WEST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE

E-NEWSLETTER

JULY-SEPT 2026

Third Quarter



STORIES
EVENTS
OPPORTUNITIES

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WACSI
WEST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE

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REPORT



A MAPPING STUDY ON DIGITAL RIGHTS, ADVOCACY, AND ACTIVISM IN NIGERIA, GHANA, LIBERIA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND GUINEA

This study maps the state of digital rights, advocacy and activism in Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia, as West Africa surges online. Internet access has exploded over the decade, fueling voices, ideas and jobs across West Africa. But this boom brings risks: spying by governments, site blocks, data leaks and fresh threats from Artificial Intelligence (AI) like deepfakes or online abuse against women, also known as technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV). The overarching goals of the study are to gauge today's digital rights health, flag key issues for advocates, expose weak rules on data, AI, safety and surveillance, spot hurdles blocking community groups and offer ways for these groups to drive change.

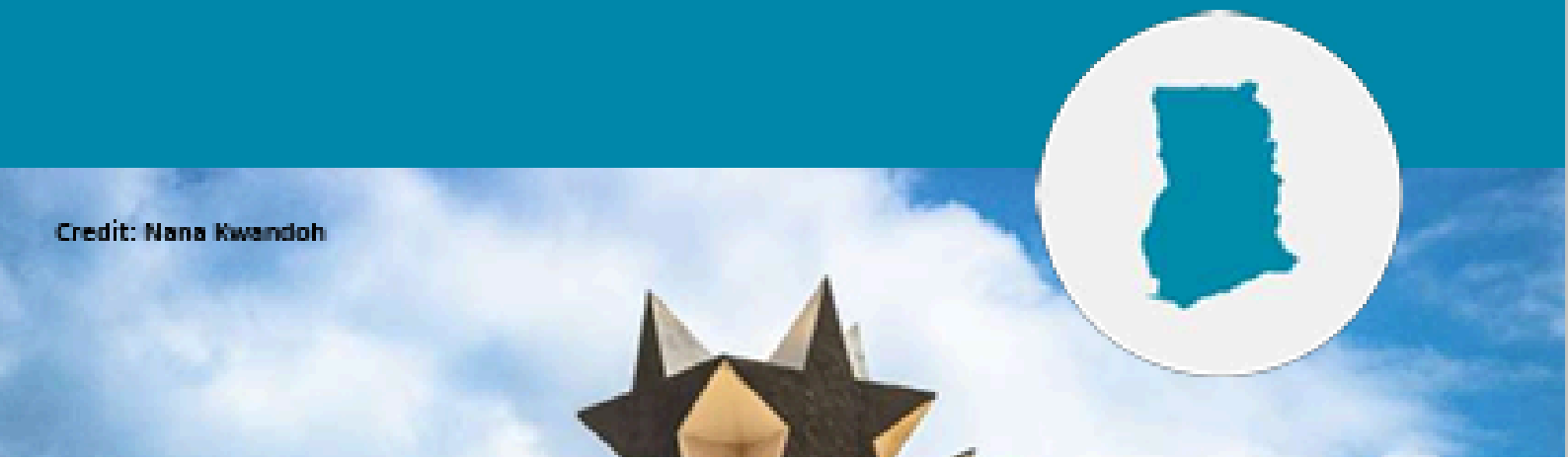
Read the full report here.

REPORT

Ghana

Country Focus Report

2025



EUROPEAN UNION SYSTEM FOR AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT (EU SEE) INITIATIVE RESEARCH REPORT - FOCUS ON GHANA

