# Table of Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Message from a Board Member</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message from Executive Director</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scaling Up Initiatives to Strengthen CSOs’ Sustainability and Promote Social Accountability</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAP Wipes the Tears of Children with Learning Disabilities in Ghana</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convening and Connecting CSOs to Shape Development Agendas</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitating Inclusive Dialogue to Curb Youth Unemployment in Africa</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generating Knowledge on Civil Society’s Engagements</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grooming the Next Generation of Thought Leaders on Civil Society</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interning with WACSI – a Career Shaping Opportunity</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Opportunity that Unlocked my Potential</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Finances</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Partners</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Message from the Board

2018 was an exciting year for WACSI as it began the first year of implementation of its new strategic plan. This Annual report highlights some of the key programmes undertaken and shares some wonderful success stories. Within the Board we are constantly amazed by how much the team has been able to accomplish in a year.

For example, in its work around strengthening the capacity of civil society in West Africa, WACSI has gone a long way to illuminate the challenge the sector has around sustainability. Beyond identifying the challenges, during the year WACSI strengthened the skills of CSOs to sustain their organisations and their work. In its policy and influencing work, WACSI has played a critical role in convening and connecting civil society in the region around critical issues such as counter terrorist financing, youth employment, gender equality, and domestic resource mobilisation. Finally, in the last year, WACSI has strengthened its reputation as thought leader, a knowledge hub on civil society in West Africa.

All of these achievements could not have happened without the valuable partnerships that WACSI has developed with a diverse group of organisations. We value these relationships and will continue to strengthen these partnerships to create even greater impact. In the same vein, WACSI celebrates and honours all the CSOs with whom it has worked with this year. The social transformation we are witnessing in this region is as a result of robust and vibrant civil society that exists in this region.

Finally, as a Board we would like to thank the Staff for their hard work, passion and commitment to civil society in West Africa. In particular we would like to appreciate Mrs. Nana Afadzinu, the Executive Director for the exemplary leadership she provides to the team and the entire organisation.

It has indeed been a good year. May the good work continue!

Taaka Awori
Board Member
Message from Executive Director

Often, the beginning of something new brings with it excitement and sometimes some anxiety because of the uncertain future. For WACSI, though, it was more of the former as we embarked on the implementation of the 2018-2022 strategy this year. This report highlights the different interventions which the Institute was involved in to address key civil society concerns and interests in the area of civil society sustainability, the enabling environment for civil society, women and youth leadership and technology for development. We were glad to continue our work with Star Ghana on civil society sustainability on Ghana, building on the ground-breaking research done in this area in 2014. It was time to go back to the key constituency with the findings to discuss and chart a way forward together on this issue. Holding on to its belief that domestic resource mobilisation remains one of the key avenues for civil society sustainability on our continent and specifically in West Africa, and still connected with the issue of sustainability, WACSI worked with a number of organisations in this area. We share with you how an organisation like Special Attention Project used their learnings to mobilise domestic revenue for their mission of supporting children with learning disabilities. SAP’s story and similar ones like theirs that we recorded this year shows that though challenging, it is entirely possible for civil society in West Africa and the continent as a whole to have a mind and culture shift that focuses on mobilising resources more within than without. In addition to our training programmes, it was a real delight to have peer learning retreats such as the one highlighted in this report on social accountability in West Africa. The product of this, which we hope to continue to develop remains important to transferring knowledge across the region without necessarily ‘sitting in a classroom’. It offers the opportunity for more experienced civil society organisations to share their knowledge and experience with others.

Other platforms for learning and sharing which this report highlights, such as the WACSI Policy Dialogue Series, remained very useful platforms to inform and encourage civil society to engage on key issues affecting them and the region, such as the Financial Action Task Force regulations, among others. This is a platform that the Institute will continue to strengthen and make available for civil society’s use in the region. It enables the sector to engage not only themselves but also other development partners such as donor organisations, government and the private sector.
As one of the representatives for West Africa on the African Development Bank (AfDB) Civil Society Committee, WACSI endeavoured to play its role to the best of its ability by sharing relevant information from the Bank with civil society. The Bank’s interest in meaningful engagement with civil society on the continent remains high and WACSI remains committed to enabling this engagement. WACSI’s commitment to West African youth, to facilitate their agency and support the next generation’s growth of leaders, remains strong. Testimonies from some of them who participated in different Next Generation Leadership programmes are shared.

