Advancing Civil Society’s Effectiveness

2017 ANNUAL REPORT
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ACRONYMS

CBO - Community Based Organisation
NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation
CSO - Civil Society Organisation
WACSI - West Africa Civil Society Institute
CSSI - Civil Society Sustainability Index
CSLI - Civil Society Leadership Institute
GIMPA - Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration
IREX - International Research & Exchanges Board
2017 in pictures
Message from Board Chairman

This 2017 annual report on the activities of the West Africa Civil Society Institute differs from previous ones in terms of its themes which are based on three main areas of interventions such as Policy Influencing and Advocacy, Knowledge Management and Capacity Development.

Through political advocacy, WACSI seeks to sensitise its actors on the political issues of current actions in favour of regional integration, adoption of NGO laws, empowerment and the contribution of women to different development activities.

Knowledge management requires WACSI to develop several tools that will improve the way it conducts its different activity programmes. We can mention, among others:

- the civil society sustainability index which focuses on four aspects: identity, operation, intervention and financing;
- the youth research fellowship to promote leadership and strengthen governance in the region;
- the West Africa civil society e-directory.

The last component, capacity development, focuses on implementing the 2013-2017 strategic plan and strengthening the partnerships established with several regional and international institutions.

All these activities make WACSI a leading organisation for the promotion and strengthening of civil actors of democracy and political dialogue in the region.

We hope that this report will be well received by WACSI partners and clients and the general public in the region and in Africa as a whole.
2017 marked the end of a strategic cycle for WACSI and the planning of another. It was a year of taking stock, evaluating progress, documenting lessons learnt and using that to inform planning for the next strategic cycle (2018-2022). The Institute went through this process with various civil society actors at the national and regional levels in West Africa, experienced civil society actors with their fingers on the pulse of the sector and development trends, its staff and board, and technical and donor partners.

The key issues that emanated from this process were as follows:

• the need for WACSI to broaden its focus on civil society to reach other groups within the sector such as social movements, faith-based organisations, professional associations, private sector associations, voluntary associations and trade unions, in addition to NGOs;
• a demand for an institutional capacity development programme that benefits not only national level NGOs but reach CBOs through innovative channels;
• shrinking civic space in the region and the need for a better and enabling environment for civil society to develop and contribute effectively to sustainable development;
• the growing threat to civil society sustainability with the inadequate support for institutional building, waning trust in NGOs, a shrinking of civic space and dwindling of donor resources;
• how to equip civil society to be effective and efficient in the technological age, honing it to their advantage.

To fill a yawning data gap, the institute did not only rejuvenate its existing civil society e-directory for Ghana but widened the scope to cover the whole of West Africa, Chad, Mauritania and Cameroon (WACSI’s geographical scope). This platform provides information on credible organisations in the region, where they are situated, what they do and how to engage them.

WACSI strengthened and formed new partnerships in 2017, joining forces with others to address the issues highlighted above, starting in 2017 but looking ahead for the next 5 years. These include partnerships with the Ford Foundation on the Next Generation Leadership Programme; with the GIMPA Regional Centre and IREX on the Young African Leadership Initiative; with CARE International on the Women on the Move Programme; with the Department of Social Welfare, the Financial Intelligence Centre and as a member of the NGO Coalition on the NGO Bill in Ghana, to look at the issue of an enabling environment for CSO effectiveness and effective partnerships between civil society and government. We also partnered with CIVICUS on monitoring and publishing the state of civic space in West Africa, with Star-Ghana and Wilde Ganzen on civil society sustainability, and with TechSoup and the Open Society Foundation Human Rights Programme on technology and development.

With excitement, WACSI welcomed its newest Board member, Carl Manlan, the Chief Operating Officer of the ECOBANK Foundation. Mr. Manlan comes to the Board with immense experience from the private and international development sectors and the Institute will benefit greatly from his knowledge and expertise.

The Institute looks forward with great anticipation and a renewed enthusiasm, to the coming years, as we roll out the new strategy for 2018-2022. Join us on this quest to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of civil society in West Africa.
2018-2022 STRATEGY

OUR VISION
A peaceful and prosperous West Africa where development is driven by its people.

