

**COMUNIDADE ECONOMICA DOS
ESTADOS DA AFRICA OCIDENTAL**

**ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF
WEST AFRICAN STATES**



**COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE
DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE**

Terms of Reference (TOR)

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 15 MINUTE VIDEO DOCUMENTARY ON THE ECOWAS POST FLOOD ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF FLOOD DISASTER AND FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE TO MALNOURISHED CHILDREN IN MEMBER STATES MOST AFFECTED BY FOOD INSECURITY

JULY 2023

I. BACKGROUND

The Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs situated under the Department of Human Development and Social Affairs derived through the provisions of the ECOWAS Revised Treaty which inter alia, states at Article 28 that “ECOWAS shall undertake to guarantee social justice, human security, civil protection, a peaceful environment as well as stability in the region as prerequisites for economic development”. This framework positions the people of the region as the centerpiece of all ECOWAS objectives and the ECOWAS Vision 20250: “ECOWAS of the People: Peace and Prosperity for All”.

The ECOWAS Emergency Response Team (EERT) was established in 2006 under the Humanitarian and Social Affairs as a tool to deliver humanitarian response during complex emergencies in the region in line with the provisions of the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security of December 1999.

The Mediation and Security Council Regulation MSC/REG.2/01/08 Relating to the establishment of the EERT Mechanism within the Commission of 2008 further strengthens the responsibility for ECOWAS to undertake humanitarian actions to alleviate the sufferings of the populations who are victims of natural or man-made disasters. The EERT is operational within the context of the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy (EHP) which is the umbrella response mechanism for all humanitarian actions in the ECOWAS region.

This is further operationalised by the ECOWAS Humanitarian Response Mechanism (EHRM) adopted by the Member States in 2012. This important mechanism in chapter 3 on disbursement, stipulates that ECOWAS Humanitarian Relief Fund (EHRF) disbursements to the recipient Member States shall be supply of relief materials and not cash grants. This important decision by the Member States, is to promote efficient and effective implementation of humanitarian assistance to Member States, enhance monitoring, evaluation as well as accountability.

1. Background Flood

The heavy and devastating rainfalls recorded in West Africa in 2022 pushed vulnerable families deep into crisis. Floods impacted on hygiene and sanitation and increased the incidence of water-borne diseases. Heavy rains and floods took a significant toll on human life, property, farmlands, and livestock, killing and injuring thousands of people and displacing millions. While the 2022 flood severely affected all 15 Member States, the Republics of Niger, Nigeria, Liberia, The Gambia, Guinea, Senegal, Cote d’Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Mali, Benin were most impacted by torrential rains and floods (Reliefweb, 09 November 2022).

With many of the affected regions already struggling with insecurity, elevated levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, and climate change, have increased the vulnerabilities of the most affected communities. The floods also increased the risk of the incidence of water-borne diseases and impacted hygiene and sanitation. National and local authorities in Member States lead the response, including Civil Protection and Disaster Management Agencies, National Red

Cross Societies and NGOs, as well as community-based organizations. Despite the Member States' efforts, the frequency and scale of the incidents, calls for additional support.

2. Background Food and Nutrition Crisis

Reports from Food Crisis Prevention Network of April 2022 showed that the Sahel and West African regions are facing another major food and nutrition crisis, with an estimated 65 million people under pressure (phase 3) for the period June-August 2022. For the third year in a row, the “**Cadre-Harmonisé (CH) analyses**” predicted a major food and nutrition crisis in 2022 in the Sahel and West African regions with about 27.3 million people in need of emergency food assistance; a figure that could rise to 38.3 million if appropriate action is not taken.¹

A) Agricultural production

The current situation in the region is characterized by a relatively stable agricultural production 2021-2022 compared to the previous year but in sharp decline (-16% on average) for the Sahelian countries on average. However, the harvest prospects for the current 2022-2023 crop year would be between 71 and 78 million tons, a decrease of -2% and an increase of 7%, compared to the average of the last five years in terms of rainfall conditions and the efforts made by countries and their partners in support of the agro-pastoral campaign.

B) Food situation

The food and nutrition situation in the region remains very worrying with population figures in phase 3 and above for the current lean season estimated at more than 38 million people. These figures, which have not been reached since the beginning of the “**Cadre Harmonisé analyses**” in the region, have increased more than threefold, from 10.7 million people in 2019 to 38.3 million people in 2022. This already worrying situation is aggravated by the effects of international geopolitical tensions, in particular the war in Ukraine, which has had a (i) direct impact on the world prices of wheat, maize but also nitrogen fertilizers, of which Ukraine and Russia are major players, and (ii) indirect impacts on all imported and local products due to the increase in the price of oil, which has a direct impact on international and regional transport.