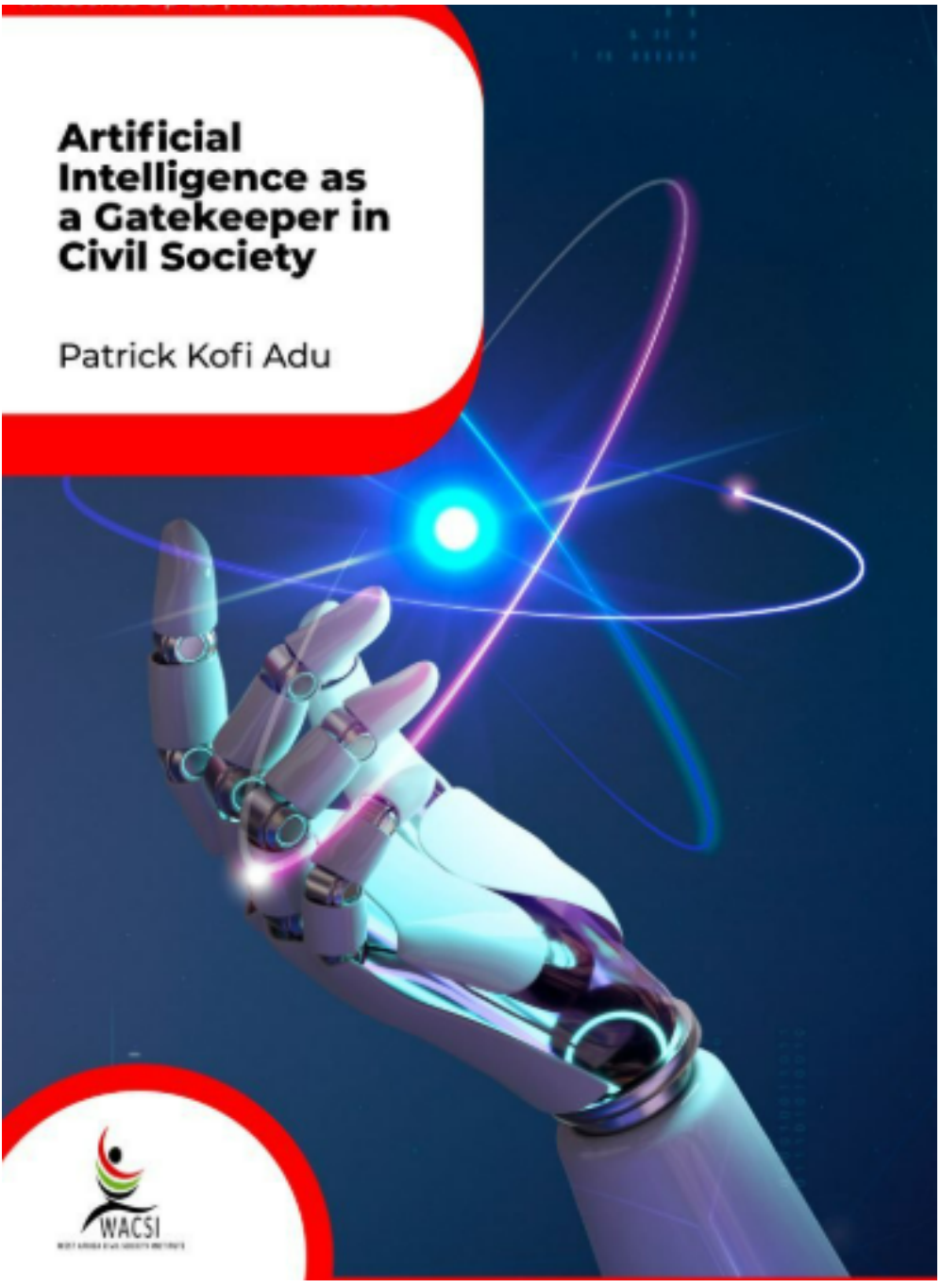
What we understand by an Enabling Environment is the combination of laws, rules and social attitudes that support and promote the work of civil society. Within such an environment, civil society can engage in political and public life without fear of reprisals, openly express its views, and actively participate in shaping its context. This includes a supportive legal and regulatory framework for civil society, ensuring access to information and resources that are sustainable and flexible to pursue their goals unhindered, in safe physical and digital spaces. In an enabling environment, the state demonstrates openness and responsiveness in governance, promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making. Positive values, norms, attitudes, and practices towards civil society from state and non-state actors further underscore the supportive environment.

Read the full report here.

WACSERIES: OP-ED

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AS A GATEKEEPER IN CIVIL SOCIETY

AI is changing more than how civil society organisations work. It may also be changing who gets seen, who gets funded and whose voice gets heard.



As AI becomes increasingly embedded in grantmaking, digital platforms and decision-making systems, a new question emerges: who is really making the decisions?

This WACSeries Op-Ed examines how AI is emerging as a gatekeeper within civil society and explores what this means for power, equity, visibility and access to opportunities.

Read the full paper to explore the risks, implications and recommendations for a more inclusive and accountable approach to AI in civil society.

Read the full OP-ED here.

WACSERIES: OP-ED

WHEN SOCIAL MEDIA BECOMES A WEAPON AGAINST WOMEN

Social media was meant to amplify voices, but for many women in public life, it has become a space of intimidation, harassment and silencing.



This WACSeries Op-Ed examines how online gender-based violence is being used to control women's participation in Ghana's public and digital spaces, and why this is more than an online problem.

Read the full OP-ED here.

SUCCESS STORY

END OF INTERNSHIP SPEECH: BRIDGET ABIEM - WACSI NODE NEXT GENERATION INTERN

Distinguished colleagues, esteemed guests, my supervisors and mentors, fellow interns, ladies and gentlemen.
It is both an honour and a privilege to stand before you today. At the same time, it is a little emotional because today marks the close of a chapter that has been one of the most enriching experiences of my professional journey.

They say every ending is really the beginning of something new. Today, as I stand before you, I find myself filled with gratitude, joy, and reflection.
When I walked into WACSI on 12 January, I came as an intern hoping to gain experience. Today, I leave with so much more than experience. I leave with knowledge, confidence, lifelong relationships, invaluable mentorship, unforgettable memories, and a renewed sense of purpose.

More here.



CONVENINGS

AFRICA AT THE CENTRE CONVENING

From 1–3 September 2026, Accra brought together civil society leaders, funders, policymakers, youth, researchers and other actors for three days of honest conversations and collaborative thinking on the future of development in Africa.

Together with EPIC-Africa, AFFORD UK, Reos Partners and Re-imagining the INGO (RINGO), WACSI created space to explore power, financing, institutions and mindsets, and consider what could be done differently.

