



DIRECTORATE OF COMMUNICATION

Information Collection Form for Departments and Directorates

SECTION A:

Directorate	Early Warning Directorate (EWD)
Department	Office of the Vice President
Location	Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria
Director	Dr. (Mrs.) Onyinye ONWUKA
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SECTION B:

1. Departmental/Directorate Vision/Mission

(Briefly describe the departmental/directorate vision, mission, and areas of focus)

As part of the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture (EPSA), the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response System (EWRS) has significantly evolved from lessons learnt, best practices and technological innovations.

Vision: The vision of the Early Warning Directorate is to have in place a fully integrated and functional early warning system, providing the ECOWAS Commission and Member States with timely reports and analysis to enable effective responses in preventing and mitigating violent conflicts in the ECOWAS region.

Mandate: Establishment of a Regional Observation and Monitoring Centre responsible for data collection, analysis, and preparation of reports, following identified indicators, for the use of the

Community and Member States in developing preventive measures and response strategies and in a bid to address Human Security threats, in accordance with:

- *Article 58 (f) of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty (1993)*: provides for the establishment of a regional peace and security observation system and peacekeeping forces where appropriate. The Centre shall collaborate with the UN, AU, EU, Research Centres and all other relevant International and Regional organizations.
- *Chapter IV of the 1999 Protocol (Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security)*: provides the framework for the establishment of a sub-regional peace and security system (Early Warning System).

2. Summary of Departmental/Directorates Activities and Accomplishments since inception

(What is the most important accomplishment of the Department/Directorate? Newly created Departments and Directorates should focus on their expected activities and accomplishments)

The **ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN) also known as the ECOWARN System, or the System**, is operated by the ECOWAS Early Warning Directorate (EWD). The EWD has several roles, including the collection of open-source information largely based on pre-determined human security indicators that are gendered, the analysis of the data and the generation of timely reports with recommendations for the Office of the President of the ECOWAS Commission for the purpose of early action, as stipulated in the Protocol.

ECOWARN consists of a Regional Observation and Monitoring Centre located at the ECOWAS Commission Headquarters and the NEWRM within the sub-region. Also, in line with Article 58 of the Protocol Related to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution and Peacekeeping, ECOWAS is in formal partnership with the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) as the CSO implementing partner of the ECOWAS Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN).

The four principal strategic objectives of the Early Warning System

- Improve the linkage between early warning and response mechanisms at local, national and regional levels by operationalizing NCCRMs in all 15 Member States, linked to a Consolidated Situation Room and regional response mechanisms in Abuja;
- Strengthen the technical and management (including coordination) capacity of EWD to ensure sustained effectiveness and efficiency of the ECOWAS EWRS at the regional level;
- Institutionalize a result-based management system (RBM) in EWD that ensures learning and knowledge management for sustained excellence in early warning and response mechanisms; and
- Leverage and strengthen partnerships and cooperation with other Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN) and other actors and partners.

Functioning of the ECOWARN System:

