

Annex I to the Contribution Agreement

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Description of the Action

**EU Support to ECOWAS in
Peace, Security and Governance**

Table of Contents

List of Abbreviations	4
Project Details	9
1 Executive Summary	11
2 Context	13
2.1 Background	13
2.2 Problem Analysis	14
2.3 Relevance of the Action	16
2.4 Complementarity, Synergy with other relevant Actions	18
3 Intervention Logic	20
3.1 Objectives and Outputs	20
3.2 Main Partners, Target Group, Direct Beneficiaries	23
3.3 Methods of Implementation	26
3.4 Instruments and estimated resource allocation	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4 Project Governance	40
5 Sustainability, Complementarity and Cross-Cutting Issues	41
5.1 Sustainability of the Action	41
5.2 Mainstreaming	41
6 Risk Assessment	44
7 Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting	48

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

8	Visibility and Communication	50
9	Timing	51
Appendix 1: Indicative Work Plan	Error! Bookmark not defined.	
Appendix 2: Logframe Matrix		52

List of Abbreviations

AfDB	African Development Bank
AGA	African Governance Architecture
APSA	African Peace and Security Architecture
APF	African Peace Facility
ASF	African Standby Force
ASSN	African Security Sector Network
AU	African Union
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CIVIC	Center for Civilians in Conflict
CoW	Council of the Wise
CRF	Continental Result Framework
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DPA	Directorate for Political Affairs
ECONEC	ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

ECPF	ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECOWARN	ECOWAS Warning and Response Network
EDF	European Development Fund
EF	Expertise France
EGDC	ECOWAS Gender Development Centre
EAD	Election Administration Division
EMB	Electoral Management Body
EOM	Election Observation Mission
ERM	Early Response Mechanism
ESC	Electoral Security Committee
ESF	ECOWAS Standby Force
EUD	European Union Delegation
EPF	European Peace Facility
EPSA	ECOWAS Peace, and Security Architecture
EPSAO	ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

EPSPG	EU Support to ECOWAS in Peace, Security and Governance
EWD	Early Warning Directorate
FemWise Africa	Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation
FFP	Fund for Peace
FIIAPP	Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas
FRSD	Fund for Regional Stabilisation and Development
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
HDSA	Human Development and Social Affairs Department
HRBA	Human rights-based approach
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDP	Internally displaced person
ISS	Institute for Security Studies
KA IPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
MICT	Media in Cooperation and Transition

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

JAES	Joint Africa-EU Strategy
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Information and Communication Technologies
NCCRM	National Centre for the Coordination of the Response Mechanisms
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NOPSWECO	Network on Peace and Security for Women in West Africa
NPI	National Peace Infrastructure
ONS	Office of National Security
PAPS	Political Affairs, Peace, and Security Department
PSC	Peace and Security Council
PSO	Peace Support Operation
REC	Regional Economic Community
RM	Regional Mechanism
RIP	Regional Indicative Programme
ROAJELF	West African Network of Young Women Leaders
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

SO	Specific Objective
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRPS	Strengthening Regional Peace and Stability in West Africa Program
SSRG	Security Sector Reform Governance
TAT	Technical Assistance Team
TCE	Training Centre of Excellence
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WACSOF	West African Civil Society Forum
WPS	Women, Peace, and Security
WYPSI	Women, Youth, Peace and Security Institute
YPS	Youth, Peace, and Security
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Project Details

Project title	EU Support to ECOWAS in Peace, Security and Governance (EPSG)	
Contract no.		
Team Europe Initiative	No	
Specific Objective	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conflict prevention, crisis management and peace mediation based on ECOWAS' early warning and response mechanisms are strengthened in the ECOWAS region. 2. ECOWAS' role in promoting a secure, democratic and human rights-based environment is enhanced. 3. Transparent, peaceful and democratic national electoral processes and dialogues across ECOWAS member states are promoted. 4. The implementation of the peace and security agendas for women and youth within ECOWAS and across targeted member states is enhanced. 	
Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 The capacities of "National Centres for the Coordination of the Response Mechanisms" (NCCRMs) and National Peace Infrastructures (NPIs) with regard to the execution of early warning and response measures are enhanced. 1.2 The capacities of ECOWARN stakeholders in data analysis, improved report production and distribution are enhanced. 1.3 The capacities of ECOWAS to conduct and support peace mediations and dialogues are enhanced. 2.1. Reform processes by the security sector in line with rule of law, human security and accountability are strengthened. 2.2 The capacities of parliamentary committees and civil society organisations (CSOs) in the democratic oversight of the security sector are strengthened 3.1 Electoral institutions, processes and dialogues at regional and national level are strengthened. 3.2 The ECOWAS Commission is strengthened in their support to affected countries in transitions back to a constitutional order. 	

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

	<p>4.1 The implementation of the ECOWAS WPS Agenda and respective reporting is improved in terms of coherence and effectiveness.</p> <p>4.2 The implementation of the AU Youth, Peace and Security Agenda is strengthened in the ECOWAS region.</p>	
Total budget	EUR 24,000,000	
European Commission financial contribution	EUR 13,000,000	
BMZ financial contribution	This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by: Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for an amount of EUR 11,000,000	
Start of implementation period	01.11.2024	
End of implementation period	31.10.2027	
Project duration	36 months	months
Country/ies	ECOWAS Commission and ECOWAS member states	

1 Executive Summary

The Multi-Donor Action “EU Support to ECOWAS in Peace, Security and Governance” (EPSG) is jointly co-financed by the European Union (EU) and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), Expertise France (EF) and the *Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas* (FIIAPP) as part of the BMZ project “Support to the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO II)”. The duration of this Action is scheduled from 01.11.2024 to 31.10.2027 (36 months) with a total budget of EUR. 24,000,000 (EU contribution EUR 13,000,000, BMZ contribution EUR 11,000,000 to the multi-Donor Action). BMZ’s total funding for the BMZ project “EPSAO II” is EUR 14,250,000, of which EUR 3,250,000 are earmarked for the stand-alone component "The regional training infrastructure cooperates more effectively in the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the EPSA".

This Action represents the third phase of the EU’s support to ECOWAS in the domain of peace and security. Under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Regional Indicative Programme (RIP), the EU has provided support to the ECOWAS Commission in executing its mandate for preventing, managing, and resolving peace and security threats in West Africa. This support has been channeled through the GIZ implemented EPSAO Project, with a total commitment of over EUR 27 million (EUR 16.4 million from the EU and EUR 10.65 million from Germany) since February 2019. The EPSAO Project has been instrumental in assisting the ECOWAS Commission across five thematic areas: peace support operations (PSOs), conflict prevention, security sector reform and governance (SSRG), electoral affairs, and the enhancement of regional training infrastructure. It specifically supported the capacities of national and regional networks (for election observation), National Centres for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanisms (NCCRMs) and National Peace Infrastructures (NPIs) and also strengthened SSRG in the region.

This Action focuses on domains in which ECOWAS holds a distinct advantage:

As a primary African-led organisation with a mandate to convene West African states to address peace and security issues in the region, ECOWAS's role as a regional platform is pivotal. Despite challenges to its mandate in Central Sahel, the organisation maintains a strong political mandate and proven expertise in conflict prevention, management, and peace mediation. This is evident through the successful implementation of several policies, including the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance (2001), the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF, 2008), and the Policy on Security Sector Reform and Governance (2016). This Action is designed to strengthen ECOWAS' capabilities to act at regional and national level throughout the entire conflict cycle from conflict prevention through management, mediation and conflict resolution. It will have a primary focus on four key areas:

1. Conflict prevention, early warning, peace mediation, prevention of electoral violence and early response.

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

2. Creating safe and secure democratic transitions and post-conflict environments.
3. Strengthening electoral processes, including the prevention of electoral violence.
4. Protecting human rights and promoting democratic accountability in ECOWAS member states.

The Action will strengthen the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan III and its key priorities “Integrating the women, peace and security agenda” and “Promoting equal participation and leadership”. It will also contribute to the implementation of the EU Youth Action Plan.

EPSG will cover all ECOWAS member states, with a special attention on countries in transition but also northern regions of coastal countries (Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Togo and Ghana) affected by the spill-over effect of security crises in the Sahel.

The **Overall Objective** of the Action is to enhance peace, security and governance in the ECOWAS region.

The **Specific Objectives** (outcome) of the Action are:

1. Conflict prevention, crisis management and peace mediation based on ECOWAS’ early warning and response mechanisms are strengthened in the ECOWAS region.
2. ECOWAS’ role in promoting a secure, democratic and human rights-based environment is enhanced.
3. Transparent, peaceful and democratic national electoral processes and dialogues across ECOWAS member states are promoted.
4. The implementation of the peace and security agendas for women and youth within ECOWAS and across targeted member states is enhanced.

2 Context

1.1.1 Background

West Africa is currently grappling with the dual challenges of escalating extremism and severe political crises in multiple countries. Violent extremism and terrorist activities are increasing in the region with conflicts affecting the Sahel region and expanding towards coastal countries. In seven ECOWAS member states, namely, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Benin and Guinea-Bissau, “coups d’états” or attempts have taken place between 2021 and 2024. This experience has had far-reaching consequences on constitutional order, political systems, governance structures, and intra-regional cooperation.

In recent years, extremist groups such as *Jama’at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin* (JNIM) have made inroads into the northern border regions of the coastal countries of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. While Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire have so far mainly served as retreat areas for extremist organizations, violent incidents have occurred in Benin in particular and in Togo in some cases. This leads to a general situation of insecurity in the border regions, which poses a massive threat to the free movement of the civilian population and also to cross-border trade. State control in these regions is being challenged.

The rise of extremist violence takes place against the backdrop of long-standing conflicts over scarce resources at local level between (ethnic and religious) communities, between farmers and herders, some of which involve armed confrontations. These conflicts are exacerbated by the effects of climate change and are often a cause for displacement. Organised crime in the context of drug and human smuggling and piracy in coastal West Africa further increases insecurity for civilian populations and hampers economic development and trade.

The escalation of political crises, manifested in six military coups and countercoups since 2021, is also linked to the weakness of current governments. On the one hand, democratically elected governments have proved unable to counter the extremist threat, despite support from the international community. In addition, there is widespread disillusionment with some elected governments, perceived to be corrupt, as well as with unconstitutional mandate extensions.

The four cases of illegitimate seizure of power by military forces in Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso and Niger not only represent a democratic backslide in the countries concerned, but also threaten political stability and peace throughout West Africa. This risk has been further aggravated by the declaration of withdrawal from ECOWAS by Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger on 28th January 2024. While these three countries collectively contribute only seven percent to the gross domestic product of the ECOWAS region, they represent 16.8% of its population and encompass as much as 55% of its territory. Their withdrawal would mean an enormous political weakening of ECOWAS, accompanied by the financial loss of membership fees.

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

These developments have posed major challenges for ECOWAS. The departure from the organisation's core principles by the military administrations called for the exclusion and sanctioning of the concerned member states. However, adopting this hard-line approach has had implications for ECOWAS' political manoeuvrability within these countries. The economic sanctions have also been criticised for having a severe impact on already vulnerable populations. In a strategic move during an ECOWAS Heads of State and Government extraordinary session in February 2024, ECOWAS opted to lift economic sanctions on Guinea and Niger, while also reinstating the recruitment of Malian professionals within the ECOWAS Commission, showcasing a concerted effort to re-engage and to re-build trust with the disaffected states.

The hope for enhanced security outcomes comes amidst uncertainty, with Russia's influence being a notable factor in shaping political decisions across the three countries. The underlying mistrust towards ECOWAS and local authorities is intertwined with resistance to Western interventions, often perceived as neo-colonial. This mistrust is fuelled by targeted disinformation, contributing to the grievances exploited by the military regimes to garner support from segments of the population.

In the context of these diverse challenges, the pervasive threat of fake news emerges as a critical issue. It often operates as a tool for political manipulation, where false narratives are spread to influence public opinion or discredit political opponents. In the area of peace and security, information disorder pushes citizens into polarised echo chambers that further fray the social fabric and fuel hostility and violence. Fake news sometimes exploits the diverse ethnic and religious make-up of communities to spread inflammatory content that can increase tensions and conflict. Disinformation is also becoming a factor affecting electoral processes and outcomes in West Africa. Young people are particularly vulnerable to manipulation by fake news and hate messages due to their above-average use of social media and their often-precarious economic situation, which they blame on the inability and unwillingness of ruling elites.

2.1 Problem Analysis

The political development in West Africa have posed major challenges for ECOWAS. The departure from the organisation's core principles by the military administrations called for the exclusion and sanctioning of the concerned member states. However, adopting this hard-line approach has had implications for ECOWAS' political manoeuvrability within these countries. The economic sanctions have also been criticised for having a severe impact on already vulnerable populations. In a strategic move during an ECOWAS Heads of State and Government extraordinary session in February 2024, ECOWAS opted to lift economic sanctions on Guinea and Niger, while also reinstating the recruitment of Malian professionals within the ECOWAS Commission, showcasing a concerted effort to re-engage and to re-build trust with the disaffected states.