The work of the Institute included the production of knowledge products to support civil society in the region with updates on the sector and on key issues affecting their growth and we are happy to share some of this with you as well.

Inspite of the challenges it faces with the shrinking of civic space in some countries, dwindling resources, amongst others, civil society in West Africa forges on and continues to play its role as a key development partner in the region. It is an honour for WACSI to support civil society to be effective, efficient, strong, influential, resilient, responsive and sustainable, as it plays its role. That is our mandate and we take it seriously. Enjoy this report and don’t hesitate to get in touch.

*Nana Asantewa Afadzinu*

Executive Director
The Year 2018 in Pictures
Scaling Up Initiatives to Strengthen CSOs’ Sustainability and Promote Social Accountability

2018 was the first year of the Institute’s new strategy cycle (2018 – 2022). WACSI successfully piloted a domestic resource mobilisation capacity strengthening initiative in partnership with the Change the Game Academy and the Wilde Ganzen Foundation. The programme attracted the participation of ten (10) community-based organisations in Ghana.

The major highlight of the year was the significant progress that was made in amplifying and raising awareness about the sustainability challenges of civil society organisations and the broad sector in West Africa. In partnership with Star-Ghana, WACSI organised four civil society workshops across Ghana to provide a space for dialogue, reflection and experience sharing on issues of organisational and sector wide sustainability. The workshops were attended by about 120 organisations from all ten regions in Ghana. A key outcome of this initiative was the development of a national sustainability strategy for civil society in Ghana.

WACSI continued to host the West Africa Drug Policy Network (WADPN) secretariat. WACSI provided technical assistance to the various chapters of the network. The Institute provided training for focal points of the network on resource mobilisation, financial management and reporting and networking and alliance building. A key result from this activity was decision to formally register the network to facilitate the transition from a programme to a formal organisation. The institute also supported the WADPN to organise and coordinate regional campaigns themed “Support Don’t Punish” around the global day of action (26 June). WACSI also supported the chapters in Guinea and Liberia to organise an engagement with legislators of these countries on drug policy reforms.

In addition, UTZ Cote d’Ivoire contracted the Institute to strengthen the results-based monitoring and evaluation and theory of change, lobbying and advocacy and governance and leadership capacities of its partners who work in the cocoa sector. WACSI was selected as the West Africa Regional Connector for the Innovation for Change Initiative. Innovation for Change (I4C) is a global network of people and organisations established as a response to widespread and worsening trends affecting civil society, including increasing restrictions on civic space and attacks on civil society organisations.

Furthermore, the Hewlett Foundation and OSIWA approached the Institute to facilitate a learning workshop on social accountability for its grant partners in West Africa. The workshop was organised in Conakry and brought together 35 CSOs from the region. This shared learning workshop built on the previous social accountability initiative organised in 2017.

Key statistics for the year

- 475 CSOs participated in capacity development programmes
- 17 Capacity Building Interventions conducted
- 598 Participants projects conducted
Disabilities in Learning
Children with the Tears of SAP Wipes

Ghana

Children with learning disabilities is not a disorder that is widely known in the developing world even though there are many cases to the contrary. As such very little is done to help these children cope. This is precisely the purpose of Richard Opoku’s Special Attention Project (SAP) Ghana. SAP is an intervention that is developing strategies to enhance learning outcomes of children with disabilities to enable children, parents and teachers to cope with the disorder. This goal has been daunting from the very beginning but has been compounded by inadequate funding. Despite several efforts, SAP was unable to attract funding besides their core funding. For all the good intentions, their reach and impact was greatly curtailed.

This story however began to change when Richard got the opportunity to attend the WACSI’s local fundraising (LFR) training under the auspices of Wilde Ganzen Change the Game Academy initiative, where he learnt a new approach and internalised a new skill set in LFR. For me, “I learned FR is not about building partnerships with potential partnerships and friendship liaising to get support. Another key learning is the need to have a fundraising plan. My approach has changed in terms of the language I speak with donors. Now I speak in a language potential donors understand by aligning our objectives with theirs”. In addition, Richard has drifted from the traditional practice of submitting proposals to look at investigating potential donors, their objectives and funding priorities and aligning his organisation’s requests with them. Guided by his fundraising plan, “we have developed different strategies for different projects to get support. The plan is helping us to keep track of activities and monitor progress, which enables us to quickly modify plans in response to changes and evaluations.”