Strengths of ECOWARN



**Robust
Legal
Framework**



**Field Monitors
in Every
Member
State**



**Advanced
Technological
Capacity and
Tool**



**Data Spanning
Around Two
Decades**

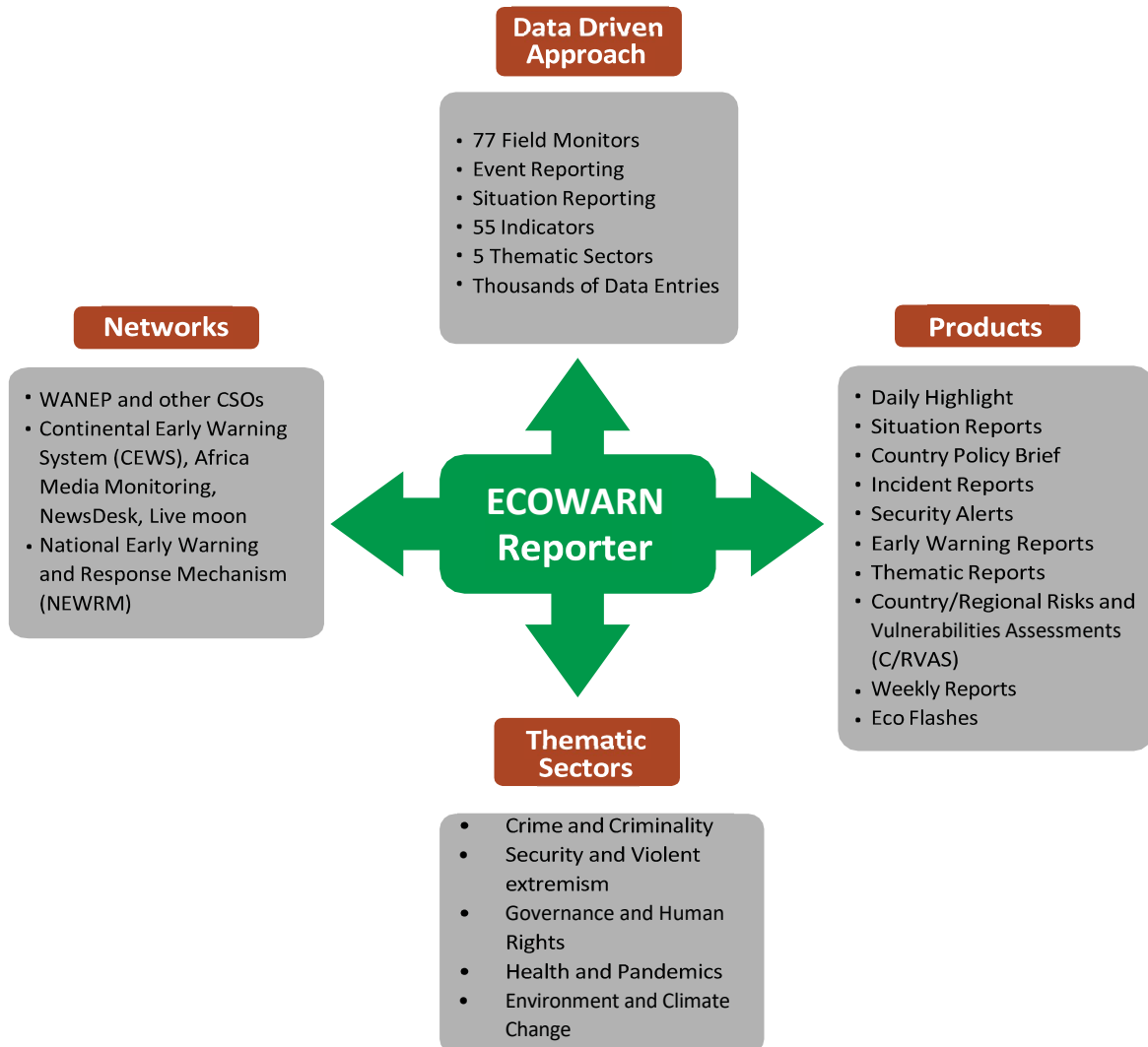


**Systematic
Integration
of Gender**



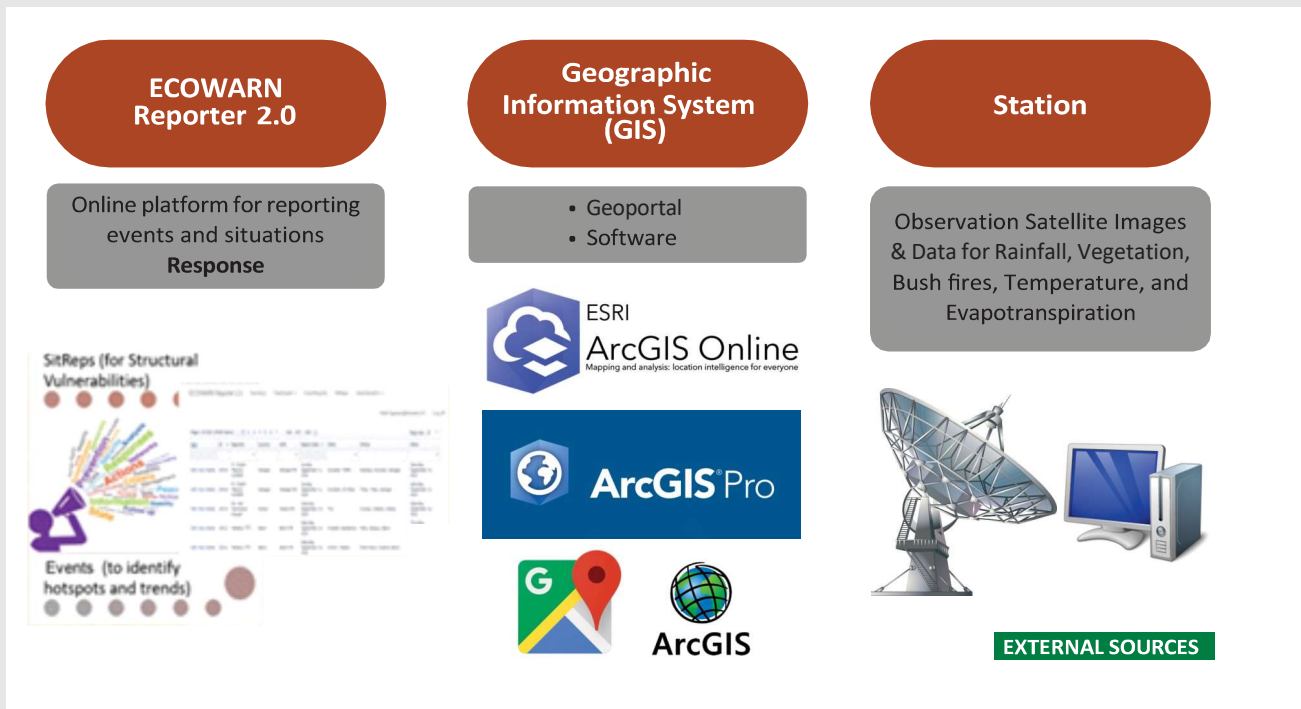
**Deployment
at National
Level**

ECOWARN at a Glance



ECOWARN Technology:

The Directorate's main data collection tool is ECOWARN Reporter <https://www.ecowarn.org>. In 2018, a new version of the ECOWARN Reporter was designed, developed, and implemented with the previous sixty-six (66) indicators reviewed and reduced to fifty-five (55) indicators.



The updated version of the ECOWARN Reporter 2 was launched in January 2021. Effective reporting through the new tool has enabled:

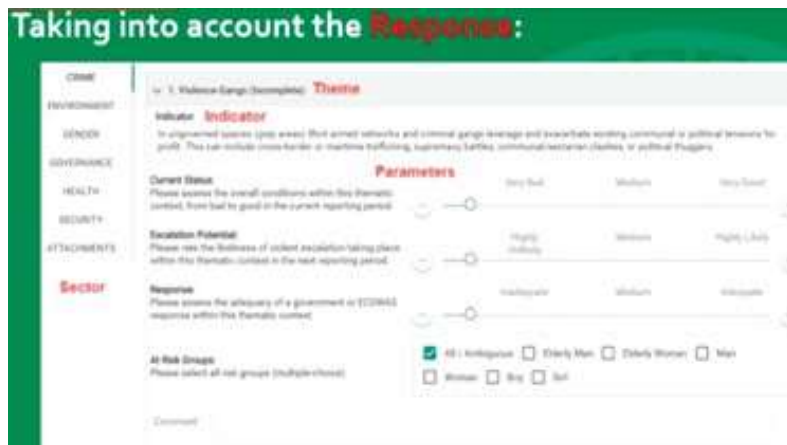
Reinforced capacity in data management and risk calculation

Certain/Imminent	Low	Medium	High	Critical	Critical
Very Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Critical
Likely	Negligible	Low	Medium	High	High
Moderately Likely	Negligible	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
Unlikely	Nil	Negligible	Negligible	Low	Low
↑ Likelihood RISK → Impact	<u>Negligible</u> • No serious injury • Minimal loss or damage to assets • No delays to programmes	<u>Minor</u> • Minor injuries • Some loss or damage to assets • Some delays to programmes	<u>Moderate</u> • Non-life threatening Injury, high stress event • Loss or damage to assets • Some programme delay or disruption	<u>Severe</u> • Serious injury • Major destruction of assets • Severe disruption to programme	<u>Critical</u> • Death or serious injury • Complete destruction or total loss of assets • Closure of programme or projects



Crafting an additional approach for quantifying human security risk from data on prevention, Management, and incident events.

