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ANNEX 7

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2024-2025

Action Document for EU Support to ECOWAS in Peace, Security and Governance - EPSG

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	EU Support to ECOWAS in Peace, Security, and Governance - EPSG OPSYS number: ACT - 62346 Financed under the Neighborhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in the Member States of ECOWAS: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.
4. Programming document	Sub-Saharan Africa Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority Area 2: Governance, Peace and Security, Culture, and in particular to: Specific Objective 2: Reduce the incidence, duration and intensity of violent conflicts in Africa and contribute to effective prevention, protection against and response to transnational security threats, including organized crime, across the continent; Result 2.2: African organisations active in the area of peace and security are able to carry out their tasks and to deliver on their mandate.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Government & Civil Society-general 151 Conflict, Peace & Security 152
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): 16 Peace and justice, strong institutions Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: 5 Gender equality
8 a) DAC code(s)	15150 - Democratic participation and civil society 50% 15220 - Security system management and reform 50%

8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Multilateral organisations – 40000			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective
Digitalisation @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

	digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities1 @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020120: EUR 13 000 000 Total estimated cost: EUR 20 380 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 13 000 000 This action is in joint co-financed by: - The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for an amount of EUR 7 000 000 - French Development Agency group for an amount of EUR 380 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.1			

1.2 Summary of the Action

This Action represents the third phase of the European Union's (EU) support to ECOWAS in the domain of peace and security. In 2013, the EU initiated its backing for ECOWAS' Peace, Security, and Stability mandate with an allocation of EUR 29.33 million. This funding was aimed at reinforcing the ECOWAS Department for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) and supporting the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF).

Under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), 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 is channeled through the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO) Project, with a total commitment of over EUR 24 million (EUR 16.4 million from the EU and EUR 8 million from Germany) since February 2019.

The EPSAO Project has been instrumental in assisting the ECOWAS Commission across five thematic areas: peace support operations, conflict prevention, security sector reform and governance (SSRG), electoral affairs, and the enhancement of regional training infrastructure. It specifically supported national and regional networks capacities to observe elections; National Centers for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanism (NCCRMs) and National Peace Infrastructures (NPIs), and strengthened Security Sector Reform in the region.

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

- As the sole African-led forum with a mandate to convene West African states to address peace and security issues in the region.
- While ECOWAS's mandate is being challenged in Central Sahel, the organisation remains the only regional platform with a robust political mandate, firm support from Member States, and demonstrated expertise in conflict prevention, management, and peace mediation, evidenced by the 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 (SSRG, 2016).

ECOWAS remains a crucial strategic partner for the EU in ensuring peace and security in West Africa. This Action is designed to strengthen ECOWAS' capabilities throughout the entire conflict cycle from conflict prevention through management, mediation and conflict resolution, and will include support for elections, responses to the resurgence of military coups and democratic decline, and the establishment of democratic post-crisis environments in West Africa.

This Action will have a primary focus on four key areas:

1. Conflict prevention, early warning, peace mediation, prevention of electoral violence and early response.
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 lead entity responsible for this action is the EU Delegation to ECOWAS, and the entity in charge of contract management is also the EU Delegation to ECOWAS. The implementation modality for this action will need to take into consideration the results of the mid-term evaluation of the EPSAO projects and the difficulties linked to the current implementing agency.

The action will strengthen the implementation of the Gender Action Plan III¹ and its key priorities : “Integrating the women, peace and security agenda” and “Promoting equal participation and leadership”.

1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The different components of the Action shall be carried out in Member States of ECOWAS: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. All ECOWAS Member States are included in the list of ODA recipients.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The West African region has recently been characterised by democratic backsliding evidenced by the recent “coups d'états” or attempts, in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea Bissau. Violent extremism and terrorist activities are also increasing in the region with conflicts affecting the Sahel region sliding towards coastal countries. ECOWAS initiatives to consolidate democratic processes and facilitate the transition towards democracy and sustainable peace through high-level political diplomacy and mediation have been usually aligned with EU interests.

ECOWAS is a robust partner of the EU, working to prevent conflicts at various levels and to combat the threat of

¹ The [Gender Action Plan III](#) is a Joint communication by the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy which was welcomed through [EU Presidency Conclusions](#) of 16 December 2020. Drafting was led by European Commission in close consultation with EU Member States, EEAS, civil society organisations, partner governments, and international organisations (UN entities, International Finance Institutions among others). The different parties contributed to the drafting of the document through meetings and through responses to a survey conducted during the process.

violent extremism and terrorism in the region. In the EU-ECOWAS Joint Communiqué following the ministerial meeting of February 2023², both sides reaffirmed their commitment to support regional peace and security, in line with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The parties also agreed to enhance the compliance with the International Humanitarian Law (IHL); and to address existing challenges to facilitate humanitarian access in conflict situations, including by strengthening the Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination. By strengthening ECOWAS' peace and security capacities, this Action intends to increase the effectiveness of EU's long-standing partnership with ECOWAS in ensuring and promoting peace, security and stability in West Africa.

ECOWAS has constructive policies and experience with interventions to restore Peace and Democracy. The "ECOWAS Vision 2050" (which also aligns with Agenda 2030) is focused on peace, security and stability (Pillar 1), governance and rule of law (Pillar 2) and social inclusion (Pillar 5). The ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture (EPSA) is closely aligned with the objectives and instruments of the APSA and includes, among others, the conflict early warning system - ECOWARN, the Council of the Wise (CoW) and the ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF). ECOWAS has a long experience in crisis intervention, in particular through conflict mediation missions conducted with varying degrees of success, but also through ESF deployment in Member States. Furthermore, ECOWAS can rely on several competent regional Training Centres of Excellence (TCEs), which make important contributions to capacity building in a number of thematic areas including peace support operations, elections, WPS and other.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

For the last 10 years, the West Africa region has experienced severe political instability, expressed in conflict, political violence, protests and social disorder. This instability also manifests in the Sahel region with violent extremism and terrorism, and there is now an increasing movement of these violent extremist and terrorist groups to expand their reach towards coastal West Africa. This is despite prevailing forms of conflict and political violence such as armed militancy, community conflicts, farmer-herder conflicts, election-related violence, protests, gangs and criminal violence, piracy in coastal West Africa. In several cases, these are closely linked to organised crime.