The conversations took place. The energy was strong. And Africa was at the centre.

More here.



CONVENINGS

AFRICA FUNDRAISING CONGRESS

On 12 August 2026, WACSI, The Resource Alliance, CivFund and the East Africa Philanthropy Network (EAPN) co-organised the Africa Fundraising Congress (AFC) 2026, a free virtual gathering focused on reimagining resource mobilisation for African civil society.

The Congress explored practical, African-led approaches to financial sustainability, including fundraising strategies, case studies, peer learning and cross-regional collaboration.

The conversations highlighted the need for African civil society to strengthen organisational resilience and explore pathways towards greater financial sustainability and self-reliance.

Read more here



WEBINAR

RECENT ELECTORAL REFORMS IN NIGERIA

On Thursday, 16 July 2026, WACSI Node Nigeria and Legis360 hosted a webinar exploring Nigeria's Electoral Act 2026 and its implications for democratic governance and civic participation ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The discussion examined INEC's role under the new framework, civic participation among women, youth and first-time voters, and how technology could strengthen electoral transparency.

More here



WEBINAIRE

SÉRIE DE DIALOGUES SUR LES POLITIQUES EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

Le vendredi 31 juillet 2026, la série de dialogues sur les politiques en Afrique de l'Ouest (WACPoDiS) a organisé une rencontre régionale consacrée à la judiciarisation croissante de l'espace civique en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Sous le thème « La judiciarisation croissante de l'espace civique en Afrique de l'Ouest : protéger la légitimité et l'indépendance de la société civile par une solidarité radicale », ce dialogue a porté sur l'indépendance judiciaire, les libertés civiques et le rôle de la solidarité dans la protection de l'espace de la société civile.

Pour en savoir plus, cliquez ici



WEBINAIRE

WEBINAIRE PRÉPARATOIRE « L'AFRIQUE AU CŒUR DE L'ACTION »

Le jeudi 23 juillet 2026, le WACSI a organisé une table ronde consacrée à la refonte des mécanismes de financement, afin de s'affranchir des modèles axés sur les bailleurs de fonds et de s'orienter vers des écosystèmes fondés sur la confiance, l'équité, le leadership local et le partage du pouvoir.

Ce webinaire a réuni Degan Ali, directeur exécutif de l'ADESO, et Mohammed Awal Alhassan, directeur exécutif de Norsaac, sous la modération de Jimm Chick, responsable de l'unité de gestion des connaissances et de la communication au WACSI.
La discussion a porté sur la manière dont les communautés et les acteurs locaux peuvent dépasser leur rôle de simples bénéficiaires de financements pour devenir des acteurs de premier plan dans la définition des priorités de développement et des flux de ressources.

Pour en savoir plus, cliquez ici



WEBINAR

SESSION 1 OF THE AI FOR SOCIAL CHANGE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (COP) SERIES

On 27 August 2026, WACSI Tech hosted Session 1 of the AI for Social Change Community of Practice (CoP) Series, exploring practical ways AI can support civil society organisations.

Under the theme “AI for Social Impact: Opportunities and Use Cases for Civil Society,” the interactive session explored AI applications across communications, fundraising, research and programme delivery, helping CSOs in Ghana and Nigeria identify opportunities and make informed decisions about AI adoption.

More here



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

DIGITAL RIGHTS ADVOCACY, ACTIVISM, AND SECURITY CAPACITY PROGRAMME FOR CSOS IN WEST AFRICA

Background: Digital Rights Advocacy, Activism, and Security is a regional capacity-building initiative designed to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) to operate safely and effectively in West Africa's evolving digital landscape. As digital technologies expand opportunities for advocacy and mobilisation, CSOs increasingly face censorship, surveillance, misinformation, weak legal protections, and growing cyber threats. This programme equips organisations with practical skills in digital rights advocacy, secure communication, data protection, and resilient online activism. It combines in-person workshops with structured action planning, ongoing technical support and a Community of Practice to foster collaboration, shared learning and sustained impact across Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea (Conakry).

What? To strengthen digital rights advocacy, activism, and security practices among participating organisations by deepening understanding of digital rights principles, supporting the design and implementation of effective online advocacy campaigns, enhancing secure communication and data protection measures, and building long-term resilience against digital threats. The programme also promotes peer learning, collaboration, and strategic engagement through a regional Community of Practice focused on advancing digital inclusion, safety, and supportive legal frameworks in West Africa.

Who? Fifty (50) civil society organisations across Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea (Conakry), with two representatives per organisation.

