



**ECOWAS COMMISSION**  
**COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO**  
**COMISSAO DA CEDEAO**

# **COMPENDIUM OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

## **HUMANITARIAN & SOCIAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE**

### **2018 TO 2022**



**Ecowas Hosts Regional Experts' Meeting on Disability Inclusion in West Africa**



**Supporting Communities affected by Insurgencies in Nigeria.**



**Courtesy Call to the V/President of Sierra Leone, Commissioner SAG & Entourage**



**IT Equipment delivered to Facilitate Flood Forecasting in Niger Republic**



**Handover of Medical Equipment to Aneho Litoral Addiction Treatment Center in Togo**



**ECOWAS 2020 Covid 19 intervention in Collaboration with Red Cross & ICRC**

# **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS & GENDER OF THE ECOWAS COMMISSION**

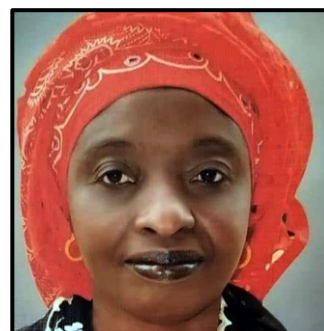
## **COMPENDIUM OF ACHIEVEMENTS HUMANITARIAN & SOCIAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE 2018 TO 2022**

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# FOREWORD

In the last four years the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs (DHSA) has implemented programmes and projects that are at the heart of the ECOWAS regional integration agenda and that have had positive impact on the lives of the ECOWAS community citizens. The four sectoral divisions of the Directorate have addressed issues relating to the social, humanitarian, and human security needs of the West African People, as well as enhanced civil society engagement and promoted drug use prevention and control. The key accomplishments of the Directorate are highlighted in this compendium.



**Dr. Siga Fatima Jagne**

Commissioner Social Affairs & Gender

However, the past four years have not been without challenges, the COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying prevention and control measures posed serious impediment to the socio-economic wellbeing and health of our community citizens. The Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs responded by implementing relief measures such as food donation worth Three Million United States Dollars (\$3,000,000USD) to alleviate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in five Member states, provided support worth Two Million, Five Hundred and Ninety-Three Thousand United States Dollars and Thirty-Four Cents (\$2,598,293.34USD) to support communities affected by flood disasters in ten member states, and One Million United States Dollars (\$1,000,000USD) Stabilization Fund for the implementation of a robust cross cutting humanitarian intervention in the North East/North West Nigeria is in progress.

In addition, the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs was in the forefront of advocating for the protection and rights of the vulnerable population impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through the launch and on-line engagement of the ECOWAS Regional Partners/CSOs/NSAs Working Group against Gender Based Violence/Violence against Children (ECW-RPWG-GBV/VAC), the ECOWAS and the Regional Working Group on Child Protection Joint Advisory on Minimizing the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Children which was issued to Member States in April 2020, and further complimented with the statement of the President of the ECOWAS Commission issued on the 22nd June 2020 to strongly condemn and call for urgent action to address the rise in Sexual and Gender Based Violence, especially targeted at children.

Other COVID-19 related prevention and response initiatives focused on people of concern such as refugees, internally displaced Persons (IDPs), stateless people and returnees; and the ECOWAS Commission as the Chair of the African Union Labour Migration Advisory Committee endorsed and issued the Statement of the African Union Labour Migration Advisory Committee (AU-LMAC) on the COVID-19 Disease and the condition of African Migrant Workers. Other populations targeted by the Directorate's programmes include people with disability and promoting evidence-based drug use prevention and treatment through policy advocacy and capacity building initiatives.

The above are examples of the concrete actions taken by a team of committed and resolute staff of the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs with the technical and financial support of our partners too many to mention here. I urge all staff and partners to continue to build on the successes made in the last four years through on-going programmes/projects, action plans and policies elaborated, and the institutional structures/mechanisms established or to be established in the Member states.





# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This compendium is a compilation of the key accomplishments of the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs covering the period 2018 to 2022. The compendium highlights in a concise form the concrete achievements of the four sectoral divisions of the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs. It provides information on the work of the Directorate and can serve as a useful reference resource. All staff of the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs contributed to the compilation of the Compendium of the 2018-2022 Achievements.