Experiences of violence, horizontal inequalities, poverty and hunger, exacerbated by the consequences of bad governance and climate change, intensify conflicts over scarce resources and are often the cause of displacement. These challenges also undermine democratic rule in the region. Since 2021, there have been six cases of illegitimate seizure of power by military forces in Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso and most recently in Niger. These developments not only represent an attack on democracy in the affected countries, but threaten political stability and peace throughout West Africa. The discontent and fear of many people facing poverty and insecurity shows the limits of current western interventions and rejection of the political elites in the country allegedly linked with these interventions. Through targeted false information and hate messages, recent military governments succeed in further stirring up resentment and uniting parts of the population behind them. There has been increased collaboration between the military governments that emerge from these recent coups and the Russian private military company Wagner. Also, a significant part of the local population in the Sahel view western interventions as colonial and are aligning the military governments supporting their partnership with Russia and Russian Private Military Companies.

These developments pose major challenges for ECOWAS. The blatant violation of its principles calls for the exclusion and sanctioning of the breakaway Member States. However, this hard-line limits ECOWAS' political capacity to act in these states. Economic sanctions also meet with criticism as they affect badly an already vulnerable population. A lack of consistency in payments of Member State financial contributions, a recruitment freeze lasting several years to reduce costs, as well as bureaucratic and partly inefficient structures, slow down the work of the ECOWAS Commission as well as the implementation of ECOWAS policies in the member countries. This fosters negative developments mentioned above.

An example is the fact that the reform of the security sector in member countries has not yet progressed to the point where the overwhelming majority of the security forces are committed to the preservation of democracy and rule of

² [23rd EU-ECOWAS Ministerial Dialogue | EEAS \(europa.eu\)](#)

law. In West Africa, the young population particularly affected by economic challenges do not trust the current democratic structures. This disillusionment is driven by a multitude of factors. While these young individuals still aspire to democratic governance, their trust in existing democratic institutions has significantly diminished because of the pervasive corruption and compounded and institutions' inability to address their urgent economic needs, and provide for stability and avenues for meaningful civic engagement. In this context, the economic sanctions worsen the situation of the poor in the affected countries and increase the population's skepticism of ECOWAS actions.

During its annual planning retreat in February 2023, the ECOWAS PAPS department outlined its priorities for advancing Vision 2050. These priorities encompass various key areas, such as supporting affected Member States in reestablishing their constitutional order, revising the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, fostering the development of local peace infrastructures, further enhancing the functionality of conflict mediation mechanisms, and strengthening collaboration with civil society. Furthermore, significant emphasis has been placed on the operationalization and adaptation of the ESF, as well as providing support for security sector reforms in member countries. All of these tasks collectively aim to bolster the implementation of ECOWAS policies at the Member State level.

An important potential is represented by civil society actors in ECOWAS member countries, who are committed to peace and democracy and involved in building national peace infrastructures, contributing to fair and peaceful elections, advocating for a transparent and accountable security sector and the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

On one hand, Women play a pivotal role as agents for peace, and their participation throughout all phases of a peace process increases the durability and the quality of peace. Women can also play an important role for early warning. Yet they continue often being excluded from or marginally represented at peace negotiations and mediation efforts. Furthermore, despite some advancements, girls and women continue to face disadvantages in terms of educational opportunities, economic status, and political participation. The ECOWAS Gender Development Centre (EGDC) in Dakar, the Network of West African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-West Africa), national Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) groups and WPS focal points, as well as women's civil society organizations, are crucial for enhancing the empowerment of women in the region and their role for peace-making. It is important to strengthen their participation and ensure an equal representation of women, youth and people with disabilities in all democratic processes.

On the other hand, women and girls are victims of various forms of conflict-related and domestic violence and harmful traditional practices. They can also become perpetrators by actively engaging in violent extremism or terrorism. In addition to overall conflict- and gender sensitivity, a nuanced and holistic approach to engaging women as a heterogeneous group in peace-making efforts is thus necessary. Female mediators and peacebuilders such as FemWise have also indicated in the past the need and interest to be better equipped to prevent electoral violence.

One core issue, as highlighted by recent events, is the insufficient integration of ECOWAS objectives and values, such as democracy, the rule of law, peace, and security, within the ECOWAS peace and security architecture and its member states. To address this, there's a pressing need to bolster the ECOWAS Commission's capabilities and directly implement measures within member states. This will ensure that the positive impacts of early crisis warning/prevention, election monitoring, and security sector reforms are tangible for the region's population.

The effectiveness of the EU Support to ECOWAS in Peace, Security, and Governance relies on both regional and national-level implementation. The problem doesn't primarily lie in the quality of ECOWAS policies and strategies but in their translation into tangible benefits for the people of member countries. This challenge is compounded by the limited financial and personnel resources of the ECOWAS Commission and its institutions.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

Key Stakeholders:

The primary stakeholders (duty-bearers) of the Action are the ECOWAS Commission and ECOWAS Member

States including the ECOWAS Mediation Support Division. Other significant stakeholders include the ECOWAS Permanent Representation to the AU, the ECOWAS and national Parliaments (including relevant specialised committees (e.g. human rights, peace and security, women peace and security etc.), the ECOWAS Gender Centre in Dakar, the ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions (ECONEC) and Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), and the National Centres for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanism (NCCRMs).