ECOWARN Reporter 2 slides:



Since 2018, the EWD, in line with the ECOWAS human security analysis framework, has identified the following five thematic focal areas that encompass fifty-five (55) engendered human security indicators. as the priority pillars:

Early Warning Thematic Sectors

Crime & Criminality	Drugs/ Human Trafficking and Organized Crime/ Cyber Criminality/ Migration
Security	Terrorism, Violent Extremism/ Maritime Security
Governance & Human Rights	Political Governance/ Elections/ Youth Bulge/ Unemployment/ Gender
Health	Epidemics/ Pandemics/ Public Health Infrastructure
Environment	Climate Change and Natural Disasters/ Food Security/ Land Tenure/ Transhumance

3. Departmental/Directorate Impact on Regional Integration/ Community Citizens

*(What is the impact of (in your opinion) your departmental/directorate programmes or activities?
How has it helped to achieve the Commission's objectives? Newly created Departments and
Directorates should focus on their expected impact on regional integration)*

I. Production of various ECOWARN Reports including but not limited to:



II. Implementation of the National Early Warning and Response Mechanism (NEWRM) in ECOWAS Member States:

A 10-year evaluation of the EWS's operations in 2013 revealed a significant gap between alert and response. Meaning that generated Early Warning alerts were not effectively leading to early response with regards to Human Security matters. To respond to this gap and conscious of the fact that national authorities had the primary responsibility for ensuring the security of their citizens, the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government adopted at the 45th ordinary session held on 14th July 2014 in Accra, Ghana, the Supplementary Act A1SA.06/07/14, underpinning the Strategic Framework to establish National Centres for the Coordination of Response Mechanisms (NCCRMs) across the 15 ECOWAS Member States - NCCRMs are also referred to as National Early Warning and Response Mechanisms (NEWRMs).

Furthermore, incessantly in a bid to build and strengthen the capacities of national governments to bridge the gap between generated early warning alerts and timely and appropriate response options in addressing human security threats across the region, the Council of Ministers adopted in 2015 the Regulation C.Reg.12/12/15 on the implementation of the Mechanism, which led to the project of deploying National Early Warning and Response Mechanisms in Member States.

Legal Framework of NCCRMs

Authority of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government adopted the Supplementary Act A1SA.6/07/14 related to the adoption of the strategic framework for the establishment of Early Warning and Response mechanisms in ECOWAS Member States in July 2014



In order to give expression to this decision, the ECOWAS Council of Ministers enacted Regulation C/REG. 12/1215 for the establishment of NEWRM in Member States.

The Centres have the mandate to alert the respective governments of potential threats to their citizens; propose appropriate responses; activate and coordinate local/national-level response actors, in line with:

– *Articles 8 and 9 of the 2010 Monrovia Declaration*

- ECOWAS must strengthen its capabilities to enable it to engage in the prevention, management and settlement of local conflicts of low intensity, by developing mechanisms (alternative methods of regulation of) conflicts, including traditional approaches) to strengthen the current architecture of peace and security;
- ECOWAS needs to strengthen the capacity of Member States to manage and resolve local conflicts of low intensity by developing national mechanisms in order to strengthen peace and security architecture.

To date, twelve (12) out of fifteen (15) NCCRMs have been effectively launched to that effect. Activities and key achievements in 2023 include:

Extensive joint training on human security analysis, conflict assessment, and response planning to improve linkages between the NCCRMs and EWD.

Peer-to-peer reviews and activity planning workshop to foster cross-border learning collaboration and planning.

Workshop on mainstreaming gender in early warning and response analysis

Comprehensive training for NCCRM IT staff on data management, geographic Information System (GIS)

Strengthened capacity of health analysts in Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR), public health surveillance, and cross-border communication.