ECOWAS has constructive policies and experience with interventions to restore peace and democracy. The "ECOWAS Vision 2050" (which also aligns with the AU Agenda 2063) is focused on peace, security, and stability (Pillar 1), governance and rule of law (Pillar 2) and social inclusion (Pillar 5). The EPSA is closely aligned with the objectives and instruments of the APSA and includes, among others, the ECOWAS

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN), the Council of the Wise (CoW) and the ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF). ECOWAS has long experience in crisis intervention, particularly through preventive diplomacy and conflict mediation missions conducted with varying degrees of success, but also through PSO deployments in member states. ECOWAS has been a robust partner of the EU, working to prevent conflicts at various levels and to combat the threat of violent extremism in the region.

These significant potentials of ECOWAS are constrained by its limited human and financial capacities to address the growing challenges. Inconsistent payment of financial contributions by member states, a multi-year freeze on recruitment to cut costs, and bureaucratic and sometimes inefficient structures slow down the work of the ECOWAS Commission as well as the implementation of ECOWAS policies in member states. While ECOWAS has adequate policies and strategies, these have not been made sufficiently tangible for the populations of the member states. For instance, ECOWAS has a technically efficient early warning system. However, the good findings of the EWS are not always used to a sufficient extent for the design of response measures. This is also because the information from the EWS is not available to all users (e.g. the NCCRMs) comprehensively and in a timely manner. Furthermore, key elements of the ECOWAS SSRG Policy Framework, such as the rule of law and people-centred approaches, are not anchored with the security forces at the national level to the extent that the vast majority of security forces are committed to upholding democracy and rule of law. While ECOWAS has demonstrated a clear commitment to democratic governance, public trust in elections is undermined by a lack of transparency, unfair campaigning and the occurrence of violence in some member states. The main problem is the still inadequate implementation of the good ECOWAS policies at member state level.

To address these deficiencies effectively, a critical imperative is to enhance the role of the ECOWAS Commission in ensuring the harmonization and effective implementation of regional policies in member states. The effectiveness of EU support to ECOWAS in the area of peace, security and governance therefore requires a well aligned implementation at both regional and national levels.

The potential for sustainable peace and democracy in ECOWAS member countries is significantly bolstered by the efforts of civil society actors. They demonstrate commitment to fostering peace, democracy and the building of NPIs, they contribute to fair and peaceful elections, advocate for a transparent and accountable security sector as well as for the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and the Youth Peace and Security (YPS) agendas. Civil society organisations are also crucial in terms of their influence on youth who are particularly vulnerable to manipulation by fake news and hate messages due to their above-average use of social media and their often-precarious economic situation, which they blame on the inability and unwillingness of ruling elites. The Action will therefore, whenever possible, involve civil society actors in the implementation of activities

Moreover, the empowerment of women in peace processes is paramount for ensuring enduring and high-quality peace outcomes. Despite their pivotal role, they continue to be excluded from, or under-represented in, official peace negotiations and mediation efforts. Despite some progress, girls and women continue to be disadvantaged in terms of educational opportunities, economic status, and political participation. Women

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

and girls, as well as persons with disabilities are victims of various forms of conflict-related and domestic violence and harmful traditional practices. Meanwhile, there is an increasing number of examples of women and girls being actively involved in extremist activities.

Various scenarios are conceivable in the duration of the Action. In the best-case scenario, the Action could prioritise supporting the transition from military regimes to constitutional democracy and the establishment of rule of law. Conversely, in the worst-case scenario, cooperation with these member states could become unfeasible, with potentially more ECOWAS states following suit. Regardless of the scenario, it is imperative to exert every effort to prevent similar occurrences in other ECOWAS member states and to reinstate stability in post conflict and transition countries. Another risk is the further expansion of extremist forces in the coastal states, whose resilience to extremist influences must be strengthened.

2.2 Relevance of the Action

The Action is embedded in the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy that stresses the need for acting at all stages of the conflict cycle, acting promptly on prevention, responding responsibly and decisively to crises and investing in stabilisation and the importance of deep durable regional and international partnerships to achieve sustainable peace. It is based on the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) and successive roadmaps and action plans prioritizing the promotion of peace and security and addressing governance and developmental challenges as mutual and complementary interests. The Africa-EU 2014-17 Roadmap adopted at the 4th Africa-EU Summit in Brussels in 2014 contains five priority areas for the joint strategy. Two of the priority areas speak directly to security threats and challenges in West Africa, namely peace and security, as well as democracy, good governance and human rights. At the EU-Africa summit in 2022, the EU and AU again committed to a “renewed and enhanced cooperation for peace and security” (6th EU-AU Summit: A Joint Vision for 2030). This underscores the mutuality of interest in preventing and managing violent conflicts and insecurity in West Africa.

At the international level, the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are highlighted as overarching principles, in particular SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions, UNSC Resolution 2250 and related AU policy documents including the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) and the AU agenda "Silencing the Guns", are an essential basis for this Action.

The AU Protocol from 2002 relating to the establishment of the *Peace and Security Council* (PSC) and the 2007 Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance became precursors to the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA), respectively. In 2015, the AU adopted its Agenda 2063 as an overarching vision for the socio-economic transformation of Africa over a

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

period of 50-years. It contains seven aspirations, including an “Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law”, and “a peaceful and secure Africa”. It also contains the “Silencing the Guns” initiative as a flagship project with the objective of preventing and effectively managing intractable conflicts. In 2020, the AU has extended the implementation period of its *Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa* to 2030 promoting reconciliation and social cohesion.

The APSA represents the main operational framework through which the AU and Regional Economic Communities/ Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) work individually and collectively on peace and security issues in Africa. In 2008, the AU and RECs/RMs, including ECOWAS, signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) committing them to work together on priority areas of peace and security, including conflict prevention (covering early warning and preventive diplomacy), crisis/conflict management (covering the *African Standby Force/ASF* and mediation), post-conflict reconstruction and development, as well as peacebuilding. The Action’s objective to strengthen the EPSA is at the same time strengthening the APSA.

The Action is further underpinned by ECOWAS policies. ECOWAS initiated the 1999 Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security, the 2001 Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance and the 2008 ECPF as key instruments of the EPSA. ECOWAS has translated the ECPF into programmatic interventions by developing detailed action plans across the 14 components. In recent years, ECOWAS developed additional thematic policies such as the Sahel Strategy (2014), and the SSRG Policy Framework 2016. In December 2021, the Heads of State adopted ECOWAS’ Vision 2050 “*A fully integrated community of peoples in a peaceful, prosperous region with strong institutions and respect for fundamental freedoms and working towards inclusive and sustainable development* with five strategic pillars 1) peace, security and stability; 2) governance and rule of law; 3) economic integration and interconnectivity; 3) transformation, inclusion and sustainable development; and 5) social inclusion. Gender and digitalisation, as well as resilience to vulnerabilities and capacity building are recognised as cross-cutting issues.

The contemporary peace and security challenges in West Africa have given greater impetus on conflict prevention, specifically the ECOWARN; mediation and preventive diplomacy; the role of women and the youth in peace and security; and the support to peaceful electoral processes. Furthermore, steps have been undertaken to fully operationalize the ESF as part of the continental development of the ASF and to promote the implementation of the SSRG Policy Framework at member state level.

At its annual planning meeting in February 2023, the ECOWAS Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security (PAPS) defined the following priorities for the implementation of Vision 2050 and the 4x4 Strategic Objectives at member state level: supporting affected member states in restoring their constitutional order, building local peace infrastructures, further operationalizing conflict mediation mechanisms and supporting security sector reforms. Cooperation with civil society is explicitly being sought. ECOWAS has long-standing history of working with civil society organisations, for example the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP).

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

All these ECOWAS strategies and policies are in line with global, AU- and EU-policies.

The objectives and outputs of this Action support ECOWAS' strategies and policies and are in line with its current priorities. Based on existing experiences, enhancing the quality of ECOWAS interventions is achievable through advisory support, training, and financial assistance. Additionally, direct support to actors within member states is crucial as it promotes the implementation of EPSA objectives and the implementation of regional initiatives at national level. This entails (amongst others) ensuring proper conduct of elections, effective conflict prevention and management, and increased civilian oversight and accountability of security forces in ECOWAS member states.

2.3 Complementarity, Synergy with other relevant Actions

Donor	Relevant actions	Expected synergies at impact level
EU	Support Programme for the implementation of the APSA (EU APSA IV), funded under the APF	Implementation of the APSA at continental and regional (EPSA) level.
BMZ Implemented by GIZ	Support to Training Centres of Excellence ((TCEs), this component of the former EPSAO action will continue to be funded as a stand-alone component by BMZ)	Capacity Development for actors involved in the implementation of the EPSA
BMZ Implemented by GIZ	Support of the AU for conflict prevention, conflict management and peace consolidation in the context of the APSA and AGA in Africa	Close cooperation AU-ECOWAS for implementing EPSA as part of the APSA, structural conflict prevention, integrating civil society, women and youth in peace initiatives

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

German Federal Foreign Office Implemented by GIZ	Support to the mitigation of destabilizing effects of transnational organised crime (M-TOC)	Refining the early warning indicators and analytical tools for the Early Warning Directorate (EWD) priority area crime and criminality
EU, BMZ Implemented by GIZ and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)	ECOWAS Fund for Regional Stabilisation and Development (FRSD) 70,2 Mio. EUR, 2022-2025 Community based, focus on livelihoods, food security and conflict prevention in Benin, Togo and Guinea-Bissau	Socio-economic and security crisis prevention as an element of EPISA implementation in member states
African Development Bank (AfDB)	Support to ECOWAS for Peace and Development, support to the EWD on the improvement of the ECOWARN system, and financing Country Resilience and Human Security Assessments/ CRHSA in 10 ECOWAS member states	Structural and early conflict prevention, Strengthening of the ECOWARN system
DANIDA	Support to early warning, preventive diplomacy/ early response, election long term observation, WPS, YPS, evidence-based decision-making 5,5 Mio. EUR + 4 technical experts, flexible funding for various activities of ECOWAS action plans (2024 – 2027)	EPISA implementation at regional and national level Similar thematic priorities in 3 of the 4 SOs of the Action Close coordination required
BMZ Implemented by GIZ	Strategic management and organisational development of the ECOWAS Commission	Efficient and sustainable implementation of EPISA and other programmes by the ECOWAS Commission
Canada Implemented by UNDP/ UN Women	Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Support to the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre (EGDC)	Strengthening of Gender equality, and the WPS Agenda, Gender equality

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

UNOWAS	Enhancing coordination of joint initiatives between ECOWAS and UNOWAS through the Desk-to-Desk (D2D) mechanism	Platform of collaboration on issues relating to peace and security as well as good governance in the ECOWAS sub-region.
Spanish Embassy	Support to the EGDC for the implementation of the WPS agenda (empowerment and leadership of women, gender-based violence)	Implementation of the WPS agenda; strengthening women's role in conflict prevention, management and peacebuilding
<i>Agence française de Développement (AFD)</i> Implemented by EF	FGS – Support fund for innovative gender initiatives in the Sahel	Lessons learnt and complementarity for cross cutting interventions (SO 4)
USAID	Strengthening Regional Peace and Stability in West Africa Program (SRPS), (2023-2028)	Strengthening Peace and Stability at ECOWAS level and in ECOWAS Member states (primarily Mali, Benin, Guinea, Niger and Togo).
EU, BMZ Implemented by GIZ	Strengthening the trustworthiness of information in West Africa	Analysing disinformation flows, exchange on suitable approaches and capable partners to sensitise on disinformation (with a focus on youth and women).
UNOWAS	Enhancing coordination of joint initiatives between ECOWAS and UNOWAS through the Desk-to-Desk (D2D) mechanism	Platform of collaboration on issues relating to peace and security as well as good governance in the ECOWAS sub-region.

3 Intervention Logic

3.1 Objectives and Outputs

The **Overall Objective** of the Action is to enhance peace, security and governance in the ECOWAS region.

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

The **Specific Objectives (SO = Outcomes)** of the Action are:

SO 1: Conflict prevention, crisis management and peace mediation based on ECOWAS' early warning and response mechanisms are strengthened in the ECOWAS region.

SO 2: ECOWAS' role in promoting a secure, democratic and human rights-based environment is enhanced.

SO 3: Transparent, peaceful and democratic national electoral processes and dialogues across ECOWAS member states are promoted.

SO 4: The implementation of the peace and security agendas for women and youth within ECOWAS and across targeted member states is enhanced.

The Specific Objectives are reached by the following **outputs**:

Output 1.1: The capacities of "National Centres for the Coordination of the Response Mechanisms" (NCCRMs) and National Peace Infrastructures (NPIs) with regard to the execution of early warning and response measures are enhanced.