Driven by this new approach Richard initiated conversations with more than nine (9) organisations including the Accra Lions Club, the MTN Foundation, Databank Foundation, Tobinco Foundation, Asheshi Leo Club, some local and other public-spirited individuals on possible financial support for SAP. It was not long before Richard and the SAP began reaping the fruits of their labour. “We have been able to raise Ghc 40,000 (GHC20,000 in cash and GHC 20,000 in kind) from the Accra Great Lions Club. Additionally, through the partnership with the Accra Lions Club, MTN Foundation donated GHC10,000 to support us to run a campaign ‘Support for Children with Learning Disabilities (LDs)’ in August 2018. Richard observes that the impact of this campaign has been phenomenal.

“It’s been great especially from parents with children with learning disabilities. Many of them weren’t aware of learning disabilities and attributed their children’s problems to spiritual attacks. Now they are better informed. Through our support, children are also improving their learning outcomes. Teachers are also better informed. Formerly, they were familiar with the known disabilities like hearing and vision impairment, but now they recognise children with learning disabilities and are able to cater for them.”

In terms of organisational goals, Richard is proud to mention “our partnership building has improved. Through the support we got, we have been able to help to create innovative solutions for children with LDs, get support to carry out our mandate and in terms of organisational sustainability we are getting support to implement programmes, increase impact and reach while strengthening our relationship with key constituents as well as enhancing our image/brand visibility.

Their relationship with donors and partners is smooth with no hiccups. They are now knowing the changing trend of the donor landscape and the need to strengthen their LF efforts. Quite crucially, Richard and his team have also been able to develop effective strategies and make judicious use of funds especially in the search of donors.

Despite these positive developments for SAP, Richard believes that the quest for resources is far from over, and insist that additional investments are needed, recognising that “most donors are interested in making in-kind donations. But our work is tilted more towards making impact with children with learning disabilities, so we need investments in that direction, so we have to continue sensitising potential donors and convincing them to make more cash donations.

--

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Stronger donor partnership and collaboration reflected in expanded number of partners
- Increased confidence and as such a greater ability to ‘sell’ organisation and its work reflected in expanded network of donors/partners
- Increased credibility, image and legitimacy of organisation to the general public and donors
- Mobilised GHC 40,000 from fund raising for Special Attention Project
In line with WACSI’s new strategic plan 2018 – 2022, the Institute implemented several projects aimed at convening and connecting civil society actors to advocate on issues affecting civil society. Key highlights from the year include WACSI’s selection to serve on the African Development Bank’s Civil Society Committee in addition to serving as a partner member of the Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network. The institute equally received a grant from the Ford Foundation to support NGOs working on reducing child marriage practices with networking, advocacy and policy influencing skills in 6 countries namely, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

The Institute recorded some milestones within its convening and connecting as well as policy influencing ambition. 6 forums were organised under the West Africa Policy Dialogue Series platform (WACPODIS). 2 of the forums attracted regional and continental delegates respectively and connected with WACSI’s main thematic focus on Enabling Environment, Women and Youth leadership as well as Civic Space. The Institute’s forums covered issues including anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing, youth employment through industrialisation, gender equality, and domestic resource mobilisation.

WACSI continues to play significant roles with organisations and platforms focused on advancing the objectives of Sustainable Development goals (SDGs) specifically Goal 16 (on peace, justice and strong institutions) and goal 10 (inequality through social accountability efforts). WACSI’s role as a steering committee member of the Ghana CSO SDG platform, West African Partner of TAP network, core facilitating member of the African CSO Working Group on SDGs are amongst other avenues though which WACSI makes substantial contributions to local and global discourses geared towards advancing the the 2030 agenda.