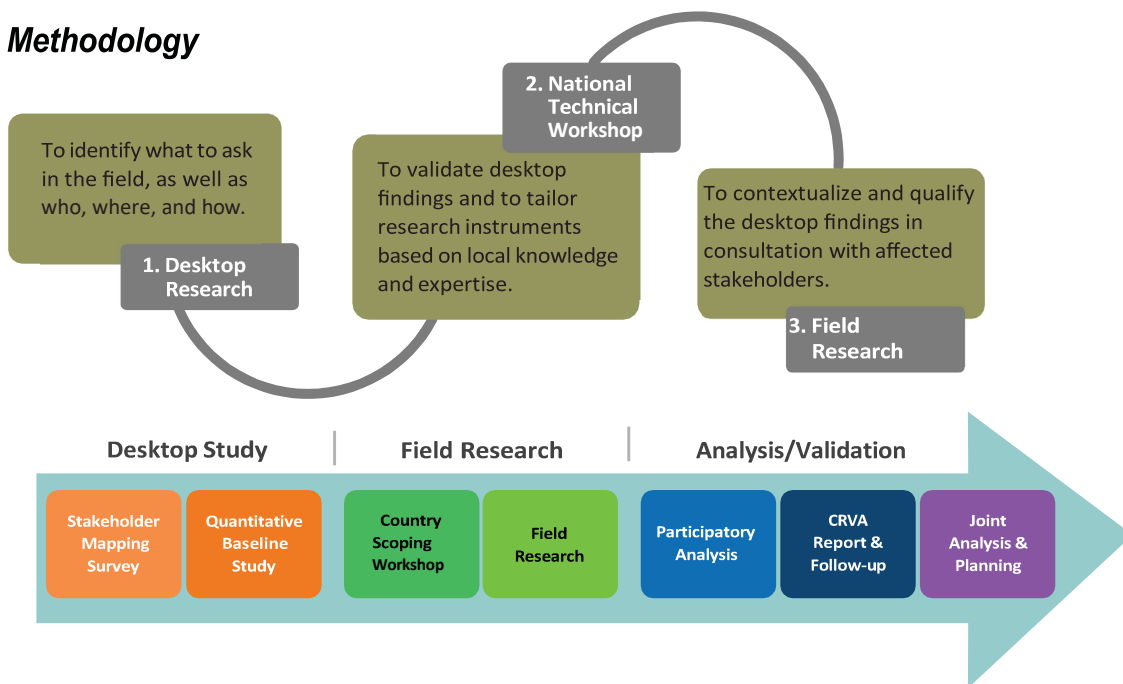
III. Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVAs)

Between 2016 and 2019, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) conducted Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVAs) in the fifteen (15) ECOWAS Member States, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data in West Africa (REWARD) project.

The resulting CRVA Reports assessed structural vulnerabilities, event-driven risks, and resilience factors across five areas of human security: 1) Politics and Governance, 2) Economics and Resources, 3) Population and Demographics, 4) Rule of Law, and 5) Security.

The integrated process highlighted an increasing number of peace and security challenges in the region that could compound instability and reverse fragile gains made over the decade. Some of the peace and security challenges that were identified as risk factors became realities and are still undermining the progress and stability of the region.

Methodology



Examples of CRVA Reports:



2024 Update of the CRVAs through the conduction of Country Resilience and Human Security Assessments (CRHSA): The Early Warning Directorate, in partnership with the NCCRMs, will conduct an update of ECOWAS' 2016-2019 Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVAs) in ECOWAS Member States, through desk studies, workshops, and field research (KIIs, FGDs, etc.).

The revised CRVA project is rooted in the scheduled Member States' 2024 Country Resilience and Human Security Assessments (CRHSAs), which include an enhanced focus on resilience and conflict sensitivity. The CRHSA assesses structural vulnerabilities, event-driven risks, and social and institutional resilience factors according to the five thematic sectors of human security identified by EWD and NCCRMs, namely 1) Security & Violent Extremism 2) Environment & Climate Change, 3) Crime & Criminality, 4) Health & Pandemics, 5) Governance & Human Rights.

IV. Development of GIS Tools

- *Election Tool to replace the paper data collection with a numerical solution.*

In collaboration with the ECOWAS Electoral Assistance Division (EAD), the EWD developed a mobile application for monitoring elections to support the Election Observation Missions (EOM) in the Member States. The application allows for automatic data transfer from the field in real-time on Election Day via smartphone or tablet, providing data on the voting process.

Digitalization of ECOWAS Election Observation Operations (Election Tool):



- *Implementation of Phase I of the Spatial Data Infrastructure Central Node for ECOWAS*

The key objective of this initiative is to establish and test critical components of a Regional SDI Central Node to support decision-making related to environmental monitoring, disaster response, and other topics of interest to ECOWAS.