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# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACP-EU:	-	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States-European Union
AGRHYMET	-	Agriculture, Hydrology, Meteorology (research center; Niamey, Niger)
AU-LMAC	-	African Union Labour Migration Advisory Committee
BLAs	-	
CDPE	-	Core Drug Prevention Educators
CSO	-	Civil Society Organisation
DDF	-	Demand Driven Facility
DPA		
ECW-MSN/RPWG-GBV		
FMM	-	Free Movement and Migration
FCV	-	Fragility Conflicts and Violence
GBV/VAC	-	Gender Based Violence/ Violence against Children
GRPE		
HSICM	-	Human Security Integrated Coordination Mechanism
ICAP	-	International Certified Addiction Professionals
IFRC	-	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society
ILO	-	International Labour Organisation
ISS-WAN		
MHPTW	-	Mental Health Professional Treatment Workforce
MS	-	Member States
NACOB	-	Narcotics Control Board
OCWAR - T	-	Organised Crime: West African Response to Trafficking
PAP	-	Pan African Parliament
PWD	-	People with Drug Use Disorders
RNNI-TIP+	-	Regional Network of National Focal Institutions against Trafficking in Persons Plus
SDG	-	Sustainable Development Goal
TOT		
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	-	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WANCSA	-	West African Network of Civil Society on Substance Abuse
WAN	-	West African Network
WENDU	-	West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use

# HUMANITARIAN & SOCIAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE

## Overview of the Directorate:

The “Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs” came into existence in 2006 to replace the Department of Humanitarian Affairs due to the expansion of its mandates to encompass Social affairs program.

The creation of the Directorate is in accordance with Paragraph 4 (a), Article 18 of the ECOWAS Treaty in recognition of the critical humanitarian and social situation of the region. The mandate of the Directorate is derived from the ECOWAS Revised Treaty (Articles 58, 61).

The Directorate is charged with the responsibility to address issues relating to the social and humanitarian needs of the West African People, as well as implement social protection programmes, provide assistance to Member States facing humanitarian issues, implementing process to ensure sustainable development planning, promoting civilian protection in context of human security, implementing the regional action plan to address illicit drug trafficking, organised crime and drug abuse in the West African region.

The Directorate is managed by:



**Dr. Sintiki Tarfa Ugbe**

## Divisions Under the Directorate:

- ★ Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Risk Reduction
- ★ Human Security & Civil Society
- ★ Social Affairs
- ★ Drug Prevention & Control

# Humanitarian Affairs & Disaster Risk Reduction

## Mandate

This Division is mandated to provide assistance to Member States facing humanitarian issues by sourcing and distributing relief materials while training citizens to be first responders during a crisis. This Division is also mandated with the development of programmes to facilitate the implementation process for mainstreaming DRR into sustainable development planning and activities in West Africa.

## Head of Division



Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim

## Major Achievements of the Division

### ★ Supporting Communities affected by insurgencies in Nigeria:

Following the serious humanitarian situation occasioned by Boko Haram in the Northeast of Nigeria, the Fiftieth Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which took place in Abuja, Nigeria on December 17, 2016, directed the creation of a Special Solidarity Fund for the victims of terrorism in the country to support rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Northeast of Nigeria. In response to this, the ECOWAS Commission established the Stabilization Fund with the seed sum of \$1 million.

Due to expanded security and humanitarian concerns in the Northwest of Nigeria, the fund is being utilized to provide assistance to the Northeast and Northwest of Nigeria as requested by the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The response is in two major areas: Food and nutrition assistance and the provision of sustainable livelihood support to the affected population. This intervention is ongoing.



Supporting Communities Affected by Insurgencies in Nigeria.

### ★ Food Assistance to Some Member States:

Intervention to Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria sourced from the stocks of the Regional Food Security Reserve and funded from the ECOWAS Humanitarian Relief Fund to the tune of \$1million . And \$2.2million from the contingency budget of the EU-funded West Africa Food Security Storage Support Project, was committed to increase the food assistance to the targeted countries.



Assisting some communities with Food Items



### ★ Humanitarian Assistance to Communities Affected By Flood

The ECOWAS Commission committed about \$2,598,293 and supported the population affected by flood disaster in 10 Member states (Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal). This assistance has been concluded in 9 countries while Senegal is in progress.



Supporting the People and rebuilding houses that were affected by floods in Cape Verde



Distributing Relief Item to Flood Victims in Niger Republic

### ★ Provision of Relief Items & Renovation of Toilet on World Refugees' Day:

ECOWAS takes a step with refugees by donating Food and Non-Food Items to IDPS to Commemorate World Humanitarian Day. Similarly, school toilet was renovated in the FCT in commemoration of World Refugees Day. The objective is to raise awareness of the plight of refugees in school children.



Donation of Relief Items to IDPS in Abuja, Nigeria.



Renovation of School Toilet in the FCT Abuja, Nigeria

### ★ ECOWAS COVID-19 assistance to 7 IDP camps in collaboration with IFRC

In the division's effort to ease the economic, humanitarian and social effects of the COVID – 19 pandemic on very vulnerable populations, it provided relief items to 7 IDP Camps in Abuja in Collaboration with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC).