Key statistics for the year

| CSOs participated in capacity development programmes | 20 |
| Convenings were held in 2018 | 6 |
| Research projects conducted | 2 |
| CSOs educated on Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing | 25 |
Recognising the existing unemployment challenges of Africa’s youth, WACSI, under the auspices of the 2018 African Development Bank (AfDB)-Civil Society Forum, organised a parallel session on the theme “Accelerating Africa’s industrialization: a panacea for youth unemployment”. The session was part of a three-day high-level forum on the theme “Engaging Civil Society in Accelerating Africa’s Industrialization”. The overall objective of the session was to provide a platform for young African leaders and leading civil society activists to deliberate, strategise and unanimously proffer specific actions and initiatives for African decision makers to adopt towards the industrialisation of the continent. The WACSI-led session attracted the participation of 58 representatives from CSOs, social enterprise, private sector organisations and Bank’s staff from over 11 countries including Togo, Cote d’Ivoire, Chad, Cameroon, Algeria, Nigeria, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Zambia, Senegal among others.

Moderated by the Executive Director of WACSI, Nana Asantewa Afadzinu, the session had four young panellists—Sefora Kodjo, President of Sephis; Aude Roméo Tapsoba, Founder and Director of Fasosoleil, a food processing company in Burkina Faso; Yao Job Yao, Database and Digitisation Manager at the Ministry of Economy and Finances in Cote d’Ivoire; and Benjamin Olagboye (PhD), Senior Democracy and Governance Specialist, USAID from Nigeria/Cote D’Ivoire. Presentations and discussions focused on how the youth can contribute towards accelerating the industrialisation process in Africa; and how this can address the problem of youth unemployment on the continent and advance the AfDB’s commitment to industrialisation. The panellists gave brief remarks on key components of industrialisation, causes of unemployment and its attendant effects and how this situation has ultimately worsened the economic challenges in Africa.

Key recommendations emerging from the dialogue highlighted the need to define the concept and scope of industrialisation; mainstream science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) into educational curriculum and programs; institutionalise entrepreneurship education; strengthen systems that promote CSOs role in capacity building, education and governance; promote inclusive youth and minority groups in governance; strengthen anti-corruption and transparency institutions in all countries to institutionalize accountability in the 54 African countries; promote climate and environmental justice and food security initiatives to address the challenges of climate change, environmental conservation, agriculture and food security on the continent; prioritize agriculture and food security issues by attracting young people, especially graduates to the agricultural sector; and improve the agricultural value chain within countries such that excluded youth and marginalized minorities take advantage of opportunities to compete and promote agriculture, which is the backbone of African economies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Mainstream science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) into school curricula from the earliest stages of education in order to shape the mindset and skills of young Africans of both sexes;

- Institutionalise entrepreneurship training and include it in the curricula of basic, secondary and higher education institutions with a view to guiding young Africans of both sexes who might be interested in entrepreneurship;

- Promote the inclusion of youth, minority groups and women in governance with a view to establishing responsible, inclusive and responsive governments;

- Strengthen anti-corruption and transparency institutions in all countries to systematize accountability in the 54 African countries;

- Promote climate and environmental justice and food security initiatives to address the challenges of climate change, environmental conservation, agriculture and food security on the continent;

- Prioritize agriculture and food security issues by attracting young people, especially graduates to the agricultural sector;

- Improve the agricultural value chain within countries such that excluded youth and marginalized minorities take advantage of opportunities to compete and promote agriculture, which is the backbone of African economies.
The Institute is increasingly positioning itself as a thought leader, a knowledge hub and a credible resource centre on civil society issues in West Africa. In 2018, WACSI consistently documented leading practices championed by civil society actors in West Africa. It produced over 12 evidence-based knowledge products and resources that have contributed to discussions on relevant civil society issues such as philanthropy in Nigeria, leadership transitions within civil society organisations (CSOs) in Ghana, media reporting on substance abuse, among others.

WACSI finalised and published a composite regional report with the research findings on the Impact of Drug Trafficking, Production and Consumption on Democracy, Governance and Development in Ghana, Senegal and Benin.

The Institute has participated in major consultations on civic space based on research outputs and findings provided on the CIVICUS Monitor where over 50 updates covering 9 countries were published. The Civil Society e-Directory has been revamped and initiated several communication outreach and activities to increase awareness, registration and use of this fully functional bilingual database with more than 900 registered CSOs. CSOs in 18 countries can use this platform to network, collaborate and share knowledge about their activities. The Media Foundation for West Africa, Savanna Signature, STAR Ghana and the African Women Development Fund are some of the CSOs that are actively using the platform.