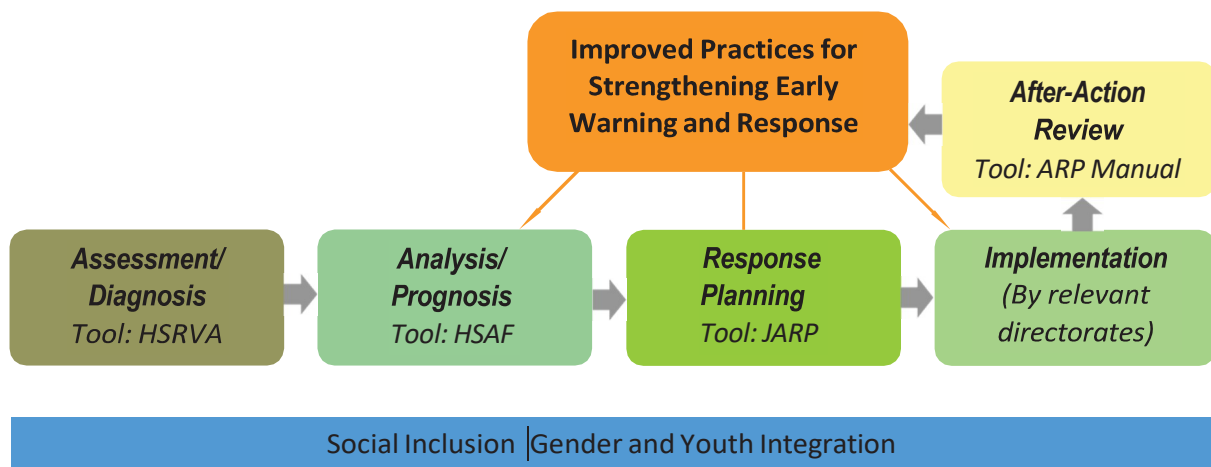
- *Creation of a Hub on the COVID-19 Pandemic*

The EWD GIS Unit developed, in collaboration with ESRI, a Hub, to improve the decision-making process in the COVID-19 crisis by strengthening awareness and providing online access to additional data and information on pandemic response initiatives by the Member States and other regional and international organizations. The Hub included resources (maps, dashboards, websites, and surveys).

V. Joint Analysis and Response Process (JARP) Manuals:

A compendium of frameworks and manuals, including a Gender Manual, that encompass a holistic and collaborative human security approach.

ECOWAS Joint Analysis and Response Planning Process (JARP)



JARP Manuals

The JARP compendium consists of the following:

- ECOWAS Guide to Joint Analysis and Response Planning
- Human Security Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Manual
- ECOWAS Human Security Analysis Framework (HSAF)
- Gender Integration in Early Warning (ECOWAS Gender Manual for Practitioners)
- Gender Integration in Early Warning (ECOWAS Response Planning Framework (ERPF)
- Guidance Notes and Templates for Conducting After Action Reviews (AAR)

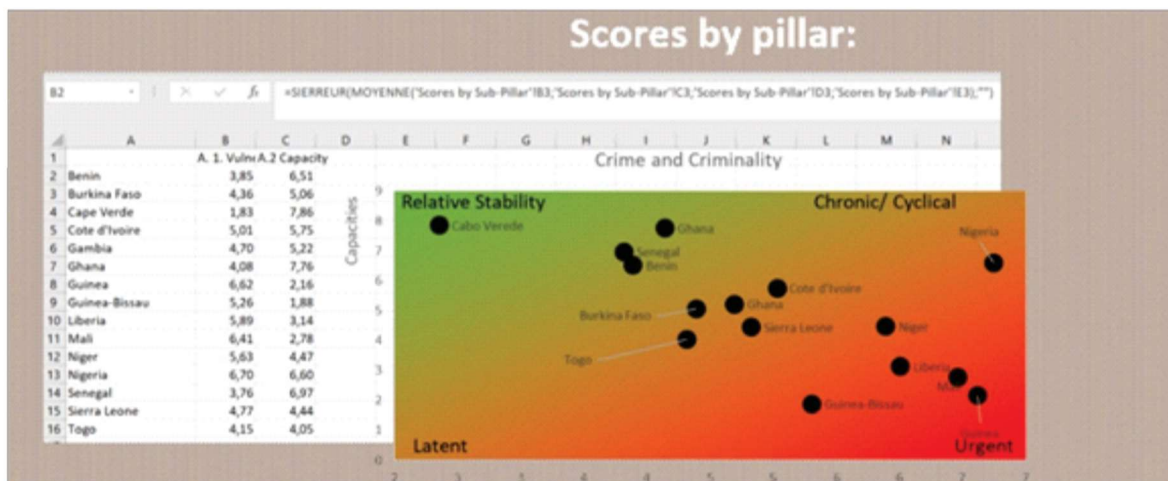
VI. ECOWAS Human Security Index (EHSI):

