



**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 selection of an Individual Consultant to support the Early Warning Directorate (EWD) to develop and integrate an Electronic Web Media scanning System into the existing ECOWARN Reporter

Reference

ECW/TOR/EWD/26-02-25/mb03

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. 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 an Individual Consultant to develop and integrate an Electronic Media Scanning System into the ECOWARN Reporter.

2. Rationale

2.1. Background

The Early Warning System (EWS) was established under Chapter IV of the 1999 ECOWAS Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Security.

The Early Warning Directorate (EWD) coordinates the EWS formally known as the ECOWAS Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN). The ECOWARN Reporter, a web-based interactive analysis system and visualization tool, customized for the ECOWAS region, is upheld by a network of field monitors collecting early warning data for baseline reporting from the Situation Room in Abuja, the headquarters of the system. The ECOWARN Reporter, implemented in 2006, became fully operational in 2008.

ECOWARN has in its database over one hundred thousand (100,000) entries of incident and situation data related to human security. An average of four thousand (4,000) entries of data is added every year. ECOWAS, through its Early Warning Directorate (EWD) and the National Early Warning Centres for the Coordination of the Response Mechanism (NCCRMs), monitors these threats and applies a human security lens to enhance the well-being of the population using data from multiple sources, including the ECOWAS Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN).

EWD provides qualitative and quantitative analysis by submitting timely reports with recommendations to ECOWAS management, through the Office of the Vice President, for information and early response, based on five (5) thematic sectors:

- Security
- Governance and Human Rights
- Environment
- Crime and Criminality
- Health.

The data collected and filled into the Reporter 2 by the ECOWARN Field Monitors is streamlined within fifty-five (55) pre-defined early warning regional peace and security indicators, and forty-two (42) types of events. The EWD Analysis Division has the lead responsibility for ECOWARN and open-source information analyses, including tracking the trends manifested in field and media reports, all integrated with regular assessments of their structural contexts. These analyses are conducted at multiple levels as dictated by the conflicts from local to national and regional.

The manual data collection methodology and the recently reduced number of Field Monitors present a risk in the effective data access and thus data collection in the Member States. As such, to ensure credible reporting, there is a need to complement the manual data collected and analyzed from the ECOWARN Reporter 2 with consistent data from the ECOWAS region using new technology such as “data mining”.

2.2. Objectives

The objective of recruiting a consultant is to develop a system that

- Collects and reads media events automatically,
- Highlights the full range of reported events from cooperation to conflict, and
- Enables the insertion of the data into the existing ECOWARN Reporter database.

2.3. Methodology

The methodology will necessitate analyzing the ECOWARN Reporter 2 database, followed by the development and integration of a web-based media Scanner by analysing global events to illuminate their trends over time. The updated System will continuously scan the electronic media across all ECOWAS Member States. and offer automated analyses based on the fifty-five (55) pre-defined early warning ECOWARN indicators.

All the events gathered will be inserted into the EOWARN Reporter 2 after validation.

2.3.1. Budget and Resources

The budget and resources required for the consultation will cover costs related to technical expertise, travel, workshops, and capacity-building activities.

2.4. Deliverables

The consultant will deliver the following:

1. A complete web-based application
2. Ensure its installation an integration with ECOWARN Reporter.
3. A detailed document outlining the methodology used for the data mining, weighting, and aggregation techniques.
4. A document outlining the protocols for regularly updating the tool, including data collection schedules, key word review processes.
5. Training sessions conducted for ECOWAS staff and Member States on the use and updating of the Tool.

2.5. Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Description
AfDB	Funding and oversight
ECOWAS Early Warning Directorate	Guide the consultant, Conduct a gap analysis, Validate the tool
Consultant	Conceive, develop, and implement the tool

2.6. Qualifications, experience, competence

ECOWAS is looking for an Individual consultant. The Consultant will work under the line authority of the Project Coordinator and in close cooperation with the Director of Early Warning.

2.6.1. Qualifications

The consultant must hold at least a master's degree in computer science, Data Management, or a similar field from a recognized University or institution.

2.6.2. Competence

The Consultant must:

- Possess a sense of organization and good skills in communication, synthesis, and drafting.
- 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.
- Perfect knowledge of ECOWAS working language.
- Familiar with a multicultural work environment.
- Broad knowledge of ECOWAS Early Warning System and deliverables.
- Demonstrated expertise in conducting similar development.
- Excellent aptitudes in analysis, report writing, and communication.

2.6.3. Experience

- Seven (7) years' experience in IT system development, web-based systems and programming, and good knowledge of Microsoft SQL Server, ASP, PHP etc....

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 a duration of 90 days maximum.
- The Consultant shall abstain from any situation which could be considered as a conflict of interests 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 Wednesday, **30th July 2025 at 11:00 am, (Nigeria time, GMT+1)** and mention **"Expression of interest for the selection of an Individual Consultant to support the Early Warning Directorate (EWD) to develop and integrate an Electronic Web Media scanning System into the existing ECOWARN Reporter"** and addressed to 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,
With the following in copy (cc) : ikkamara@ecowas.int ; mbossou@ecowas.int ;
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.