OUR MISSION
We strengthen civil society in West Africa to be responsive, collaborative, representative, resilient and influential through knowledge sharing, learning, connecting and influencing.

OUR VALUES
- People-Centeredness
- Collaboration
- Non-Discrimination
- Innovation
- Ethics
- Diversity
- Leadership
- Excellence

OUR AMBITION
WACSI has prioritised four ambitions to enable Civil Society in West Africa become a powerful driver of change in the region. In implementing all these strategies, we will give particular attention to strengthening the agency of women and youth in recognition of the central role they should play in the transformation of this region. We will also seize the opportunities that technology is offering in opening up the space for civic engagement in the region.

WE WILL CAPACITATE
We will seek to enhance the effectiveness and performance of organised and organic civil society groups. Our aim will be to strengthen the legitimacy, transparency, accountability and resilience of these groups through training, mentoring and coaching programmes among others. We will continue to take a long-term approach to capacity development and will focus on shared learning rather than teaching. To reach out to a broader number of CSOs, we may also use Training of Trainers and appropriate e-learning approaches.

WE WILL CONNECT AND CONVENE
We will create spaces and platforms for diverse groups of civil society to connect, share and learn from each other and with non-civil society actors. Our approach will focus on facilitating multistakeholder engagement on critical issues, strengthening civic voices, and linking networks and alliances.

WE WILL FACILITATE LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING
We will curate knowledge and facilitate learning and participatory knowledge sharing within civil society and between CSOs and other actors.

WE WILL INFLUENCE AND ADVOCATE
We will influence institutions, policies, legislation and funding practices to ensure civil society in West Africa has an enabling environment in which to operate. We will do this through continuous engagement with policy actors and policy institutions and in collaboration with a diverse group of civil society and development partners.

OUR THEMES
- Enabling Environment for Civil Society
- Civil Society Sustainability
- Women & Youth Leadership
- Technology for Development

FUNDING OUR AMBITION
In the next five years, we will seek a sustainable and diverse revenue stream to fund planned programmes and organisational development. Given the ambition of our programme, we will aim to increase our revenues and ensure that they are flexible enough to fund our priorities and grow our reserves. The sustainability of our income will be contingent on us growing our internally generated revenue and decreasing our dependence on donor funding. During the strategy period, therefore, significant attention will be given to developing these alternative sources of income.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY
Find the full version of the strategy on our website, www.wacsi.org
POLICY INFLUENCING AND ADVOCACY

WACSI convened 5 Policy Dialogues under the West Africa Policy Dialogue Series (WAC-PoDiS) platform, 4 of which were held in Accra, Ghana and 1 in Dakar, Senegal. Themes ranged from civic space to African philanthropy. The Institute also co-organised 3 additional convenings on pertinent policy issues including regional integration and Financial Action Task Force ( FATF) Regulations. In Ghana, our policy dialogue on the NGO bill process revived discussions on civil society regulation in Ghana and enabled civil society actors to strategise on how to engage government. The Institute is currently working in collaboration with key civil society actors and government agencies to facilitate the enactment of the bill and its policy adoption to secure an enabling environment for the civil society.

As part of CARE International and WACSI’s joint efforts to harness support and strengthen advocacy for women’s economic empowerment in West Africa, the organisations held a regional and national advocacy strategy workshop for key stakeholders in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire in February 2017. The workshop attracted participants from key regional civil society organisations including Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Mano River Union (MRU), West African Women’s Association (WAWA) and CARE International country offices. Among the key successes of the workshop was the development of the regional and national advocacy goals and objectives for 8 countries namely Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire, Chad, Togo, Benin, Niger, Mali and Sierra Leone. These goals, objectives and initial stakeholder analysis served as essential input for the development of regional and national advocacy strategies with action plans. CARE international, WACSI and partners believe that the outcome of the workshop will serve as a catalyst for increased impact on women’s economic empowerment in West Africa through financial inclusion, specifically savings and loan models.