Duration: September 2025 – October 2027

For more info: Reach out to Abayomi Akinseye (eakinseye@wacsi.org) or John Frinjuah(jfrinjuah)

ACTUALITÉS

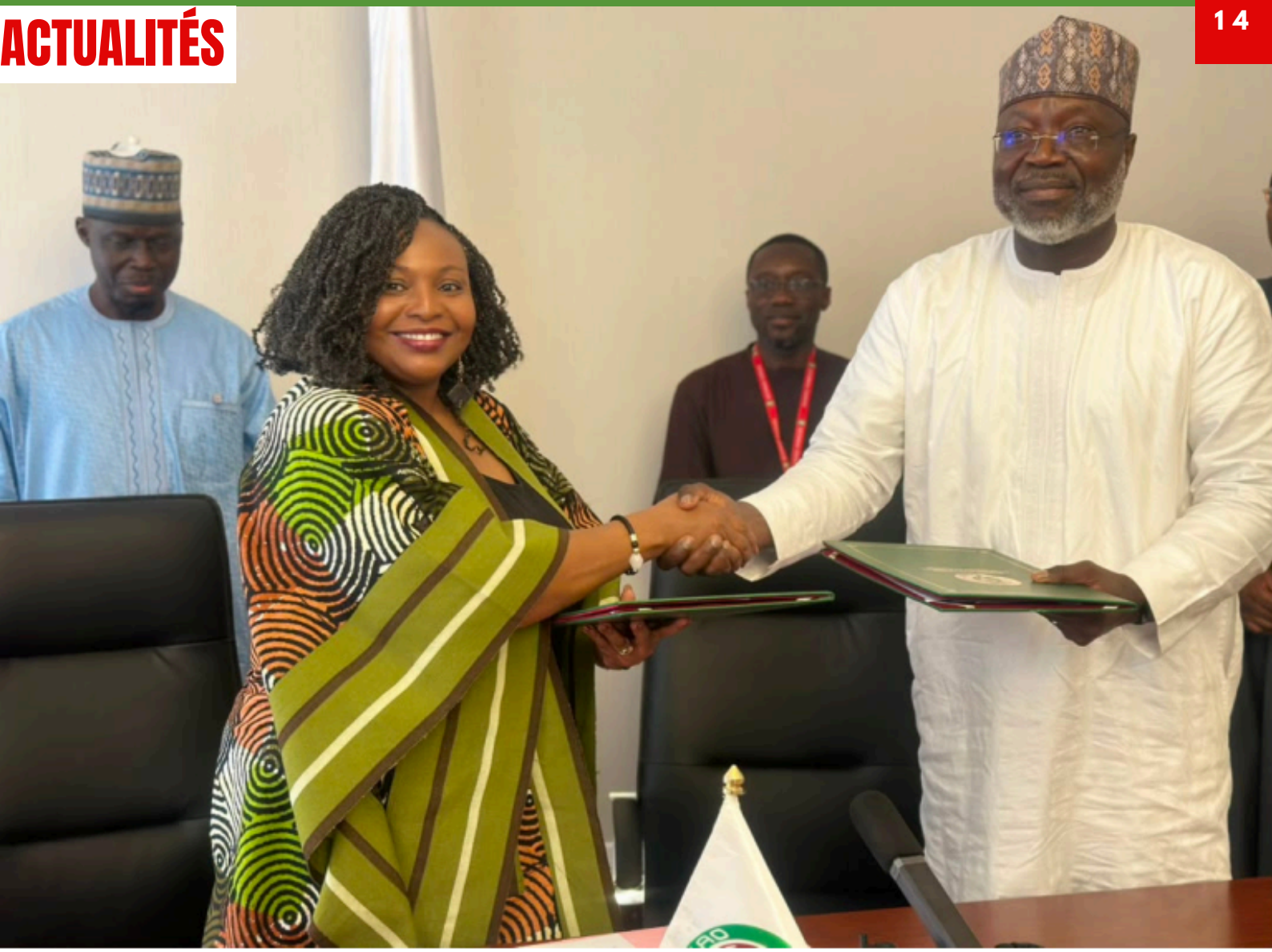
WACSI ACHÈVE UNE MISSION DE VISITE DANS QUATRE PAYS PARTENAIRES POUR FAIRE PROGRESSER L'AUTONOMISATION DES FEMMES DANS LE CADRE DU PROJET FAME

[Afrique, 20 juin 2026] – L'Institut de la société civile de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (WACSI) a mené à bien une mission de diligence raisonnable transnationale au Bénin, en Guinée, au Maroc et au Togo, dans le cadre des préparatifs pour la deuxième promotion d'organisations qui bénéficieront d'un soutien au titre du projet FAME (Féminisme : action et mobilisation pour une économie inclusive).

Menée entre mai et juin 2026, cette mission a permis d'évaluer les capacités institutionnelles, opérationnelles, de gouvernance, administratives et financières d'organisations de la société civile et de consortiums présélectionnés sollicitant un soutien dans le cadre de cette initiative.

Cliquez ici pour lire l'article dans son intégralité.





COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE: LE PARTENARIAT ENTRE LA CEDEAO ET WACSI PLACE LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE AU CŒUR DE L'AGENDA RÉGIONAL DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

La Commission de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) et l'Institut de la société civile de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (WACSI) ont signé un Protocole d'accord officialisant un partenariat stratégique de cinq ans visant à renforcer la participation de la société civile aux processus régionaux en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Le Protocole d'accord a été signé le vendredi 3 juillet 2026 à Abuja (Nigéria) par S.E. Dr Omar Alieu Touray, Président de la Commission de la CEDEAO, et Dr Nana Asantewa Afadzinu, Directrice exécutive de WACSI, en présence de représentants des deux institutions.

