

**Name of Agency:**

- a. Pan African Strategic and Policy Research Group

**Designation:**

- b. Non-Governmental Organisation

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**Name of Project**

WEST AFRICA CONTROL ARMS PROGRAMME OF OXFAM-GB, DAKAR

**Project Reference:**

WAF59

**Duration of Project**

- 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2006 (Original Start date)
- 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2006 (Actual Start date)
- 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2009 (Expected end)

**Project Cost**

£136,882 (One hundred and Thirty-Six thousand, eight hundred and eighty-two) pounds sterling).

**Project Header**

To identify the strengths, deficiencies and gaps in existing gun control laws of nine member states of ECOWAS in order to make recommendations to eliminate them, and to harmonize these deficiencies and gaps in conformity with the new ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapon.

**Status of the Report**

The Final Report of the Implemented project

**Period**

The Report covers  
1<sup>st</sup> October 2006 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009

**Date of Submission**

15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2009



PANAFRICAN STRATEGIC AND  
POLICY RESEARCH GROUP  
(PANAFSTRAG)

**FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT ON:**

- ❖ **DEVELOP METHODOLOGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROJECT**
- ❖ **CONDUCT STUDIES AND SURVEY IN NINE ECOWAS COUNTRIES**
- ❖ **ADMINISTRATION, EQUIPMENTS AND PROJECT MANAGEMNT**
- ❖ **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, DISSEMINATION AND PUBLICATION**

**Sponsored by :**

**OXFAM GB WITH SIDA FUNDS**

**SUBMISSION DATE: 13th OCTOBER 2009**

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## PURPOSE NO 1: ORGANISE A METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP

<b>FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT</b>				
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>RATING</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<p><b><u>PURPOSES</u></b></p> <p>ORGANISED A METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP FOR</p> <p>A. IDENTIFYING THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF 9 NATIONAL EXISTING AND/OR DRAFT LEGISLATIONS</p> <p>B. DEVELOPING CRITERIA FOR STRENGTHENING THEM</p> <p>C. HARMONISING THESE CRITERIA WITH THE EXISTING DRAFT LEGISLATIONS.</p> <p>D. SELECTING CRITICAL ARTICLES IN THE NEW ECOWAS CONVENTIONS TO BE HARMONISED WITH NATIONAL LAWS</p>	<p>18 PARTICIPANTS FROM ECOWAS, ECOSAP, PANAFSTRAG, WACSO AND 13 WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES ATTENDED THE WORKSHOP</p>	<p>ACTIVITY FULLY COMPLETED</p>	<p>EXCELLENT</p>	

<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>RATING</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<p><b>OUTPUT</b></p> <p>(1) METHODOLOGY AND ACTION PLAN DEVELOPED FOR THE PROJECT</p> <p>(2) CRITERIA WERE DEVELOPED FOR IDENTIFYING THE GAPS IN EXISTING AND DRAFT NATIONAL LAWS</p>	<p>- REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP.</p>	<p>FULLY COMPLETED</p>	<p>GOOD</p>	<p>THE INDICATORS EXPOSED THE WEAKNESSES, STRENGTHS, SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF EXISTING AND DRAFT NATIONAL LAWS</p>

## PURPOSE NO 2: CONDUCT FIELD STUDY AND SURVEY IN 9 ECOWAS COUNTRIES

INDICATORS	PROGRESS	RATING	COMMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS HELD IN NIGERIA, SIERRA LEONE, COTE D’IVOIRE, BURKINA FASO, GUINEA-CONAKRY, CAPE VERDE, GAMBIA AND GUINEA-BISSAU</li> <li>- PROGRESS REPORT SENT IN FEBRUARY 2007</li> <li>- REPORT OF THE ASSESMENT MEETING HELD IN ABIDJAN IN APRIL, 2007</li> </ul>	<p>FULLY COMPLETED</p> <p>FULLY COMPLETED</p>	<p>VERY GOOD.</p> <p>VERY GOOD</p>	<p>FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD IN ALL COUNTRIES</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COUNTRY REPORT SUBMITTED IN FEBRUARY 2007.</li> <li>- UPDATED COUNTRY/ZONAL REPORTS SENT BY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2007</li> <li>- AMENDED DRAFT FIREARMS LEGISLATIONS SENT BY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2007.</li> </ul>	<p>COMPLETED</p>	<p>VERY GOOD</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FINAL COUNTRY</li> </ul>			