Output 1.2: The capacities of ECOWARN stakeholders in data analysis, improved report production and distribution are enhanced.

Output:1.3: The capacities of ECOWAS to conduct and support peace mediations and dialogues are enhanced.

Output 2.1: Reform processes by the security sector in line with rule of law, human security and accountability are strengthened.

Output 2.2: The capacities of parliamentary committees and CSOs (civil society organisations) in the democratic oversight of the security sector are strengthened.

Output 3.1: Electoral institutions, processes and dialogue at regional and national levels are strengthened.

Output 3.2: The ECOWAS Commission is strengthened in their support to affected countries' in transitions back to a constitutional order.

Output 4.1: The implementation of the ECOWAS WPS Agenda and respective reporting is improved in terms of coherence and effectiveness.

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Output 4.2: The implementation of the AU Youth, Peace and Security Agenda is strengthened in the ECOWAS region.

The four Specific Objectives contribute significantly to the achievement of the Overall Objective.

SO 1 strengthens the implementation of EPSA in the field of conflict prevention and management by improving the quality of early warning and response at regional and national level and by supporting ECOWAS missions for preventive diplomacy, mediation, and the monitoring of agreements within the framework of the Early Response Mechanism (ERM). SO 1 contributes to the components 1) Early Warning and 2) Preventive Diplomacy of the ECPF.

SO 2 strengthens a secure, democratic and human rights-based environment in ECOWAS member states, with a focus on post-conflict and transition countries. By fostering reform processes of the security sector and by strengthening the role of oversight committees, it contributes directly to the implementation of the SSRG Policy Framework component 4 (Human rights and rule of law) and 8 (Security governance) of the ECPF.

SO 3 contributes to reinforce democracy in ECOWAS member states by strengthening the capacities of electoral institutions and other state actors to work towards transparent, fair and non-violent electoral processes, with the active involvement of civil society and the media. SO 3 thus supports the ECPF's component 3 (Democracy and Political Governance) and the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

SO 4 contributes to the ECPF components 10 (Women, Peace and Security) and 11 (Youth Empowerment). The EPSA cannot be successfully implemented without the active involvement of women and youth in all phases of conflict prevention, conflict management, mediation and conflict resolution and their active contribution to democracy and human rights. SO 4 aims therefore to strengthen the role of women and young people in politics and peace processes, e.g., by supporting the deployment of the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise West Africa) members in peacebuilding initiatives.

The implementation and the impact of the different SOs reinforce each other. The response measures (SO 1) are also suitable for dealing with conflicts in the context of elections (SO 3). Reforms of the security sector (SO 2) and the transparent and peaceful conduct of elections (SO 3) have a crisis-preventive effect (SO 1). The active involvement of women and young people (SO 4) reinforces the impact of all the other SOs. The implementation of the measures will therefore be closely interlinked.

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Thus, the Action contributes directly to 8 of the 15 components of the ECPF. The overall objective of strengthening the implementation of EPISA was strongly considered. It is assumed that other key thematic areas of the EPISA, such as the ESF and disarmament, will be supported by other EU funding mechanisms in the future. In the case of the ESF, potentially through the European Peace Facility (EPF).

ECOWAS does not have a specific regional version of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. However, Pillar 1 (peace and security) and Pillar 2 (governance and rule of law) of the ECOWAS 2050 Agenda are aligned with SDG 16 of the 2030 Agenda and Pillar 4 (social inclusion) with SDG 5 (gender equality). The specific objectives 1 and 2 of the Action relate to pillar 1, specific objective 3 to pillar 2 and specific objective 4 to pillar 4 of the ECOWAS Agenda 2050, and therefore contribute also to the SDGs 16 and 5.

3.2 Main Partners, Target Group, Direct Beneficiaries

Cooperation with the many partner organizations listed here will be designed to promote cooperation and joint implementation of activities by several partner organizations (several ECOWAS entities, regional and national levels, state and civil society actors)

Main Partners

The primary stakeholders (duty-bearers) of the Action are the ECOWAS Commission and ECOWAS member states.

ECOWAS Commission (duty-bearers):

At the ECOWAS Commission the Action will primarily collaborate with the PAPS Department, the Human Development and Social Affairs (HDSA) Department (SO 4), and the Early Warning Directorate (SO 1), under the office of the ECOWAS Vice President. The following PAPS units are relevant: Regional Security Division (SO 2), the Directorate for Political Affairs and its Divisions, including Democracy & Good Governance (SO 3 and SO 2), Electoral Assistance (SO 3) and Mediation & International Cooperation (SO 1) while the relevant units under HDSA include the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs (SO 4), the Gender and Development Centre in Dakar (SO 4) and the Youth Centre in Ouagadougou (SO 4). The ECOWAS units mentioned above are responsible for policy development, implementation and monitoring in the key policy areas of peace, security and governance and for the whole ECOWAS region. However, the scarce human and financial capacities do not match the importance of tasks. Some units consist of only one to two experts. These limited capacities, hierarchical structures and the time-consuming involvement of member states have in the past led to delays in decision-making processes and the implementation of measures. The ECOWAS Commission is currently making efforts to recruit additional staff for its operational departments.

ECOWAS's Decentralized Entities:

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

The ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions (ECONEC) will be a key beneficiary of the Action, primarily through Output 3.1 and 3.2. owing to its role in supporting national Election Management Bodies (EMBs) in ensuring transparent, fair, inclusive and non-violent elections. FemWise West Africa, NOPSWECO, ROAJELF and the WPS regional Steering Group are main target groups for SO 4. The regional training infrastructure, consisting of decentralised training centres, contributes significantly to the building of civilian capacities and regional networking towards enhanced implementation of the EPSA. Their training capacity will be used by the Action for training on the topics of SO 1, SO 2, SO 3 and SO 4. Neither military and peacekeeping related trainings (e.g. on PSOs) nor trainings for military personnel will be funded under this Action.

The ECOWAS Permanent Representatives in ECOWAS member states will play an important role for all activities implemented in member states. The EPSG team will consult them regularly and seek their support for its activities.

Other significant stakeholders include the CoW (for Output 1.3.), the ECOWAS Permanent Representation to the AU, the ECOWAS Parliament (especially its Standing Committee for Political Affairs, Peace & Security and its standing committee on Social Affairs, Women's Empowerment, Gender and Youth), the African Security Sector Network (ASSN) and the Network of National Human Rights Institutions in West Africa are partners for anchoring SSRG in ECOWAS member states (SO 2, SO 4). The EPSG Action will also support the further operationalisation of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council in West Africa (ECOSOCC-WA).

Important partners at national level

Target groups at member state level are:

- For SO 1: The NCCRMs which are legally set up national organisations but play an important role in the context of ECOWARN as responsible actors for the coordination of response measures for mitigating conflicts at national and local level; the national peace infrastructures, which may vary in composition and name from country to country but play an increasingly important role in peacebuilding.
- For SO 2: Actors of the Security Sector like Offices of National Security or their equivalent, the parliamentary standing committees, security and human rights organisations in member states.
- For SO 3: The EMBs, police services and the Election Security Committees (ESCs) as constituted in respective countries in West Africa.
- For SO 4: The national focal points for WPS (that make up the regional steering group).

Regional and national civil society and women and youth networks

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

The Action cooperates with various West African CSOs and their regional networks, including especially WANEP. This network of over 500 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in the field of peace and security has been part of the ECOWARN system for many years, sends its own election observation missions and supports programmes for women and the youth and holds therefore expertise in SO 1, SO 3 and SO 4. Other CSO partners, especially for SO 1 and SO 3, are the West African Civil Society Forum (WACSOFF) and YIAGA Africa, an African front-line non-profit organization promoting participatory democracy, human rights and civic participation. Human rights organisations and media are civilian partner organisations for SO2. The two women's networks, namely the West African Network of Young Women Leaders (ROAJELF) and The Network on Peace and Security for Women in West Africa (NOPSWECO) as well as the Women, Youth, Peace and Security Institute (WYPSI), which is located at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and the International Academy for Gender and Peace - University of Liberia are supported within the framework of SO 4. Journalist networks and radio stations support counter-fake news campaigns. The Action will also cooperate with various national civil society organisations working in the thematic fields of SO 1-4.

Other cooperation partners might be relevant academic institutions, think tanks and policy research institutes, as well as other relevant regional and international organisations. Specifically, the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Fund for Peace (FFP), and the Media in Cooperation and Transition (MICT) would be supported within the framework of SO1, whilst the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) would contribute to the work of both SO1 and SO2.

The **ultimate beneficiaries** and right holders of this initiative are the citizens of all 15 ECOWAS member states who stand to gain from the strengthening of the EPSC, leading to a greater probability for reduced conflicts, enhanced human security, and improved democratic governance based on the rule of law.

Women are a specific target group of the Action. Although women are rarely involved in conflicts themselves, they are particularly affected by conflicts, including through sexualised violence and displacement as well as through the consequences of climate change. At the same time, they have so far been given little consideration in ECOWAS peace interventions and are to be given a more important role in politics and peace. They will be addressed specifically by SO 4 but also through measures implemented under SO 1, SO 2 and SO 3.

Young people without economic prospects are susceptible to be influenced by extremist groups and disinformation - especially in the context of elections or manipulation of anti-democratic forces. They should be addressed through CSOs. Recognising the need for supporting youth involvement in conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, democratic governance and, preventing electoral and countering violent extremism, the Action will support the operationalisation of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda at both regional (ECOWAS) and member states levels.

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Migrants, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other minorities are often affected by marginalisation and human rights violations. Their rights and special needs as well as the need for their active participation are taken into account in the measures for conflict prevention, SSR and elections. At local level, traditional authorities, including religious authorities, will also be involved in activities.

1.1.2 Methods of Implementation

Duration of the Action: from 11/2024 to 10/2027 (36 months)

The Action pursues a multi-level and multi-actor approach, with the focus shifting even more towards the implementation of EPSA in selected member states compared to the predecessor project EPSAO. The focus is increasingly on bolstering established structures such as NCCRMs, FemWise, NOPSWECO, ROAJELF or ECONEC, to fulfil their roles in conflict re-sponse, mediation, advising, and networking with civil society organisations and national election management bodies. This aligns with ECOWAS' strategy of increasing the acceptance and appreciation of the organisation through locally visible structures and activities. However, strengthening the capacities of the ECOWAS Commission remains necessary. The financial and personnel capacities of ECOWAS are still too weak, partly due to the shortfalls in fees of some member states while political expectations regarding its ability to act have further increased. The Commission will therefore continue to be strengthened as needed in the areas of policy development and implementation, strategy and planning processes, steering and coordination, as well as monitoring in the aforementioned thematic areas, even if the focus is on implementation in member states. The measures supported at member state level are de-rived from ECOWAS policies and implementation plans. They are adapted to the specific needs of the national partner organisations in terms of design and use of instruments, involving actively stakeholders in the development of activities, seeking their feedback and collaboration throughout the project lifecycle. In addition, the project will ensure that supported measures are clearly introduced as measures of an ECOWAS Action. eParticular importance is attached to the promotion of cooperation, both between regional and national levels (e.g. between PAPS and TCEs, EWD and NCCRMs, ECONEC and EMBs) between different national actors (NCCRM and NPIs, parliamentary oversight committees and security sectors actors, EMBs and civil society) and between national actors of different countries, especially of neighboring countries, e.g. between peace actors of coastal Sahel+ countries or between parliamentary oversight committees of different countries. The Action sees its task as building and consolidating bridges between all these players. nIn view of the volatile environment, flexibility is required when countries and national partner organisations are selected. These are therefore not yet specified in detail in the DoA, with exception of the countries that Expertise France and FIIAPP have proposed to focus on. In the area of elections, the focus is on countries with upcoming elections in the duration of the Action. In areas where there is a proven division of support with other donors, such as in the promotion of resilience and vulnerability assessments of the NCCRMs (5 GIZ, 10 AfDB), this remains in place. In new thematic areas, cooperation is sought in countries that show an interest and commitment. In all cases the selection of countries for implementation will be in line with ECOWAS priorities as

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

agreed upon by the Action's governance structure. It remains uncertain whether the countries that have expressed their wish to leave ECOWAS can be convinced to stay in the community. For the time being, ECOWAS considers them to remain members during the statutory one-year waiting period between the declaration of withdrawal and the termination of membership. As ECOWAS membership was suspended due to the illegitimate seizure of power by a military government, cooperation at government level is difficult for the time being. This does not rule out limited cooperation with civil society and other non-state actors from these countries, particularly indirectly through civil society networks. The scope of any cooperation with the three states and with actors from these countries within the framework of the Action will be closely consulted between ECOWAS, the EU Delegation and BMZ/ GIZ. Nevertheless, if the countries do actually withdraw from ECOWAS (at the end of the waiting period or earlier), activities will no longer take place in these member states, including with civil society and any other non-state actors. The only support that could potentially be foreseen under this Action will be to facilitate ECOWAS' efforts to engage with any exit country particularly on democratic transition under SO 1 of this action.

