons & Hotspot Areas

LIST OF FOCAL PERSONS AND HOTSPOT AREAS

Hotspots	Names
NORTHERN (15)	
Tamale Central	Edmond Gyebi Iddrisu Suraya Kpabia
Tamale North	Abdul Basit Abdul Rahaman Mohammed Jamaldeen Wumpini
Sagnerigu	Ibrahim Yussif

Yendi	Apuri Yaw Williams Alhassan Eliasu
Walewale	Mohammed Sule
Kpandai	Kanjor Kojo
Salaga South	Mumuni Daramani Mahama
Gushegu	Daniel Baminyan Konlan
Bunkprugu Yonyoo	Duut Judges Yenube
Karaga	Adam Alhassan
Savelugu	Iddrisu Abdul Rauf
Central Gonja	Nantoma B. Awudu
WESTERN (12)	
Ellembelle/Jomoro	Mark Asmah Arthur
Mpohor	Yaw Nketsiah Mensah
Ahanta West/Nzema East	Micheal Kwaw Nyarku
Shama	Emmanuel Kingsley Baidoo
Sefwi Wiawso	Raymond Nkuah Ennin
Sefwi Akontombra	Ernest Adu- Gyamfi
Bia West	Margaret Sam Otoo
Suaman	Gabriel George Andoh
Juaboso	Peter Koumassi
Sekondi- Takoradi	Richard Quayson
Prestea Huni Valley	Grace Menyi- Sey
Tarkwa Nsuem	Andrews Dadzie
UPPER WEST (06)	
Jirapa	Haruna Zinentah
Nandom	Victor Imoru Saadong
Lawra	Lotaa Shaibu
Wa-East	Daudi Mustapha
Wa-West	Poleenaa Shaibu Sumaila
Wa Central	Godwin Baapure Bob-Milliar
EASTERN REGION (06)	
Akwatia	Faiza Mansur
Suhum	George Ankoh
Abuakwa South	Abigail Dom
Abuakwa North	Samuel Aboagye
Abetifi	Kwashie Klu-Duvor
Koforidua	Augustina K.K. Quaynor
BRONG AHAFO (06)	
Tain	Nicholas Amoh Kwadwo
Nkoranza	Foster Opoku Antwi
Asunafo North /South	Kwadwo Waye Obeng

Asutifi South	George Antwi	
Techiman North/South	Mustapha M Yeboah	
Atebubu Amantin	Mas-ud Abdul Hameed	
GREATER ACCRA (12)		
Accra Metropolitan	Fanny Nana Ampon Samuel Osabutey	
Ablekuma North	Henrietta Mensah	
Ablekuma South	Robert Issah	
Ablekuma West	Joana Boateng	
Ayawaso Central	Khadijatu Iddrisu	
Ayawaso East	Wisdom Osabutey Anikon	
KlotteyKorle	Rachel Ayikwei	
Odododiodoo	Gabrial Awoody	
Ashaiman	Hamza Mohammed Awal	
Ningo-Prampram	Clement Morton	
Weija	Nana Akwesi Aggei	
ASHANTI (16)		
Kumasi Metropolitan	Kofi Adu Domfeh Fatima Yasmin Appiedu	Amina Abubakar Florence Obuur
Ahafo-Ano North	Francis Cudjoe	Abaogyee Yaa Okyere
Adansi North	Asiedu Prince	
Adansi South	Shadrack Kwame Frimpong	
Amansie West	Eric Nsiah	
Afigya Kwabre	John Amadiku	Jennifer Awuah
Ejura Sekyedumase	Marfo Richard	
Sekyere East	Asunkona Isaac Kwartey	
Sekyere West	John Essandoh	
Ahafo Ano South	Christopher Dapaah,	Haruna Ibrahim
CENTRAL (09)		
Mfantseman	Fatimah Amfoh	
Ekumfi District	Richard Bentum	
Effutu Municipal	Abdul Hameed Amponsah	
Assin North	Oscar Adewu	
Assin Central	Georgina Ama Wiredu	
Assin South	Joyce Adzido	
Cape Coast South	Louis Owusu Koranteng	
Cape Coast North	Ibrahim Adam	
Awutu Senya West	Angela Morgan Davies	
VOLTA (30)		
Biakoye	Cosmos Sarpong	
Nkwanta South	Issaka Buhari	Evans Pascoe