**Key Statistics for the year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>50</th>
<th>CIVICUS Civic Space Monitor Updates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Research papers by WACSI Research Fellows published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Op-Eds published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Editorials published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Instructive blog articles published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Monthly Civil Society Situation Reports published</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In September 2018, Abah Danladi, a Nigerian scholar and an alumnus of WACSI’s Research Fellowship Programme, had his research on ‘Mapping the African Philanthropic Space: Opportunities and Challenges for Development in Nigeria’ published by WACSI. Working on the themes of civil society and African philanthropy have always fascinated Abah Danladi, who is a leading researcher and lecturer at the Department of International Studies and History, Kogi State University, Anyigba, Nigeria.

Abah’s keen interest in the discourse of civil society and the emerging field of African Philanthropy led him to participate in three editions of the International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR) conference dating back to 2015. In 2017, “I presented a paper on “African Philanthropy: Empowering the powerless: The Role of African Philanthropy in Women Empowerment”, he recalled. However, what stood out for him were the plenary session of the ISTR Conference, which according to him was good for broad discussions and fertilisation of ideas between academics and CSO actors. He added that the PhD workshop seminar was also an opportunity to meet senior researchers, mentors and to share experience.

Prior to attending the 2017 edition, Danladi was already engaged with West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) and ISTR. Nonetheless, the 2017 ISTR Conference was a milestone in his professional growth. Danladi is quick to pinpoint that the “essence of any conference is to usually influence people's understanding in particular areas and that of last year succeeded in unpacking the complexities of Civil Society and African philanthropy”. After 2017, “I began to reflect more on the research opportunity the grey area of African Philanthropy presented because of the renewed zest and interest the conferences had reignited.”

Danladi’s reignited interest led him to publish seven (7) papers within the broad area of CSO and African Philanthropy which have featured in several journals such as the Nigeria journal of Political Science, Journal of History and International Studies (Federal University of Jos), JAD Journal among others. The feedback on these articles has been excellent and greatly satisfying. “I received an email from a PhD candidate from Malaysia asking me for assistance to shape his PhD after reading one of my works on CS in Northern Nigeria”. As a researcher “getting to know thousands of people are reading and referencing your work is a sign of growth and recognition in the field.” Beyond this, Danladi has collaborated with Dr. Moyo, Solomon Kofi Amoah (another WACSI fellow) to work on a paper and another colleague on the topic “The Role of CSOs in Countering Violent Extremism in Africa” to be published by the Legon Center for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD).

Currently, Danladi is interested in how we can deepen the conversation around civil society and African Philanthropy in Africa. He is however lamenting the fact that “civil society and African philanthropy has not been given much scholarship research in Africa”. He emphasised that this status quo can only change if we have more convenings around the subject.

Grooming the Next Generation of Thought Leaders on Civil Society

In September 2018, Abah Danladi, a Nigerian scholar and an alumnus of WACSI’s Research Fellowship Programme, had his research on ‘Mapping the African Philanthropic Space: Opportunities and Challenges for Development in Nigeria’ published by WACSI. Working on the themes of civil society and African philanthropy have always fascinated Abah Danladi, who is a leading researcher and lecturer at the Department of International Studies and History, Kogi State University, Anyigba, Nigeria.

Abah’s keen interest in the discourse of civil society and the emerging field of African Philanthropy led him to participate in three editions of the International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR) conference dating back to 2015. In 2017, “I presented a paper on “African Philanthropy: Empowering the powerless: The Role of African Philanthropy in Women Empowerment”, he recalled. However, what stood out for him were the plenary session of the ISTR Conference, which according to him was good for broad discussions and fertilisation of ideas between academics and CSO actors. He added that the PhD workshop seminar was also an opportunity to meet senior researchers, mentors and to share experience.