Countries in democratic transition demanding support are a priority as are post conflict transitional countries. An additional focus is on the northern regions of the four coastal states of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo, which are threatened by the advance of extremist groups. The promotion of the WPS and YPS agendas is not only a specific objective output in its own but is also considered in all other outcomes, both through gender mainstreaming of all measures and through specific gender responsive measures to strengthen the role of women. The Action advises on the digitalization of learning, work and communication processes and on the competent use of social media. Care is taken to avoid possible negative unintended effects through conflict-sensitive monitoring.

Key Activities

To achieve the envisaged outputs and the specific objective, the following key activities per output are foreseen. This list of key activities is indicative and may change over the project cycle. During the implementation, the project organises planning workshops with its partner organisations and other stakeholders to further operationalise the indicative activities, the results of which GIZ will present in updated work plans including the table below submitted with each report (see also Appendix 1) as well as for approval of the Steering and of the Technical Committee. Existing ECOWAS communication structures (such as ECOWAS social media channels) are to be used to publicize the activities of the Action as ECOWAS services for the member states.

Outputs	Indicative list of key activities	Indicative instruments
---------	-----------------------------------	------------------------

Specific Objective 1: Early Warning, Early Response

Outputs 1.1 to 1.3 contribute to Specific Objective 1 and thus to targeted and successful interventions by ECOWAS as well as state and non-state actors in member states to prevent and resolve conflicts. The support will be provided at three levels:

1. The ECOWARN system

Support to the EWD in further optimizing the ECOWARN system, the analysis of data and the quality and user-friendliness of reports. As the AfDB will also support EWD in this area, the focus is less on financing major investments but more on training and advice to improve the products. Here, the EWD will be further strengthened in its coordination role for NCCRMs.

2. NCCRMs/ NPIs

Support to NCCRMs and other actors of the NPIs to effectively respond to conflicts at national and sub-national level. To this end, the NCCRMs will be strengthened both institutionally (e.g. national (ECOWARN) dashboards, strategy/SOP development, communication material, other equipment in exceptional cases, interface management with the ECOWARN system, training) and in order to coordinate as well as implement early response measures. Other NPI actors, in particular CSOs - in the Sahel + coastal countries. In countries with a specific focus on actors in the northern regions - are strengthened in their cooperation with NCCRMs, through training, technical as well as financial support for implementing early response measures. At regional level, a particular focus of the Action will be on an improved coordination among NCCRMs and with the EWD. Cross border response measures will be encouraged.

3. Support to ECOWAS' response measures through the Early Response Mechanism (ERM)

The ERM is a specific funding mechanism financing early response interventions proposed by ECOWAS. The purpose of these missions may include mediation, preventive diplomacy, support and monitoring of transition and peace processes. The decision process is based on an ECOWAS concept note, which is approved by the EU Delegation (EUD) before the processing and implementation of the request. Funding from the ERM will follow a pre-defined process (to be outlined in Standard Operating Procedures) and is limited to the measures described in respective concept notes. The Action will assure timely support to the missions (for more in-depth information see Appendix 3).

Outputs	Indicative list of key activities	Indicative instruments
---------	-----------------------------------	------------------------

In addition, selected accompanying measures which are not included in concept notes, such as onboarding, retreat and training for members of the CoW, could also be supported under this output but would not be financed through the funds allocated for the ERM.

The three outputs are complementary. While Output 1.1 addresses the management of conflicts at the local and national levels by national peace actors (usually Track 2 or 3 mediation), the ERM mechanism (Output 1.3) enables ECOWAS to intervene also at mostly in high level (Track I) mediation in conflicts that cannot be resolved at the national level or by national actors only (e.g. because more than one country is involved or because the government is party to the conflict). All actors benefit from improved information through the ECOWARN system (Output 1). While Output 1.2. and 1.3. will be implemented by GIZ, Output 1.1. will be implemented by Expertise France in two countries (Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea) and by GIZ in additional countries.

Outputs	Indicative list of key activities	Indicative instruments
Output 1.1	<p>Expertise France in Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea. GIZ at regional level and in additional ECOWAS member states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of capacity building needs of NCCRMs and NPIs • Advisory services, training and financial support to NCCRMs, enhancing their capacity to coordinate successfully response measures together with NPIs, state actors, civil society and the media • Summarise lessons learnt and approaches defining early response methods for national and regional peer-learning • Technical and organisational advice and financing of national/cross-border dialogue and mediation interventions to resolve low-intensity, community-based and inter-communal and cross border conflicts (including management of election-related conflicts) 	<p>International, regional, and national long-term experts, short term experts, procurement of material and equipment, financing (grants)</p>

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Outputs	Indicative list of key activities	Indicative instruments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender mainstreaming in the early warning of conflicts and its management, including the integration of the WPS agenda in the ECOWARN system, in response mechanisms (at NCCRMs, national peace infrastructure, civil society and the media level) and in the context of mediation and conflict resolution • Setting up and reinforcing capacities of NPIs, including national peace commissions, sub-national peacebuilding agencies, and community-based peacebuilding initiatives, to successfully carry out peacebuilding activities (e.g. by training, technical and organisational advice, financial support to response initiatives). In Sahel + countries a specific focus will lay on actors and response activities in the north, including cross-border activities • Support social media and radio campaigns against hate speech and disinformation <p>GIZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisational and financial support to the EWD in providing strategic guidance to NCCRMs and strengthening their peer-learning (incl. regional peer-learning retreats, joint trainings) • Finalizing and publishing the country risks and human security assessment (CRHSA), technical advice and financing for the implementation of selected recommendations • Promote exchange and cooperation between NCCRMs and national peace infrastructures, especially between neighbouring countries 	
Output 1.2	<p>GIZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey on the demands of current and potential users of ECOWARN reports/ data (ECOWAS Commission units, CoW, member states, NCCRMs, NPIs) concerning thematic areas of interest, quality requirements, and user-friendliness • Development of a roadmap outlining ECOWAS' strategy to broaden number of recipients and improve usability 	<p>International, regional, and national long-term experts</p> <p>Short term expertise</p> <p>Procurement of material and equipment,</p> <p>Financing (grants)</p>

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Outputs	Indicative list of key activities	Indicative instruments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of ECOWARN software (e.g. improved visualization options, data analysis, report production, inclusion of climate security, web-based platform for national actors) • On-the-job training of ECOWARN stakeholders in data analysis, report production and target group-oriented distribution of information • Final survey on the improved use of ECOWARN data and reporting on the design of response measures 	
Output 1.3	<p>GIZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing and supporting ECOWAS non-military initiatives aimed at preventing and managing conflicts through the ECOWAS ERM (see Annex 3) <p>Accompanying activities, not financed out of the ERM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of procedures and involvement of relevant stakeholders for the ERM together with ECOWAS • Review of concept notes, outlining initiatives planned by ECOWAS under the ERM, including a reliable budget • Training for (new) members of the Council of the Wise and other mediation support and preventive diplomacy organs 	Financing, long and short-term expertise

Specific Objective 2: Security Sector Reform + Governance

The Outputs 2.1. and 2.2. contribute to Outcome 2, to a secure, democratic and human rights-based environment, with a focus on member states in a post-conflict or democratic transition and on the northern regions of Sahel + coastal states. Core of this outcome is the implementation of the ECOWAS SSRG Policy Framework and its Implementation Plan using amongst others the Toolkit for Security Sector Reform and Governance in West Africa in ECOWAS member states. Special emphasis will be on potentially willing transition countries, such as Guinea (Conakry), and their return to a

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

reliable and citizen-oriented security policy, geared towards human security. Given the current reluctance of the military-ruled Sahel states to cooperate with ECOWAS, it is not foreseeable whether cooperation on SSRG will take place in the near future. At present, The Gambia, where EPSAO had provided technical and financial support in the past, and – after a comprehensive clarification – Guinea-Bissau are possible cooperation countries. Beyond this group, other interested member states (e.g. Côte d’Ivoire, Benin, Ghana, Togo) will be supported in implementing the SSRG strategy more consistently, thereby contributing to increasing citizen confidence in the state, increasing resilience against extremist tendencies, safeguarding democracy and preventing coups d’états and thus contributing also to crisis prevention.

At the Commission, a review and update of the Implementation Plan and sensitizing member states on the SSRG Policy Framework will be supported. At national level, the Action will support the implementation of SSRG through capacity development, using the SSRG toolkit. This will include training and advisory services for security sector actors and strengthening oversight mechanisms. Here, parliamentary committees on security will be a key stakeholder, as well as governmental oversight structures and their peer exchange and mutual learning at regional level Civil society organisations, human rights defenders and the media will be supported to play their watch dog role more successfully.

The lessons learnt of the reform processes in member states will be fed in the revision of the ECOWAS SSRG Implementation Plan and if requested by ECOWAS also in a revision of the overall Policy Framework.

Expertise France will implement the activities of Output 2.1. and 2.2. in two countries (most likely in Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea), GIZ in other countries interested in support to SSRG. Activities at regional level will be supported by GIZ.

Outputs	Indicative list of key activities	Indicative instruments
Output 2.1	<p>Expertise France in Guinea and Côte d’Ivoire, GIZ in additional ECOWAS member states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminating the ECOWAS SSRG framework and toolkit raising awareness of the need for SSRG • Conduct of capacity needs assessment with ECOWAS, ECOWAS member states and other EPSA stakeholders for the implementation of policies geared towards the creation of a safe and secure peacebuilding environment • Development or review and monitoring of National Security Policies, as guiding documents for the SSRG Policy Framework at national level 	<p>Regional and national long-term experts</p> <p>Short-term expertise</p> <p>Financing</p>

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Outputs	Indicative list of key activities	Indicative instruments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of measures from the updated SSRG Implementation Plan or related National Security Policies (e.g. legal assessments, strategies to improve oversight mechanisms, sensitization events, career development trainings for women in the security sector, appropriate conduct in cases of sexualised violence, procurement for internal oversight mechanisms of SSR actors) • Promotion of cross-border dialogue and cross-border cooperation between NCCRMs, members of NPIs and local communities <p>GIZ at regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update of the outdated Implementation Plan for the ECOWAS SSRG Policy Framework 	
Output 2.2	<p>Expertise France for Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, GIZ for other ECOWAS MS and at regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and provision of a tailor-made training for new members of standing parliamentary committees on security to fulfil their oversight role of the security sector (e.g. budget analysis, key performance indicators, monitoring + evaluation, SSRG stakeholder analysis, mandates) • Customised advice and research for standing committees on security (e.g. Guidelines for standing committees, documentation of lessons learnt, academic research) • Peer learning events for parliamentary standing committees on security from various ECOWAS MS, with a focus on transition and Sahel+ countries • Exchange between security sector actors, parliamentarians, human rights organisations, media and civil society in member states 	<p>Regional and national long-term experts</p> <p>Short-term experts</p> <p>Financing</p>

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Outputs	Indicative list of key activities	Indicative instruments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of joint initiatives resulting from mutual exchanges (e.g. review of oversight mechanisms, joint trainings, development of Memorandums of Understanding) • Support cooperation between security actors in the Sahel + states <p>GIZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the work (exchange, publications, peace-oriented activities) of the Standing Committee for Security of the ECOWAS Parliament 	

Specific Objective 3: Democratic and non-violent Elections and Transition processes

SO 3 aims to safeguard or restore democracy and the rule of law.

Output 3.1 contributes to the organisation of elections in a transparent, fair, inclusive and non-violent manner. EMBs play an important role in the organisation of elections. They are organised in the regional network, ECONEC. The Action will support ECONEC in organising exchange and peer learning between EMBs. A database within ECONEC will be further improved to facilitate the sharing of non-sensitive resources for the organisation of elections (e.g. ballot boxes) between member states. The ECOWAS Election Assistance Division (EAD) and ECONEC deploy election observation missions. While the EPSAO programme has made an important contribution to the quality of ECOWAS election observation by financing the deployment of core-team experts to ECOWAS Election Observation Missions (EOMs) and supporting the EAD in developing a guideline for the institutionalisation of a core team approach for EOMs, ECOWAS will in future finance the missions itself. At least for 2024, the required ECOWAS budget has been allocated. The action will therefore focus on the implementation of recommendations from previous and new election observation reports in ECOWAS member states.

The Action trains candidates from member states to become certified BRIDGE trainers for the national EMBs. These international BRIDGE trainings consist of sessions covering all areas of the election process and can remedy the weaknesses of previous elections identified in election observation reports. In addition, the Action will continue to finance parallel observation missions by WANEP.