Ketu North	Dushie Gloria	Hamenu Mawuli
Akatsi-North & South	Selorm Kweku Tettey Torkpo Jonas	Wonder Gatepe Saviour Bedzra,
Hohoe	Innocent Kugbeadzor John Adom Nyankrah	Raymond Ampah
South Tongu	Gborglah Louis	Amedodzi Alex
Nkwanta North	Agbledzo Richard Sakah Mohammed Ishmael	Uthman Abass Seidu Mohammed
Ho Municipal	Andrew Junior Asare	Jacob Ambor
Adaklu	Dzanku Agbeko	
Akan/Kadjebi	Latifa Fudu	
Kpassa	Seidu Mohammed	Kodua Isaac
Ketu South Municipal	Paul Michael Kuvodu	Komi Massabalo Bahuate
South Dayi	Bless Golloh	
Buem	Hubert Donkor	
Sogakope	Godwin Cool	
Sogoleopo	Amedoadzi Alex	
UPPER EAST (8)		
Builsa South	Moro Justice	
Builsa North	Sulemana Shaibu	
Kassena Nankana Municipal	Josephine Azooreyem	
Kassena Nankana West	Martha Akawegre	
Bolgatanga	Anaba Mavis	
Bongo	Asanyuure Hannah Talata	
Nabdam	Bawa Raphael	
Bawku West	Aguriba David	
Total # of Focal Persons	120	

9. Annex 4 – List of WSR Ghanaian Eminent Women

A. THE WSR-GHANA LIST AND CONTACTS OF EMINENT WOMEN

S/N	Name	Occupation	Address	Status
1	Prof. Akua Kuenyehia	Supreme Court Judge	Mariville Homes Spintex Road Accra	Resident
2	Prof. Henrietta Joy Abena Nyarko Mensa-Bonsu	Educationist	P. O. Box LG 25 Legon	On Call
3	Prof. Ama Ata Aidoo	Writer	Lashibi	Resident

			Accra	
4	Madam Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame	Global Advocacy Adviser	1 st Floor Densu Point Wawa Avenue North Dzorwolu Accra	Resident
5	Mrs. Safuratu Muhammed-Andani	Engineer	Cantonments Accra	Resident
6	Rev. Dr. Joyce R. Aryee	Pastor	Salt & Light Ministries P.O.Box AN 15007 Accra North	On Call
7	Ms. Afi Yakubu	Medical Practitioner Peace & Security Campaigner	Regimmanuel Grey Estates Accra	Resident
8	Mrs. Sabina Ofori-Boateng	Retired Civil Servant	#1 Mango Street, Platinum Place Regimmanuel Estates Spintex Road, Accra	Resident
9	Naa Koteitsoo Aframanso 1	Queen Mother	P.O.Box CT 9807 Cantonments, Accra	Resident

10. Annex 5 – List of WSR Conveners & Secretariat Staff

A. THE WSR-GHANA LIST OF CONVENERS

S/N	Organization	Representative	Position
1	ABANTU for Development (ABANTU)	Dr. Rose Mensah Kutin	Executive Director
2	Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)	Ms. Angela Bannerman	General Secretary
3	Gender Center for Empowering Development (GenCED)	Ms. Esther Tawiah	Executive Director
4	Ghana Federation of Disabled Organizations (GFD)	Ms. Rita Kusi	
5	Women's Manifesto Coalition (WMC)	Ms. Mardey Ohui Ofoe	Member

B. THE WSR-GHANA SECRETARIAT

S/N	Name	Position	Contact
1	Adwoa Bame	National Coordinator	(020) 870 7307
2	Barbara Sangare	International Coordinator	(055) 737 1220
3	Juliana Yorke	Communications Officer	(027) 550 4073
4	Annabelle Pwalia	Administrative Officer	(050) 398 5127
5	Francisca Baffoe-Ashun	Volunteer	(020) 793 4425
6	Lawrence Amevor	Volunteer	(054) 107 5314
7	Victor Ricardo Smith	Volunteer	(020) 936 6611

11. Annex 6 – WSR Elections Observation Forms: A, B & C

**WSR ELECTIONS OBSERVATION FORM – A
GHANA December 2016**

OPENING OF THE POLLS

N.B. Arrive at the polling station (PS) at least 30 minutes before the opening of polls

Name of Observer.....

District District Code.....

Constituency Constituency Code.....

Name of PS.....PS Code (if any).....

Time of Arrival at the PS Time of Departure

Part 1 - Opening of the Polls

1. What was the number of voters on the main voters’ register/roll/list?

.....

2. Was there any proxy list to be used for voting? Yes..... No

If yes, what is the list called?