3. ECOWAS Humanitarian Assistance

In 2021, ECOWAS provided humanitarian assistance to 10 Member States most affected by flood disasters to alleviate the sufferings of the population and communities affected. On the other hand, given the acute food and nutrition crisis in the region, the Commission, consistent with its humanitarian mandate activated its food crisis response strategy in collaboration with the ECOWAS Food and Agricultural Agency (ARAA) to provide nutritional products to Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria.

4. ECOWAS Strategy for Post Flood and Food and Nutrition Assistance to Member States

In the face of the deteriorating humanitarian situation and in line with previous interventions, ECOWAS would target assistance to all 15 Member States to alleviate the effects of the 2022

flood disasters and equally, assist Member States in phases, targeting the most vulnerable children severely affected by the current food and nutrition crisis in most affected Member States of Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

To achieve this strategy, the Humanitarian and Social Affairs Directorate of the ECOWAS Commission consistent with its humanitarian mandate, organized a **regional consultation workshop with Member States and other relevant partners to validate baseline data on the 2022 flood disaster and humanitarian needs assessment of victims of flood as well as data on children affected by malnutrition due to the food and nutrition crisis in the region.**

5. Needs Analysis

Following a desk review already conducted by the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs, consultation with Member States followed in Lomé, Togo for in-depth need analysis as a launch pad for effective post humanitarian assistance to communities and persons affected and impacted in the 2022 flood disasters and malnourished children in targeted Member States. The following assumptions are germane to the proposed regional response:

A) Flood

- The impact of a flood can last for a considerable time.
- There could be consequences of the loss of assets, shelter and livelihoods and the death of economically active household members.
- Impacts on livelihoods may last for some time.
- Floods may leave lands waterlogged for several months. This can lead to ecological damage – from inundation or from the deposit of sand.
- Some of this ecosystem damage may directly affect livelihoods.
- Waterlogging may not only temporarily prevent use of a field but also destroy assets.
- The floods may also cause enormous livestock losses with a devastating consequence.
- The floods may have damaged water and sanitation systems or may prevent access to safe water sources.
- Interruptions to water and sanitation systems are a risk factor for increased levels of communicable disease, even where no disaster is involved.

B) Food and Nutrition

- Lack of immediate action could result in the death of several children from malnutrition.
- Children who are uncatered could suffer severe and long- lasting health consequences.
- Malnourished children may suffer educational setbacks.
- Psychology of affected children could be affected and reduce their coping systems to community adaptation and engagements.

Following the above assumptions, and preliminary reports from Member States and partners confirming same, the consultations with Member States in Togo focused on but not restricted to the following needs: **shelter, household items, water, hygiene and sanitation, health and livelihood and basic needs, nutrition, psychosocial support etc.**

6. Justification for Assistance to Member States Affected by Flood in 2022 and Food and Nutrition Crisis

The overall justification is based so far on the result of the ECOWAS Desk Review (DR) and the number of populations affected in each Member State on both interventions. There are other factors such as the number of houses destroyed, number of deaths and projections on the food and nutrition outlook in the coming months and expected mortality rate. etc. However, the number of affected populations is central to reaching all persons of concern in humanitarian interventions.

Food distributions as well as enhanced nutrition products, particularly for children would likely form the core of the intervention on nutrition based on severe humanitarian realities in Member States currently worsened by conflict, perennial natural disasters, and the lingering effects of COVID -19 pandemic. The food for the targeted population will be calculated based on the Sphere Standard of 6 – 11 Servings of grain product per day.

Though Member States and humanitarian partners have been providing relief materials to the affected populations, huge gaps have been recorded. Hunger and malnutrition have been on the rise, making food and nutrition the major priority of the affected populations. Non- food items are also in high demand based on the losses of household items recorded during the disaster which are yet to be fully restored.

7. Overall Objective

The overall objective of the two interventions is to assist in alleviating the sufferings of victims of humanitarian emergencies in Member States in line with the humanitarian mandate of the Commission.

8. Outcome

The major outcome of these interventions is measured by the number of affected populations assisted and the impact on the general well-being of the affected population after the intervention.

9. Response Strategy – Actions required and Responsibilities by Member States

- This implementation of the ECOWAS 2023 Post Flood intervention and food and nutrition assistance will comply strictly with the directives of the ECOWAS Humanitarian Response Mechanism (EHRM) as stipulated above – no cash grants to Member States.
- Given the urgency associated with the response, a consultation with relevant ministries and agency in Member States, the Permanent Representatives of the President of the ECOWAS Commission and relevant NGOs was held in Lomé, Togo in April 2023 to determine up to date needs of response strategy with inputs from Member States.

II. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

In collaboration with the Department of Human Development & Social Affairs of the ECOWAS Commission, and under the supervision of the Directorate of Communication, the selected consultant shall solicit content and develop a 15-minute video documentary on the 2023 ECOWAS Humanitarian Response Plan Implementation in selected Member States of the Cape Verde, The Gambia, Nigeria, Togo, and Burkina Faso to document its components, activities undertaken and results. The specific tasks under this consultancy are as follows.

A. INTERVIEWS

Regional Level

- Interview the President and the Commissioner, Human Development & Social Affairs of the ECOWAS Commission and Staff of the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs to collect information on ECOWAS's rationale and vision for the 2023 ECOWAS Humanitarian Response Plan, and the importance as well as the impact of the project.
- Interview the respective Resident Representatives on their role, and the importance of results achieved.

National Level

- Interview key Government Ministers or designated Focal Points at the selected Member state levels to solicit their perspective on the relevance of the assistance.
- Interview project implementation team and Implementing partners to solicit their inputs on the following: (1) Objectives of the assistance, (2) Components (3) Processes for implementation (4) Key lessons (5) Key results.

Community Level

- Interview recipients of assistance on the benefits of the ECOWAS Humanitarian Assistance

B. VIDEO AND PHOTO SHOTS AT PROJECT SITES

Conduct video and photo shoots of the following project sites to be determined by the selected Member states, namely: Cape Verde, The Gambia, Nigeria, Togo, and Burkina Faso to document assistance focused on but not restricted to the following needs: **shelter, household items, water, hygiene and sanitation, health and livelihood and basic needs, nutrition, psychosocial support etc.** and **the** activities undertaken and results.

C. DEVELOPMENT OF A 15 MINUTE DOCUMENTARY

Develop a 15-minutes video documentary on the 2023 ECOWAS Humanitarian Response Plan Implementation in selected Member States of the Cape Verde, The Gambia, Nigeria, Togo, and Burkina Faso to document assistance focused on but not restricted to the following needs: **shelter, household items, water, hygiene and sanitation, health and livelihood and basic needs, nutrition, psychosocial support etc.**, and **the** activities undertaken and results.

III. DURATION AND EXPECTED DELIVERABLES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The expected duration of the assignment is 4 months starting from the date of contract signing. The expected deliverables are as follows:

- One 15-minutes documentary on ECOWAS Humanitarian Assistance covering the activities undertaken and results achieves from the perspectives of the ECOWAS Commission, National Project team, and key beneficiaries' perspective).

IV. EXPERTISE REQUIRED

The requirements for the consultancy are as follows:

- Minimum Master's degree in Development Communication, Mass Communication, or related fields.
- Minimum of 7 years of professional experience in Communications relevant for this assignment.
- Extensive experience in developing high quality communication and promotion products in the ECOWAS sub-region.
- Demonstrable experience in conducting at least 2 similar assignments or productions for an international organization, a donor-funded project, or a public/private entity.
- Must have demonstrable experience of working with multiple partners to develop communication products.
- Proficiency in one of the official languages of ECOWAS. (English, French or Portuguese).

V. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT / REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The selected Consultant will report to the Communications Directorate of ECOWAS Commission, and under the overall supervision of the Directorate of Humanitarian & Social Affairs of the ECOWAS Commission.

VI. LOGISTICS AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION.

- The Consultant shall be coordinated from the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja – Nigeria.
- Any required activities outside of the ECOWAS Commission, and Abuja shall be discussed with the Communications Directorate and Directorate of Humanitarian & Social Affairs of the ECOWAS Commission for necessary logistical arrangement to be made.

- The Consultant shall provide its own equipment and tools (Computer, Printer, Camera, Internet etc) for the implementation of this assignment.

VII. OWNERSHIP AND RIGHTS

All documents and information collected, as well as products developed as part of the execution of the assignment will be the property of ECOWAS Commission.

VIII. SUBMISSIONS

The required submission package for this Expression of Interest (EOI) includes:

- Updated CV.
- Technical proposal
- Samples of Communication products developed in 2 recent similar assignments.

NOTE: Relevant travel outside of Abuja shall be discussed and approved by the Communications Directorate in consultation with the Directorate of Humanitarian & Social Affairs of the ECOWAS Commission. Tickets and per diem as relevant, shall be discussed and provided separately in line with relevant Guidelines of the ECOWAS Commission.

IX. CONSULTANCY PAYMENTS

The selected Consultant will be paid based on the effective ECOWAS exchange rate (where applicable), and only after approving authority confirms the successful completion of each deliverable as stipulated in the Terms of Reference.

ⁱ Food Crisis Prevention Network of April 2022