The Institute, through the Policy Influencing and Advocacy Unit, implemented capacity strengthening programmes for civil society on issues pertaining to policy advocacy as well as networking and alliance building. Over 200 civil society actors benefited from these trainings. In partnership with the French Embassy, WACSI commenced implementation of its Strengthening Professional Skills of Civil Society Organisations in Ghana Project. 14 organisations from across Ghana benefited from the Policy Engagement and Alliance Creation training organised by WACSI. These organisations will receive technical support for the implementation of their advocacy plans in 2018.

Key Statistics of the Year

- Over 200 civil society actors participated in capacity development
- Convened 5 WAC-PoDiS—4 in Accra and 1 in Dakar
- 3 dialogues co-hosted with other partners
- Over 150 participants in multiple convenings
- Reviewed CSOs (from Togo, Ghana, Liberia) shadow reports at the 2017 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development convened annually by United Nations Economic Council for Africa (UNECA) and other United Nations agencies
WACSI Promotes Women’s Economic Empowerment and Financial Inclusion in West Africa

Gender disparities remain a major setback to women’s access to economic opportunities and financial services in West Africa despite women’s economic empowerment gaining global traction over the past few decades. In a bid to address this status quo, the WACSI in partnership with CARE International, through its ‘Women on the Move Impact Growth Strategy’ (WoM-IGS), seek to accelerate women’s economic empowerment and financial inclusion in West Africa. The WoM-IGS project aims at ensuring that 15 million women and girls between the ages of 15 and 64 experience positive changes in their socio-economic status and possess adequate information, skills and techniques to influence and advocate for policy changes at local, national and regional levels.

In pursuant of this goal, WACSI and CARE commissioned a comprehensive policy research which seeks to analyse contexts, actors, structures and existing policies on women’s socio-economic status in eight (8) African countries. The study, which was completed in February 2017, involved in-depth review of existing and/or absent policies (laws, decrees) and practices in each of the countries including holistic mapping of relevant actors working on the subject matter at the national level. The research findings provided insights into country-specific realities vis-a-vis current regional policy environment for women’s financial inclusion. While the findings show significant progress being made by governments in these countries in terms of introducing legal, regulatory and policy frameworks to advance women’s rights and gender equity and equality, it nonetheless underscores the enormous challenges and barriers that women continue to face at home, work and in the community. Particularly, there remains a massive disparity between the development of these frameworks and their implementations and enforcement.

Following the research, WACSI and CARE organised a 3-day regional workshop in Abidjan, Cote D’Ivoire to develop a regional advocacy strategy that seeks to tackle various obstacles to women’s economic empowerment in West Africa, with emphasis on women’s financial inclusion through actors such as financial institutions, government ministries, telecommunication companies, regional bodies and civil society organisations. Prominent civil society organisations including Catholic Relief Services (CRS), West African Women’s Association (WAWA), Mano River Union (MRU), the United Nations Capital Development Fund, CARE International country offices and representatives from the savings groups from across the region attended the workshop.

The workshop successfully developed key components for the regional advocacy strategy including regional goals and objectives, an action plan, country specific advocacy goals and objectives for the eight (8) countries as well as a platform from organisations working on financial inclusion for women. After the workshop, a task team set up to complete the development of the regional advocacy strategy has completed its work. Three participating countries (Cote D’Ivoire, Togo and Benin) have already held a national advocacy workshop to mobilise buy-in of local partners and further ensure the national advocacy strategies reflect contextual realities and build consensus for implementation. Other countries are expected to follow suit.

WACSI, CARE International and its partners are confident that the regional and national advocacy strategies will promote women’s economic empowerment across different sectors in target countries and scale up previous achievements in West Africa.

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1 These are Ghana, Togo, Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Niger, Sierra Leone, Chad and Mali.
2017 marked the end of the Institute’s 2013 – 2017 strategic cycle. The Capacity Development Unit successfully piloted new initiatives during the year including the Regional Shared Learning Workshop on Social Accountability, Intergenerational Mentorship Programme, Technology and Information Systems Capacity Strengthening Initiative for four human rights organisations in West Africa and established a formal relationship with Wilde Ganzen to design and roll out a programme to boost the local resource mobilisation capacity of sixty (60) community-based organisations (CBOs) in Ghana within a six-year timeline.