ECOWAS Commission (duty-bearers):

The project implementers will primarily collaborate with the PAPS Department, the Human Development and Social Affairs (HDSA) Department, and the Early Warning Directorate (under the office of the ECOWAS Vice President). This engagement will be particularly essential for activities related to Specific Objective 1 (SO1) and Specific Objective 2 (SO2). Given the political nature of the Action, regular consultations with the ECOWAS President, Vice-President, and the respective Commissioners of the PAPS and HDSA Departments will be conducted to review the Action's priorities and progress.

ECOWAS's Decentralised Entities:

ECONEC will be a key beneficiary of the Action, primarily through Output 3.1, owing to its role in supporting national election management bodies, promoting inclusivity, and enhancing the participation of various groups, including women, youth, Persons with Disability (PWDs), and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the electoral process. Another vital decentralized entity within the EPSA is the regional training infrastructure. This entity significantly contributes to the training and networking of civilian capacities to implement ECOWAS policies effectively.

Regional civil society and women and youth networks, for e.g., the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)³, the West Africa Civil Society Forum (WACSOF), and the West African Network of Young Women Leaders (ROAJELF) The Network on Peace and Security for Women in West Africa (NOPSWECA), Women, Youth, Peace and Security Institute (WYPSI) will also serve as vital partners to the Action as will networks relevant in broader areas related to security sector reform, governance and democracy, human rights etc. - for e.g. the African Security Sector Network (ASSN), the Network of National Human Rights Institutions in West Africa and other relevant think tanks/ policy research institutes.

Young people without professional prospects are susceptible to be influenced by extremist and terrorist groups, disinformation especially in the context of the election cycle or manipulation by anti-democratic forces. They should be addressed indirectly through local civil society organisations. Recognising the need for supporting youth involvement in peacebuilding, conflict regional, democratic governance, preventing electoral and countering violent extremism and terrorism, the action will support operationalisation of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda at both regional (ECOWAS) and Member States levels.

The ultimate beneficiaries and right holders of this initiative are the populations of the 15 ECOWAS Member States who stand to gain from the strengthening of the EPSA and leading to a greater probability for reduced conflicts, enhanced security, and improved democratic governance based on the rule of law.

It is important to note that not all outputs will be implemented in every ECOWAS member country. Work in countries with suspended ECOWAS membership will primarily focus on supporting democratic transition priorities and processes.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this Action is to strengthen the implementation of the EPSA at regional and national level,

³ In coordination with the support provided to WANEP by FPI under the project 'Electoral violence Monitoring Analysis and Mitigation – E-MAM running from 2023 to 2026.

along the whole conflict cycle (conflict prevention, management, mediation and conflict resolution) and towards democracy and human security.

The Specific Objectives (outcomes) of this action are as follows to:

1. Based on ECOWAS' early warning and response mechanisms, conflict prevention and crisis management in the ECOWAS region are strengthened
2. ECOWAS' contribution to a secure, democratic, human rights based, and international humanitarian law (IHL) compliant environment with a focus on member states in a post-conflict or democratic transition, has increased
3. Electoral processes in ECOWAS MS are strengthened and violence linked to election prevented
4. The peace and security agenda for women and the youth are implemented more coherently at ECOWAS and national level

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1)

- 1.1 Cooperation between the NCCRMs and national security/ intelligence agencies, media, and CSOs is enhanced
- 1.2 ECOWARN reports/data have improved in terms of quality, user-friendliness, demand-orientation and translated into early action/conflict prevention and mitigation measures.
- 1.3 ECOWAS's capacities to conduct and support peace mediation and dialogue actions is enhanced

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2)

- 2.1 Reform initiatives by the Security Sector towards more human rights and IHL based, citizen-oriented and accountable services are strengthened
- 2.2 Parliamentary committees as well as civil society actors are strengthened in their democratic oversight role vis-à-vis the security sector in ECOWAS member states

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3)

- 3.1 Electoral institutions, processes and dialogue at regional and national levels are strengthened
- 3.2 ECOWAS initiatives to support democratic transition in countries affected by unconstitutional changes of governments' are enhanced.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to Outcome 4 (or Specific Objective 4)

- 4.1 Agenda for youth, peace and security in order to strengthen democracy and inclusiveness is developed
- 4.2 The implementation of the WPS Agenda and ECOWAS' respective reporting is improved

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1:

- Financial and organizational support to ECOWAS in providing strategic guidance to NCCRMs and to peer-learning of NCCRMs;
- Training, strategic guidance and financial support to NCCRMs in order to enhance their synergies with EWD, national security/intelligence agencies, media, and CSOs;
- Providing specialized thematic and technical support to the NCCRMs;
- Gender mainstreaming of conflict early warning and management at regional and national level, including integrating the WPS agenda in early warning mechanisms to facilitate the development of gender indicators in early warning systems, including gender representation in management and early response mechanisms in conflict contexts;
- Supporting inclusive, community-based initiatives for dialogue- or mediation-based resolution of inter-communal and/or cross-border conflicts (including management of election-related conflicts);
- Reinforcing capacities of National Peace Infrastructures (NPIs), including National Peace Commissions, Sub-National Peacebuilding Agencies, Community Based Peacebuilding Initiatives, to carry out peacebuilding activities, including reconciliation of conflict groups and addressing drivers of conflicts, ensuring conflict sensitive programming, research and analysis, monitoring and evaluation and other forms of technical support.

