



## **Concept Note**

### **AMHEWAS Co-production and Coordination Meeting**

**Nairobi, Kenya**

**12-14 March 2024**

## 1.0 Introduction

The African continent is threatened by extreme disaster events as witnessed by the recent emergencies in Morocco, Libya, Madagascar, Mozambique and Malawi that claimed more than 10,000 lives collectively.<sup>1</sup> Continued global and regional geopolitical dynamics, compounded by climate change impacts have increased Africa's vulnerability to disaster risks resulting in high disaster losses. Between 1970 and 2019, the continent recorded more than 1,000 disaster and lost US\$ 35.3 billion in economic losses as of 2019<sup>2</sup>. Africa's population is projected to quadruple by 2100, extreme disaster events are expected to affect the continent's development trajectory. Disasters have become more complex and systemic affecting people's livelihoods. In response to daunting extreme events, the African Union Commission (AUC) through the Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy is implementing various programmes and initiatives aimed at building resilience, enhancing risk governance and reducing disaster losses anchored on Agenda 63, the Africa We Want and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

In 2022, the AUC launched the Africa Institutional and Operational Framework for Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action and its delivery Programme, the Africa Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS). The implementation of the AMHEWAS Programme has since gained momentum with the establishment of four state of the art situation rooms across the continent. The establishment of the AMHEWAS Programme is to ensure availability and access to multi-hazard early warning and disaster risk information to the regions and member states, and enhance coordination of transboundary disaster risk management. Since its operationalization in early 2022, the AMHEWAS Programme has recorded significant progress. The AMHEWAS Situation Room in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with the support of regional Situation Rooms has been at the frontier of monitoring and tracking high impact extreme events such as tropical cyclones, floods, landslides and heavy rainfall, bolstering anticipatory action through the provision of early warning continental advisory bulletins for riverine floods, heavy rainfall and strong winds. The AMHEWAS Programme is also in the process to operationalize production and distribution of continental drought watch and food security bulletins to further bolster anticipatory action.

To mitigate the impacts of extreme events, the AMHEWAS Situation Room has issued more than 400 advisories to member states in alert level 4 warning to strengthen anticipatory action. To build the capacity of Member States to implement the AMHEWAS Programme, more than 40 member states were trained in early warning systems, myDewetra platform and impact-based warning from the SADC, IGAD, ECOWAS and ECCAS regions. This has stimulated a lot of enthusiasm and demand for AMHEWAS products and support to establish situation rooms in AU Member States like Angola, Eswatini and Namibia. Countries like Ethiopia and Namibia are proactively engaged to establish Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action Situation Rooms. During the next phase, the AMHEWAS has prioritized the operationalization of AMHEWAS to ECCAS, ECOWAS, EAC and SADC.

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<sup>1</sup> AMHEWAS Situation Room

<sup>2</sup> AU (2019). Africa Biennial Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2018. This Report is available at <https://au.int/en/documents/20200805/first-africa-biennial-report-disaster-risk-reduction-synopsis-report>

Progress notwithstanding, there are still serious gaps in the implementation of the AMHEWAS Programme which include weak coordination and fragmentation of Early warning initiatives on the continent, and unpredictable financing to operationalise the AMHEWAS Programme. To accelerate implementation of the AMHEWAS Programme, the AUC with the support of UNDRR and CIMA Research Foundation, will convene a partners meeting to enhance AMHEWAS co-production and strengthened coordination from 12-14 March in Nairobi, Kenya.

The implementation of AMHEWAS Programme requires the involvement of all the RECs to enhance coordination and co-production of AMHEWAS products in order to avoid duplication of efforts and resources. To ensure a coordinated approach and address fragmentation of early warning initiatives, at the design stage and during previous engagements with Member States and RECs held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia July, 2022 the parties to the Programme agreed to promote co-production of AMHEWAS products. The Addis Ababa meeting with representatives from ICPAC, ACMAD, SADC and Mozambique among others also agreed to have quarterly meetings to strengthen coordination of implementation of AMHEWAS Programme. The AMHEWAS Steering Committee and Technical Working Group meetings in Windhoek Namibia in July/ August with representatives from RECs, Member States, development partners, academia, media and Permanent Representative Committee reiterated the call for co-production, complementarity and strengthened coordination to avoid duplication of efforts. It is in light of the above, that the AUC with the substantive and financial support of UNDRR and technical guidance of the CIMA Research Foundation is convening the second coordination and co-production meeting to discuss the challenges and opportunities in enhancing AMHEWAS Programme.

## **2. Objective**

The purpose of the meeting between RECs, AUC and implementing partners is to strengthen coordination of AMHEWAS programme and co-production of AMHEWAS products to ensure complementarity and synergies, including finalisation of the development of the AMHEWAS Resource Mobilisation Strategy.

### **2.1 Specific Objectives**

Arising from the above objective, the specific objectives of the two meetings are to:

- i. Discuss the implementation and coordination mechanisms of AMHEWAS Programme on the continent.
- ii. Discuss and articulate co-production of AMHEWAS products including for transboundary disaster risk management between the RECs and AUC, and products on early and anticipatory action, to ensure coordinated approach and promote knowledge exchange.
- iii. Deliberate on the challenges and opportunities for co-production of AMHEWAS products and best practices to enhance co-production and value addition to AMHEWAS products.