Through the partnership established in 2017, ten (10) organisations will benefit from the local resource mobilisation programme in 2018 and subsequently the same number every year for the next five (5) years. This forms part of WACSI’s sustainability initiative, supporting civil society to tackle sustainability challenges whilst preparing them for a future without aid. It is envisaged that the programme will strengthen the capacity of CBOs in Ghana to develop domestic resource mobilisation mechanisms that create multiple funding streams through utilising local assets and support for their initiatives.

The Next Generation Internship Programme hosted 6 Interns from 5 West African countries, namely Ghana, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone, providing them with on-the-job training, coaching and mentoring. The Civil Society Leadership Institute, a leadership programme for middle level civic activists, empowered 18 young civic leaders from Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and the Gambia to be more impactful in their various causes. These initiatives are under WACSI Next Generation Leadership Programme that seeks to create a pool of transformational youth leaders with robust professional skills and enhanced capacities to promote active civic engagement, democratic citizenship, good governance and social change.

Additionally, and core to its mandate, this Institute trained some 147 civil society actors from 228 CSOs on different key themes. These was aimed at equipping these participants to contribute towards strengthening the monitoring and evaluation, fundraising, financial and grants management and communication departments of their respective institutions.

The Institute organised a Regional Shared Learning Workshop on Social Accountability in West Africa which produced a social accountability guidebook – a learning resource that is intended to support the building of a community of practice of social accountability practitioners, advocates, and champions in West Africa. The Institute also documented the success stories of 2015 alumni of the Civil Society Leadership Institute. We also continued the coordination of the West Africa Drug Policy Reform Project and the implementation partnership with IREX in West Africa for the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.

Akosua Appau, 2016 Mandela Washington Fellow at a WACSI coordinated event.
## Key Statistics of the Year

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<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>CSOs groomed</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interns groomed through the Next Generation Leadership Programme</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO actors trained</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle level professionals from 11 West African countries trained and mentored</td>
<td>18</td>
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</table>
TRANSFORMING AN ORGANISATION – A CSLI STORY

No formalised operating structure, loopholes in management and accountability, lack of prioritisation on donor and partner relationships and weak board involvement are not the recipes of a successful organisation. Yet, that is how Joseph Senyo Kwashie described his organisation before 2014. Joseph is a 2015 alumnus of the maiden Civil Society Leadership Institute (CSLI) and is now the National Director of Community and Family Aid Foundation (CAFAF), a fledgling organisation promoting the empowerment of women, communities, young people to manage issues concerning their development.

In 2015, Joseph was admitted in the first cohort of the CSLI fellowship programme. Coming on board, he hoped to learn the skills he needed to improve his work in his role. Little did he know he was going to be the catalyst for transforming his organisation.

“We didn’t have strong relationships, not with those we served or those we worked with. They weren’t involved in our planning process. Our organisation had no structure and things were done haphazardly”, he remarked. “We just weren’t working properly”, he added. Through the exhaustive training phase of his fellowship however, Joseph acquired the skills to make him the leader to transform his civil society organisation (CSO) into a real changemaker. “Change management, organisational restructuring, knowledge management, team work and a theory of change in the 21st century were the tools that helped me turn CAFAF around”, said Joseph.

“What truly made the CSLI unique and effective was the pairing of fellows with accomplished and dedicated mentors and the coaching and support they and WACSI provided during the second phase of our training”, he said.

Joseph was mentored by George Osei-Bimpeh, Director of SEND Ghana, who helped him make practical use of all he had learned. “This and the network of other great fellows from all over the region is what makes the CSLI so useful. It is practical.” Joseph testified.

Today, CAFAF is stronger than ever and growing in its mandate and size. Under his leadership, the organisation underwent sweeping changes, instituting policies, by-laws, working documents for departments and regulations that properly govern the organisation. He got the board more involved and invested in the organisation and committed to building up his staff, just as he had been through the CSLI.