Activities relating to Output 1.2:

- Institutional development of ECOWARN stakeholders in data analysis, report production and distribution, including improvement of ECOWARN web-based platform
- Providing support to West African-led non-military initiatives aimed at preventing and managing conflicts through an ECOWAS Early Response Mechanism, with a specific focus on the Sahel, and without exclusion of

other ECOWAS Member States.

Activities related to Output 1.3

- Capacity building and training support to the ECOWAS mediation support entities

Activities relating to Output 2.1:

- Supporting the operationalization of ECOWAS SSRG Policy Framework for including targeted SSR initiatives promoting effective democratic control and oversight of security forces;
- Review of the SSRG Framework, including lessons learnt from SSRG implementation in ECOWAS Member States.

Activities relating to Output 2.2:

- Promote exchange between parliamentarians, human rights and civil society organisations and security sector actors;
- Conduct of capacity needs assessment with ECOWAS and EPSA stakeholders for the implementation of policies geared towards the creation of a safe and secure peacebuilding environment;
- Development of training curricula that meet these needs;
- Training and customised advice of parliamentarians of the ECOWAS parliament and of national parliaments for their oversight role of the security sector;
- Training of security sector actors on national democratic oversight mechanisms in their (transitional) countries;

Activities relating to Output 3.1:

- Promoting access to reliable information by strengthening support to media and CSOs and strengthening approaches to the media for preventing or addressing conflict in the context of elections;
- Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) trainings for electoral authorities
- Training and deployment of core election observation teams and WANEP election observers;
- Strengthening civil society organisations and media for countermeasures against hate messages, disinformation, fraud and violence around elections.
- Support ECONEC in the establishment of an Election Resource Data Base for ECOWAS Member States, post election follow up missions and other important areas of work in support of EMBs.
- Support ECOWARN capabilities to identify, map and act upon risks of election-related violence.
- Provide demands-based support to preventative diplomacy engagements, such as ECOWAS' Council of the Wise.

Activities relating to Output 3.2:

- Support ECOWAS initiatives towards the implementation of countries' democratic transition roadmaps;
- 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.
- Organisation of exchange and peer learning between the members of the ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commission (ECONEC) network, with a focus on countries in transition.

Activities relating to Output 4.1:

- Supporting a participatory process to develop a youth-for-peace agenda for youth and persons living with disabilities to strengthen democracy and inclusiveness.
- Supporting the implementation of measures defined in the youth-for-peace agenda.
- Provide training and other capacity development for (women) youth leaders.

Activities relating to Output 4.2:

- Finalization of the third generation Regional WPS Action Plan, implementation of selected measures, improving ECOWAS in inter-departmental steering and coordination on WPS agenda, on-the-job training of national WPS committees in the collection of data for the regional WPS report.
- Supporting activities of the EGDC including gender mainstreaming, research and data collection for evidence based policy making and programme development, advocacy and awareness to promote understanding and support for gender equality initiatives.
- Strengthening the capacities of related women's organisations such as the Female Mediator Network West

Africa (FemWise); Sensitise on the importance of FemWise mediators in mediation, prevention of electoral violence, election observer and fact-finding missions as well as prepare mission support for the deployment of FemWise mediators.

- Strengthening the role of FemWise in ECOWAS-led peace and security initiatives in line with global and continental requirements;
- Thematic capacity building of networks of women leaders, e. g. in DDR, SSR, in particular NOPSWECO and ROAJELF in coordination with the EGDC.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as no need for further assessment.

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no need for further assessment

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

Not only will women's groups be invited to contribute to the design of the system and to information collection, but gender (and age)-sensitive indicators will be included in the system set so as to document the specific risks women are exposed to. The ECOWAS Gender Directorate will also be continuously engaged to ensure that implementers monitor the risk for women and children that may arise from project activities on an ongoing basis.

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 the security forces, in the member states. Second, actual and potential risks of violence against civilians will be central to the design and selection of the indicators of ECOWAS's EW system, and support to mediation activities will help (peacefully) neutralise violent actors with a positive impact on the security and safety of citizens.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that This implies that that while working on disability-related issues is not a main objective in this action, the specific needs of persons with disabilities as rights-holder (including for access to the facilities supported by this project) will be duly assessed and addressed. The Action will ensure that rights of persons with disabilities will be respected, and will encourage partners and programme participants to take the initiatives to protect persons with disabilities and invite organisations representing people with disabilities

Reduction of inequalities

The action contributes to the reduction of inequalities by adopting a beneficiary approach through its engagement with the regional organisation and the introduction of specific objectives to engage with NSAs to achieve outputs and through its geographical scope addressing equally all member states in the region. The current 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

Democracy promotion is directly targeted by the Action and the participatory approach adopted in the implementation of activities under all outputs will contribute to enlarging decision-making practices based on wide-ranging consultative process with relevant stakeholders, including government and civil society.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Reducing the risks of conflict, mitigating their impact, and creating the security space for greater local population resilience is at the core of the Action. All activities undertaken under SO1 will contribute to this aim, as will a number of activities undertaken under SO2

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 prevent a number of man-made disasters, including the destruction of villages and large scale displacement repeatedly occurring across the region. In addition, both the Early

Warning system and better oversight of activities supported by the Action will contribute to preventing conflicts.