The ECOWAS new Human Security and Resilience Index (EHSI) is designed to identify social or institutional factors that can help mitigate or manage risks and vulnerabilities and inform on resiliencies that can be strengthened or leveraged as part of an early warning or risk mitigation effort. Few tools comprehensively measure human security, and none have an ECOWAS context and specificity, streamlined to provide a holistic assessment of human security in line with the five (5) identified EWD thematics.

Objective of the EHSI: Rank Member State Resilience and Build consensus around priorities with member states on strategic and operational planning for the promotion of human security via:

- Vulnerability Scores: Measure pressures and risk factors on human security.
- Capacity Scores: Measure social and institutional mechanisms and capabilities to manage pressures.

Calculation of the EHSI Index: Example



VII. Potential Impact of EWD products and projects:

- Identify and address regional conflict triggers and early warning signs.
- Develop targeted mitigation strategies to prevent future crises.
- Reduce long-term costs associated with conflict response and instability.
- It is important to fully operationalize the mechanisms as this will serve to enhance human security towards the ECOWAS Vision 2050 of Inclusivity, Peace, and Posterity for All.

4. Organogram

(Provide current staff hierarchy and organogram of the Department/Directorate showing different sections as well as staff line of authority, professional and administrative relationship)

The Early Warning Directorate, led by the **Director for Early Warning**, comprises the **Secretariat** and two (2) divisions, namely the **Analysis Division (AD)**, and the **Systems, Management, & Planning (SMP) Division**.

The directorate endeavours to collectively

- Process, correlate, and validate information
- Provide a realistic assessment of potential crises and/or conflicts
- Generate outputs to show the extent of a particular situation
- Provide response options where necessary
- Forecast potential changes in the crisis or situation at hand

The **Secretariat** in charge of administrative duties is run by the:

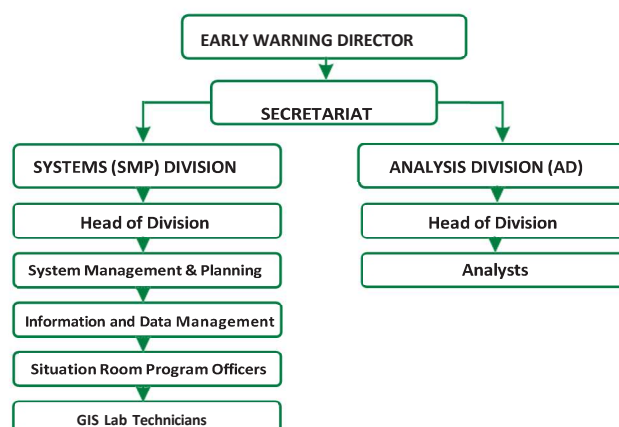
- Office Manager
- Administrative Assistant

The **SMP Division** is responsible for work plan and budget management, data collection, management, monitoring & evaluation, gestion of the ECOWARN database, etc.

- Head of Division
- System Management and Planning
- Information and Data Management
- Situation Room Program Officers
- GIS Lab technicians

The **Analysis Division** is responsible for the real-time analysis of data and regional crises, elaboration of reports, etc.

- Head of Division
- Five Analysts in charge of a thematic sector



5. Other relevant information & Website & Social Media Pages

(List/state any other information that may be relevant for public consumption that was not captured in any of the sections above)

SECTION C:

Documentation and Resources *(to be attached)*

- *Directives, Acts, Decisions*
- *Protocols*
- *Policies*
- *Reports*
- *Photos & Videos (Documentaries)*
- *Etc...*

The hard and soft copy of the completed form should be returned to Directorate of Communication on or before... . Responses should also be forwarded to:

alungu@ecowas.int; hmayaki@ecowas.int