Activities in the ECOWAS member states will not be limited to the polling period. They begin at least one year before the elections when also Election Security Committees are formed and will continue after elections supporting the recommendations from post-election reports. Here, appropriate measures are supported, such as training of the EMBs or structural improvements in voter registration. If public protests and/ or disputes between parties on election results occur, conflict response measures from the SO 1 spectrum can be supported, including actions against disinformation.

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

An active contribution of CSOs and the media towards transparent, inclusive and peaceful elections is promoted through training, advice and the financial contribution to respective measures. Particular attention will be paid to dealing with hate messages, targeted disinformation and their resilience capacity to advocate for electoral integrity. Civil society initiatives will be coordinated with EMBs. Democratic interaction and the peaceful debate of different political concepts and the mandates of stakeholders (incl. the police) are practised at dialogue events. The use of social media platforms is particularly useful for reaching out to a wide group of young people. They are often involved in violent conflicts in the run-up to and aftermath of elections.

For countering election related violence, ESCs, comprising national police services, EMBs and non-state actors, will be promoted through access to reliable information (e.g. by ECOWARN, research, hot spot analysis) and professional communication towards citizens during election cycle (incl. communication guidelines, factsheets, social media content). Community policing approaches in the context of elections shall be encouraged.

FIIAPP will implement the activities for Output 3.1. in Benin, The Gambia and Nigeria, GIZ in other countries who hold elections in the years 2025-2027, like Togo and Côte d'Ivoire. ECONEC will be supported by GIZ.

Outputs	Indicative list of key activities	Indicative instruments
Output 3.1	<p>GIZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support ECONEC in the establishment of an election resource data base for ECOWAS member states • Support election observation and post-election follow-up missions on demand of ECOWAS (most missions are expected to be financed through other funds) • Onboarding and deployment of WANEP election observers. • Strengthening capacities of EMBs through BRIDGE trainings and other suitable approaches in mutually identified areas. <p>FIIAPP for Benin, The Gambia, Nigeria. GIZ for Ghana, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso</p>	<p>International, regional and national long-term experts</p> <p>Short-term expertise</p> <p>Procurement of material and equipment,</p> <p>Financing</p>

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening CSOs and the media in the development and implementation of counter-measures with high outreach against hate messages, disinformation, fraud and violence around elections (Social media campaigns, community dialogues, community radio, digital media training, awareness raising campaigns at the community level) • Strengthen access to reliable information through media training workshops for journalists, fact-checking platforms, and indigenous-language media trainings • Support ESCs in identifying, mapping (e.g. through ECOWARN or research) and addressing risks of election-related violence through professional communication towards citizens and other preventive measures 	
<p>Output 3.2</p>	<p>GIZ</p> <p>The implementation of this Output will depend on the evolution of the political situation in the coming years. All measures will be closely consulted upon with ECOWAS and the EUD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support ECOWAS' initiatives towards the negotiation and implementation of reform steps towards democratic transition in member states (incl. roadmaps) • Strengthen platforms and spaces for policy dialogue on democratic transition that bring together different national and regional stakeholders (e.g. civil-military, state-civil society, together with media, think tanks) Organisation of exchange and peer learning between the members of the ECONEC, with a focus on countries in transition 	<p>Depending on the specific needs</p> <p>Possible instruments:</p> <p>International, regional and national long-term experts</p> <p>Short-term expertise</p> <p>Procurement of material and equipment,</p> <p>Financing</p>

Specific Objective 4: Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security

The special attention given by the Action to women and youth in the context of peace and security is due to their particular vulnerability to violent conflicts and their underrepresentation in addressing these conflicts.

Women are affected by conflicts as victims of (sexualised) violence and as bearers of responsibility for their families. In individual cases, they also can be perpetrators - although much less frequently than men. In most cases, they are committed to peaceful conflict resolution in their communities. Yet,

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

they are rarely included in official conflict resolution mechanisms. The WPS agenda adopted by the UN, AU and ECOWAS aims to better protect women and girls in violent conflicts and ensure that they play an equal role in all peace-oriented processes. ECOWAS had a WPS Action Plan II for 2017-2020, which is currently being updated, as well as WPS Guidelines. The Action will support the ECOWAS Commission and the EGDC in finalising and implementing the third Action Plan. Measures may include support for the activities of the ECOWAS EGDC and women's networks like NOPSWECO and ROAJELF (awareness-raising campaigns, conflict mediation, lobbying for equal participation in politics and peace processes, protection, and assistance for survivors of sexualised gender-based violence, and research), but also capacity development measures for women organisations at national or even local level (especially in the northern regions of the Sahel + coastal countries).

The Action will also support the HDSA in the preparation of the regional WPS report relating to the Continental Result Framework (CRF) for monitoring and reporting on WPS. The support will cover the collection of required data by national WPS focal points and committees as well as the dissemination of the report. The Action will also facilitate cross-departmental collaboration on WPS in the ECOWAS Commission, as the responsibility for WPS is shared between the PAPS and HDSA Departments.

Young people are not only victims of violent conflicts but are also particularly susceptible to manipulation by violent actors. In contrast to the well-established WPS agenda, the YPS topic is still in its infancy in the ECOWAS region - apart from a regional forum on YPS some years ago. The existing action plan under the ECPF focuses only on employment activities that do not appear to be feasible under this Action. At national level, Nigeria has adopted a YPS Action Plan based on the AU YPS Agenda, the further implementation of which will be supported by the Action. In addition, the development of national YPS action plans will also be promoted in other countries, most likely in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

GIZ will be responsible for Output 4.1, Expertise France for Output 4.2. Activities at regional level - such as the organisation of another regional YPS forum – and selected activities in northern regions of the Sahel + coastal countries Ghana, Benin and Togo will be carried out by GIZ.

Outputs	Indicative list of key activities	Indicative instruments
Output 4.1	<p>GIZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the development of the third generation of Regional WPS Action Plans and implementation of selected measures • Help to Improve ECOWAS' inter-departmental steering and coordination on WPS agenda 	<p>Regional, and national long-term experts, Short term experts, Procurement of material and equipment, Financing</p>

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Outputs	Indicative list of key activities	Indicative instruments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the elaboration of annual regional WPS reports through on-the-job training of national WPS committees (in collection and use of data, report dissemination) • Support activities of the EGDC, including gender mainstreaming, research and data collection for evidence-based policy making and programme development, advocacy and awareness raising to promote understanding and support for gender equality and WPS initiatives • Sensitise on the importance of FemWise mediators in mediation, election observation and fact-finding missions; prepare mission support for the deployment of FemWise mediators • Sensitise on the importance of the ECOWAS Regional WPS Steering Group and its activities to enhance coherent regional coordination • Capacity development of networks of women leaders, in particularly NOPSWECO and ROAJELF, in coordination with the EGDC, and financial support to their activities to strengthen the role of women in politics, GBV, sexual harassment, crisis prevention and peacebuilding • Strengthen the capacities of women organisations in the northern regions of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo hance coherent regional coordination 	

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Outputs	Indicative list of key activities	Indicative instruments
Output 4.2	<p>Expertise France in Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support a participatory process to develop 2 National Youth, Peace and Security Action Plans in ECOWAS MS • Provide training and other capacity development for youth leaders, networks and other actors implementing the YPS Agenda • Support the implementation of selected measures defined in the Nigerian YPS National Action Plan and possible support to implementation measures defined in the newly developed national action plans of the other two countries (e.g. activities to promote the YPS Agenda, integration of YPS-specific objectives into policy domains, development of YPS-focused projects such as participation of youth in decision-making, mediation initiatives, etc.). <p>GIZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support 1-2 initiatives to implement the AU YPS Agenda at regional level (e.g. regional YPS Forum) • Support youth initiatives in the northern regions of Benin, Ghana and Togo 	<p>International, regional, and national long-term experts</p> <p>Short term expertise</p> <p>Procurement of material and equipment,</p> <p>Financing</p>

---- Chapter 4 (Instruments) was deleted ----

4 Project Governance

The Project Steering Committee will consist of the ECOWAS Commission, the EU Delegation, the BMZ, represented by the German Embassy and the Technical Assistance Team (GIZ, EF and FIIAPP). Observer roles shall be offered to ECOWAS member states, the French Embassy, the Spanish Embassy, other EU representatives, international organisations on an occasion-related basis. In addition, members of national human rights institutions, stakeholders of civil society as well as other independent oversight bodies to the security sector could be invited to participate on an ad hoc basis.

The Project Steering Committee will meet twice a year. It will review progress in the implementation of the project and provide strategic guidance and recommendations to the project management. It will also receive, review and discuss external and internal monitoring reports (including financial ones) and evaluations, when applicable.

An integrated Technical Committee will meet every three months. It is composed by the Technical Assistance Team (GIZ, EF and FIIAPP) and representatives of the ECOWAS departments responsible for the topics of the four Specific Objectives of the project. While the integrated composition of the Technical Committee ensures the creation of synergies between the individual components of the action, the formation of component-specific working groups from within the committee can facilitate in-depth discussion of planning details. The EU Delegation and the German Embassy can choose to participate. Other organisations involved in the action (e.g. ECONEC, WANEP, NCCRMs, and other partner organisations of the Member States) can be invited on an ad hoc basis.

The Technical Committee discusses on the progress made since the last meeting and decides on the work plans for the subsequent period, either jointly or in working groups on the specific objectives. Project measures in member states that have been decided upon by the Committee are considered to be approved by the ECOWAS Commission. They will be implemented under the joint responsibility of the Technical Assistance Team, the respective national partner organisations, and where required a representative from the Commission.

At **national level**, the coordination of joint implementation should be organized decentralized by country and implementing agencies active in the context. The TAT will maintain an overview of the implementation, activities and actors involved in each country. Regular exchanges shall include relevant EU Delegations, the German, French and Spanish embassies, where relevant, the political partners, implementing agencies and other relevant stakeholders to the national implementation, ensuring coherent implementation on the country level. The action will also seek close contact with the ECOWAS Representatives in member states where activities are implemented.

5 Sustainability, Complementarity and Cross-Cutting Issues

5.1 Sustainability of the Action

Above all sustainability is ensured by the fact that all measures are implemented within the framework of ECOWAS' policies and strategies, adopted by its member states. The Action advises the institutions, supported by the EPSG programme in their establishment (ECONEC, NCCRM) on the implementation of measures and their subsequent recognition (e.g. NCCRM financed from national budgets, thus financially and institutionally sustainable). Where the Action is active at country level, implementation experience is both communitised through peer group exchange and feedback to ECOWAS. For example, the reports of the election observation missions are analysed at ECOWAS Commission level, from which guidelines and training measures for future elections are derived. Implementation experience from the ECOWAS SSRG Policy Framework is analysed and incorporated into the framework revision, strengthening the learning cycle at policy level. The regional report on WPS documents regularly progress and weaknesses of the WPS agenda. Based on this information, future WPS action plans will be designed to address these weaknesses and strengthen a sustainable implementation of the WPS agenda. The Action advises partners on institutionalising continuous learning processes in the exchange between regional and national levels.

The project advises the ECOWAS Commission on organisational change processes aimed at strengthening its strategic capacity to act and making better use of scarce human and financial resources. This includes the Commission focusing more on its political steering and coordination role in the future and delegating the operational implementation of measures to the national level or to other EPSA actors.

Another approach to promote sustainability is the active involvement of CSOs in all thematic areas of the Action. This strengthens the popularisation of ECOWAS values among the population, a greater awareness of the organisation's importance amongst citizens and their "control from below".

5.2 Mainstreaming

In the areas of environment, climate change, human rights, conflict and context sensitivity and gender equality, the safeguard and gender system of GIZ allows to identify unintended negative impacts at an early stage. Where relevant, they are addressed in the design and implementation of projects through targeted mitigation measures. In preparation of the Action, a standardised assessment was conducted to check potential risks and unintended negative impacts.

The screening for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and for the Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) concluded that there is no need for further assessment for this action as the impact of the Action's activities on these risks is

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

low. However, it can be assumed that peaceful societies cause less environmental destruction than societies affected by violent conflict and CO-2 emissions from flights can hardly be avoided in a regional project.

The Action has effects on gender, human rights, good governance and conflict sensitivity. Therefore, the Action considers ways to reduce inherent risks whilst maximising opportunities. An in-depth gender analysis and an integrated human rights and peace & conflict assessment were performed. All implementing agencies will benefit from these documents.

As a result, the following response, prevention and mitigation efforts are considered in the planning and progress monitoring of the Action:

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

The consideration of gender equality and the empowerment of women in politics and peace work is ensured by EPSG both through Specific Objective 4 and through mainstreaming gender equality in all other thematic areas. SO 4 promotes the WPS agenda in the ECOWAS region at regional and national levels, by directly supporting women's networks and their peace activities as by assistance to the regional planning and monitoring of the WPS agenda.