Other considerations if relevant

Emergency response is not directly targeted by the Action. However, it will be important to ensure that the security actors supported through this action preserve the space for principled humanitarian action in their law enforcement operations. This is critical to guarantee access for humanitarian actors to those in need in an already challenging context, where the needs for emergency assistance are by far exceeding the resources mobilised for this type of response.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium /Low)	Mitigating measures
Risk related to planning, processes and systems	Possibility of duplication with other initiatives supported by partners and EU MS active in this area	High	High	Broad consultations with EU Delegations, Member States and international community active in supporting ECOWAS in Peace and Security. Mapping of support provided by ECOWAS to be envisaged.
Risk related to people and the organisation	Complex implementation modalities and multiplicity of implementing agencies may complicate relationship between beneficiaries and implementing partners, leading to slow implementation and absorption rate	High	Medium	Formulation phase is to be used to anticipate these issues building on the recommendations of the EPSAO programme and ongoing discussions with the beneficiaries of the actions. Engagement with ECOWAS to ensure buying-in in regards of implementation modalities

Risk related to planning, processes and systems	The use of pillar-assessed organisations, particularly with the Team Europe Approach, may come with significant cost, possibly at the expense of the conduct of activities.	Medium	Medium	Negotiation with MS agencies during formulation phase.
Risk related to people and the organisation	The implementation of the programme is impaired by some shortfalls in ECOWAS' staff capacity	High	High	The programme will provide tailored technical assistance and capacity building to ECOWAS and considered the relevance and acceptance of deploying embedded expertise.
Risks related to the external environment	The acceptability of French and potentially other European implementing agencies may become problematic.	High	High	Important to foster open and constructive dialogue with beneficiaries to ensure the programme aligns with regional priorities and sensitivities.
Risks related to the external environment	Limited ability of the beneficiary to efficiently absorb support	High	High	Enhance and broaden engagement at ECOWAS Member States-level.

Lessons Learnt:

The EPSAO project, along with earlier peace and security initiatives, has achieved significant impacts, including:

Strengthened Early Warning System: The ECOWARN conflict early warning system has been reinforced through the establishment of 4 out of 5 ECOWAS NCCRM (Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Guinea, Togo, and The Gambia). The Action will further enhance the operation of these Centers for crisis prevention, in collaboration with civil society actors.

Institutional Strengthening of KAIPTC: The regional training center, KAIPTC, has been institutionally strengthened and has developed modern training courses. The Action will facilitate closer coordination with other TCEs through the ECOWAS Commission's efforts.

Dissemination of ECOWAS-SSRG Strategy: The ECOWAS-SSRG strategy has been disseminated in six member states, including Senegal, Niger, The Gambia, Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, and Liberia.

Enhanced Election Observation: The quality of ECOWAS election observation has been improved with the introduction of Core Team Expert Observers

Strengthened Regional Network of Electoral Commissions: The regional network of electoral commissions has been fortified through EPSAO, with plans to expand the initial cooperation successes in the follow-up phase.

Advancement of the WPS Agenda: A regional report on the implementation of the WPS agenda, aligned with the continental response framework, has been prepared. The FemWise West Africa network has been operationalised, furthering their potential for deployment in conflict mediation and election observations amongst other aspects.

While the EPSAO project has primarily focused on policy development and capacity strengthening, this Action will prioritize the implementation of these policies and the utilization of enhanced capacities at the level of Member States.

Based on past experiences, enhancing the quality of ECOWAS interventions is achievable through advisory support, training, and financial assistance. Additionally, direct support to actors within member countries is crucial as it promotes the integration of EPSA objectives at the national level. This entails ensuring proper conduct of elections,

effective conflict prevention and management initiatives and interventions, and increased civilian oversight of security forces in ECOWAS member states. Extending support to ECOWAS member states is essential for the effective implementation of regional initiatives, again emphasizing the significance of national-level approaches.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The intervention logic for this action is that:

The ECOWAS Treaty stating the vision of a shared future in an environment of peace, security and stability, regional cooperation and integration based on equity, mutual benefit and solidarity in the ECOWAS region and ECOWAS commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter, the Constitutive Act of the African Union, and the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the priority focus areas for ECOWAS in 2020 has been formulated in a new 30-year vision that lays the foundation and set a strategic direction for the region to implement its actions until 2050.

The proposed ECOWAS Vision 2050 is expected to be predicated upon the existing ECOWAS vision, which is that ‘of a common future in a regional community that will ensure economic well-being, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice, and peace and security for the people of West Africa. Peace and stability are key ingredients for the success of regional integration and sustainable development. As such, mechanisms for conflict prevention peacebuilding and peacekeeping are one of the focal areas of attention for ECOWAS. The effective implementation of ‘the APSA at regional level’ will ensure sustainable stability around the following thematic areas: early warning and response; preventive diplomacy; mediation; crisis management and peace support operations; post conflict reconstruction and development.

And:

The EU vision to fostering peace, regional stability, democratic governance, and accountability across the region to providing support in line with ECOWAS’s principles, namely sovereignty, equality, solidarity, peace, security, human rights, democracy, the rule of law, equity, balance, mutual benefit, and the peaceful settlement of disputes by strengthening resilience through better linking humanitarian assistance and development cooperation and further strengthen the operational links between the complementary approaches of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and conflict prevention, in full respect of humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law, the so-called triple nexus⁴, aiming to better articulate the humanitarian, development and

⁴ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/resilience-and-humanitarian-development-peace-nexus_en

peace interventions.

The reasoning behind this action's intervention strategy is that:

IF assistance is provided to enhance the capacity of ECOWAS's structures for mediation, conflict prevention and management, to drive the women and youth, peace and security agendas through strategic direction, coordination and monitoring and to enhance the capacity of accountability and governance oversight processes.

And

IF assistance is provided to strengthen collaboration with stakeholders of the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture (EPSA) to enhance conflict tracking and analysis, early response and action, to further the creation of a safe and secure environment, strengthen cooperation on the protocol on good governance with regard to electoral practice and democratic transitions, and advance the women and youth agendas.