Prior to attending the 2017 edition, Danladi was already engaged with West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) and ISTR. Nonetheless, the 2017 ISTR Conference was a milestone in his professional growth. Danladi is quick to pinpoint that the “essence of any conference is to usually influence people’s understanding in particular areas and that of last year succeeded in unpacking the complexities of Civil Society and African philanthropy”. After 2017, “I began to reflect more on the research opportunity the grey area of African Philanthropy presented because of the renewed zest and interest the conferences had reignited.”

Danladi’s reignited interest led him to publish seven (7) papers within the broad area of CSO and African Philanthropy which have featured in several journals such as the Nigeria journal of Political Science, Journal of History and International Studies (Federal University of Jos), JAD Journal among others. The feedback on these articles has been excellent and greatly satisfying. “I received an email from a PhD candidate from Malaysia asking me for assistance to shape his PhD after reading one of my works on CS in Northern Nigeria”. As a researcher “getting to know thousands of people are reading and referencing your work is a sign of growth and recognition in the field.” Beyond this, Danladi has collaborated with Dr. Moyo, Solomon Kofi Amoah (another WACSI fellow) to work on a paper and another colleague on the topic “The Role of CSOs in Countering Violent Extremism in Africa” to be published by the Legon Center for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD).

Currently, Danladi is interested in how we can deepen the conversation around civil society and African Philanthropy in Africa. He is however lamenting the fact that “civil society and African philanthropy has not been given much scholarship research in Africa”. He emphasised that this status quo can only change if we have more convenings around the subject.
Register for free on
THE WEST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY E-DIRECTORY
WWW.CSOWESTAFRICA.ORG

STAR GHANA FOUNDATION

A BILINGUAL PLATFORM FOR CSOs FROM WEST AFRICA, CAMEROON AND CHAD TO

1. Promote the organisation’s visibility
2. Gather data on CSOs’ operations
3. Share and exchange information
4. Build networks and partnership

Visit http://www.csowestafrika.org
Select your country
Click on Register Now
IT IS FREE!

Generate your CSO profile
Post relevant news, events, pictures, videos about your CSO
Know about the activities of other registered organisations

📞 +233(0)501440545
✉️ info@csowestafrika.org
✉️ regionaldirectory@wacsi.org
Interning with WACSI – a Career Shaping Opportunity

Kayla Green, Intern, Africa Program at the Center for International Policy

I took part in a one-month internship with WACSI because I wanted to explore my interests in African studies while completing my undergraduate degree. I joined WACSI through a 7-week study abroad program to Accra, Ghana through my university, Arizona State University. This study abroad trip also included a 4-week internship placement with an organisation that matched my interests as a student.

Working with WACSI in the Knowledge Management Unit has helped to develop my passion for advocacy of civil societies across Africa for citizens that are experiencing inhumane, authoritarian restrictions on their rights and autonomy.

Without WACSI, I would not have the knowledge or awareness that I cultivated under their mentorship about the current status of West African countries, which provided the perfect stepping-stone to expanding my comprehension on the other four regions of the continent. I would have never explored the possible career paths that exists in the scope of African relations that I am now pursuing. I also would not have the professional experience needed to open doors for me on my career path as I transition out of school and into the workforce.

Interning at WACSI enabled me to gain concrete skills and experience in writing reports for public consumption. I also developed organisational skills when managing multiple research tasks.

In my current role, I use the research skills that I gained with WACSI to track and find information on countries in Africa that are hard to get updated news on. Enhancing my organisational skills at WACSI now enables me to manage and execute all the tasks that I am assigned to do, given that my scope of research has broadened to the whole continent and not just the region of West Africa.

My experience working internationally while being from America is something that I will always carry with me. This is a unique asset to my professional experience that will help me define a clear career path after I finish my undergraduate degree in Political Science.
The Opportunity that Unlocked my Potential

Rachad Bani Samari, Programme Assistant, Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)

The ability to unlock a people’s potential and lead them to a better future has always been my ultimate goal. To achieve such a goal, I needed to grasp the concept of leadership that achieves results, learn soft skills that could help me thrive in life, and understand the space that seeks to drive change and empower individuals to leave better lives. But above all, I needed a platform that could help me launch my professional career and position me as an agent of change.

The Next generation Internship (NGI) at WACSI has considerably shaped my career and also increased my prospects of success in life. The number of trainings received and the hands on deck approach was key in equipping me with soft skills. However, what was critical was the intra-generational and the inter-generational mentorship that guided me through the process of transition from university to the professional life, re-thinking my career, aligning it with my potential and how to position myself in the civic space.