Lisez l'article complet ici.

NEWS

"YOU HAVE WACSI'S DNA IN YOU. EXCELLENCE IS THE MINIMUM STANDARD. GO OUT THERE AND MAKE US PROUD," WACSI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHARGES GRADUATING INTERNS

[Accra, Ghana, 20 July 2026] – The Executive Director of the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), Dr Nana Asantewa Afadzinu, has challenged the first cohort of the institute's 2026 Next Generation Internship Programme (NGIP) to uphold excellence and serve as ambassadors of WACSI as they embark on the next phase of their professional journeys.

Addressing the graduates during their farewell ceremony 0n 26 June 2026 at the institute's regional headquarters in Accra Ghana, Dr Afadzinu reminded them that completing the internship marked the beginning of a lifelong responsibility to champion the values they had acquired at WACSI.
"You have WACSI's DNA in you. Our mantra is 'Excellence is the minimum standard.' Go out there and make us proud," she said.

Access the full article here.



NEWS

WELCOME ADDRESS BY DR. NANA ASANTEWA AFADZINU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WEST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE (WACSI) AT THE AFRICA AT THE CENTRE: LEADING CHANGE, SHIFTING POWER CONVENING ACCRA, GHANA | 1-3 SEPTEMBER 2026



Your Excellencies, our keynote speaker your Excellency Ekwow Spio-Garbrah, Hon.Ribeiro-Addy, UK member of Parliament for Clapham Brixton Hill; Representative of Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs; representative of the Deputy Chief of Staff from the Office of the President; your excellency Ambassador Carew, Head of the Secretariat of the AU ECOSOCC; esteemed Board members of WACSI (the West Africa Civil Society Institute); distinguished guests and fellow African civil society leaders and comrades from across the continent and the diaspora, development partners, the media, young people of Africa, ladies and gentlemen:
Good morning, and a very warm welcome to Africa at the Centre: Leading Change, Shifting Power.

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Accra for a conversation that is both timely and necessary. A conversation about who leads, who decides, who controls resources, and whose knowledge shapes Africa's growth and future.

Access the full article here.

NEWS



WACSI, WADEMOS CONVENE REGIONAL CITIZENS' FORUM ON OPERATIONALISATION OF ECOWAS-ECOSOCC

[West Africa, Ghana 17 September 2026] At a time when West Africa is experiencing political transitions, democratic pressures, insecurity, shrinking civic space and declining public confidence in institutions, the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), in partnership with the West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS), convened the first Regional Citizens' Forum on the operationalisation of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of ECOWAS (ECOWAS-ECOSOCC). The forum examined how citizens and non-state actors can contribute to shaping the Council and strengthening citizen participation in regional.

Held virtually via Zoom as a special edition of WACSI's West Africa Civil Society Policy Dialogue Series (WACPoDiS), the forum brought together 151 participants from across the region, including civil society actors and representatives of regional institutions. Discussions focused on the mandate, institutional framework and progress towards operationalising ECOWAS-ECOSOCC, as well as opportunities for meaningful and representative citizen participation.

Click here to read

PARTNER VISITS



CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME VISIT IN TAMALE

From 14–17 September 2026, WACSI and STAR-Ghana Foundation visited 10 civil society organisation partners in Tamale, Ghana, under the Civil Society Strengthening Programme (CSSP), providing an opportunity to engage directly with partners and reflect on their progress. Also, to close out the first phase of the Civil Society Strengthening Programme (CSSP) and mark the start of its second phase.

The visits provided an opportunity to reflect on achievements and lessons from the first phase, engage partners on their experiences, and discuss priorities for the next phase as organisations continue to strengthen their capacity, sustainability and impact.

Click here to read

PARTNERSHIPS



WACSI AND NONPROFIT ORGANISATIONS' SECRETARIAT SIGN MOU

On 18 September 2026, WACSI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Non-Profit Organisations' Secretariat of Ghana's Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection - Ghana, during the launch of new policy and operational documents for Ghana's non-profit sector.

In her written remarks for the occasion, Omolara Balogun, Head, Policy Influencing & Advocacy at WACSI, captured an important principle:"Effective regulation and an enabling environment are not competing objectives. They reinforce one another."

The MoU builds on years of collaboration and creates a framework for deeper work on governance, regulatory compliance, policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and organisational sustainability within Ghana's non-profit sector.

Stronger institutions. Meaningful partnerships. An enabling environment for civil society.

Click here to read

WACSI IN THE NEWS

ECOWAS, WACSI SIGN FIVE-YEAR PACT TO DEEPEN CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT IN WEST AFRICA

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission has signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) to strengthen civil society participation in regional governance and integration across West Africa.

The agreement was signed on Friday in Abuja by the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, and WACSI Executive Director, Dr. Nana Asantewa Afadzinu, in the presence of officials from both institutions, according to a press release posted on WACSI's website.

The partnership provides a framework for cooperation in eight key areas, including strengthening the institutional and technical capacity of civil society organisations, policy dialogue and advocacy, research and knowledge generation, citizen awareness and communications, cross-sector coordination, technical support to the ECOWAS Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), and monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Access the full article here.