<p>REPORTS(AND AMENDED FIREARMS LAWS IN SOME COUNTRIES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- REPORT OF THE ABIDJAN MEETING HELD AT IBIS HOTEL, ABIDJAN</li> <li>- INTIAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE SURVEY ON PCASED AND THE MORATORIUM(AND ITS CODEOF CONDUCT) DEVELOPED</li> </ul>			
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### PURPOSE NO 3: ADMINISTRATION, EQUIPMENT AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVE	INDICATORS	PROGRESS	RATING	COMMENT
<b>PURPOSE:</b> * PURCHASE OF OFFICE EQUIPMENTS  *SECRETARIAT AND COMMUNICATION EXPENSES  *PROJECT COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT	*QUOTATIONS REQUESTED, RECEIVED & NECESSARY DECISIONS TAKEN ON THE PROCUREMENT OF OFFICE EQUIPMENTS. EACH ZONE WAS AUTHORIZED TO PURCHASE OWN LAPTOP.  *EACH ZONE WAS FUNDED ACCORDING TO A RATIO (SEE NOTES TO THE ACCOUNT)  * MONTHLY ALLOWANCES WERE DISBURSED AS APPROVED IN THE BUDGET	-	EXCELLENT	-
<b>OUTPUTS:</b> * ALL BUDGETED EQUIPMENTS HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED.  * PART-TIME QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT HAS BEEN RECRUITED TO MEET REQUIRED STANDARD.	* RECRUITED ACCOUNTANT RESUMED WORK IN SEPTEMBER 2006  * PROGRESS REPORT WAS SENT IN FEBRUARY 2007	*ALL EQUIPMENTS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED & PUT INTO EFFECTIVE USE. * THE ACCOUNTANT LEFT AFTER THE APPROVED 9 MONTHS.	EXCELLENT	-3 LAPTOPS, 1 PHOTOCOPIER & 1 PRINTER HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED FOR THE ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT.

## PURPOSE NO 4: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, DISSEMINATION AND PUBLICATION

OBJECTIVE	INDICATORS	PROGRESS	RATING	COMMENT
<b>PURPOSE:</b> * FEED BACK FORUM.  *FINAL REPORT WRITING  *TRANSLATION OF FINAL REPORT ON THE HARMONIZATION INTO FRENCH & PORTUGUESE.  * PUBLICATIONS OF THE TWO REPORTS IN ENGLISH.	*REPORT OF FEEDBACK FORUM  *FINAL REPORT COMPILATION  *FRENCH VERSION OF THE FINAL REPORT ON THE HARMONIZATION.  *PUBLISHED REPORT OF THE HARMONIZATION  * PUBLISHED PCASED REPORT.	FULLY COMPLETED  FULLY COMPLETED  COMPLETED  FULLY COMPLETED  *PUBLICATIONS READY	GOOD  EXCELLENT  GOOD  EXCELLENT	THE COORDINATOR OF ZONE 3(GUINEA BISSAU) COUD NOT ATTEND THE FORUM.  THE REPORT WAS NOT TRANSLATED INTO PORTUGUESE DUE TO LOGISTIC PROBLEMS.  <b>THE TWO MAIN OUTPUTS OF THE PROJECTS ARE NOW READY. THE PROJECIS IS NOW FULLY COMPLETED</b>
<b>OUTPUTS:</b> * FINAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE TWO REPORTS	* PROGRESS REPORT WAS SENT 2008 * FINAL PUBLICATIONS SENT TO OXFAM, DAKAR.  *TRANSLATED FRENCH VERSION OF HARMONIZATION REPORT AVAILABLE.	PUBLICATION IN CIRCULATION TO STAKEHOLDERS	EXCELLENT	<b>PANAFSTRAG IS CIRCULATING THE PUBLISHED REPORTS TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS</b>



## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS.**

### **1. PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATION COSTS (STAFF COSTS +CHARGES)**

The total amount approved on the budget has been paid to date to the authorized persons. There is no outstanding balance under this sub-head.

### **2. LOGISTIC CHARGES (COMPUTERS/EQUIPMENTS & MAINTENANCE)**

The three items mentioned above which represent the fixed assets component of the operational cost in the budget have been acquired. Other accessories like Power surge, electricity stabilizers, etc have also been purchased as accessories to the fixed assets.

There is a new variance in the budget for laptops and printer as a result of additional accessories (toner, Flash disk, etc) that had to be purchased for the use of the two items. There's a negative balance and variance under this sub-head because some costs were not included in the initial approved budget.

### **3. PROGRAMME LESSONS LEARNT WORKSHOP(METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP)**

The outstanding balance on the amount allocated to the above mentioned in the approved budget is **£1,163**. There is a positive variance here as we still have a favourable balance left at the end of the entire project.

### **4. RESEARCH (STUDY AND SURVEY)**

Various field surveys have taken place in different countries within the 3 Zones. There is a balance of **£931** from the amount allocated to the activity on the approved budget.

### **5. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, DISSEMINATION & PUBLICATION**

The Feedback Forum and the final Report Writing Sessions were held. The reports of the Harmonization and the PCASED have been published in book forms. The Harmonization was also translated into French; but the Portuguese version eventually was not done. There is a balance of **£585** under this sub-head at the end of the entire project.

In summary, the entire budget still has a favourable positive variance of 64%.

