



ECOWAS COMMISSION  
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Original

**Strengthening ECOWAS Early Warning and Response capacity for improved regional stability and crisis prevention funded by Transition Support Facility (TSF) of the African Development Bank (AfDB)**

**Term of References (ToR)**

**For the Recruitment of an Individual Consultant to support the Early Warning Directorate (EWD) to update the ECOWAS Human Security Index (EHSI)**

**Reference** : ECW/TOR/EWD/26-02-25/mb02

# 1. Background and justification

With a view to operationalizing and strengthening its regional Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) Mechanism, the ECOWAS Commission, with the support of the Transition Support Facility (TSF) of the African Development Bank (AfDB), is undertaking the implementation of a two-year project aimed at strengthening its early warning and response capacity for improved regional stability and crisis prevention.

The ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN) is built upon the understanding of the need for conflict sensitivity and contextual risk assessment. The suite of ECOWAS Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) tools and efforts reflects not only the shared challenges that Member States face, but also their unique and sovereign characteristics, thereby highlighting the complex landscape of human security across the region. The EWD has structured early warning analysis and response under a common framework composed of five (5) key pillars encompassing a range of resilience factors and threats to human security, namely: (1) Environment; (2) Crime & Criminality; (3) Health; (4) Security; and (5) Governance & Human Rights.

These five (5) thematic areas cover fifty-five (55) predefined early warning human security indicators and forty-two (42) event types governing the ECOWAS regional Early Warning system. National Early Warning bodies have equally adopted the Early Warning framework, thereby creating a synergy that reflects the interconnected nature of West Africa's "threat" landscape and equips countries with the resources to cooperate and collectively respond to menaces. With a robust Early Warning ecosystem already in place in the sub-region, the ECOWAS-EWD is well-positioned to reinforce conflict prevention and risk management, while boosting resilience and resolution capabilities. The region continues to encounter threats to human security that are only projected to grow and evolve, and it is of paramount importance that the existing Early Warning and Response mechanisms adapt to tackle the multidimensional and complex nature of these threats, by linking sub-national (specifically as concerns civil society), national, and regional Early Warning mechanisms to operate optimally. The overall goal of the Project is to, amongst others, enhance capacity, skills and knowledge through regional and national capacity-building activities, and conduct then analyse country and regional risk and vulnerability assessments following the five (5) EWD thematic areas named above. The outcome is expected to strengthen the regional EWER mechanism, and to respond effectively to the regional and national drivers of fragility while promoting conflict prevention and regional stability.

The three (3) primary project objectives underpinning the overall goal are as follows:

1. Build the technical capacity of personnel (to effectively identify potential and/or existing tensions as well as negative conflict dynamics, and to strengthen the reporting of potential risks within specific contexts).
2. Produce Conflict Sensitivity Analysis and Contextual Risk Assessments for the AfDB and other development partners.
3. Upgrade the Technical functions of the ECOWARN Platform

The Project's operational implementation will be articulated around three components:

### **Component 1: Conflict Sensitivity Analysis and Contextual Risk Assessments**

- Sub-component 1.1: Nine (9) Country Resilience and Human Security Assessments (CRHSAs).
- Sub-component 1.2: Three (3) Regional Resilience and Human Security Assessments (RRHSAs).
- Sub-component 1.3: Support the development of the ECOWAS Human Security Index (EHSI)
- Sub-component 1.4: Support the production of quarterly Regional Human Security Reports.
- Sub-component 1.5: AfDB Conflict Sensitivity and Contextual Risk Assessment Service Provider.
- Sub-component 1.6: Support in strengthening the National Peace Infrastructure (NPI) in Member States.

### **Component 2: Upgrading Technical Functionalities of the ECOWARN Platform**

- Sub-component 2.1: Migration of historical data onto the new platform for long-term trends and real-time analysis.
- Sub-component 2.2: Improved functionalities for data mining based on customizable queries and visualizations of trends, including heat maps, bar charts, and graphs.
- Sub-component 2.3: Explore the possibility of AI enhancements and simulations for the prognosis of sensitivity to shocks.
- Sub-component 2.4: Colligation of Country Resilience and Fragility Assessment (CRFA) scores with the ECOWAS Human Security Index (EHSI), layering and triangulation.
- Sub-component 2.5: Integration of a media scanner

### **Component 3: Build the Technical Capacity of Early Warning Staff**

- Sub-component 3.1: Thematic Sector training for staff.
- Sub-component 3.2: Strengthen the Directorate's capacities in coding and system algorithm maintenance
- Sub-component 3.3: Development of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to encompass the multiple facets of the regional and national early warning and response mechanism
- Sub-component 3.4: Reinforcing the manpower of the regional early warning mechanism.