Gender mainstreaming also takes place throughout SO 1-3, for example by promoting gender mainstreaming of the ECOWARN system and by specifically promoting gender-responsive interventions for conflict prevention and resolution in ECOWAS member states. Other examples for gender-responsiveness are the consideration of gender-relevant topics in training measures (e.g. dealing with cases of sexual violence in the training of security sector actors on SSRG), by ensuring the active participation of women and youth in project activities, or by promoting the deployment of FemWise mediators in peacebuilding initiatives. In this way, all outputs of the Action contribute to strengthening the role of women.

Human Rights

The implementation of the Action will be underpinned by a human rights-based approach (HRBA). First, the central impact assumption is that democratic control of security forces will strengthen the implementation of the ECOWAS SSRG strategy, i.e., the rule of law and respect for human rights by actors of the security sector in the member states. Second, actual and potential risks of violence against civilians are reflected in the indicators of ECOWAS's early warning system, and support to mediation activities will help to solve violent conflicts more peacefully which will have a positive impact on the security and safety of citizens.

Disability

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

As per OECD disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this Action is labelled as D0. This implies that while working on disability-related issues, it is not a main objective, the specific needs of persons with disabilities as rights-holders will be duly assessed and addressed. The Action will ensure that rights of persons with disabilities will be respected and will encourage partners to protect persons with disabilities and to support their active participation in EPSG supported events and measures.

Reduction of inequalities

The Action contributes to the reduction of inequalities by adopting a beneficiary approach, through its engagement with a regional organisation and the introduction of specific objectives engaging with civil society actors to achieve results. Equally important is the Action's geographical scope, which reduces inequalities by addressing all member states in the region. This Action adopts a broader and inclusive approach that strengthens national capacities for peace and security and mobilises non-state actors to participate in peace and security interventions in the ECOWAS region.

Democracy

The strengthening of democracy is directly addressed by the action, in particular by SO 3, which promotes transparent, inclusive and peaceful elections, which are crucial for democratic systems and for the population's trust in democratically elected governments. Furthermore, the participatory approach adopted by the Action in the implementation of activities under all outputs will contribute to broadening decision-making practices based on a broad consultative process with relevant stakeholders, including government and civil society.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Reducing the risks for conflict, mitigating their impact, and creating a secure space for a resilient state-society relation is at the core of the Action. All activities undertaken under SO 1 will contribute to this aim. The reform of the security sector (SO 2) ensuring that security forces respect and uphold democracy and human rights is an essential prerequisite for peace. The promotion of the WPS and YPS agendas in SO 4 aims at mobilising large population groups for peace. By analysing the conflict situation in the project regions and through conflict-sensitive monitoring, the Action will ensure that no unintended negative effects arise from the project measures, such as the exacerbation of existing conflicts.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster risk reduction is not directly targeted by the Action. It is expected, however, that reinforcement of ECOWAS's early warning system will help to prevent a number of man-made disasters, including the destruction of villages and large-scale displacement repeatedly occurring across the region.

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

In the areas of the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, human rights, conflict and context sensitivity and gender equality, the safeguard and gender system of GIZ allows unintended negative impacts to be identified at an early stage and addressed in the design and implementation of projects through targeted mitigation measures. In the area of climate change adaptation, this approach extends to external risks based on climatic parameters (climate change), while in the area of gender equality it also involves identifying potential support measures.

In the areas of the environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, human rights, conflict and context sensitivity and gender equality, the safeguard and gender system of GIZ allows unintended negative impacts to be identified at an early stage and addressed in the design and implementation of projects through targeted mitigation measures. In the area of climate change adaptation, this approach extends to external risks based on climatic parameters (climate change), while in the area of gender equality it also involves identifying potential support measures.

In preparation of the Action, a standardised assessment checks whether there are potential considerable risks or unintended negative impacts. An in-depth assessment is performed if the screening indicates that there are potential considerable risks for one or more safeguards or if it cannot be satisfactorily completed due to inadequate data. The mandatory gender analysis is used to examine risks and potentials for the promotion of gender equality.

Based on the results of the in-depth assessment(s), the Action is assigned to the safeguard category low with respect to environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation risks, and high with regards to human rights, conflict and context sensitivity. The risk-specific response, prevention and mitigation measures of the Action are outlined in the table below.

6 Risk Assessment

Risks	Likelihood*	Ability to mitigate*	Mitigating measures
Political risks			

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

The three Sahel states (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) withdraw from ECOWAS	4	1	EU support to political dialogue. The Action has no direct influence on the possible withdrawal. In the case of the withdrawal, activities in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger will need to stop. Required adjustments will be discussed with commissioning parties and the programme's governance structure
<i>Coups d'états</i> and the establishment of autocracies in more member states	2	1	The Action's focus on SSR, democratic elections, and conflict resolution contributes to limiting autocratic tendencies. In the case of a <i>coup d'état</i> the project will adjust its cooperation with national authorities according to decisions taken by commissioning parties and as discussed by the programme's governance structure
Political instability, armed conflict or violent protests in individual member states may jeopardise the implementation of activities in those countries	3	2	Flexibility in the selection of partner countries and the possibility of changing them in consultation with the EU The Action's focus on conflict prevention and prior to elections (including social media campaigns) may contribute to mitigate non-violent and violent protests
Political parties in some member states might manipulate election campaigns or results through fraud	2	2	Support to electoral authorities, promoting transparency through co-operation with civil society and the media
Risks related to project implementation			
Some member states reject the cooperation with an ECOWAS related project in sensitive areas (e. g. SSRG, conflict resolution, elections)	2	2	Good information policy towards the authorities of the member states about the advantages of the support. A sensitive approach to critical issues. Close coordination with the programme's governance structure The flexible approach of the project makes it possible to switch to other more cooperative states

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Duplication with peace and security initiatives supported by other development partners	3	2	Continuous consultations with EU Delegations and international community active in supporting ECOWAS and member states in peace and security. Support commissioning parties in their efforts towards donor harmonisation (e.g. Thematic Working Group Peace and Security)
Programme implementation is hampered by ECOWAS' limited staff capacities	3	2	Embedded experts, provided by the project, will provide tailored technical assistance to highly engaged ECOWAS units Enhance and broaden engagement at ECOWAS member states-level Inclusion of Civil Society at MS level
Multiplicity of implementing agencies and complex implementation modalities may complicate relationship between beneficiaries and implementing agencies, leading to slow implementation and absorption rate	3	2	Clear definition of roles and division of labour between the three implementing agencies and aligned communication on this matter towards the ECOWAS commission and partners at MS level
Delays through close-oversight of project activities in MS by the ECOWAS Commission	3	2	Joint decision on work plans (including activities in ECOWAS MS) in technical committees' meetings, implementation of activities by GIZ and national partners Organisational development counselling to ECOWAS to focus on the strategic steering and coordination function, more delegation to other EPISA and national institutions
Inflation/exchange rates fluctuations		1-2	GIZ closely monitors the impact of inflation/exchange rates changes and transparently discusses implications and possible adjustments with the Action's donors
Sustainability risks			
Political upheavals in ECOWAS member states reduce/destroy project impact	2	1	Anchoring implementation with a range of state and non-states actors

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Changing political priorities of the ECOWAS Commission	2	3	Reducing the influence of changing priorities at Commission level through direct implementation in member states
Declining donor funding for ECOWAS	2	2	Strengthening the capacities of the ECOWAS Commission and by publicising successes. Improving the chances of acquiring financial support
Environmental and social impact (unintended negative effects)			
Marginalisation of women and minorities in peace processes	3	2	Active support for the deployment of FemWise mediators, promotion of women's organisations, inclusion of minorities in peace activities (also in activities of NCCRMs and national peace initiatives)
Resistance to security sector reforms and gender equality	3	2	Building trust and persuading the security forces by sensitisation and training Identify and strengthen drivers of reform/ change
Unintentional intensification of conflicts or causation of ecological damage by project activities due to inadequate analyses	1	3	Build on qualitative research and analysis Inclusion of ecological factors in CEWARN and the responses coordinated by NCCRMs
Corruption risks			
Recruitment of experts according to unobjective criteria reduces the work result, misappropriation of funds reduces the impact of specific project measures	2	3	Transparent, criteria-based tendering and personnel selection processes Close monitoring of financed measures Avoidance of high levels of funding
Overall risk assessment	3	34	

*) Ranking: 1=low, 2=medium, 3=high, 4=very high

Assumptions are listed in the logframe (Appendix 2 to the DoA).

7 Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Monitoring

A results-based monitoring system will be established to generate data on the progress of the Action on a regular basis. Data will be used for programme steering as well as for annual progress reporting. All monitoring activities and plans shall be shared with the EU and BMZ in order to strengthen joint monitoring efforts. The basis for the monitoring system is the Action's logframe with its underlying indicators for specific objectives and outputs. The logframe will be used as a management tool, allowing for adjustments and revisions at the output, activity and indicator level in order to effectively achieve the expected specific objective.

Within the first two months of the Action, needs assessments will be initiated to review the specific needs of identified partner organisations and to add data into the logical framework. During project implementation, a variety of tools and methods will be applied to regularly assess both quantitative and qualitative progress indicators. This may include among others gender-disaggregated participation documentation, training evaluations, tracer studies, comparative and retrospective surveys as well as focus group discussions and stakeholder consultations. Where possible, it is intended to collect disaggregated data and to harmonise data collection with ECOWAS monitoring systems.

Each implementing agency will have specific responsibilities for monitoring and reporting under this action. Common indicators (relating to the logframe) will be used in order to allow DoA wide reporting.

The EU Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agency contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Evaluation

A mid-term and final evaluation(s) will be carried out for this Action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the EU Commission or via an implementing partner. A mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the suitability of expanding the scope of the Action within already targeted countries. A final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

In the spirit of synergetic cooperation and increased cost efficiency (Art. 9 GC), GIZ aims to avoid the Action being reviewed by more than one evaluation of a similar character at close intervals (time range of around 12 months). GIZ implements a system of Central Project Evaluations (CPE; annually, a representative random sample of 40% is drawn for evaluation from all projects commissioned by BMZ with a value exceeding

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

EUR 3 million and ending in a given year.). If the Action is part of a project selected for a CPE, the EU will be informed by the project and may decide whether this CPE could serve as a substitute for an eventual evaluation planned and commissioned by the EU. As per CPE standard, the EU-funded project components are part of the evaluation object. Subsequently, the EU will be consulted throughout the evaluation process, the CPE terms of references are shared, it may bring in its knowledge interests and perspectives as well as comment on the draft reports (Art. 9.1 GC).

An evaluation planned and commissioned by the EU (Art. 9.2 GC) may replace a CPE if the following requirements are met: (1) conducted by independent external consultants, (2) assesses and rates (quantifiably) all six OECD-DAC criteria, (3) encompasses the BMZ-funded part of the project and (4) follows set methodological minimum standards, such as a theory-based approach (e.g. contribution analysis). The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least one month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

Reporting

The implementing agencies elaborate regular annual progress reports and a final report. Each report shall provide an account of all relevant aspects of the implementation of the Action for the reporting period, activities envisaged, difficulties encountered, and changes introduced. The report shall be presented to allow monitoring of the objectives. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the Action implementation, providing information on achievements of the Action, including an outlook on measures undertaken to ensure sustainability of results and further dissemination/up-scaling.

8 Visibility and Communication

Visibility measures for this Action will adhere to Article 7 of Annex II and the “Communicating and raising EU visibility: Guidance for external action” (hereafter the Guidelines).

Visibility measures for this Action will adhere to Article 7 of Annex II and the “Communicating and raising EU visibility: Guidance for external action” (hereafter the Guidelines): At the same time, GIZ, Expertise France, and FIIAPP are subject to visibility obligations towards their own procedures. In line with section 1 of the Guidelines and Article 10.6 of the Financial Framework Partnership Agreement (FFPA) signed by the European Commission and GIZ on 20 May 2019, the Guidelines are without prejudice to the specific FFPA arrangements, and accordingly the parties will make reasonable efforts to reconcile the visibility requirements of all donors to the Action. The positioning of donor emblems and logos will be agreed with all donors and shall generally be done in the following way:

On equipment, vehicles or supplies used in or delivered under the Action, the EU emblem and the German cooperation logo as well as the ECOWAS logo shall be accompanied by the GIZ, Expertise France and FIIAPP logo under a text stating “Implemented by”. The positioning of emblems will be determined in agreement with all the donors.

In line with its obligations to the German Government, GIZ will produce and publish both a factsheet on the German project named in Article 1 of the Agreement and mandatory information on the GIZ website. Where necessary, the implementation agencies will adjust the standard disclaimers in the Guidelines to acknowledge the financial support of all donors to the Action and to clarify that products do not necessarily reflect their views but are the sole responsibility of GIZ.