Newsweb Express
We break the news on the web

WACSI IN THE NEWS

SYPALA 2026: CSOS MUST GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE POWER TO LEAD, CONTROL RESOURCES - WACSI

The Head of Capacity Development at the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), Charles Kojo Vandyck, has called on civil society organisations (CSOs) to give young people greater decision-making power, including opportunities to serve on boards, design programmes and control resources.

He said the growing influence of youth-led movements across Africa showed that young people were changing how civic action was organised and challenging traditional structures of civil society.

Speaking on Tuesday, August 25, at the Students and Young Professionals African Liberty Academy (SYPALA) 2026, organised by the IMANI Centre for Policy and Education in partnership with the University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA), Mr Vandyck said young people were increasingly less interested in conventional organisational structures.

“In many countries in Africa, wherever I go, I see young Africans, they are organising differently. They are less attracted to traditional organisational structures. They do not have time for that. They do not always need an office.

They do not always need a constitution. They don’t necessarily need a five-year strategic plan before they act,” he said.

Access the full article here.

WACSI IN THE NEWS

AFRICA CONVENING OPENS WITH CALLS FOR SHIFT IN DEVELOPMENT POWER TO AFRICANS

Accra, Sept. 1, GNA – An African convening aimed at advancing locally led development and shifting decision-making power to African institutions opened in Accra on Tuesday, with speakers calling for greater agency, ownership and recognition of African knowledge systems in shaping the continent's future. Journalism & News Industry the three-day Africa at the Centre: Leading Change, Shifting Power convening has brought together more than 250 leaders from 30 countries, including civil society actors, policymakers, development practitioners, philanthropists, researchers, social innovators and members of the African diaspora to examine how Africa can take greater control of its development agenda.

Participants are expected to discuss practical approaches to strengthening African leadership, redefining partnerships, mobilising local resources and ensuring that communities play a central role in determining development priorities.
Delivering the welcome address, Dr Nana Asantewa Afadzinu, Executive Director of the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), said the continent should not have to seek inclusion in decisions affecting its own future.

Access the full article here.

GNA
GHANA NEWS AGENCY

PRESS STATEMENT

WACSI NODE NIGERIA AND EU CSO-BRIDGE PROJECT STRENGTHEN CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORMS TO ADVANCE REGULATORY REFORM AND SECTOR RESILIENCE

Abuja, Nigeria | 13 July 2026 – As Nigeria's civil society sector navigates an increasingly complex regulatory environment, the WACSI Node Nigeria, in partnership with the European Union funded CSO Strengthening Bridge (EU CSO-Bridge) Project, implemented by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), has launched a strategic initiative to strengthen the institutional resilience of three national civil society platforms and enhance collective engagement on regulatory reform.

The initiative will provide tailored institutional strengthening and technical support to the Ethics and Good Leadership Awareness Initiative (EGLAI), the CSO Accountability and Transparency Initiative (CATI), and the Cooperative Federation of Nigeria (CFN). Together, these organisations play an important role in promoting accountability, sector coordination, and constructive engagement on regulatory policies affecting Nigeria's civil society ecosystem.

Read the full press release here.



PRESS STATEMENT

OVER 200 LEADERS FROM 30 COUNTRIES WILL GATHER IN ACCRA TO REIMAGINE WHO SHAPES AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

ACCRA, GHANA - "If we are to heal our health systems, we must first reset development itself." Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama issued that challenge at the launch of the Accra Reset on the margins of the 80th United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2025. Nearly a year later, the question of who gets to shape Africa's development future is moving to the centre of a major Pan-African convening in Accra. More than 250 leaders from 30 countries will gather from 1 to 3 September 2026 for Africa at the Centre: Leading Change, Shifting Power, bringing together civil society leaders, systems change practitioners, funders, policymakers, researchers, social innovators, youth leaders and diaspora actors to move the debate on African ownership from rhetoric to practical action.

Read the full press release here.



For Immediate Release

29 August 2026

PRESS STATEMENT

Over 200 Leaders from 30 Countries will Gather in Accra to Reimagine Who Shapes Africa's Development

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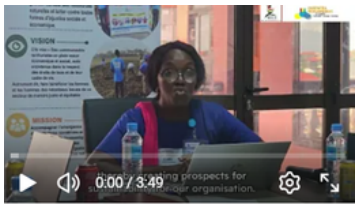
Nearly a year later, the question of who gets to shape Africa's development future is moving to the centre of a major Pan-African convening in Accra. More than 200 leaders from 30 countries will gather from 1 to 3 September 2026 for ***Africa at the Centre: Leading Change, Shifting Power***, bringing together civil society leaders, systems change practitioners, funders, policymakers, researchers, social innovators, youth leaders and diaspora actors to move the debate on African ownership from rhetoric to practical action.

For decades, development in Africa has often been shaped through externally defined priorities, funding models and measures of success. The Africa at the Centre convening responds to this reality by creating space to reimagine development from African perspectives and place African leadership, knowledge and agency at the heart of the Africa we want.