3. Were security personnel present at the PS? Yes.....No.....If yes, how many?
..... How many were women?
4. Were there party/candidates' representatives at the PS? Yes No
If yes, which parties?
How many party representatives were women?
- 5a. What was the total number of elections staff?How many were women?
- 5b. Was the presiding Officer a woman? Yes..... No
6. What kind of ballot box was used for the election? Transparent Opaque
7. Did the Presiding Officer (PO) show the empty ballot boxes to the party representatives
before voting started? Yes No If no, what did s/he do?
8. Did the PO show the ballot papers to the party representatives before issuing them for
voting? Yes NoIf no, what did s/he do?
9. Did the PO officially record the total number of ballots issued to the PS before starting to
use them? Yes No
- 10a. How many voters were in the queue just before voting started?
- 10b. How many of them were women? How many were youth.....
11. Was the PS set up in such a way as to enable the voter to cast a secret ballot? Yes.....
No..... If no, please explain:

Part 2 - The Voting Process

1. At what time was the first ballot paper placed in the ballot box?
2. Did voters have to show identification? Yes..... No..... If yes, what kind?
3. Was anyone allowed to vote without identification? Yes No..... If yes, what
explanation was given?
4. Was any person allowed to vote whose name was not on the register? Yes.....No.....
If yes, what explanation was given?
5. Were some people not allowed to vote? Yes..... No..... If yes, how many
How many were women? What reason was given?
6. Was each ballot paper validated before it was given to a voter? Yes No If no,
describe what happened.....
7. Were voters marked with electoral stain (indelible ink) when they voted? Yes No.....
8. Were any voters assisted to vote? Yes..... No..... If yes, how many?how many
women?
9. Describe how the person was assisted? :.....
10. Were provisions made for women and men with physical disabilities, women with
babies, pregnant women, aged women and men to quickly vote? Yes No

11. Did voters talk to each other at the station about whom to vote for? Yes..... No.....
12. Did a voter return a spoiled ballot? Yes No If yes, was s/he given a new ballot? Yes No
13. Did the processing of voters proceed smoothly? Yes..... No If no, please explain:
14. Were the polling stations situated in areas which are safe from violence particularly for women, the elderly and the disabled? Yes.....No.....
15. Was the atmosphere at the Polling Station peaceful and orderly? YesNo
If no, please describe the scene:
16. Did you see any form of campaigning going on near the PS? Yes No If yes, describe the nature of campaigning
.....
17. Did you see any election posters displayed in or outside the PS? Yes No
.....If yes, what kind?
18. Were there other observers at the PS? If yes, how many? Domestic..... International ...
From which organisations/institutions/Missions?
19. Was there any media present at the polling station? Yes No If yes, give the names of the media houses:
- 20a. At the time you were leaving the PS, how many people had voted?
- 20b. How many of them were women? ,.....
21. Did you face any challenges as a female observer? Yes..... No..... If yes, please explain

Part 3 - VIOLENCE

1. Was there any incident of violence?
Yes.....No.....
2. If Yes what type of violence was experienced.....
3. Who were the perpetrators.....
3. Who were the victims of the violence.....
4. Was there any weapon involved in the incident? Yes.....No..... If yes, which type?
5. Were there security personnel present? Yes.....No..... If yes, how many
were women? How many were men?what did they do?.....

WSR ELECTION OBSERVATION FORM – B

GHANA December 2016

OBSERVING THE POLLING PROCESS

N.B. Use a fresh **FORM B** for each polling station you visit, except the one where you observe the opening of the poll (use form **A**) and when you observe the closing of the poll, vote count and tabulation (use form **C**)

Name of Observer.....

District District Code.....

Constituency Constituency Code.....

Name of PS.....PS Code (if any).....

Time of Arrival at the PS Time of Departure

1. What was the number of voters on the main voters register? _____
2. Was there any proxy list to be used for voting? Yes No If yes, what is the list called?
3. How many voters were on it?
4. Were security personnel present at the PS? Yes..... No..... If yes, how many? How many were women.....?
- 5a. Were there party/candidates' representatives at the PS? Yes NoIf yes, which parties/candidates?
- 5b. How many of the party/candidates representatives were women?
6. Was the PS set up in such a way as to enable the voter to cast a secret ballot? Yes No If no, please explain:
7. Was the PS set-up such that agents/observers could clearly see the voting process? Yes No..... If no, please explain:
8. Did voters have to show identification? Yes No If yes, what kind?
9. Was anyone allowed to vote without the identification? Yes No..... If yes, what explanation was given?
10. Was any person allowed to vote whose name was not on the register? YesNo If yes, what explanation was given?

