



Young Peacebuilders IN WEST AFRICA

Growing the youth peacebuilding movement

An initiative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)



Implemented in collaboration with





"Many young peacebuilders work in isolation with little or no access to relevant skills development opportunities, partnerships, and network. YPWA16 successfully bridged this gap for all 20 participants and it would be great for more young people to benefit from it."
Participant, Young Peacebuilders in West Africa 2016

The Aim

Support the growth of networks of young peacebuilders equipped with the tools to address stereotypes, prejudice and polarization in order to build more inclusive and peaceful societies in their communities and globally.

The pilot edition of the programme was implemented in collaboration with the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY). This collaboration is an example of the meaningful partnerships between young people and United Nations agencies on all issues related to peace and security, which the UN Security Council called for when it adopted resolution 2250 in December 2015. The programme also addresses key recommendations made in the United Nations Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, namely, by providing educational opportunities for young people to strengthen their competences in peacebuilding.

About UNAOC

UNAOC was established in 2005, under the auspices of the United Nations and co-sponsored by the Governments of Spain and Turkey. UNAOC works towards a more socially inclusive world, by building mutual respect among peoples of different cultural and religious identities, and highlighting the will of the world's majority to reject extremism and embrace diversity. UNAOC project activities are fashioned around Youth, Education, Media and Migration, which can play a critical role in helping to reduce cross-cultural tensions. Guided by the principle that youth are key actors to achieve peace, UNAOC develops programming to enhance the ability of young people and their organizations to foster mutual respect, understanding and long-term positive relationships between peoples of different cultures and religions.



"UNAOC is pleased to support the development of young peacebuilders who play a critical role in promoting inclusive societies."

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

About UNOY

UNOY Peacebuilders is a global network strengthening sustainable youth-driven peacebuilding. We connect 70 youth peace organizations across 45 countries. Our goal is to create a world where young people have the opportunity and skills to contribute to peace. We work to strengthen youth-led peacebuilding initiatives, facilitate a safe space for dialogue and conflict transformation, develop the organizational capacities of our members and to bring the voices of young people to policy makers on a regional and global level.



Programme Components



PHASE 1: Online Engagement

7-weeks of online based learning and collaboration



PHASE 2: Face-to-face Workshop

Week-long workshop with trainers and facilitators



PHASE 3: Applied Learning

Online & community-level follow-up to implement actions plans

Learning Objectives

1

Learn about other cultures, faiths and worldviews within and beyond the group to foster intercultural cohesion and collaboration

2

Learn about stereotypes and how to critically analyze them to reduce their prevalence

3

Understand different perspectives in identity-based conflict and gain tools to develop solutions at local, national and regional level and transform conflicts peacefully

4

Develop competences to use different forms of media or expressive arts as a way to create alternative narratives, reduce polarization and promote social inclusion

100%

of Participants would recommend this programme to other young people
(Evaluation Survey)

"It has been amazing for linking the work I do on gender-based violence and women's empowerment to peacebuilding"

- Participant, Young Peacebuilders in West Africa 2016

Methodology

Blended curriculum: online, in-person and applied learning experiences

Participant centered, experiential learning, games and role-plays

A diverse team of trainers, based in four continents, to connect participants to regional, African and other international contexts and experiences

79%

of Participants experienced for the first time an online training opportunity (Evaluation Survey)



Topics

"The methodology was the most excellent element of the workshop for me. I loved the learner-driven learning employed throughout. It was also exciting to learn through games and fun activities."

- Participant, Young Peacebuilders in West Africa 2016



"Learning about theater, media and photography was amazing. I never thought of that before as a tool for building peace and it was really helpful."