Across the continent, governments, civil society organisations, movements and communities are already developing solutions rooted in local realities, knowledge and lived experience. Yet African actors can remain closest to the challenges while having less influence over the priorities, resources, partnerships and systems intended to address them.

VIDEOS

VIDEOS FROM OUR TRAININGS, CONVENINGS AND MORE



1.Executive Director of CDEV, Barry Nentebou, delivers a welcome speech to WACSI in Guinea

Click to watch.



2.WACSI PARTNERS ECOWAS TO PUT CIVIL SOCIETY AT THE HEART OF WEST AFRICA'S AGENDA

Click to watch.



3.Dr Nana Afadzinu explains what the ECOWAS-WACSI MoU means for civil society in West Africa

Click to watch.



4.CTGA ALUMNI REFRESHER TRAINING

Click to watch.



5.West Africa Policy Dialogue Series: The Rising Judicialisation of Civic Space in West Africa

Click to watch.



6.Participant Reflection | Ernestina Biney on the CSR-Hub Ghana Cohort IV Training

Click to watch.



7.FLIPPING THE SCRIPT - When Communities Lead: The Nyankanga Story

Click to watch.



8.LEVERAGING AI FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Click to watch.



8.Regional Citizens' Forum on the Operationalisation of ECOWAS - ECOSOCC

Click to watch.



10.Africa at the Centre Day 1:Welcome Remarks by Executive Director of WACSI and Guest Speakers

Click to watch.



11.Africa At the Centre:Day 3 Closing session: Commitments and Collective Send-Off

Click to watch.



12.Civil Society Stregthening Fund(CSSF) visit to Regional Advisory Information and Network Systems

Click to watch.

WORKSHOP

RESOURCE MOBILISATION INITIATIVE

From 29 June to 3 July, the Resource Mobilisation Initiative Taskforce participated in an Ideation and Prototyping Training of Trainers (ToT) in Zambia, strengthening its capacity to support CSOs in designing and testing innovative, locally led resource mobilisation approaches.
Representing WACSI were Melissa Simo, Gideon Ahenkorah, and Naa Ashorkor Ashittey, while Sarah Adjei, Joan Koomson, and Frank Kwaku Amoateng, represented STAR-Ghana Foundation.

Together with colleagues from Tilitonse Foundation and the Zambian Governance Foundation, the Taskforce exchanged ideas and experiences to advance locally led approaches to civil society sustainability.

Read more here:



WORKSHOP

COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT

On 21–23 July 2026, representatives of civil society organisations and researchers from across Ghana gathered in Aburi, Eastern Region, for a three-day Resource Mobilisation Ideation Workshop facilitated by WACSI and STAR-Ghana Foundation, focusing on practical approaches to strengthening resource mobilisation and building more sustainable civil society organisations.

The workshop provided a space for participants to exchange experiences, explore innovative funding approaches, and develop ideas that can help reduce reliance on traditional funding sources while strengthening the long-term resilience of Ghana's civil society sector.

Read more here.



WORKSHOP

CIVIC SPACE RESOURCE HUB COHORT IV TRAINING

From 20-22 July 2026, twenty civil society organisations from Northern Ghana came together under the Civic Space Resource Hub (CSR Hub) to explore new pathways to financial resilience and organisational sustainability.

From strengthening partnerships to exploring new approaches to fundraising and using digital platforms, the three-day training created space for participants to rethink how organisations can build stronger foundations for long-term impact.

Read more here:



WORKSHOP

CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING BOOTCAMP

From 17–21 August 2026, the Shifting the Power Civil Society Strengthening Bootcamp 2026 brought together 76 civil society actors from 38 organisations across Ghana for five days of peer learning, organisational reflection and collaborative problem-solving.

Under the theme “From Challenges to Solutions: Strengthening Civil Society through Peer Learning and Collaborative Problem Solving,” participants explored organisational governance, leadership and culture while working through real challenges and developing practical solutions.

The bootcamp was co-implemented by STAR-Ghana Foundation and WACSI under the Shifting the Power Programme, with support from Comic Relief and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

More here



COURTESY VISIT

WACSI HOSTS SLANGO NATIONAL DIRECTOR

On 22 July 2026, WACSI was pleased to welcome Alice Nenneh James, National Director of the Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (SLANGO), on a courtesy visit to explore opportunities for collaboration, partnership and mutual learning.

Our team, comprising Charles Kojo Vandyck, John P. Frinjuah, Harrison Boakye Owusu, and Patience Yiriyelleh, engaged in productive discussions with Ms. James, exchanging insights and exploring opportunities for strategic collaboration, knowledge sharing and mutual learning to strengthen civil society across West Africa.

Learn more about the visit here.



BLOG



FROM PARTICIPATION TO POWER: REFLECTIONS FROM AFRICA AT THE CENTRE

By: Faith Eriaremhien

This was one of the questions I carried with me throughout the Africa at the Centre: Leading Change, Shifting Power convening in Accra, Ghana, from 1–3 September 2026.