Most importantly, the communities they served are now partners in their own development. “All our activities and projects offered on the ground are founded on effective community and stakeholder input and validation before their implementation”, Joseph proudly stated.

“I can confidently say there was transformation, both personally and professionally, because of my time in the CSLI. The overall impact of the program on my organisation’s daily operations and interventions is phenomenal. This journey has truly been transformative”, Joseph concluded.

ABOUT CSLI

The CSLI programme is designed to groom the next generation of leaders in civil society. It equips participating fellows with the skills and tools they need to create sustainability in their fields and places of work and amplify the effectiveness of their actions. It is also designed to bring the present and future young leaders in civil society together to share ideas, build each other up, to construct a vibrant, resilient and effective civil society in West Africa. The programme is run in two phases, the training phase and mentorship/coaching phase. Together, these provide the fellows with strong theoretical principles and experiential guidance to put these into practice.
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

The Institute tested and validated its Civil Society Sustainability Index (CSSI), designed as a self-assessment tool for civil society organisations to review their state of sustainability and to diagnose relevant follow up action. The CSSI conceptualises sustainability to be comprised of 4 main components to assess ‘state’ of sustainability including: IDENTITY, OPERATIONAL, INTERVENTIONS and FINANCIAL. Each dimension has a series of criteria and indicators that help identify key areas that need strengthening and prioritised actions. The tool acknowledges that civil society organisations vary in size, function, mission, vision and culture however, it can be used by organisations of any type or size. Its ease of use also allows other organisations to use the CSSI to support their implementing partners to assess their sustainability.

Under the Next Generation Research Fellowship, three young researchers from Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone were commissioned to explore how to promote leadership and governance for civil society in West Africa. They were provided a space to interact with relevant stakeholders, including decision-makers, development practitioners and CSO leaders through this fellowship. The three fellows were supported to conduct research on a specific area of civil society leadership and governance while taking into cognisance practitioners’ experiences. The programme ensures that future leaders in West Africa have the tools and basis to document best practices in Africa and help their communities to develop these practices. Furthermore, it provides opportunities for young researchers, particularly those enrolled in PhD programmes with the aim to advance leadership and governance within the civil society sector.

The Institute launched the West Africa Civil Society E-Directory platform, a bilingual online platform mapping CSOs operating in 15 ECOWAS countries as well as Mauritania, Cameroon and Chad. The website aims to increase data generation and documentation of CSOs, boost their visibility and engagement, enhance CSOs’ networking and partnerships, and increase knowledge sharing and peer learning within the sector. The platform responds to the need for easily accessible and credible data on CSOs in the region. The platform has information on registered and operational organisations working on various thematic areas in these countries. It is regularly updated by CSOs registered on the directory. It aggregates registered organisations’ data across countries, regions, thematic areas, core competency and target groups. Organisations are invited to register by creating a profile to be able to post relevant news, events, opportunities, pictures and videos, and to see that of other registered organisations in the other countries on the directory. The E-Directory can be accessed at www.csowestafrica.org

Key Statistics of the Year

- Research fellows: 3 research fellows hosted from Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra. Two research reports produced.
- CIVICUS Civic Space Monitor Updates: Countries served: nine (9) (Sierra Leone, Senegal, Togo, Liberia, Cote D’Ivoire, Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Guinea). 25 total updates provided.
- Situation Reports: 18 situation reports produced.
- Acquisition of plagiarism software: Anti-Plagiarism software to preserve WACSI publications, integrity and publication quality.
DISCOVERING A NEW RESEARCH TRAJECTORY

“My participation in the maiden edition of the WACSI Research Fellowship was an awesome experience that I repetitively refer to as one of the best things that happened to me in 2017.” This is how Solomon Amoah described his Research Fellowship experience.

In 2017, Solomon was selected as one of three researchers to participate in the first cohort of WACSI’s Research Fellowship programme.