Assuming that member states remain committed to the principle of regional integration as a means of generating economic growth, poverty reduction and peace & security,

THEN

The capability and effectiveness of ECOWAS to enable early response and action to strengthen ECOWAS's Peace and Security Architecture will be enhanced,

THUS

Leading to a reinforced ability and performance of ECOWAS to promote peace, security, stability and democracy as a foundation for regional integration.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	The implementation of the EPSA is strengthened at regional and national level, along the whole conflict cycle (conflict prevention, management, mediation and conflict resolution) and towards democracy and human security	<p>Evidence of successful application of ECOWAS frameworks and mechanisms/tools in national and/or trans-border conflicts in the ECOWAS region.</p> <p>Evidence of improvement of democratic processes and the accountability of national security actors</p>	<p>To be assessed during the inception phase of the programme</p> <p>To be assessed during the inception phase of the programme</p>	<p>To be assessed during the inception phase of the programme</p> <p>To be assessed during the inception phase of the programme</p>	<p>ECOWAS Member States data and reports on the application of ECOWAS Frameworks and tools in their respective countries</p> <p>Official Statements by Government officials in Member States</p> <p>NGO or Civil Society reports documenting conflict situations and the impact of ECOWAS engagement</p> <p>Reports from Human</p>	<i>Not applicable</i>

					<p>Rights Organisation assessing the conduct and accountability of National Security Actors in relation to Human Rights.</p> <p>News articles and reports from reputable media outlets covering political developments, elections and issues related to national security and accountability</p>	
Outcome 1	Based on ECOWAS' early warning and response mechanisms conflict prevention, crisis management and peace mediation in the ECOWAS region are strengthened	<p>The number of recipients (outside Early Warning Directorate) who use the ECOWAS Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN) Data/ Reports to design policies/ response measures by at least one practical example has increased by 15.</p> <p>The NCCRM's have implemented 24 gender-sensitive measures (of which at least 12 are gender-responsive) with the support of civil society actors and the media, based on regional and national early warning data.</p> <p>At least two trainings per year on peace mediation provided to ECOWAS mediation support entities</p>	<p>X recipients, number to be defined by survey (2024)</p> <p>0 gender-sensitive measures based on regional and national early warning data. (2023)</p> <p>to be defined at inception phase</p>	<p>X + 15 recipients (2027)</p> <p>24 gender-sensitive measures (12 of them gender-responsive based on regional and national early warning data (2027)</p> <p>to be defined at inception phase</p>	<p>Qualitative survey at the start and the end of the action period. The recipients in-reviewed include: The heads of ECOWAS directorates and units (PAPS ,HDSA) Vice-President Members of the Council of the Wise The Directors of NCCRM's Other selected stakeholders (e.g. WANEP, Parliament etc.)</p> <p>1.2.Reports of the NCCRM's and the other involved organisations</p>	<p>ECOWAS member states are willing to accept interventions by the ECOWAS Commission .</p> <p>NCCRM's participate in Country Resilience and Human Security Assessments (CRHSA) and use the results to plan response actions at</p>

					1.3 Training reports, baseline and endline surveys to recipients	the national level. EWD shares selected data with NCCRMs.
Outcome 2	ECOWAS' contribution to a secure, democratic, human rights and IHL based environment, with a focus on member states in a post-conflict or democratic transition has increased	<p>2.1 A revised Security Sector Reform and Governance Framework (SSRG), which takes into account the experience gained from the monitoring and democratic reorientation of security sector actors from member states, is ready for adoption by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government.</p> <p>2.2 5 new or revised trainings based on a capacity needs assessment (CNA) for the implementation of ECOWAS policy geared towards the creation of a democratic, human rights based and secure environment have been piloted.</p>	<p>2.1 1 outdated SSRG framework from 2016, 2 lessons learned reports available.(2024)</p> <p>2.2 0 trainings based on a CAN, 2023</p>	<p>2.1 1 revised SSRG framework with consideration of lessons learned from 6 member states (2027)</p> <p>2.2 5 trainings 2027</p>	<p>2.1 Comparative evaluation of the revised SSRG framework and the recommendations from Lessons Learnt reports on SSRG processes in ECOWAS processes</p> <p>2.2 Evaluation of the training curricula</p>	Security actors in ECOWAS member states (army, police, judiciary) respect democratic rules as defined by ECOWAS in the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.
Outcome 3	Electoral processes in ECOWAS MS are strengthened and violence linked to elections prevented.	<p>3.1. ECOWAS election reports from member states confirm an improvement in 2 of the 4 EPSAO- supported dimensions on average across countries compared to the last national elections in the respective member states.</p> <p>3.2. 15 capacity development measures for the ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions (ECONEC) and Electoral Management Bodies, FemWise ECOWAS Council of the Wise and ECOWARN on elections related topics (e.g. election observation, follow-up of recommendations, electoral violence prevention, dialogue, transparent communication etc.) have been implemented.</p>	<p>Election reports confirm improvement in less than 1 (estimated) dimension on average across the ECOWAS Member States evaluated compared to the last elections</p> <p>X Capacity development measures, value</p>	<p>Election reports confirm improvement in on average in 2 dimensions (2027)</p> <p>X + 15 Capacity</p>	<p>Analysis of ECOWAS election reports in relation to the 4 dimensions media, gender inclusivity, electoral organisation, conflict prevention and resolution; Baseline value estimated, must be confirmed by an analysis of former reports</p> <p>Reports on the CD measures</p>	The political parties in the member states abide by the democratic rules defined by ECOWAS.