**To ensure good execution of activities, ECOWAS plans to recruit consultants to support the Early Warning Directorate (EWD) in updating the ECOWAS Human Security Index (EHSI).**

## **2. Context**

### **2.1.1. Introduction**

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is committed to fostering peace, security, and sustainable development within its Member States. Human security, a concept encompassing the protection of individuals from critical and pervasive threats, is central to these

goals. Traditional security paradigms, focused mainly on state security, have proven insufficient in addressing the complex challenges faced by individuals and communities in West Africa.

To address this, the ECOWAS Commission, through the Early Warning Directorate (EWD), has embarked on the creation of the ECOWAS Human Security Index (EHSI). The EHSI is designed to measure and monitor the multidimensional aspects of human security across the region, providing a comprehensive tool to assess vulnerabilities and resilience in Member States. The index will serve as a critical instrument for policy formulation, program development, and resource allocation to enhance regional human security.

### **2.1.2. Rationale**

The EHSI fills a critical gap in the regional security architecture by providing a standardised framework to assess human security. Unlike traditional security measures that focus on military and political stability, the EHSI incorporates a broader range of factors, including health, crime, governance, security, and environmental sustainability. This holistic approach is essential for addressing the root causes of human insecurity and promoting long-term stability and development. The creation of the EHSI is aligned with the ECOWAS Vision 2050, which emphasizes human-centered development and the enhancement of citizens' well-being. By providing a detailed analysis of human security conditions, the EHSI will inform the implementation of Vision 2050 and support the region's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## **2.2. Expected Outcome**

### **2.2.1. General Objective**

The objective of recruiting a consultant is to finalise and operationalise the ECOWAS Human Security Index (EHSI). This includes completing data collection, validating indicators, calculating the index, and developing a codebook.

### **2.2.2. Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives are as follows:

- Complete the data collection, ensuring all data is accurate, up-to-date, and representative of the current situation in the Member States.
- Ensure the robustness and relevance of the selected indicators across the thematic areas mentioned above, namely Health, Security, Crime & Criminality, Governance & Human Rights, and Environment, by aligning them with the ECOWARN indicators and global best practices.
- Develop a comprehensive methodology for calculating the Index, including weight assignment, data normalization, and country classification based on human security levels.
- Conduct consultations with Member States, civil society, and other stakeholders to validate the index methodology and findings.

- Prepare the EHSI report and a codebook to ensure standardized data collection, indicator interpretation, and methodological transparency.
- Develop protocols and strategies for the regular updating of the EHSI.

## **2.3. Methodology**

The methodology for updating the ECOWAS Human Security Index (EHSI) involves a series of systematic steps aimed at ensuring the index is comprehensive, accurate, and reflective of the diverse human security conditions across the ECOWAS region. The approach includes the following key phases:

### **2.3.1. Indicator Selection and Alignment**

The existing two hundred and thirteen (213) indicators will be reviewed and aligned with the fifty-five (55) ECOWARN indicators to ensure consistency and relevance. This process involves cross-checking and validating the indicators against established benchmarks and frameworks.

### **2.3.2. Data Collection and Compilation**

A matrix has been developed for data collection, which includes links to data sources and formulas to calculate index scores by country. This tool will be used to collect and compile data for all selected indicators. Data collection will be completed for all five (5) EWD thematic areas. The process will ensure that data is up-to-date, accurate, and sourced from credible entities.

### **2.3.3. Data Validation and Cleaning**

Collected data will undergo a rigorous validation process to check for accuracy, completeness, and relevance. This will involve cross-referencing with multiple sources and applying statistical methods to identify and rectify any anomalies or gaps.

Any gaps or inconsistencies in the data will be addressed through consultations with regional experts and stakeholders. Additional data may be sought to fill in any missing information.

### **2.3.4. Calculation of the Index and Classification of Countries**

The index will be calculated by aggregating the data for each indicator, using established statistical methods to derive scores for each country across the five thematic areas.

Countries will be classified based on their scores in each thematic area, resulting in a ranking that reflects their overall human security status. This classification will allow for comparative analysis across the region.

### **2.3.5. Outline of the Report**

The reporting process will include the following key components:

- A list of terms and their definitions or explanations.

- A detailed explanation of the methods used.
- A comprehensive report on the Index.

### **2.3.6. Validation and Publication**

The calculated index and country classifications will undergo internal validation within the ECOWAS Commission. This process will ensure that the index accurately represents the human security conditions across the region.

Following internal validation, the index will be presented to ECOWAS Member States and other stakeholders for review and feedback. This process will include workshops and consultations to ensure buy-in and ownership from all parties involved. All the feedback will be integrated into the final methodology.

Once validated, the EHSI will be published and disseminated to Member States and partners. The index will be made available in various formats, including detailed reports, visualizations, and digital tools.

### **2.3.7. Updating and Maintenance**

Strategies and modalities for regularly updating the data and recalculating the index will be defined. This will involve setting up a schedule for data collection and review, ensuring that the EHSI remains current and relevant. Training and capacity-building initiatives will be implemented to ensure that ECOWAS staff and Member States can effectively use and update the EHSI and track improvements over time.