ECOWAS 2020 Covid-19 intervention in Collaboration with IFRC & ICRC

### ★ Humanitarian Intervention for Victims of Counter-Terrorism and Emergency Food Crises

In addition, the anticipated approval of the ECOWAS management of about Four Million United States Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) from the Counter-terrorism fund will enable the Commission to support rehabilitation and recovery of victims of terrorism in ECOWAS Member States in 2022.

Another Seven Hundred and Thirty-One Thousand United States Dollars (\$731,000) of the ECOWAS Disaster Relief Fund is committed to address the humanitarian emergency resulting from the current food crisis in 2022.



### ★ Installation of Perimeter Fence:

Project Contract signed between the ECOWAS Commission and Enterprise MAHDA of Bamako-Mali for the installation of Perimeter Fence around the Site of the ECOWAS Humanitarian Depot in Bamako-Mali. The fence has been completed and now awaiting commissioning.

### ★ Procurement of IT Equipment and Computers across ECOWAS Member states:

Under the ACP-EU Funded Disaster Risk Reduction programme, IT equipment and related software worth over \$200,000 were procured and delivered to 15 Member States to enhance operational capacities in data collection and management, and to strengthen Emergency Operation Centres.

### ★ Capacity Building and Training Support:

In- Country Capacity Building and Training support to member state institutions and focal persons on disaster management, climate change-relevant vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning as well as COVID-19 recovery needs assessment for Disaster Risk Reduction.



IT Equipment delivered to Facilitate Flood Forecasting in Niger Republic

### ★ Signing Agreement with UNDP to Foster Risk-informed Solution

ECOWAS and UNDP sign agreement in August, 2020 on a Project on “Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Adaptation for Resilience in the Sahel Region: fostering risk-informed solutions for sustainable development” in West Africa for a Budget of \$7.4 million (financed by SIDA \$7million USD and UNDP \$400,000USD).

### ★ Establishment of a Regional Flood Observatory:

Under the ACP-EU Funded Disaster Risk Reduction programme and with the technical support of the AGRHYMET Regional Center - a Regional Flood Observatory was established at the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs in March 2022. This is to provide a mechanism to forecast and manage flood hazards through early-warning alert to Member States for risk informed decision-making.

### ★ Stakeholder Advocacy Workshops:

Implemented national advocacy meetings in Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Togo, and Ghana to promote the domestication and implementation of the African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Person (IDPs), also referred to as the Kampala Convention.

### ★ Development of 2 Strategic Documents

Two key strategic documents were developed by the Directorate and subsequently adopted by Sectoral Ministers from ECOWAS Member States at the Hydromet Forum in 2021. These documents are: ★

- i. The Flood Management Strategy
- ii. Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Strategy and Action Plan



DRR Gender Strategy developed, validated and adopted to enhance gender mainstreaming.

### ★Regional Implementation of Pledges on Global Compact on Refugees

Development of a draft plan of action for regional implementation of pledges on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) following the adoption in 2016 by the United Nations General Assembly of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants to reinforce and strengthen the need to enhance strategies to protect people on the move through the provision of predictable and equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing among all stakeholders – the New Way of Working.

### ★ECOWAS Ambassador Retreat in 2020

ECOWAS Ambassadors Retreat was held in 2020 in collaboration with UNHCR to sensitize ECOWAS Ambassadors on the significance of the GCR, as alternative durable solutions, and the necessity to promote awareness on GCR as a burden and responsibility sharing and inclusiveness tool for management of refugee matters to improve asylum and advocate for the commitment of Member States to the recommendations and principles therein.

### ★Developed ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy Plan of Action 2018 - 2022

Development of the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy Plan of Action 2018 to 2022 for the implementation of humanitarian and social activities across the ECOWAS region and other ECOWAS institutions and agencies for prevention, protection and assistance of ECOWAS indigenes, particularly vulnerable population including all persons of concern.

### ★Developed ECOWAS IHL Plan of Action 2019 - 2023

Development of the ECOWAS IHL Plan of Action 2019 to 2023 to enhance ratification, accession and general implementation of the IHL in Member States as well as mainstreaming IHL principles across Member States ministries and agencies including ECOWAS institutions. To promote capacity building and training and popularize IHL among all stakeholders including Civil Society groups.

### ★GECEAO Meeting

The Regional Consultation on Disaster Preparedness and Response holds biannually to improve disaster preparedness and strengthen the capacity of Member States Governments to respond effectively to disasters. The regional consultation appraises issues of disasters in the West Africa and proffers solutions to manage, respond and mitigate their impacts through lessons learned to engender a coordinated regional approach.

### ★Organised a Training and Capacity Workshop

Training and capacity workshop for school teachers to mainstream DRR in school curriculum. The training is intended to hold in all Member States. It has been carried out in Benin, Niger and Sierra Leone. The objective of the workshop is to train 30 school teachers per country and the total number of 90 teachers have been trained in the 3 countries. Ghana is the next beneficiary of the training scheduled for July, 2022.