11. Were some people not allowed to vote? YesNo If yes, how many
What reason(s) were given?How many were women?.....
12. Was each ballot paper validated before it was given to a voter? Yes No If no,
Describe what happened:
13. Were voters marked with electoral stain (indelible ink) after they voted? Yes No
14. Were any voters assisted to vote? Yes No If yes, how many?
Describe the manner of assistance:
15. Did voters discuss with each other about whom to vote for? Yes..... No.....
16. Did a voter return a spoiled ballot? Yes No If yes, was s/he given a new
ballot? Yes No
17. Did the processing of voters proceed smoothly? Yes No If no, please
explain:
18. Was the atmosphere at the PS peaceful and orderly? YesNo if no, please
describe the scene:
19. Was any form of campaigning going on near the PS? Yes No if yes, describe
the nature of campaigning
20. Did you see any election posters displayed in or outside the PS? Yes No If
yes, what kind?
21. Were there other observers at the PS? If yes, how many? Domestic..... International
.....From which organisations/institutions/Missions?
22. What kind of ballot box was used for the election? TransparentOpaque.....
23. What was the general outlook of female voters? Relaxed or Timid?
24. Were provisions made for women and men with physical disabilities, women with
babies, pregnant women, aged women and men to quickly vote? Yes No
25. Were the polling stations located in areas, which are safe from violence for women, the
elderly and the disabled? Yes..... No.....
26. Did you see any intimidating behavior by the election officials towards the women
voters? Yes..... No.....
27. Give your general assessment of whether any voting procedures were disadvantageous
to women.....
28. From the performance of women during voting, do you think women received adequate
civic education on how to vote? Yes No.....
29. At the time you were leaving the PS, how many people had voted? How
many were: Men Women

**WSR ELECTIONS OBSERVATION FORM – C
GHANA – December 2016**

CLOSING OF THE POLLS

N.B.

- a. Be at the same Polling Station you selected for the opening to observe the close of polls at least 30 minutes before the closing time
- b. Stay there until the votes have been counted and the results compiled

Name of Observer.....

District District Code.....

Constituency Constituency Code.....

Name of PS.....PS Code (if any).....

Time of Arrival at the PS Time of Departure

PART 1: CLOSE OF POLL

1. Were there any voters in line waiting to vote at the stipulated closing time? Yes.....
No.....

If yes, how many? how many women?.....how many men?.....

2. Were they allowed to vote? Yes No..... If no, explain what happened.....

3. What time did voting actually end?

PART 2: THE VOTE COUNT

4a. What was the total number of voters on the main voters list (s)?

4b. How many of the voters were women?

5a. Were the ballots counted at the polling station? Yes No if no, where were they counted?

5b. How many women observed the counting? How many men?

6. Was the ballot box opened and the ballot papers removed in the presence of party agents and

observers? Yes.....No.....If no, describe what happened.....
.....

7. Did anyone other than the polling officials help the PO to count the votes? YesNo.....

If yes, who helped?

8. Was the counting done accurately? Yes NoIf no, please explain:

9. Was each rejected ballot shown to the agents and the reason for the rejection given? Yes/
No..... If no, describe what happened:

10. Were observers allowed to be close enough to see the marks on the ballots and how
they were being sorted out? Yes No If no, please explain:

11. Was there disagreement over any rejected ballots? Yes...No If yes, how many
ballots?..... How was the disagreement resolved?

12. Did any candidate or agent ask for a recount of the ballots? Yes..... No.....If yes, was the
request granted? Yes..... No If No, state the reason given:

.....
17. Was the number of votes obtained by each candidate correctly recorded? Yes.....
No..... If no, please explain:

18. Were the following items openly recorded?

Total number of valid ballots Yes..... How many? No

Total number of used ballots Yes..... How many? No

Total number of unused ballots Yes How many? No.....

Total number of rejected ballots. Yes..... How many? No

Number of spoiled ballots Yes..... How many? No

19. After the counting, were the ballots put into sealed containers/envelopes? Yes No.....

If no, describe what happened:

20. Were the party representatives given an opportunity to endorse the results? Yes
No If yes, how? If no, describe what happened:

21a. Were party agents given certified copies of the results? Yes No..... If no, what
reason was given?

22. Did the PO fill all the necessary forms at the polling station? Yes No

If no, who filled them and where?

23. Either obtain a copy of the PS results or record the results in the space below

.....

24. How were the results sent from the PS to the Collation Centre?

.....

25. How were the ballot papers moved from the PS?

.....

26. Were the ballot papers and other elections materials accompanied by the security?

Yes..... No.....