Where necessary, GIZ will adjust the standard disclaimers in the Guidelines to acknowledge the financial support of all donors to the Action and to clarify that products do not necessarily reflect their views but are the sole responsibility of GIZ.

Strategic Communication

Communication activities, in line with the 2022 “Communicating and Raising EU Visibility” Guidelines, contributing to the EU’s strategic communication approach, are funded under the individual activities and are implemented by the implementing agencies.

The project will increase the visibility of ECOWAS’ activities in support of its member states, in close cooperation with responsible ECOWAS units, e. g. External Relations and Communications Directorate. This will also be achieved through increased use of ECOWAS social media channels.

Exceptional situations

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Due to the sensitive context and nature of the Action, visibility measures must reflect the potential operational risks to the implementation agencies, potential partners or beneficiaries as well as the political positions of the EU and Germany, France and Spain. The parties will closely liaise to develop a common understanding of the situation where possible and may agree specific arrangements on a case-by-case basis.

Based on guidance from their governments or corporate security units, the implementing agencies may not be able to display the EU emblem and the logos of their governments in certain situations. If this guidance changes during the Action's implementation, they will agree with the EU on consequences and mitigating measures.

9 Timing

The Action has a duration of 36 months (from 01.11.2024 to 31.10.2027)

During the first months of implementation, the project will organise planning workshops with its main partners and stakeholders to validate objectives and intervention logic, further operationalise the indicative activities, achieve agreements on approaches and establish detailed work plans. The first months of implementation are equally used to set-up the programme structures, review the ToR for the governance structure and carry out the first PSC meeting.

Even if there is not a formal inception phase, the two implementation partners, who were not part of the former EPSAO Action, will need 2-3 months to establish their structures. The implementation partners will further define the mechanisms of cooperation in the new constellation. Some needs assessments, especially at national level, will be carried out in order to further operationalise the indicative activities, achieve agreements on approaches and establish detailed work plans. At the same time, thematic areas that were already addressed under EPSAO will continue without interruption.

An updated and detailed workplan is sent in appendix to each annual progress report.

---- 11/2024-3/2026 workplan was deleted ----

Appendix 2: Logframe Matrix

Project title
EU Support to ECOWAS in Peace, Security and Governance

EU contract no.
XXXXXX/XXXX/XXX-XXX

Implementation period
11/ 2024 until 10/ 2027

Country/Region/Global
West Africa, ECOWAS member states

Logframe version of
date: 23.09.2024

Meeting indicators at impact level will not be part of the responsibility of GIZ. Indicators will be monitored with regard to data availability. In the course of implementation, the Organisation may – in agreement with the Contracting Authority – change outputs, indicators and their related targets, baselines and sources of verification. Changes shall be agreed in writing (exchange of letters or emails). The Organisation will also highlight the respective changes in the next report.

Intervention: **C- 36764 “EU Support to ECOWAS in Peace, Security and Governance (EPSG)”- SDL 470**

	Results chain	Indicator	Baseline (2024)	Target (2027)	Current value	Source and mean of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective	O.O: To enhance peace, security and governance in the ECOWAS region.	OO1 Positive Peace Index (PPI) (country score).	Tbd (ECOWAS country average) (2022)	Tbd		Vision of Humanity Statistics https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/positive-peace-index/#/	Not applicable

		OO2 Political stability and absence of violence/terrorism (Worldwide Governance Indicator) (country score).	Tbd (ECOWAS country average)	Tbd		Word Bank Statistics https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/worldwide-governance-indicators/interactive-data-access	
		OO3 Rule of law (Worldwide Governance Indicator) (country score).	Tbd (ECOWAS country average)	Tbd		Word Bank Statistics https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/worldwide-governance-indicators/interactive-data-access	
Specific Objectives	SO1: Conflict prevention, crisis management and peace mediation based on ECOWAS' early warning and response mecha-	SO1.1 Number of recipients (outside EWD/ Early Warning Directorate) who have used the ECOWARN data/ reports to design policies/ response measures (disaggregated by country).	Tbd	Tbd		Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention	*National Centre for the Coordination of the Response Mechanism (NCCRMs) participate in

	nisms are strengthened in the ECOWAS region.	SO1.2 Number of measures coordinated by the NCCRMs (National Centres for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanisms) or national peace infrastructures based on regional and national early warning data (disaggregated by country).	0	24 (at least 16 with civil society and/or media, at least 10 gender-responsive, at least 8 in the northern regions of Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Ghana and Togo)		Reports of the NCCRMs (National Centres for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanisms) and other involved organisations	Country Risks and Human Security Assessment (CRHSAs) and use the results to plan response measures at the national level.
		SO1.3 Number of ECOWAS missions (e.g. on mediation, preventive diplomacy, monitoring) for conflict prevention and resolution or accompanying transition processes enabled through the Early Response Mechanism (ERM).	0	6		Concept Notes agreed on by the EU Delegation Mission reports	*Early Warning Directorate (EWD) shares selected data with NCCRMs. *Security actors in ECOWAS
	SO2: ECOWAS' role in promoting a secure, democratic and human rights-based environment is enhanced.	SO2.1 Number of measures from an updated ECOWAS Implementation Plan for the SSRG (Security Sector Reform and Governance) Framework implemented (disaggregated by geographic level).	0	8 Regional level: X National level: X		Plan document Reports on measures implemented	member states (army, police, judiciary) respect democratic rules as defined by ECOWAS in the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance and in the SSRG Framework.
		SO2.2 Percentage of members of parliamentary committees on security (PCS) who can give at least one example of how their new skills enabled them to better fulfil their mandate in the field of democratic oversight (disaggregated by sex).	Tbd	50% M: X, F: X		Survey of members of those Parliamentary Oversight Committees on Security (in some states called differently), who received capacity development support by EPSG, including the ECOWAS Parliament	*The political parties in the member states

	SO3: Transparent, peaceful and democratic national electoral processes and dialogues across ECOWAS member state are enhanced.	SO3.1 Number of measures for democratic and peaceful elections with a specific focus on social media, aiming at high coverage implemented by relevant stakeholders (e.g. electoral management bodies, civil society, the media, FemWise, ECOWAS CoW, ECOWARN).	0	20		Postings on social media, radio broadcasts, newsletter articles, event reports	abide by the democratic rules defined by ECOWAS.
		SO3.2 Average number of election dimensions supported by EPSG which have improved - according to ECOWAS observation reports - compared to the last elections.	Tbd	2 of 4 dimensions outlined in election observation reports [Media, Gender + Inclusivity, Election organisation, Conflict prevention and resolution] on average across ECOWAS member states)		Reports of ECOWAS EOMs on the previous elections	*Government members in ECOWAS member states are prepared to support the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.
		SO3.3 Number of countries supported by the EPSG to conduct elections and/or improve their electoral process (proxy GERF 2.26).	0	6		Plan document ECOWAS reports	
	SO4: The implementation of the peace and security agenda for women and youth within ECOWAS and	SO4.1 Proportion of women in ECOWAS or national negotiations and mediation fora (peace and post-conflict) (proxy predefined OPSYS indicator, line 213).	Tbd			Reports from ECOWAS missions Reports from NCCRM or NPI	

	across targeted member states is enhanced.	SO4.2 Number of initiatives concerning YPS Agendas (National Youth for Peace Actions Plans, AU Y4P Agenda) implemented in the ECOWAS region.	0	12 (two at regional level, ten at national level) (Development of national action plans, sensitization measures, regional youth fora and involvement of youth in specific peace activities)		Reports from the organisations involved	
		SO4.3 Aggregated change in the values of relevant indicators (in the fields of action supported) of the Simplified AU CRF on WPS for West Africa 2026 compared to the CRF report 2023.	4.1 Values of relevant indicators in the CRF report for West Africa 2023.	4.1 Aggregated change = + 1,5 (see calculation method under source)		Evaluation of relevant indicators (pillar 1: Ind. 4, pillar 2: Ind. 3, 7, 9, and 10) from the Regional CRF-report, comparing the same indicator values from 2023 with reports for 2024, 2025 and 2026 according to a scale with values from -1 to +1: -1 = value of indicator worsened, 0 = value of indicator unchanged +1 = value of the indicator improved Calculation example: 2 indicators worsened (= -2), 4 indicators unchanged (= 0), 4 indicators improved (= +4) results in +2 points	
Outputs	OP1.1: The capacities of National Centres for the Coordination of the	OP1.1.1 Number of institutional development measures for NCCRMs implemented with EPSG support.	0	12 (measures jointly identified in peer exchanges of NCCRMs and the EWD)		Reports from EPSG-funded intervention	*The EWD is able to strengthen exchanges with the

Response Mechanisms (NCCRMs) and National Peace Infrastructures with regard to the execution of early warning and response measures are enhanced.	OP1.1.2 Number of NCCRMs and NPI staff trained by EPSG with increased knowledge and/or skills on executing early warning and response measures (disaggregated by sex) (proxy predefined OPSYS indicator, line 1346).	0	Tbd M: X F: X		Reports from EPSG-funded intervention/pre-post training assessments, training curricula, list of participants	NCCRMs and coordinate their actions. *Security forces engage with human rights institutions and civil society organisations and vice versa.
	OP1.1.3 Number of approaches defining early response methods for different conflict scenarios shared in regional peer-learning among members of peace infrastructures with the support of the EPSG.	0	4		Documents presenting the approaches, Peer learning reports	
OP1.2: The capacities of ECOWARN stakeholders in data analysis, improved report production and distribution are enhanced.	OP1.2.1 Number of ECOWARN staff trained by the EPSG with increased knowledge and/or skills on data analysis, report production and distribution, disaggregated by sex (proxy predefined OPSYS indicator, line 1346).	0	Tbd M: X F: X		Reports from EPSG-funded intervention/ /pre-post training assessments	*MPs take their monitoring role seriously and do not neglect it for partisan reasons.
	OP1.2.2 Number of measures based on a needs assessment implemented by EWD with EPSG support.	0	4		EWD reporting on the implementation of the measures	*The Directorate of Social Affairs, Youth, Labour, Employment and Equality and the Gender and Development Centre in Dakar have a harmonised approach, especially in relation to the CRF report.
	OP1.2.3 Number of ECOWARN reports that are sex-disaggregated and include visualisation with the support of the EPSG.	0	Tbd		Reports from EPSG-funded intervention	
OP1.3: The capacities of ECOWAS to conduct and support high level mediation and peace dialogues are enhanced.	OP1.3.1 Number of CoW, FemWise and ECOWAS mediation unit members trained by the EPSG with enhanced knowledge and/or skills on mediation/ conflict management/ conflict transformation/ stabilisation (disaggregated by sex) (proxy predefined OPSYS indicator, line 1390).	0	Tbd M: X F: X		Reports from EPSG-funded intervention	

		OP1.3.2 Percentage of ECOWAS missions that received necessary logistical support in a timely manner	0	80%		Reports on the ERM funded measure Confirmation of ECOWAS mediation on the EPSG support
		OP1.3.3 Number of FemWise West Africa mediators deployed in ECOWAS peacebuilding initiatives with the support of the EPSG.	0	12		Names of deployed mediators (lists, mission reports) Peacebuilding initiatives include participation in mediation processes and in election observer missions
	OP2.1: Reform processes by the security sector in line with rule of law, human security and accountability are strengthened.	OP2.1.1 Status of the Implementation Plan for the ECOWAS SSRG Framework.	Not reviewed	Reviewed with the EPSG support (in collaboration with relevant state and non-state actors)		Updated Implementation Plan for SSRG Policy Framework
		OP2.1.2 Number of measures providing capacity development on rights-based and inclusive Security Sector Reform Governance to state and non-state actors implemented with the support of the EPSG.	0	19 (at least 10 with civil society and/or media, at least 10 gender responsive, 4 with impact on the northern regions of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo)		Reports from EPSG-funded intervention
	OP2.2: The capacities of parliamentary committees and CSOs (civil society organisations) in the democratic oversight of the security sector are	OP2.2.1 Number of documents resulting from dialogue fora between standing parliamentary committees on security and civil society and/ or human rights organisations finalised with the support of the EPSG.	0	6 (summarised lessons learnt on SSRG, e.g. budget analysis, democratic oversight, transparent recruitment promotion, training curriculum for new		Reports from EPSG-funded intervention