School Teachers Capacity Training in the Republic of Benin



School Teachers Capacity Training in Niger Republic

### ★Sahel Resilience Project

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is implementing a three-year regional project entitled "Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation for Resilience in the Sahel Region: Fostering Risk-Informed Solutions for Sustainable Development" (Sahel Resilience Project), which focuses on regional regulatory, policy and budgetary frameworks for disaster risk governance and resilience building in member states in the Western Sahel, to promote sustainable development that takes into account the underlying risks of disasters and climate change, as well as the new urban agenda.

The Government of Sweden and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) support the Sahel Resilience Project with an overall budget of \$7.5 million over three years (2019-2022).

Seven countries within the Sahel region are participating in the project of which five are ECOWAS Member States. These countries include: Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal. Chad and Mauritania are the two non-ECOWAS Member States.

A key achievement is the COVID-19 Support to ECOWAS Member States, Mauritania, and Chad. Each of the seven project countries received US\$100,000 on an average for COVID-19 response and disaster risk reduction related activities, which continued through 2021.



# Human Security & Civil Society

## Mandate

One of the core mandate of this Division is to promote regional frameworks and plans for civilian protection in the context of human security, this is imperative in all situations including those Fragility Conflicts and Violence (FCV) . It is also within it mandate to implement regional policy on protection and assistance to victims of Trafficking in Persons in West Africa; promoting women participation in leadership position in peace and security architecture and engagement with civil society.

## Head of Division



Mme Raheemat Momodu

## Major Achievements of the Division

### ★ Enhanced Regional Coordination to Address GBV/VAC

Enhanced regional coordination to address GBV/VAC with the establishment of a Regional Partners/CSOs/NSAs Working Group on Gender Based Violence/ Violence against Children (ECW-MSN/RPWG –GBV) in October 2020.

### ★ Integrated Protection and Human Security Programming Approach:

Introduced the Integrated Protection and Human Security Coordination approach focused on driving a whole of State and Society approach to enhancing protection and human security and expanded the thematic coverage to embrace the work of the Social Affairs and Drug Control Divisions.

Establishment of Protection and Human Security Integrated Coordination Mechanism (HSICM) in The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso in 2021, in Nigeria and Togo in March 2022 and 8 Member States to be covered in 2022.



Courtesy Call to the V/President of Sierra Leone, Commissioner SAG & Entourage



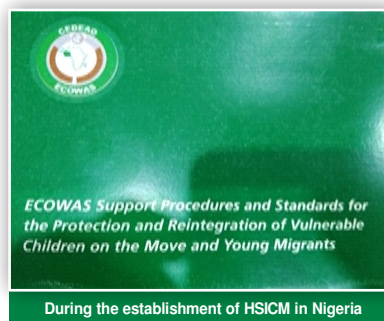
High Level Advocacy Session with Ministers



During the establishment of HSICM in Nigeria

### ★ Provided Assistance to Children & Young Persons on the move and in vulnerable Circumstance:

The West African Network on Child Protection (WAN) comprised of Member States agencies and critical child protection Civil Society Actors in collaboration with ECOWAS and ISS West Africa supported the rescuing and/or provision of assistance to over 7,000 Children and young persons on the move and in vulnerable circumstances.



During the establishment of HSICM in Nigeria

### ★ TOT and Capacity Building Training for Experts from Member States.

The capacities of stakeholders in the region were strengthened with the development of Guidelines for implementation of the Strategic Framework to Strengthen the ECOWAS Child Protection Systems to prevent and Respond to Violence, Abuse and Exploitation against Children. Well over 550 Member States (governmental and civil society experts) capacities were built by ECOWAS in collaboration with the RWGCP through in-country training events in the Francophone MS, on the strengthening of child protection systems and the specific use of the Guidelines to the ECOWAS Strategic Framework on Child Protection Systems Strengthening in Member States. Sustainable capacity building was also ensured through the organization of TOT exercises organized by ECOWAS in collaboration with the ILO in all 5 Anglophone Member States.

### ★ Enhanced Capacities and improved Member States response to Child Right

Enhanced capacities and improved Member States response to child rights issues in the context of the COVID 19 Pandemic through issuance of a Joint Advisory by ECOWAS and the Regional Working Group on Child Protection, and the conduct of Assessment of the Impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic on Child Rights.

Immediate response Strategies deployed by Member States on Child Rights due to annual coordination meetings with Directors responsible for Child Rights.

Development of Guidelines for implementation of the Strategic Framework to Strengthen the ECOWAS Child Protection Systems to prevent and Respond to Violence, Abuse and Exploitation against Children in West Africa in collaboration with ILO. The Guidelines have served as guidance to insure the training of trainers and the set down training in Member States.