- Participant, Young Peacebuilders in West Africa 2016



Intercultural dialogue

Identity and identity-based conflicts

Conflict analysis, management and transformation

Transforming narratives

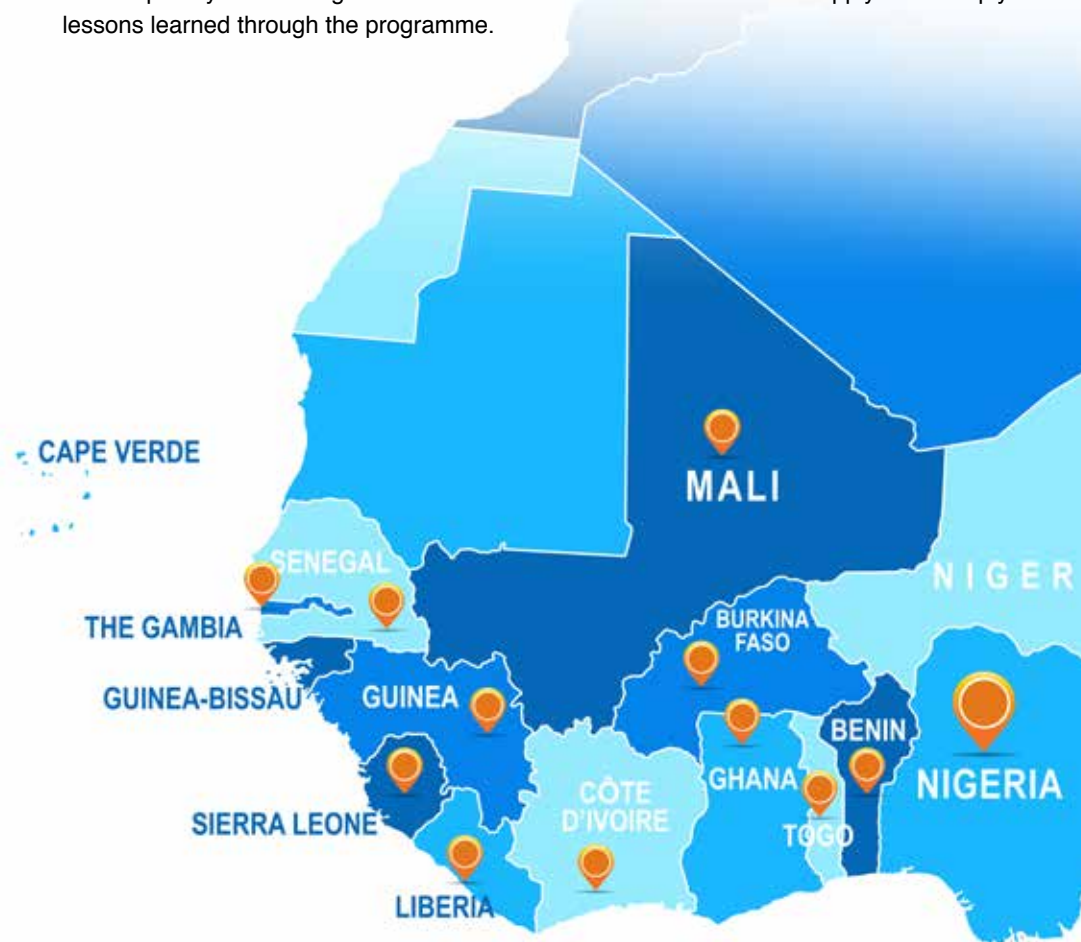
Theater, media and photography as tools for transforming narratives

"The trainers and facilitators were above expectations. One could not identify who was who, meaning the trainers didn't create any difference between them and we, the participants. This was something that I had never seen before."

- Participant, Young Peacebuilders in West Africa 2016

The Participants

The programme targets young people between the ages of 18 and 25 who are in the initial stages of their peacebuilding practice and who seek to increase their ability to promote inclusive societies, nonviolence and peace. Participants are active members of non-government and non-for-profit youth-led organizations and can reach wider audiences to apply and multiply the lessons learned through the programme.



"Where I come from in Sierra Leone, youth violence is something that people think is a hobby. So I developed this thing that we must change the perception of people."

- Participant, Young Peacebuilders in West Africa 2016

"This training has really showed me how one-on-one interactions and personal connections can really make strong impact in somebody's worldview and mindset."

- Participant, Young Peacebuilders in West Africa 2016

YOUNG PEACEBUILDERS IN WEST AFRICA 2016 PARTICIPANTS



Caleb Adebayo
Nigeria

Denis Daniel
Cote d'Ivoire

Emmanuel Bangura
Sierra Leone

Fily Keita
Mali

Gayflor Worzi
Liberia

Haruna Ahmed Tanko
Ghana

Ibrahima Gueye
Guinea

Immaculee Katounke
Togo

Isata Ngombulango
Sierra Leone

Jerry-Gwenaël Azilinson
Benin

Kodzo Germain Kogbe
Togo

Lamine Thiam
Senegal

Magou Diawara
Mali

Mamadou Bhoïe Sow
Guinea

Olaoluwa Abagun
Nigeria

Onyekachukwu Ugwu
Nigeria

Praise Adeyemo
Nigeria

Raphaelyn Bomosy
Liberia

Sainabou Nyang
The Gambia

Sise Sawaneh
The Gambia

100%

of Participants
say their competencies in peacebuilding improved a lot as a result of the programme (Evaluation Survey)

Takeaways and Next Steps

A key outcome of the workshop is the consolidation of the network, as well as the creation of personal plans in which participants outline specific actions to take in the months following the workshop. These actions are key to apply learning and advance intercultural dialogue and peacebuilding in their communities.

"I'm going to teach 50 adolescent girls in Lagos to use theater to communicate to fellow students about intercultural and interreligious coexistence."

- Participant, Young Peacebuilders in West Africa 2016



"I learned a lot regarding conflict analysis tools and transforming narratives. They are powerful tools that will definitely foster our work in strategic peacebuilding."

- Participant, Young Peacebuilders in West Africa 2016



"I've learned so much about intercultural dialogue and active tools on how to engage my community in real conversations where they can share their stories and tell them from a place of truth and empowerment to break down the stereotypes."

- Participant, Young Peacebuilders in West Africa 2016



An Expanding Programme

The Young Peacebuilders in West Africa is the pilot edition of a proposed series of regional workshops that UNAOC intends to implement in different regions of the world to offer competence development to young people, grow and strengthen the global movement of young peacebuilders.

Through this action, UNAOC is committing to support young people's participation in peacebuilding with a growing coalition of partners.

"The YPWA programme has much more to offer for West Africa and beyond. These recent weeks have informed me that themes on youth, peace and security are grey areas our societies should be informed of and certainly, youth are the key drivers"

- Participant, Young Peacebuilders in West Africa 2016