	strengthened.			committee members)		
		OP 2.2.2 Number of peer learning events of members of standing parliamentary committees (SPC) on security promoted with the support of the EPSG.	0	6		Reports from EPSG-funded intervention.
	OP3.1: Electoral institutions, processes and dialogues at regional and national level are strengthened.	OP3.1.1 Number of recommendations from ECOWAS Election Observation Mission reports or peer exchanges of electoral institutions implemented in preparation for upcoming elections in member states with the support of the EPSG.	0	21		Reports of ECOWAS Election Observer Missions (EOM) on the previous elections, reports of the mid-term evaluations and reports of the EOMs on the elections
		OP3.1.2 Number of electoral authorities' staff trained by EPSG with increased knowledge and/or skills on Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE), disaggregated by sex (predefined OPSYS indicator, line 1346).	0	Tbd M: X W: X		Reports from EPSG-funded intervention/pre-post training tests, training curricula
		OP3.1.3 Number of police national service strengthened in their efforts for non-violent elections (strategy development, training, hot spot analysis, dialogues with non-state actors).	0	3		Reports from EPSG-funded intervention.
	OP3.2: The ECOWAS Commission is strengthened in their support to	OP3.2.1 Number of measures supporting the transition of member states back to a constitutional order implemented by ECOWAS with the support of the EPSG.	0	Tbd		Reports on the specific measures

	affected countries transition back to a constitutional order.					
	OP4.1: The implementation of the ECOWAS WPS Agenda and respective reporting are improved in terms of coherence and effectiveness.	OP4.1.1 Number of measures implemented by the ECOWAS Gender and Development Centre supporting WPS agenda with the support of the EPSG.	0	10 (measures to be defined by The ECOWAS Gender and Development Centre in collaboration with National WPS Committees and regional women networks)		Reports from EPSG-funded intervention
		OP4.1.2 Number of states providing the ECOWAS commission with timely data for the regional report on Women, Peace and Security with the support of the EPSG.	3	8 (annually required data, adhering to the agreed AU-CRF timelines and monitoring standards)		Data delivered for the CRF report CRF report document
	OP4.2: The implementation of the AU Youth, Peace and Security Agenda is strengthened in the ECOWAS region.	OP4.2.1 Number of New National Youth, Peace and Security Action Plans (YPS) developed by ECOWAS member states with the support of the EPSG (disaggregated by country).	0	2 (plans developed in a participatory way)		National YPS Action Plan documents
		OP4.2.2 Number of YPS measures implemented by ECOWAS member states with the support of the EPSG (disaggregated by country).	0	8		Reports on training/ media coverage of initiatives and promotion events

Activity Matrix

Key activities	Means and Costs	Assumptions
<p>OPT1.1</p> <p>ACT1.1.1 Assessment of capacity building needs of NCCRM and national peace infrastructures.</p> <p>ACT1.1.2 Advisory services, training and financial support to NCCRM.</p> <p>ACT1.1.3 Encourage and support national/cross-border dialogue and mediation interventions to resolve low-intensity, community-based and inter-communal and cross border conflicts (including election related conflicts).</p> <p>ACT1.1.4 Summarise lessons learnt and approaches defining early response methods</p> <p>ACT1.1.5 Gender and WPS mainstreaming in the conflict early warning and management at regional and national level.</p> <p>ACT1.1.6 Setting up and reinforcing capacities of national peace infrastructures.</p> <p>OPT1.2</p>	<p>Means <u>(to be completed by the IP)</u></p> <p>Costs <u>(to be completed by the IP)</u></p>	<p>*Participants are willing to participate in activities of the intervention.</p> <p>*The security conditions in the countries allow the implementation of the activities.</p> <p>*Relations between regional institutions are not undergoing difficulties.</p>

ACT1.2.1 Survey on the demands of current and potential users of ECOWARN reports/ data concerning thematic areas of interest, quality requirements, and user-friendliness.

ACT1.2.2. Development of a roadmap outlining ECOWAS' strategy to broaden number of recipients and improve usability.

ACT1.2.3 Enhancement of ECOWARN software (e.g. improved visualization options, data analysis, report production, inclusion of climate security, web-based platform for national actors).

ACT1.2.4 On the job training of ECOWARN stakeholders in data analysis, report production and target group-oriented distribution of information.

OPT1.3

ACT1.3.1. Clarification of ERM procedures/ development of SOPs for ERM and high-level missions.

ACT1.3.2 Advice to the development of concept notes outlining initiatives planned by ECOWAS under the ERM, including a reliable budget.

ACT1.3.3 Financing ECOWAS high-level non-military initiatives aimed at preventing and managing conflicts through the ECOWAS Early Response Mechanism.

ACT1.3.4 Training for (new) Members of the Council of the Wise, other participants of West African/ ECOWAS mediation initiatives, and ECOWAS mediation entities including members of FemWise.

OPT2.1

<p>ACT2.1.1 Disseminating the ECOWAS SSRG framework and raising awareness in ECOWAS MS.</p> <p>ACT2.1.2 Conduct of capacity needs assessment for the implementation of SSRG policy with the ECOWAS Commission and selected national stakeholders.</p> <p>ACT2.1.3 Development, review and monitoring of National Security Policies, as guiding document for the SSRG Policy Framework at national level.</p> <p>ACT2.4 Review and Update of the outdated Implementation Plan for the SSRG Policy Framework.</p> <p>ACT2.5 Implementation of measures from the updated ECOWAS SSRG Implementation Plan or related National Security Policies.</p> <p>OPT2.2</p> <p>ACT2.2.1 Development of a tailor-made training for new members of standing parliamentary committees on security.</p> <p>ACT2.2.2 Customised advice and research for standing parliamentary committees on security.</p> <p>ACT2.2.3 Peer learning events for parliamentary standing committees on security from various ECOWAS MS.</p> <p>ACT2.2.4 Exchange between security sector actors, parliamentarians, human rights organisations and civil society in ECOWAS MS.</p> <p>ACT2.2.5 Implementation of joint initiatives resulting from mutual exchanges (e.g. review of oversight mechanisms, joint trainings, development of Memoranda of Understanding).</p> <p>ACT2.2.6 Supporting the work (exchange, publications, peace-oriented activities) of the Standing Committee for Security of the ECOWAS Parliament.</p>		
--	--	--

OPT3.1

ACT3.1.1 Supporting ECONEC in the establishment of an election resource data base for ECOWAS MS.

ACT3.1.2 Training and/or financing election observation and post-election follow-up missions on demand of ECOWAS.

ACT3.1.3 Onboarding and deployment of WANEP election observers.

ACT3.1.4 Strengthening capacities of Election Management Bodies (EMB) through BRIDGE trainings and other suitable approaches in mutually identified areas.

ACT3.1.5 Strengthening CSOs and the media in the development and implementation of countermeasures with high outreach against hate messages, disinformation, fraud and violence around elections.

ACT3.1.6 Strengthen access to reliable information through media training workshops for journalists, fact-checking platforms.

ACT3.1.7 Support ESCs in identifying, mapping (e.g. through ECOWARN or research) and addressing risks of election-related violence through professional communication towards citizens and other preventive measures.

OPT3.2

ACT3.2.1 Support ECOWAS initiatives towards the negotiation and implementation of reform steps towards democratic transition.

ACT3.2.2 Strengthen platforms and spaces for policy dialogues that bring together different national and regional stakeholders (e.g. civil-military, state-civil society, diverse local, traditional, religious, and women leaders) around transition roadmaps.

OPT4.1

ACT4.1.1 Finalization of the third generation Regional WPS Action Plan and implementation of selected measures.

ACT4.1.2 Helping to improve ECOWAS' inter-departmental steering and coordination on WPS agenda.

ACT4.1.3 Supporting the elaboration of annual regional WPS reports through on-the-job training of national WPS committees.

ACT4.1.4 Support activities of the EGDC, including gender mainstreaming, research and data collection for evidence-based policy making and programme development, advocacy and awareness raising.

ACT4.1.5 Strengthen the capacities of related women's organisations such as the Female Mediator Network West Africa (FemWise) and sensitise for their deployment in mediation, election observation; prepare mission support for the deployment of FemWise mediators.

ACT4.1.6 Capacity development of networks of women leaders, in particular NOPSWECO and ROAJELF, in coordination with the EGDC, and support to their activities.

OPT4.2

ACT4.2.1 Supporting participatory processes to develop national YPS action plans.

ACT4.2.2 Provide training and other capacity development for youth leaders.

ACT4.2.3 Supporting 1-2 initiatives to implement the AU Youth for Peace Agenda at regional level (e.g. regional YPS Forum).		
---	--	--

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Appendix 3: Early Response Mechanism

(see Output 1.3)

Purpose

The Early Response Mechanism (ERM) provides ECOWAS with a rapid source of funding for initiatives aimed at preventing and managing violent conflict in case of urgent and unforeseen needs in crisis situations or suddenly emerging windows of opportunity for democratic transition and peacebuilding. The objective of the ERM is to enable ECOWAS to react in an appropriate and timely manner to these evolving crises and windows of opportunities in and with ECOWAS member states.

The overall cost allocated to the ERM component of this Action is EUR 3.000.000 million.

Initiatives supported under the ERM shall focus in particular on the early stages of conflict prevention and management. Potential initiatives to be funded include but are not limited to:

- mediation missions (also in cross-border conflicts),
- political negotiation and preventive diplomacy processes,
- deployment of security and/or human rights observers,
- missions in the context of democratic transition processes.

To note that under the financial instrument funding this Action, namely NDICI-Global Europe, funding shall not be used to finance the procurement of arms or ammunition, or operations having military or defence implications (Article 8(15) of NDICI Regulation). Support to military Peace Support Operations (PSOs) as well as other activities and structures with military or defence implications therefore does not qualify for ERM funding.

Contents of the proposals

Initiatives can be proposed by the ECOWAS Commission only. Member states have the opportunity to suggest initiatives to the Commission for consideration. The decision of whether a proposed initiative falls within the scope of the ERM is made by the EU Delegation in Nigeria taking into consideration feedback from EU headquarters, relevant EU Delegations in the countries of deployment and BMZ representative at the German Embassy in Abuja

Initiatives proposed for funding must be of temporary nature, corresponding to the ERMs focus on early response and urgent and unforeseen needs, and complemented by a clearly set out exit strategy.

The maximum duration of initiatives funded under the ERM depends on their nature. Generally, initial requests for ERM support are limited to a maximum duration of 12 months, which can be extended once for up to 12 months if duly justified. The maximum total implementation period of this kind of initiative is therefore 24 months. There is no financial minimum amount for initiatives. Due to the limited nature of ERM funds, it is recommended that each

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

initiative does not exceed a budget of 500,000 EUR. However, if duly justified, this budget may be exceeded

A request for ERM support shall indicate the specific objectives, foreseen activities, implementation period, and an estimated budget of the proposed initiative. All requests shall be handed in writing, formulated as a concept note, based on a specific request template for an initiative to be funded under the ERM. The relevant concept note developed by ECOWAS shall be signed by the Commissioner PAPS or the Vice-President of ECOWAS¹.

Timeline and consultation

It is recommended to informally discuss upcoming requests for ERM support with the EU and EPSG before the formal submission of a request to the EU, to be able to clarify and if necessary, adjust content to meet all formal requirements in an effective and efficient manner.

The EU will formally communicate its approval, rejection or the need for adjustment of a request for ERM funding within 10 working days of receipt of the request, via a letter from the EU Delegation. If questions or concerns are raised by the EU, the deadline of 10 working days will be extended, allowing ECOWAS to provide additional information and clarifications as required. Once a request is approved, the disbursement of funds will be made within a timeframe to be pre-discussed and agreed between the ECOWAS Commission and GIZ.²

The ECOWAS Commission, the EU Delegation and the EPSG PMU will elaborate and agree on standing operating procedures (SOP) which shall include guiding principles on travel costs, per diems and salaries for staff members recruited or transferred to work on a given ERM initiative (based on ECOWAS standards for duty travel and procurement, but not exceeding the relating AU standards).³ The SOP shall also outline the minimum requirements for reporting, transfer of funds and financial settlements under the ERM and for each concept note.

The estimated budget to be included in a request for ERM support shall provide an overall estimate of the costs to be incurred during the implementation of the initiative, including costs for human resources (incl. expert days, fees, allowance), travel costs, equipment and supplies, office costs and other costs and services, as relevant. Information on unit costs must be provided. The estimated budget shall be aligned with the narrative description of the activities foreseen under the initiative. All activities shall be linked to budget headings. The approved budget will serve as a reference point for subsequent financial reports.

¹ Or Commissioner Political Affairs Peace and Security - to be clarified with ECOWAS.

² The timeframes will be specified in the operational guidelines for the ERM.

³ The reason for choosing the AU regulations as a reference point is the fact that these have been accepted by the EU for the ERM to date.

Contract no. [to be inserted by the EU]

Support by EPSG PMU

EPSG will support the operationalisation of the ERM by:

- Assuring timely logistical and financial support, and contracting service providers if relevant
- Advisory services to the Directorate of Political Affairs (DPA) on the elaboration of concept notes and support to the implementation (on request of ECOWAS)
- Monitoring of funds under the ERM; and
- Reporting to the Steering Committee and to the EU (based on reports of ECOWAS on the implementation of the initiatives)

This document reflects a preliminary status and may be adapted and supplemented following consultations with the ECOWAS Commission and the EU Delegation.