The Presidents issuance of a Strong Statement condemning increases in Child Sexual Abuse and instructions in respect of critical responses on 22 June 2020 during the COVID-19 Lockdown.

Strengthening of normative and programmatic capacities of Member States and other actors in child rights with the adoption of the new ECOWAS Child Policy and Strategic Plan of Action (2019 -2030) and Roadmap on Prevention and Response to Child Marriage.

### ★ Strengthening Member States capacity and response in the combat TIP+

Annual peer review and reporting as well as technical and financial support to Member States through the ECOWAS Regional Network of National Focal Institutions against Trafficking in Persons Plus (RNNI-TIP+) under the Demand Driven Facility (DDF) of the OCWAR-T project.

Also the knowledge of key actors was improved and strategic approaches to combatting human trafficking and 'related victimization of persons in especially vulnerable situations', strengthened through conclusion and dissemination of the Studies on the Regional Crimes Against the Person Prevention Policy and Strengthening of the Regional Referral Mechanism.

### ★ Launch of FemWise in West Africa

Launch of FemWise West Africa in Nov 2019 and collaboration with DPA on its Institutionalisation and Operationalisation.

### ★ Enhanced Cooperation and Coordination in the Fight against Human Trafficking

Enhanced cooperation and coordination in the fight against human trafficking between Niger and Nigeria and amongst Senegal, Mali, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso and Mauritania through the support for the signing of an Operational MoU between the lead institutions in each Member State; under the ECOWAS co-funded Project on Free Movement and Migration in West Africa (FMM) and with financial support to the 7 Member States through the Demand Driven Facility.



The Annual Peer Review session



Regional Stakeholders Workshop of the FemWise W/Africa in Lagos



★ **Bi-lateral Cooperation between Nigeria and Mali in TIP**

Initiation and facilitation of bi-lateral engagement between Nigeria and Mali to address the aggravated Human Trafficking situation of Nigerian girls to Mali.

★ **Establishment of a mechanism of collaboration**

Strategic alliances towards improving the situation of child rights, were strengthened through implementation of the 2nd Joint ECOWAS – GRPE Operational Plan and the MOU and Joint Operational Plan with the ISS-WAN signed in 2016.

★ **Promoted Compliance with International Humanitarian within West Africa**

Fostered enhanced compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) within West Africa with the validation of a new Regional Plan of Action by Member States and adoption of an ECOWAS Pledge at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross in 2019.

★ **Conducted a Study on GBV**

Study Conducted- Overview and Analysis of ECOWAS Gender Based Violence Texts and Programs and development of Joint Advisory/ Technical Guidelines on Mainstreaming Anti GBV and Anti Child Sexual Abuse/VAC in COVID-19 Recovery and National Development Plan.

## Social Affairs

### Mandate

The Mandate of the ECOWAS Social Affairs Division as derived from the Revised Treaty article 59, 60, 61 and 62 is to promote Social inclusion and alleviate poverty.

The Division seeks to achieve its mandate through Capacity building and advocacy for an enabling and policy environment in collaboration with key stakeholders.

Through its strategic interventions, the Division seeks to contribute in the achievement of the ECOWAS Vision 2050, impacting in the lives of the People in West Africa.

### Head of Division



Dr. Alves d'Almalda Jorge

### Major Achievements of the Division

#### ★ Development of ECOWAS Regional Decent Work Programme:

Conducted a study on decent work deficits in the region which resulted in the development of the ECOWAS Regional Decent Work Programme in collaboration with ILO.

#### ★ Advocacy Meeting to Promote Ratification of ILO Convention:

Conducted Advocacy Meetings to promote the ratification of ILO Convention 155 on Occupational Safety and Health in the ECOWAS region; Convention 189 of 2011 on the Rights of Domestic Workers and Convention 190 of 2019 on Violence and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace.

#### ★ Developed operational tools for implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Decent Work Programme

#### ★ Development of Draft Social Protection Framework for the Region.

#### ★ Organized Experts and Ministerial meeting on labour and employment on the 19<sup>TH</sup> July, 2019 in Abuja, Nigeria during which the following tools were validated and adopted:

Directive on Minimum Standards for the Harmonization of Labour Laws in the ECOWAS Region  
ECOWAS Decent Work Regional Programme

ECOWAS Regional Decent Work Programme.

#### ★ Conducted a study on Disability Inclusion in the ECOWAS region and developed a Plan of Action on Disability Inclusion in the ECOWAS region.



