



## Femmes Africa Solidarité

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### **PROJECT: National Action Plan on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Mano River Region**

**PERIOD:** 2009 - 2011

**AMOUNT:** 1'031'872 Euros

**DONORS:** Funding under request

**PARTNERS:** Global Fund, UNECA, AWDF, MARWOPNET

### **DESCRIPTION**

The three countries of the Mano River Union (MRU) - Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are most severely affected by prolonged conflicts. Women remain underrepresented in decision-making and power-sharing structures. Their experience, expertise and perspectives on peace, security and development are undervalued and underutilized. As a result, the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET) was created. FAS facilitated the process that led to the creation of MARWOPNET in May 2000 in Abuja, Nigeria. MARWOPNET is a joint peace initiative by the women of the Mano River region who combined the forces of the diverse networks already operating in the region to ensure the successful implementation of a new platform for action. MARWOPNET is founded on the conviction that women can contribute meaningfully to the quest for regional peace and security and that the lasting absence of conflict is a necessary condition for fulfilling of the human rights of all. FAS has contributed to MARWOPNET's development through its programmes on capacity building and advocacy in the Mano River region.

In 2006, FAS and African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), together with UN agencies, Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET), and other networks attended a meeting organized by the Gender Ministry of Liberia. Since then, African women networks committed themselves to work towards President Sirleaf-Johnson's agenda and decided to organise the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security. The International Colloquium was held on March 7-8, 2009 in Monrovia, Liberia. One of the objectives of the Colloquium was aimed at the realization of the UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, namely to ensure that women are protected from the worst abuses in times of conflict and empower them to play their rightful and vital role in helping their countries prevent, end and recover from conflict. After the International Colloquium, a plenary session took place for two days on the National Launch of the Liberia Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, aimed at furthering gender equality, sustainable peace and security in Liberia.

### **RESULTS**

Some of the main outcomes of the project is to put in place a representative coordination of the UNSCR 1325 mechanism at the national and regional level; National Action Plans are effectively developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated for positive impact in each country and the region; effective public information (PI) contributes to the learning process and the de-multiplying effect of the project; an effective partnership on the project is taking place between the National Steering Committees (NSC), Regional Steering Committees (RSC), the Government and FAS.

### **RELATED ACTIVITIES**

The related activities will consist of the launching of the project; representative NSC are put in place in Guinea and Sierra Leone and reinforced in Liberia for project implementation oversight; representative of the RSC is put in place to ensure the harmonization of the process; a mapping exercise is done in each country to identify strengths and weaknesses (SWOT analysis) with regards to the UNSCR 1325; NAPs are developed and launched in Guinea and SL, and the NAP in Liberia is harmonized along with the ones of Guinea and SL; NAPs are implemented, monitored and evaluated in each country; women are properly trained and coached; women are effective in information, education, communication, advocacy and networking efforts; Government entities including the legislative and the judiciary are properly trained; a website devoted to the project is created; proper dissemination and translation of NAPs at national level is done; and a "Best practice" study is undertaken among the 3 countries and published.