Representing the Green to Abundance Development and Empowerment Foundation, I arrived ready to learn, contribute and connect with other African change makers. I left with a deeper understanding that shifting power means changing who gets to make decisions, whose knowledge is valued and who has control over resources and solutions. It means moving beyond simply inviting communities to participate in projects to giving them a meaningful role in deciding what is needed, how it should be done and what success should look like.

Click here to read full blog.

BLOG

REFLECTIONS FROM THE AFRICA AT THE CENTER CONVENING IN ACCRA, GHANA

By: Ese Emerhi

A couple of days after the Africa At The Center convening ended, I drove two hours out of Accra to Ada, to the Nkyinkyim Museum. It was there that I learned what it means to be called an ancestor. The title is not given to everyone who dies. When a person dies, the community gathers not only to mourn them but to count their good deeds. If what they did while on Earth was truly remarkable, they are named an ancestor and given the proper rites. If not, they are simply remembered. The counting is deliberate, communal, and unhurried. It measures a life by trust, by dignity, by what a person carried for others.

I stood there thinking: this is a monitoring and evaluation framework. It is older than any of ours, and it counts the things we keep saying cannot be counted in development.

Click here to read the full blog.



BLOG



REIMAGINING DEVELOPMENT: WHO GETS TO DEFINE SUCCESS?

By: Justice Paa Kwesi Junior Abban

On 1 – 3 September 2026, the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), EPIC Africa, AFFORD UK, Reos Partners and the reimagining international non-governmental organisation (RINGO) organised a convening dubbed Africa at the Centre: Leading Change, Shifting Power convening, which brought together over 250 actors in the civil society ecosystem across over 30 countries around the world to find a new model of development practices, one that will recognise the agency of actors within the global majority.

During the convening, conversations about shifting power repeatedly returned to a fundamental question: what happens when Africans are not simply asked to participate in development, but are empowered to define what development means?

Read the full blog here.

BLOG

WHAT ACCRA MADE US REFLECT ON: PUTTING LOCAL LEADERSHIP AT THE CENTRE

By: Edgar Wabwire

From 1 to 3 September 2026, more than 250 leaders from 30 countries gathered in Accra for Africa at the Centre: Leading Change, Shifting Power.
The gathering brought together civil society leaders, funders, activists and development practitioners to reflect on a question that sits at the heart of many conversations about the future of development: what would change if African organisations were not simply invited into existing systems, but were given greater space to shape those systems themselves?

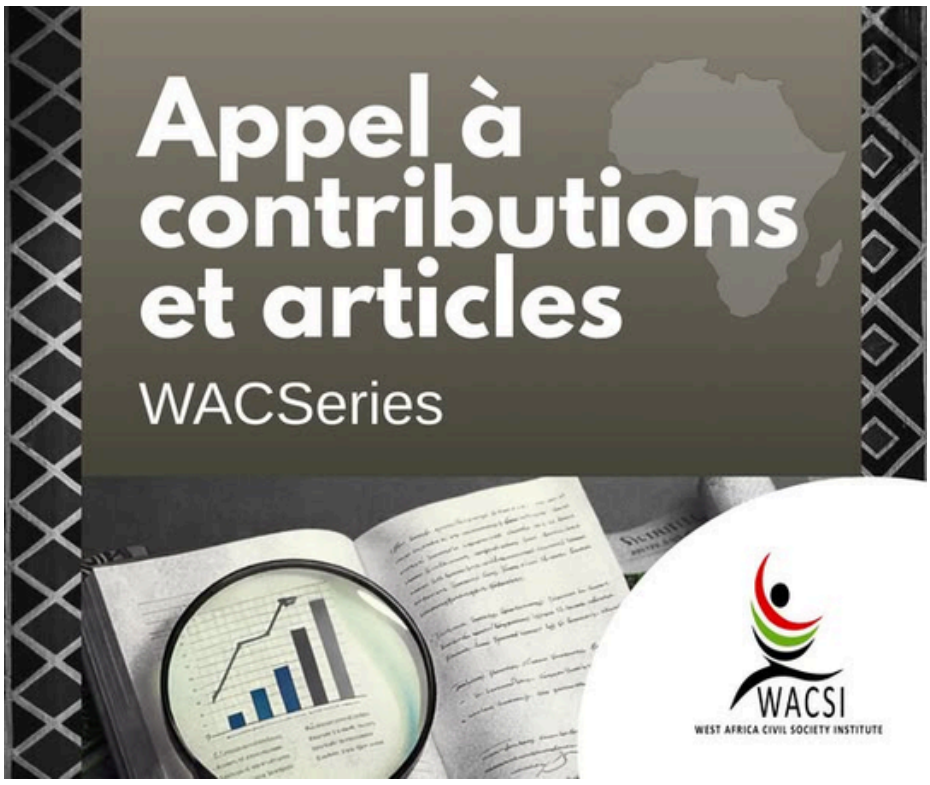
Leaving Accra, one reflection stood out. Africa is not short of people leading change. Across communities and countries, local organisations are responding to crises, building stronger communities, developing solutions and navigating complex realities every day. The challenge is often not a lack of leadership. It is whether the systems around that leadership are designed to recognise it, connect it and support it.

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