“I knew before coming for the Fellowship programme that the Institute had an enviable record of carrying out cutting edge, innovative and creative research. The Institute’s internationally acclaimed reputation gave me the confidence that the Fellowship programme was going to help sharpen my research skills to aid me finish my PhD thesis”. Solomon confessed.

“I was also certain that the programme was going to expose me to experiences relevant to my work. The programme met my expectations and beyond. The mentorship aspect of the programme afforded me the opportunity to choose Prof. Justice Bawole as my mentor. This has had a tremendous impact on my research”, he added.

Solomon also declared WACSI’s professional environment as the best he could have for any research agenda. “I particularly enjoyed the support of my colleagues at WACSI. During the Fellowship, my colleagues were heavily involved in my research work. This blend of academic and practitioner’s perspectives enriched the results of my work”, he said.

The Research Fellowship helped reshape Solomon’s focus as an academic. “I developed a new and productive academic trajectory, igniting my interest in the third sector. The opportunity to interview key nonprofit leaders in Ghana and beyond broadened my understanding of this chosen field of study”, Solomon noted.

As part of the Fellowship programme, Solomon and his colleagues were given the opportunity to serve as panelists and participate fully in the International Society for Third-Sector Research Africa Network Conference held in Accra in June 2017.

“One of the highlights of the Fellowship was the International Society for Third-Sector Research Africa Network Conference. My participation and interaction at the conference exposed me to research and happenings in the non-profit sector around the world in a way I had never imagined”, Solomon confessed.

The Fellowship programme incorporated sessions on communication and networking to strengthen the writing, presentation and networking skills of the Fellows.

“WACSI’s internal communication training sessions also improved my writing and presentation skills. This has been acknowledged by my professors and colleagues within my research fraternity. The programme also reiterated the skill of networking and its importance; which has propelled me to collaborate with others on a number of projects such as the research publications I have coauthored with Danladi Abah, a fellow researcher of the first cohort of WACSI’s Research Fellowship,” Solomon proudly stated.

The Research Fellowship is a component of WACSI’s Next Generation Leadership programme which was implemented with support from Ford Foundation. The Fellowship is designed to provide opportunities to engage practitioners and scholars to advance leadership and governance for civil society by providing them with support and expertise of WACSI’s staff and associate, access to our extensive knowledge resources; a community of WACSI partners with whom to exchange ideas and meetings with CSO representatives, academics and other stakeholders in Accra, Ghana. The Fellows are supported to research on a specific area of civil society leadership and governance taking into cognisance their research interests, past and present experiences. The research that emanates from this fellowship would add value to the CSLI and the internship programme in terms of curriculum development and experience sharing.
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE WEST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY E-DIRECTORY

WWW.CSOWESTAFRICA.ORG

Visit http://www.csowestafrica.org
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IT IS FREE!!

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

1. Promote the organisation’s visibility
2. Gather data on CSOs’ operations
3. Share and exchange information
4. Build networks and partnerships
AFFORDABLE TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION IN WEST AFRICA

The use of technology in the 21st century has become a necessity for a dynamic performance of corporates and nonprofit organisations. But access to the right and latest technology has not always been easy. Most nonprofit organisations have a very limited budget for technology and some do not even have. Donor’s funds are mostly dedicated to direct implementation of projects and activities while low proportion of the budget is directed to general Information Communication and Technology (ICT) support. Inadequate access to resources constrain most organisations to use standards tools and methods of working such as, relying on papers, old computers or nonintegrated systems which limit work efficiency and productivity.

WACSI partnered with TechSoup in 2017 on a technology donation programme for nonprofit organisations in West Africa in line with its mandate of strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations. The programme offers access to affordable and essential technology products and services to non-profit organisations operating in the 15 ECOWAS countries as well as Mauritania, Cameroon and Chad. The programme aims to break the operational gaps when it comes to the accessibility and use of technology by nonprofits to increase their productivity, maximise their impact and ensure their financial and operational sustainability.

The programme kicked off in June 2017. By December 2017, 391 organisations registered for the donation programme from the 17 countries including Cameroon and Chad.