During the NGI, some skills gained I believe set me apart today. The coordination of events, and the ability to write concept notes, and reporting. These skills are critical in my everyday work as I am often in charge of writing concept notes, organising and coordinating key events both at the national and international level, and writing reports.

Another key skill gained was how to set a project implementation framework to achieve results. This skill was very central as I developed an advocacy project framework that has contributed to yielding concrete results in Burkina Faso.

Ever since I left WACSI, one single thing pushes me to the extra step “Excellence as my minimum standard”.

SUCCESS STORY
Register now on westafrica.techsoup.global

AFFORDABLE TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS AND SUPPORT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

#CSOBeyondAid #Shiftthepower
### OUR FINANCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budgeted amounts</th>
<th>Actual amounts on a comparable basis</th>
<th>Variances: Final budget and actual amounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GHc</td>
<td>GHc</td>
<td>GHc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### RECEIPTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OSIWA Core funding</td>
<td>1,375,955</td>
<td>1,304,340</td>
<td>1,375,842</td>
<td>1,304,340</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution fee paying</td>
<td>100,874</td>
<td>241,086</td>
<td>107,634</td>
<td>56,391</td>
<td>6,760</td>
<td>184,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demand driven &amp; Institutional Consultancies</td>
<td>3,438,849</td>
<td>2,991,904</td>
<td>2,698,549</td>
<td>2,108,816</td>
<td>740,300</td>
<td>883,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Donor support</td>
<td>6,074,077</td>
<td>5,205,824</td>
<td>4,402,895</td>
<td>4,248,992</td>
<td>1,671,181</td>
<td>956,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total receipts</strong></td>
<td>10,989,754</td>
<td>9,743,153</td>
<td>8,584,920</td>
<td>7,718,539</td>
<td>2,404,834</td>
<td>2,024,614</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### PAYMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge management</td>
<td>1,441,480</td>
<td>1,277,968</td>
<td>1,190,281</td>
<td>994,709</td>
<td>251,198</td>
<td>283,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
<td>3,200,751</td>
<td>2,837,681</td>
<td>2,642,975</td>
<td>2,131,520</td>
<td>557,776</td>
<td>706,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Influencing</td>
<td>3,555,438</td>
<td>3,152,134</td>
<td>2,935,852</td>
<td>2,273,621</td>
<td>619,586</td>
<td>878,513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach &amp; Governance</td>
<td>464,905</td>
<td>412,170</td>
<td>383,889</td>
<td>284,203</td>
<td>81,016</td>
<td>127,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General administrative Expenses</td>
<td>2,327,180</td>
<td>2,063,201</td>
<td>1,921,636</td>
<td>1,421,013</td>
<td>405,544</td>
<td>642,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total payments</strong></td>
<td>10,989,754</td>
<td>9,743,153</td>
<td>9,074,633</td>
<td>7,105,065</td>
<td>1,915,121</td>
<td>2,638,088</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Surplus/(deficit) funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(deficit) funds</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(489,713)</td>
<td>613,474</td>
<td>489,713</td>
<td>(613,474)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To our esteemed board members

You are a pool of wisdom
Great men and women from our kingdom
Who are always selfless to see WACSI blossom
Your wise words are as sharp as a two edged sword
Piercing all traits of slumber like a lightning rod
In times of despair you motivate us to the core
In times of success, you shower us with smiles that strengthen our resolve

Indeed you remain great ambassadors of WACSI
We can only wish you well as YOU RISE TO our COUNCIL OF THE WISE

We shall forever salute your greatness
You raised us to the heights of greatness
We are now more than ever ready to fulfil our destined success

To you all we say!
AYEEKO!
WACSI
All Rights Reserved

No. 9 Bamboo Street, East Legon
P.O. Box AT 1956, Achimota
Accra Ghana

Tel: +233(0)302550222 /+233(0)303937264
Fax: +233 (0)302522588
Email: info@wacsi.org

Facebook: wacsiorg
Twitter: @wacsi
Youtube: wacsi
LinkedIn: wacsi