		1.1.3 Number of women's rights organisations, peacebuilding organisations, feminist organisations, and women human rights defenders' organisations who participated in consultations around new policies and draft legislation with the regional, national and local government/state actors (EU GAP III)	to be defined (2024)	development measures (2027)		
Outcome 4	The Peace, and Security Agenda for women and the Youth are implemented more coherently at ECOWAS and national level.	<p>4.1 The sum of the change in the values of selected indicators (in the fields of action supported) of the Simplified African Union's Continental Results Framework (CRF) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) for West Africa 2026 compared to the CRF report 2023 is 2.</p> <p>4.2. A Youth for Peace Agenda - developed following a participatory approach - has been adopted by ECOWAS MS</p>	<p>4.1. Values of selected indicators in the CRF report for West Africa 2023.</p> <p>4.2 No Youth for Peace Agenda adopted (2023)</p>	<p>4.2. Sum of the change of the same indicators in the CRF report compared to the values of 2023 by 2 points (2027).</p> <p>4.2. Target value: 1 Youth for Peace Agenda adopted (2026)</p>	<p>Evaluation of the values of selected indicators (pillar 1, Ind.-4, pillar 2, Ind. 3, 7, 9, 10) of Regional CRF-report for 2023, evaluation of the same indicators in the CRF 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</p> <p>4.2. Text of the Youth for Peace Agenda and Protocol of Member States Approval</p>	Government members in ECOWAS member states are prepared to support the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 Cooperation amongst “National Centres for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanism” (NCCRMs) and with the Early Warning Department is enhanced	1.1.1 20 institutional development measures jointly identified in peer exchange between NCCRMs and EWD have been implemented.	1.1.1 10 measures for institutional development (mainly qualification measures). (2020-2023)	1.1.1 20 measures for institutional development (2027)	1.1.1 Minutes of meetings, reports on institutional development measures	The EWD is able to strengthen exchanges with the NCCRMs and co-ordinate their actions.
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2 ECOWARN reports/data have improved in terms of quality, user-friendliness and demand-orientation	1 Study has assessed the demands of existing and potential users of ECOWARN reports/data (concerning thematic areas of interest, quality requirements, user- friendliness) All published ECOWARN Reports are gender disaggregated and include visualisations	Baseline: no study Baseline: selected reports/ data = gender disaggregated and including visualisation	Target value: 1 study Target value: all reports gender-disaggregated and including visualisation	Study document 1.2.2 ECOWARN Publications	
Output 3 Relating to Outcome 1	1.3 ECOWAS’s capacities to conduct and support peace mediation and dialogue actions is enhanced	1.3.1 A training curricula developed to ECOWAS mediation support entities	1.3.1 No curricula	1.3.1 Target value: 1 curricula	1.3.1 Reports of workshops to develop training curricula	
Output 1 relating to Outcome 2	2.1 Reform initiatives by the Security Sector towards more human rights based, citizen- oriented and accountable services are strengthened	2.1.1 26 measures (10 gender responsive) providing capacity development on rights-based and inclusive Security Sector Reform Governance to state and non-state actors have been implemented with involvement of civil society and the media	2.1.1 13 measures (1 gender-responsive) supported under EPSAO I (2024)	2.1.1 : 26 measures (10 gender-responsive) (2027)	2.1.1 Reports of the implementing organisations on the measures (e.g. training)	Security forces accept communication with human rights and civil society organisations and vice versa.

Output 2 relating to Outcome 2	2.2 Parliamentary committees as well as civil society actors are strengthened in their democratic oversight role vis-à-vis the security sector in ECOWAS member states.	2.2.1 10 meetings to exchange on Security Sector Reform Governance (SSRG) at national or ECOWAS level between ‘parliamentary standing committees on security’ and security sector actors have taken place.	2.2.1. 0 meetings between parliamentary standing committees on security and security sector actors	2.2.1. 10 meetings between....	2.2.1 Agendas and reports on meetings between parliamentary committees on security and security sector actors on security sector reform governance SSRG).	MPs take their monitoring role seriously and do not neglect it for partisan reasons.
Output 1 relating to Outcome 3	3.1 Electoral institutions, processes and dialogues at regional and national levels are strengthened.	3.1.1 21 recommendations from ECOWAS Election Observation Mission reports or peer exchanges of electoral institutions were implemented in preparation for upcoming elections in member states. 3.1.2 25 Measures for democratic and peaceful elections aiming at high coverage are implemented by the electoral management bodies (EMBs), civil society actors, the media and actors such as FemWise, ECOWAS Council of the Wise and ECOWARN	3.1.1 X recommendations implemented (value estimated for 2024) 3.1.2 Baseline: 10 measures	3.1.1 21 recommendations implemented (/2027) 3.1.2 Target value: 25 measures (04/2027)	3.1.1 Reports of ECOWAS EOMs on the previous elections, reports of the mid-term evaluations and reports of the EOMs on the six to seven elections planned from 08/2024 to 06/2027 with regard to the implementation of the recommendation of previous election reports. 3.1.2 Reports on dialogue forums, as well as content broadcast on radio, social media or television. Measures:	
Output 2 Relating to Outcome 3	3.2 ECOWAS Commission supports countries affected by unconstitutional changes of governments’ in developing transition roadmaps.	3.2.1 2 transition roadmaps are developed	3.2.1. x transitions roadmaps developed	3.2.1. X + 2 transition roadmaps are developed	Text of the Roadmaps	