Over this period, 133 products have been donated to nonprofit organisations from Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin, Senegal, Sierra Leone through the programme. Products such as Office Professional Plus, Windows Operating System Upgrade, Box Starter Edition, Office Standard, Visio Standard, Office for Mac, Bitdefender GravityZone Business Security, Tableau Desktop Professional.

These donations helped the beneficiaries to be equipped with latest technology, facilitating efficient operations within the organisations and increased their productivity to achieve their mission. Besides the boosting of beneficiary’s productivity, these organisations have been able to save financial resources and use them where it matters the most and contribute to their sustainability. For example, with the market rate, the 133 softwares donated to nonprofit organisations during the first phase of the programme could have cost $46,119 USD in total. But with the donation programme offering about more than 90% discount to registered nonprofits, beneficiary organisations only contributed an administrative fee of $3943 USD to receive the 133 licenses. This donation helped beneficiaries to save up to $42176USD.

The Techsoup donation programme seeks to provide nonprofits with transformative technology solutions and skills they need to improve lives. The programme is supported by donor partners like Microsoft, Bitdefender, Tableau, Box, Ushahidi and Autodesk.

To register for the donation programme, organisations will have to visit the TechSoup West Africa platform, Sign Up and register as individual. Once registered as individual they will receive their registration confirmation email with instructions on how to register their organisations. Organisations will be required to upload their registration documents as proof for their nonprofit status. The official link for registration is westafrica.techsoup.global.

For more information, contact: techsoup@wacsi.org

Donor Partners:

From left to right: Alex Nyingi, Microsoft Africa Representative, Anne Musyoki, Techsoup Africa Representative, Nana Asantewa Afadzinu, Executive Director, WACSI, Franck Sombo, Head, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning at WACSI.
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<td>Outreach &amp; Governance</td>
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<td>General administrative Expenses</td>
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**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Institute in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants’ Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) and other independence requirements applicable to performing audits of West Africa Civil Society Institute. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code, and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing the audit of West Africa Civil Society Institute. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Signed by Kwadwo Mpeapi-Brantus (CAG/37/125)
Chartered Accountants
Accra, Ghana
Date: 29 August 2018

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT**
TO THE MEMBERS OF
WEST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE
Report on the audit of the financial statements

**Statement of Comparison of Budget and actual Amount**

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<th>Budgeted Amounts</th>
<th>Actual on comparable Basis</th>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Receipts</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSIWA Core funding</td>
<td>1,304,340.00</td>
<td>1,304,340.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribution fee paying</td>
<td>24,086.00</td>
<td>56,391.00</td>
<td>32,305.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demand driven &amp; Institutional Consultancies</td>
<td>2,991,904.00</td>
<td>2,991,904.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Donor support</td>
<td>5,205,824.00</td>
<td>5,205,824.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total receipts</strong></td>
<td>9,743,154.00</td>
<td>9,743,154.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Payments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Management</td>
<td>1,277,968</td>
<td>994,709.00</td>
<td>283,259.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity Development</td>
<td>2,837,681</td>
<td>2,131,520.00</td>
<td>706,161.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Influencing</td>
<td>3,152,134</td>
<td>2,273,620.00</td>
<td>878,514.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach &amp; Governance</td>
<td>412,170</td>
<td>340,343.00</td>
<td>71,827.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>General administrative Expenses</td>
<td>2,063,201</td>
<td>1,260,261.00</td>
<td>802,940.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Payment</strong></td>
<td>9,743,154.00</td>
<td>7,105,065.00</td>
<td>2,638,089.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chart Title**

- **Budgeted Amounts**
- **Actual on comparable Basis**
WACSI HAS THE RIGHT FACILITIES FOR YOUR BOARD MEETING!

1 Conference Room

- Conference
- Meeting
- Workshop
- Multinational events

1 Board Room

- Projector and Screen, Laptop, Flip chart and stand,
- Interpretation equipment, Audio conferencing equipment,
- Comfortable tables and chairs, Air Conditioning,
- High Speed wireless internet, Catering, Stand-by Generator

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Training facility

Conference facility

Board room
Our Partners