## **OTHER RELEVANT FINANCIAL ISSUES**

### **Basis for Computation:**

- All values have been rounded up to 2 decimal places in line with the approved budget £ and all conversion at - **\$1.7 : £1**
- **Five different currencies (Dollars, Naira, Cfa, Daliasies and Leones) have been used in the course of the project; hence the need for retirement in the single currency (U.K Pounds) as approved funds.**
- The sharing ratio under the expense head 'Communication' is given thus; **4:1:1** for zones I, II & III respectively,
- The sharing ratio for Field Study and Survey is **1:1:1** for the three zones.
- The use of weighted average exchange rate has been employed due to fluctuating exchange rates from the approved currency to other local currencies used in the course of the project.

### **Observed Challenges in the Budget:**

- The need for multi-conversion; situation whereby budget was approved in dollars (\$) while grant received in pounds (£).

- There was no provision for certain administrative expenses such as bank charges and commissions, local transportation etc,
- Stationeries and other computer consumables – (Toners, papers etc) have been built into the retired accounts.

### **Appreciation**

In conclusion, I will like to express our sincere gratitude to the Finance Manager of Oxfam-Nigeria, who has assisted in putting us through all the financial & accounting procedures. This has helped in book keeping records as well as reporting. We have been able to acquire skills which have been of immediate use and which will be of immersed assistance in the future.

## **FINAL PROJECT ASSESSMENT**

### **A. Summary of Principal Benefits and Achievements of the Project**

1. Identified the major strengths, deficiencies and gaps of existing/draft firearms laws in nine ECOWAS countries covered by the project, made recommendations on how to overcome these deficiencies and on how to harmonize the national firearms laws taking note of identified strengths and deficiencies.
2. Identified major provisions of the ECOWAS SALW Conventions to be harmonized with the National Firearms Laws.
3. Held consultations with key stakeholders in the region on these identified problems, and thus initiating advocacy/discussions on the urgent need to update national firearms laws and to harmonize them with the ECOWAS Convention on SALW.
4. Initiating, and in some countries amending existing National Firearms Laws
5. The objectives of the project have been achieved

### **B. Effectiveness of Inter Agency Coordination Arrangement and the Roles Played by the Agency.**

PANAFSTRAG worked closely with major Small Arms Agencies and organizations in West Africa that led to the successful implementation of the project. These agencies were enthusiastic about the project and played important roles in framing and successfully implementing the project. The agencies are: ECOWAS Small Arms Unit, ECOSAP, National Commissions on Small Arms in all the 9 countries covered by the project, West African Action Network Against Small Arms (WAANSA), West African Civil Society Forum(WASCOF) and National Small Arms Action Networks in West Africa and Cameroun.

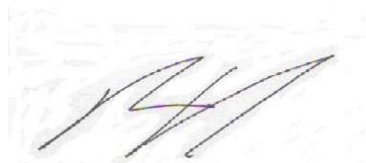
### **C. Impact of the Project on the Humanitarian Situation in the Sub-region.**

The project is a research project which was designed to have impact on policy formulation. The report is expected to serve as a guideline for national governments for amending their firearms laws. ECOWAS has also expressed interest in adopting the outcome of the project as base study for its work on harmonization of firearms laws in the sub-region. Above all, the project have gingered interest among stakeholders and experts in the sun-region on the urgent need to harmonize the laws and administrative mechanisms for combating illegal circulation of small arms and light weapons. It is also noted that the humanitarian situation in most countries covered by the project have remained partially stable. But major progress has been recorded in Cote D'Ivoire with the signing of a Peace Agreement in early March 2007. The signing of the Amnesty Deal in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria is expected to reduce the inflow of SALW and hopefully drastically improve the humanitarian situation in the region. The same has happened in Guinea-Conakry with the appointment of a consensual Prime Minister with a new cabinet. The project is one of the fundamental steps expected to lay a solid foundation for improved humanitarian situation in the region.

The final publications on the Harmonization of the Gun Control Laws and the PCASED Reports are now ready.

**D. LESSONS LEARNT**

- 1) The project exposed the wide differences in the provisions of firearms laws in the countries covered by the project, and to a large extent why the sub-region encounters problems in presenting a harmonised administrative approach in combating the illegal circulation of firearms;
- 2) The project also showed clearly the urgent need to bridge the gap between the provisions of the ECOWAS Convention on small arms and light weapons and national firearms laws. Without this harmonisation exercise the efforts of the Commission in reducing illegal circulation SALW may not have roots, and may not succeed;
- 3) The report of the project showed that, most of the national firearms laws were enacted in the 1950,s and 1960's. We consider most of them outdated and out of touch with new developments and strategies in the campaign against illicit circulation of firearms;
- 4) The project team experienced some difficulties in holding consultations with experts and stakeholders in Liberia. This was later overcome by making use of PANAFSTRAG networks in and outside the country;
- 5) The project benefited immensely from the outcome of the Methodology workshop which developed a work plan and time table for the project. These strategies helped us to successfully execute the project on time;
- 6) The project team worked closely with major experts and stakeholders at the sub-regional and national levels, and held mini- roundtables in each country. This approached made the project popular and a reflection of the true state of firearms laws in the sub-region.



Ishola Williams  
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Executive-Secretary  
PANAFSTRAG.