Output 1 relating to Outcome 4	4.1 The implementation of the WPS Agenda and ECOWAS' respective reporting is improved	4.1.1 National WPS Committees in coordination with the ECOWAS Gender and Development Centre have implemented X measures supporting the achievement of WPS indicators FemWise West Africa mediators were deployed in 15 ECOWAS peacebuilding initiatives. 8 ECOWAS Member States have annually provided ECOWAS with the required data for the regional report on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in accordance with the agreed AU-CRF deadlines and standards for monitoring the implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa.	X measures implemented FemWise Mediator deployed in 1 peacebuilding initiative 4.1.3. Baseline: 3 Member States	X + 8 measures implemented FemWise Mediators deployed in 15 peacebuilding initiatives 8 Member States	Measures to be defined together with ECOWAS and other implementing partners List of deployed mediators, Reports of FemWise mediators 4.1.3. data delivered for the CRF report	The Directorate of Social Affairs, Youth, Labour, Employment and Equality and the Gender Centre in Dakar have a harmonised approach, especially in relation to the CRF report.
Output 2 Relating to Outcome 4	4.2 The implementation of the Youth for Peace Agenda has started on Member State level.	4.2.2 3 measures of the Youth and Peace Agenda are implemented	4.2.1. 0 measures implemented	4.2.1. 3 measures implemented	Reports on the measures	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with ECOWAS.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contract and agreement.

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component [For Budget Support only]

NA

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.⁵

4.4.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with entrusted entity(ies), which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- (i) the entity(ies) are Member State agencies;
- (ii) they have the operational capacity to implement the action;
- (iii) they have physical presence in the beneficiary region;
- (iv) they have previous experience working with ECOWAS and/or its Members States in the field of peace, security and governance.

The implementation by this entity entails all four specific objectives.

4.4.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

Should implementation through indirect management with entrusted assessed entity(ies) not be possible due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, implementation through direct management (procurement) would be sought as an alternative.

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible

⁵ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution, in currency identified (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4		
Objective/Outputs 1 Strengthen ECOWAS's conflict prevention and early warning, crisis management and early response mechanisms.		
Indirect management with pillar assessed entity(ies) - cf. section 4.4.1	4 592 500	1 829 852
Objective/Outputs 2 Enhance ECOWAS and regional abilities to create a secure and safe post-conflict environment		
Indirect management with pillar assessed entity(ies) - cf. section 4.4.1	3 157 500	1 953 005
Objective/Outputs 3 Promote and strengthen electoral processes and democratic transitions and prevent electoral violence		
Indirect management with pillar assessed entity(ies) - cf. section 4.4.1	2 342 500	1 847 636
Objective/Outputs 4 Increase support to civil society and media for the promotion and protection of human rights and democratic accountability in ECOWAS Member States		
Indirect management with pillar assessed entity(ies) - cf. section 4.4.1	2 907 500	1 749 507
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	May be covered by another Decision	N.A.
Totals	13 000 000	7 380 000

4.7. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The entity(ies) implementing the Action will be responsible for the detailed budgeting, planning and implementation of the activities foreseen under various components of the action. They will be responsible for all tendering procedures and calls for grants necessary for the implementation of the outputs contributing to those components and the oversight of all implementing entities. They will be legally and financially accountable to the Union for the sound management of the resources entrusted to them.

The entity(ies) will work in close daily collaboration with ECOWAS staff and other stakeholders as required, for the implementation of activities. ECOWAS will be informed and consulted prior to the launch of activities foreseen in the work plan. The implementing entities will ensure the suitable involvement of youth, women, people with disability and other critical right-holders in the planning of activities. ECOWAS will contribute to the identification of the relevant stakeholders.

The implementing entities will be responsible for ensuring the coordination between the components of the Action, ensuring a regular flow of communication with EC in the region for the purpose of fostering synergies, and monitoring the quality and transparency of interaction between EC, the implementing agencies and ECOWAS.

A technical coordination committee (TCC) involving ECOWAS directors, the implementing agencies, the EC, and other stakeholders will be set up by the implementing agencies to follow up on project implementation. The TCC will meet on a 6-month basis. The implementing partners of other related peace and security Project/programmes will be invited to participate as observers in TCC meetings and will be able to offer suggestions.

A steering committee (SC) composed of the ECOWAS President/Vice, the EU Head of Delegation in Abuja, A representative from the EU MS implementing agencies, will be set up to review the Action and its impact on a six- monthly basis. The implementing agencies will provide secretariat function to the SC.

In order to ensure continued coherence of EU actions across the region, regular consultations with the EC in the 15 ECOWAS Member States as well as EU headquarters will be organised by implementing entities under the guidance of EC. Any other regional EU funded initiatives in the sector will be featured as well, if deemed necessary.

Should any EU Member State decide to undertake to support any of ECOWAS's programmes over the duration of the Action, appropriate consultative structures will be put in place to ensure the coherence of the European Union's approach. Consultations may take the form of a representative of the said Member State and/or its contractor(s) participating in the coordination and oversight structures described above.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the below governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The 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 agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

The Action shall ensure a systematic M&E system covering the action. The development of such an M&E system shall be done in close association between Commission. Yearly M&E sessions shall be set up at the level of the project, including the institutional beneficiaries' representatives, and regular M&E documentation shall be provided by the IP (bi-annually) to ensure a comprehensive follow-up and assessment.

Monitoring and evaluation will assess gender equality results, an impact on rights of groups living in the most vulnerable situations and the implementation of the rights based approach working principles and leave no one behind (applying all human rights for all; meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; non-discrimination and equality; accountability and rule of law for all; and transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data). Monitoring and evaluation will be based on indicators that are disaggregated by sex, age, disability when applicable

Each implementing entity(ies) will have specific responsibilities for monitoring and reporting under this action. Common indicators will as much as possible be used in order to allow Action Document wide reporting. Indicator values will be measured at regional basis depending on the nature of the activities.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term and final evaluation(s) will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the 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).

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.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSY#):
Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Contribution agreement (EUR 13 000 000)