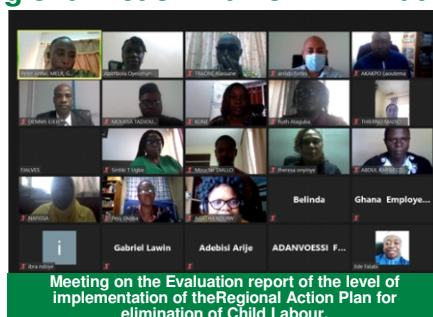
ECOWAS Ministers adopt Recommendations on Decent Work & Directives on the Harmonization of Labour Laws for the Region



Ecowas Hosts Regional Experts' Meeting on Disability Inclusion in West Africa



- ★ Evaluated the 2012-2015 Regional Action Plan on Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour in West Africa.



- ★ Developed the 2nd cycle of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on Elimination of Child Labour which integrates the issue of Forced Labour in line with the AU Plan of Action of Child Labour and the SDG Target 8.7.
- ★ Adoption of the Directive of Minimum Standards for Harmonization of Labour Laws in the ECOWAS region.
- ★ Developing A Coherence and Regional Multilateral Cooperation Mechanism On Labour Migration Governance

Assumed role as African Union Labour Migration Advisory Committee (AU-LMAC) from September 2018- to-date to provide a continental coherence and regional multilateral cooperation mechanism on labour migration governance.

Enhanced its role as Chair of AU- LMAC to support advisory role on Labour Migration Management and Governance through:

- (a) Effective engagements with the Pan African Parliament (PAP) on implementation of activities related to Mobility of Cross-border traders and COVID-19; and the role of PAP in addressing the gaps ( 15 April 2021).
- (b) Advisory support to the drafting of Key Guidelines and Documents ; such as the
  - i. Guidelines on the development of BLAs
  - ii. Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers; and;
  - iii. Guidelines on Development of Migrant Welfare Programme.

As AU-LMAC Chair led advocacy with series of Policy Briefs for migrant-inclusive measures on COVID-19 response:

- i. Protecting Migrant Workers in the Informal Economy.
- ii. Preparing Africa for Post-COVID –19 Labour Migration and
- iii. Mobility and Migration of African Health Workers Post COVID-19.

- ★ Developing A Coherence And Regional Multilateral Cooperation Mechanism On Labour Migration Governance:
- ★ Conducted an assessment on the Psycho-social Support needs of IDPs in Northeast Nigeria.



- ★ Launched a Call for Proposal on the Psycho-Social support needs of IDPs in Northeast Nigeria.

# Drug Prevention & Control

## Mandate

This Division is mandated to implement the Regional Action Plan to Address illicit Drug trafficking, Organised Crime and Drug Abuse in ECOWAS Member States. The Division also envisage to establish and strengthen to improve drug prevention and control active envisage in West Africa.

## Head of Division



Daniel Amankwaah

## Major Achievements of the Division

### ★ Training of Healthcare Professionals:

Two Hundred and eleven (211) Healthcare Professionals in 9 Member States (Benin, Burkina, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Niger, Mali, Sierra Leone, Togo) were trained between 2018 to 2021, to improve the quality of services provided to People with Drug Use Disorders and to also contribute to the pool of Mental Health Professional Treatment Workforce.

### ★ Training of Core Drug Prevention Educators:

One Hundred and fifty (150) Core Drug Prevention Educators (CDPEs) drawn from government agencies, schools, religious institutions and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in 5 Member States (Ghana, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Liberia and Cape Verde) were trained in 2019. The CDPEs will be able to carry out effective evidence-based drug education in a sustainable manner to address drug use among children, adolescents, and young adults in communities across their respective countries.



Training of Core Drug Prevention Educators in Ghana



### ★ Over 8,000 people were sensitized on drug use prevention: :

From 2018 to 2022, more than 8,000 people (students, artisans and communities) participated in evidence-based drug use prevention sensitisation programmes in 6 ECOWAS Member States (Ogun State in Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Liberia, The Gambia and Sierra Leone) and several others through community radio programmes in Gambia.



### ★ Provision of Drug Educational Materials

In 2018, more than 67,000 copies of drug educational materials were printed for the Ghana Narcotics Control Board (NACOB) to enhance drug prevention education in Ghana.

### ★ Establishment of Data Collection System:

A system of data collection, the West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (WENDU) is established. The first-ever epidemiological data on drug use and aggregate drug supply in West Africa: The WENDU Report: Statistics and Trends on Illicit Drug Use and Supply (2014-2017) was published in 2018. The second WENDU report (2018 -2020) was published in 2021. The WENDU reports provide evidence-based data for drug policy and programme formulation and implementation in West Africa.

### ★ Provision of Support for renovation of Drug treatment Centres in 7 member states:

ECOWAS Commission supported 5 Member States (Sierra Leone, Togo, Lagos State (Nigeria), Sokoto State (Nigeria), Burkina Faso, Ghana) of a total of about 330,000USD to renovate and furnish their drug treatment and rehabilitation centers. The treatment and rehabilitated centers improve the recovery of people with substance use disorders in Member States.