### 3. Outcomes

- i. AMHEWAS Programme implementation and coordination mechanisms reviewed and updated to guide the operationalisation of the Programme on the continent.
- ii. Agreement on the new products and services for impact-based early warning and early and anticipatory action that AMHEWAS can develop to support the RECs and member states.
- iii. Opportunities and challenges affecting co-production of AMHEWAS products to enhance coordination identified, and value addition of AMHEWAS products strengthened.
- iv. Shared understanding on the way forward to accelerate the establishment of national situation rooms that are connected to the regional and AMHEWAS situation rooms.

### 4. Date and Venue

The coordination and co-production meeting will be held in a physical format from 12 to 14 March, 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya on the United Nations Compound.

### 5. Participants

The participants to the meeting will include representatives of ACMAD, CIMA Research Foundation, RECs (SADC, ECOWAS, ECCAS, ICPAC and EAC, UNDRR and AUC.

### 6. Programme

The meeting will cover a range of issues relating to the implementation of the AMHEWAS Programme in general as well as other auxiliary activities as outlined below:

#### Tentative Programme

Time	Agenda	Responsibility
<b>Day 1: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>		
<b>08:30</b>	Arrival and registration of participants	UNDRR
<b>09:00-09:25</b>	Opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CIMA</li><li>• UNDRR</li><li>• AUC</li></ul>
<b>09:25-09:35</b>	Introductions	All
<b>09:35-10:35</b>	Update on the AMHEWAS Report and implementation of the Programme by AUC <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Interventions from partners</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AUC</li><li>• UNDRR</li><li>• UNDP</li><li>• CIMA</li></ul>
<b>10:35-11:05</b>	<b>Group photo/ Health Break</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>11:05-13:00</b>	Regional updates on the implementation of AMHEWAS Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ICPAC</li><li>• ECOWAS</li><li>• ECCAS</li><li>• EAC</li><li>• SHOC</li></ul>
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>	<b>All</b>

Time	Agenda	Responsibility
14:00-16:00	Country updates on the implementation of AMHEWAS Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tanzania</li> <li>• Namibia</li> <li>• Ethiopia</li> <li>• Mozambique</li> </ul>
16:00-16:20	<b>Health Break</b>	<b>All</b>
16:20-17:20	Discussion on mechanisms for information/data sharing and communication across all levels	UNDRR
17:20	End of day 1	
<b>Day 2: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>		
09:00-09:15	Recap of Day 1	ECCAS
09:15-10:30	Presentation of the AMHEWAS products and discussions on gaps and opportunities for RECs and MSs and engagements on co-production: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continental Watch Bulletin</li> <li>• Disaster Situation Reports</li> </ul>	CIMA/ AUC
10:30-11:00	<b>Health Break</b>	<b>All</b>
11:00-11:45	Discussion on future products and engagements for co-production at continental level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continental future products</li> <li>• AMHEWAS Products Validation, Feedback and Quality Assurance</li> </ul>	AUC/ CIMA
11:45-12:15	Discussion on Regional future products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACMAD</li> <li>• ICPAC</li> <li>• ECCAS</li> <li>• SADC</li> <li>• EAC</li> </ul>
12:15-13:00	Discussion on enhancing Anticipatory Action dialogue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Standard Operating Procedures</li> </ul>	AUC/ UNDRR
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>	<b>All</b>
14:00-17:00	Site Visit to ICPAC Situation Room	ICPAC
17:00	End of day 2	
<b>Day 3: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>		
09:00-09:30	Recap of day 2	ECOWAS
09:30-09:50	Update and discussion on the AMHEWAS Standard Operating Procedures	AUC
09:50-10:30	Break up session on AMHEWAS Standard Operating Procedures	

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<b>Health Break</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>11:00-11:45</b>	Plenary session on AMHEWAS Standard Operating Procedures	
<b>11:45-12:05</b>	Presentation of the AMHEWAS Training manual for secondment of AU Member States to the AMHEWAS Situation Room	AUC
<b>12:05-13:00</b>	Break up session on AMHEWAS Secondment Training Manual	AUC
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>14:00-15:00</b>	Plenary session on the AMHEWAS Secondment Training Manual	AUC
<b>15:00-15:30</b>	Presentations and discussion of 2024 and 2025 AMHEWAS Programme Work Plans:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AUC</li> <li>• UNDRR</li> <li>• UNDP</li> <li>• CIMA</li> </ul>
<b>15:30-16:00</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>16:00-17:00</b>	Presentations and discussion of 2024 and 2025 AMHEWAS Programme Work Plans:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDRR</li> <li>• UNDP</li> <li>• AUC</li> <li>• CIMA</li> </ul>
<b>17:00-17:30</b>	Closing remarks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIMA</li> <li>• UNDRR</li> <li>• AUC</li> </ul>