## **2.4. Deliverables**

The consultant will deliver the following outputs:

- A completed data collection matrix for all five (5) thematic sectors.
- A detailed document outlining the methodology used to calculate the EHSI, including data normalisation, weighting, and aggregation techniques.
- A comprehensive report detailing the index methodology, scores, and country classifications, along with analysis and policy recommendations.
- The EHSI is published in print and online, with accompanying materials for stakeholders.
- Policy briefs, country profiles, and other materials are designed to communicate the key findings of the EHSI.
- A document outlining the protocols for regularly updating the EHSI, including data collection schedules, indicator review processes, and stakeholder engagement strategies.
- Training sessions were conducted for ECOWAS staff and Member States on the use and updating of the EHSI.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>AfDB</b>	Funding and oversight
<b>ECOWAS Early Warning Directorate</b>	Guide the consultant, Conduct a gap analysis, ensure the representativeness of indicators, present findings to stakeholders, and create knowledge products Organise the validation of the index with Member States
<b>Consultant</b>	Offer expertise in index calculation, statistical analysis, and methodology development, ensuring the robustness and reliability of the EHSI.

## **2.5. Reporting Lines and Communication**

### **2.5.1. Reporting Requirements**

The Consultant will submit weekly progress reports to the Project coordinator within the Early Warning Directorate, detailing the status of data collection, indicator validation, index calculation, stakeholder engagement activities, challenges encountered, and adjustments made to the project plan.

The Consultant will work under the line authority of the project coordinator and in close cooperation with the Director of the EWD. A final report will be submitted after the project, detailing all activities undertaken, results achieved, and recommendations for future updates of the EHSI.

### **2.5.2. Communication Plan**

Regular internal meetings will be held to coordinate activities, discuss challenges, and ensure alignment with project objectives.

Regular updates will be provided to the project implementation team, to keep them informed of progress and gather input.

### **2.5.3. Budget and Resources**

The budget and resources required for finalising the index calculation, publication, and dissemination will cover costs related to technical expertise, travel, workshops, and capacity-building activities.

## **2.6. Qualifications, experience, competence**

ECOWAS is looking for an Individual consultant. He/she will provide technical support to the EWD.

The Consultant will provide expertise in index calculation, statistical analysis, and methodology development, ensuring the robustness and reliability of the EHSI.

### 2.6.1. Qualifications

- The consultant must hold at least a master's degree in International Relations, Political Science, Humanities, Social Sciences, Peace and Conflict Studies, Data Analysis, Data Management, or a similar field from a recognized University.

### 2.6.2. Competence

The consultant must:

- Possess a sense of organization and good skills in communication, synthesis, and drafting.
- Knowledge of developing index, matrixes, quantitative data collection methods.
- Possess an excellent skill in technical drafting, and more specifically regular reporting in accordance with the requirements of the project's Donor and other technical and financial partners.
- Possess a good knowledge of data-processing tools and office automation (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher).
- Perfect knowledge of ECOWAS working language, English or French or Portuguese
- Familiar with a multicultural work environment.
- Broad knowledge of the ECOWAS Early Warning System and deliverables.
- Demonstrated expertise in conducting similar research in West Africa (publications).
- **Good knowledge of conflict and risk assessment research in general and in particular in West Africa.**
- Excellent aptitudes in analysis, report writing, and communication.

### 2.6.3. Experience

- 10 years' experience in research design, and index development.

## 3. General conditions

### 3.1. Place, duration, and beginning of the mission

- The project is based in the Early Warning Directorate, ECOWAS Commission, Abuja, Nigeria
- The beginning of the mission is envisaged for August 2025, for 90 days maximum.
- The Consultant shall abstain from any situation that could be considered a conflict of interest within the framework of the mission.

### 3.2. Application Package

The application package should include:

- A signed Expression of Interest with a letter including the date of availability,
- A detailed Technical Proposal including, the Consultant's recent Curriculum Vitae providing details on professional experience and similar missions, a certified copy of the



minimum diploma required, and evidence of conducting similar development in the past.

- A detailed Financial Proposal.

### **3.3. Submission of applications**

Applications should be received at the latest on July 30, 2025, at 11h00 am (GMT+1) by the ECOWAS Procurement Division at the following address:

- **ECOWAS Commission**  
101 Yakubu Gowon Crescent, Asokoro District  
PMB 401,  
Abuja 900103, Federal Capital Territory  
Federal Republic of Nigeria

- Or by email at the following addresses:

[sbangoura@ecowas.int](mailto:sbangoura@ecowas.int),

With the following in copy (cc): [ikkamara@ecowas.int](mailto:ikkamara@ecowas.int); [mbossou@ecowas.int](mailto:mbossou@ecowas.int);  
[yderra@ecowas.int](mailto:yderra@ecowas.int).

### **3.4. Method of selection**

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the African Development Bank's Procurement Framework dated October 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>. An interview may be organized with the shortlisted consultants. Only shortlisted consultants will be contacted.

ECOWAS reserves the right not to proceed with this call for applications.