Handover of Medical Equipment to Aneho Litoral Addiction Treatment Center in Togo.



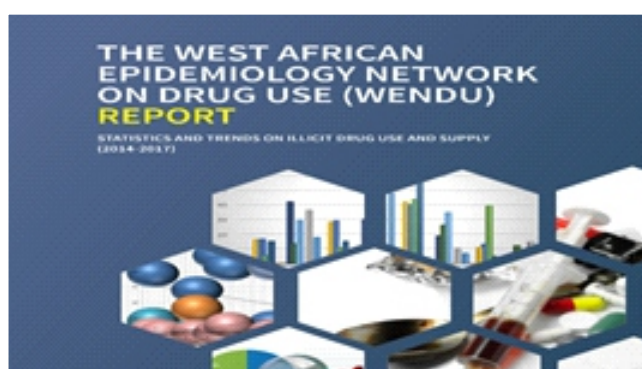
The Renovated Sierra Leone Psychiatric Teaching Hospital

### ★ Establishment of WENDU across ECOWAS member state:

National Chapters of West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (WENDU) were launched in all ECOWAS Member States (Six with the support of the ECOWAS Commission and the others with the support of UNODC with the EU Funding). So far, about 540 representatives from health institutions, law enforcement agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs) from ECOWAS Member states were trained on drug data collection resulting in an increase in epidemiology data representation consistency and accuracy by 80%.



Handover of WENDU Equipment in Sierra Leone



WENDU reports (2018 -2020) were published in 2021

### ★ Training of over 50 Law Enforcement official in The Gambia and Guinea:

As a result of collaboration between the ECOWAS Drug Unit, ECOWAS Regional Security Division and the INTERPOL, more than 50 law enforcement officials in The Gambia and Guinea were trained on countering illicit drug trafficking and related crimes in 2018 to improve the inter-agency cooperation among the various drug law enforcement agencies.



### ★ Draining of Healthcare Professionals

Between 2018 and 2022, Two Hundred and Thirty Eight (238) Healthcare Professionals under the Colombo Plan in 9 Member States (Benin, Burkina, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Niger, Mali, Sierra Leone, Togo) were trained to improve the quality of services provided to People with Drug Use Disorders (PWDs) and to also contribute to the pool of Mental Health Professional Treatment Workforce (MHPTW). Among these, 165 are licensed as International Certified Addiction Professionals (ICAP)

### ★ Elaborated National Control Master Plan in 14 Member States

14 Member States (Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Togo, Niger, Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Benin, Gambia, Senegal, Mali, Cabo Verde, Liberia and Ghana) were supported by the ECOWAS Commission and its development partners to elaborate National Drug Control Master Plans to guide drug prevention and control activities. The NDCMPs serve as an operational tool to provide a coherent framework for comprehensive national drug prevention and control measures.

### ★ Establishment of West African Network of Civil Society on Substance Abuse

The West African Network of Civil Society on Substance Abuse (WANCSA) was established in 2018 by the ECOWAS Commission as a tool of engagement between the Commission and the civil society organisation in drug prevention and control. Two regional WANCSA meetings were held in 2020 and 2021. The meetings have improved the provision of real-time information on drug prevention and control issues in the Member States thereby enhancing cooperation, collaboration, shared understanding and consensus building in addressing the drug menace in West Africa.

### ★ Elaborated by the ECOWAS Drug Prevention and Control

- i. ECOWAS Drug Action Plan to Address Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organised Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa 2016 – 2020
- ii. The West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (WENDU) Report; Statistics and Trends on Illicit Drug Use and Supply (2018 -2019)
- iii. West African Epidemiology Network on Drugs Use (WENDU) Report; Statistics and Trends on Illicit Drug Use and Supply (2014 -2017)
- iv. Support to ECOWAS Drug Unit Advocacy, Monitoring and Coordination Capacities, Final Narrative Report
- v. Monitoring Mission Reports for all ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania, 2018
- vi. Monitoring Mission Synthesised Report
- vii. Survey of Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres in West Africa
- viii. Collaboration Between ECOWAS Commission and the Global Drug Demand Reduction Programs Division of the INL, USA 2018 -2019.

## Policies, Action Plans, MOUs & Agreements

### Humanitarian Affairs & Disaster Risk Reduction

- ★ Humanitarian Policy and Action Plan 2018-2022
- ★ Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Action Plan 2015 - 2030
- ★ The ECOWAS Commission and the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR) entered into a “Grant” Agreement (2016-2021) to support ECOWAS in the development and implementation of programmes to strengthen disaster risk reduction coordination, planning and policy advisory capacity in West Africa.
- ★ ECOWAS and UNDP signed an agreement in August 2020 for a Project on “Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Adaptation for Resilience in the Sahel Region: fostering risk-informed solutions for sustainable development” in West Africa for a Budget of \$7.4 million (financed by SIDA \$7million USD and UNDP \$400,000USD).

### Human Security & Civil Society

- ★ The ECOWAS Child Policy and Strategic Plan of Action (2019-2030)
- ★ The Strategic Framework for National Child Protection Systems Strengthening for Prevention and Response to Abuse, Violence and Exploitation of Children (2017)
- ★ ECOWAS Roadmap on Prevention and Response to Child Marriage (2019-2030)
- ★ ECOWAS Political Declaration and Common Position against Child Marriage (adopted)
- ★ ECOWAS Implementation Guidelines for the Strategic Framework on National Child Protection Systems Strengthening.
- ★ ECOWAS Plan of Action for the Combat of Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2018 -2023)
- ★ ECOWAS Policy on Protection and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Persons (2010)
- ★ ECOWAS Technical Guidelines on Protection, Support and Assistance to Witnesses in Trafficking in Persons Cases (2013)
- ★ ECOWAS Plan of Action on Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) – 2019 -2023.
- ★ Joint Operational Plan between ECOWAS and the Regional Working Group on Child Protection (GRPE) comprised of UN Agencies and key Regional Child Protection NGOs.
- ★ Joint ECOWAS/GRPE Advisory to ECOWAS Member States on Minimizing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Children (April 2020).
- ★ Statement of the President of the Commission- “ECOWAS Calls for Urgent Action to Address Sexual Gender Based Violence and Protect the Rights of Women and Girls”. 22 June 2020.
- ★ Study Report- Overview and Analysis of ECOWAS Gender Based Violence Texts and Programs and development of Joint Advisory/ Technical Guidelines on Mainstreaming Anti GBV and Anti Child Sexual Abuse/VAC in COVID-19 Recovery and National Development Plan.
- ★ Report on Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 on Child Rights in ECOWAS Region.
- ★ ECOWAS Roadmap on Prevention and Response to Child Marriage (2019-2030)

### Social Affairs

- ★ Directive of Minimum Standards for harmonization of Labour Laws in the ECOWAS Region.
- ★ ECOWAS Regional Decent Work Programme (2019-2022).

- ★ Draft Regional Action Plan on Disability Inclusion in West Africa.
- ★ Guide for Policy Makers on Protection of Migrant Workers' Rights.
- ★ ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on Elimination of Child Labour which integrates the issue of Forced Labour in line with the AU Plan of Action of Child Labour and the SDG Target 8.7
- ★ ECOWAS Labour and Employment Policy 2009.
- ★ Draft Social Protection Framework.

## Drug Prevention & Control

- ★ West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (WENDU) Report: Statistics and Trends on Illicit Drug Use and Supply (2014-2017) and (2018 -2020).
- ★ Financing Agreement ROC/FED/-22-263 between the European Commission and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): Support to ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on illicit trafficking, related organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa. Signed in 2013, Project ended in 2019.
- ★ Grant Contract - External Actions of the European Union- FED/FED/2014/351-369: Support to ECOWAS Drug Unit advocacy, monitoring and coordination capacities, signed in 2013, Project ended in 2019.

## Challenges and Constraints of the Directorate

### Technical and Administrative Challenges

- ★ Delay in getting approvals for planned activities (triple approvals)
- ★ Delay in procurement and other Support services including Translation Interpretation, Finance and General Administration.
- ★ The Division is very short-staffed especially against its huge and critical mandate of Human Security and Civil Society engagement anchor.
- ★ Travel restrictions and health risks of COVID-19 pandemic.
- ★ No institutional effort, health care and psychological support for staff since the beginning of COVID-19 in 2020. Many staff contracted COVID-19 on ECOWAS assignments without due response.
- ★ Challenges associated with air travel especially with the ECOWAS region.
- ★ Delays in payment of vendors.
- ★ Lack of sustained and predictable funding for humanitarian programme and action.

### Strategic Organizational Constraint/Risk Factor

- ★ The Department of Social Affairs and Gender's mandate and work are not prioritized and duly recognized as the most direct, impactful and visible ECOWAS interventions which underpin the protection of the individual and human security thus enhancing human capital.

## Prospects for the Implementation of 2022 Budget

- ★ The 2022 budget of the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs seeks to deepen and/or scale up already existing activities.
- ★ All planned activities are gender analysed, needs based and result oriented and designed to contribute to the overall strategic vision of ECOWAS.
- ★ It is however noteworthy that the challenges mentioned in this presentation need to be urgently addressed to ensure that the prospects of high implementation rate for the benefit of the Community citizens are not thwarted.
- ★ The ample use of virtual engagement for intra ECOWAS and external coordination with partners will greatly increase rate of implementation and enhance effective collaboration and impact.





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