



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO

Concept Note

Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) training course for ECOWAS Member States

Location: Abuja, Nigeria

14 November – 16 November 2023

Background

The African continent is one of the most vulnerable to natural hazards, climate and socio-economic changes. In addition to other measures, establishment of multi-hazard early warning systems at all levels in the continent is therefore essential and urgent.

One of the seven core global targets of the Sendai Framework for Action is to “increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030” (Target G). Since the launch of the Sendai Framework in 2015, major progress has been taken to advance and achieve this goal.

In June 2023, ECOWAS inaugurated the regional situation room which connects with the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS)). The network was initiated in 2019 by the African Union Commission, IGAD-ICPAC, ACMAD and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and in collaboration with the technical support from the CIMA Research Foundation.

The partners led the development of an institutional framework which strengthens the capacity across national, regional, and continental levels to collect, exchange and analyse data to inform multi-hazard and impact-based early warning systems.

A network of early warning situation rooms has been established connecting those at the continental level (AUC in Addis Ababa, ACMAD in Niamey), at Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS in Abuja and Niamey, IGAD-ICPAC in Nairobi, ECCAS and SADC in development) and gradually in Member States (Tanzania, Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique). The situation rooms and centers have been inaugurated and rendered operational as follows:

- AMHEWAS Continental Situation Room at AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, inaugurated in February 2022
- IGAD Disaster Operation Centre Situation Room, inaugurated in October 2021
- ACMAD Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory Centre inaugurated in November 2022
- ECOWAS Situation room, inaugurated in June 2023

The situation rooms are envisioned to offer multiple information products which are designed specifically for AUC organs, RECs and Member States; the most prominent products from the situation room to be availed on a regular basis are the Continental Watch and Disaster Situation Reports. The Continental Watch serves to monitor hazards over the continent by issuing continental watch (twice a week); the continental Disaster Situation Reports provide updates on current disasters and their related impacts through Event Situation reports.

The initiative promotes the use of a harmonized methodology and tools for data exchange and analysis in support of EW/EA. It spans across institutions whose mandates are at different scales, enhances existing technical capacity and coordination functions for EW/EA and for transboundary risk management, hence contributing to regional processes, coordination, integration and cohesion.

The situation rooms connect decision-making bodies with the respective climate/weather service centres. Furthermore, connections between the situation rooms make it possible for the members to provide technical-scientific functions based on their respective comparative advantage yet ensuring that each organization has a defined role in the continental system.

The current network has been inspired by exchanges with Italian Civil Protection and the European Union Emergency Response and Coordination Centre.

In 2022, UNDRR, AUC, ACMAD, IGAD and the CIMA Research Foundation organized a number of training sessions to promote the network and enhance understanding of its added value. These included a Training of Trainers (ToT) and two regional introduction training session for SADC and ECOWAS Member States (held respectively on 12-16 October for SADC and 17-21 October for ECOWAS). On 1-3 August 2023 an online training has been held for ECOWAS MS on AMHEWAS and the main products used.

Training Goal and Objectives

The aim of the training is to provide:

- In-depth understanding of the role and operations of the AMHEWAS network
- an enhanced capacity for early warning and disaster risk management through the AMHEWAS multi-hazard early warning framework, to reduce disaster losses and mortalities in RECs and Member States.

At the end of the training the participants should have the necessary knowledge and skills to produce and apply multi-hazard early warning information among Member States, hydro-meteorological agencies and humanitarian organizations for effective preparedness and early action. In particular, the participants will be able to:

- understand how to use the early warning tools developed in the framework of AMHEWAS for early warning and early action at the national/regional scale
- use the global data available on myDewetra and interpret them into information useful for DRR
- input on the production of the continental watch production as well as the situation report
- integrate local early warning bulletin and report with information provided by AMHEWAS
- promote collaboration and knowledge exchange

Methodology

The training consists of both **theoretical** and **practical** sessions, conducted by CIMA and AMHEWAS trainers, that have already been formed during the Training of Trainers.

The theoretical sessions are focused on providing introductory knowledge on the Situation Room operations to the trainees. These sessions cover:

- EWS basis and requirements
- Theoretical and procedural topics
- Technical tools and products

This will be interspersed by short hands-on exercises and short sessions conducted by the current Situation Room Officers.

Practical sessions will be carried out on the key AMHEWAS tools and products divided into 4-5 working groups:

- myDewetra and hazard assessment
- Continental Watch and impact-based forecast
- Situation Report

The trainees during the practical sessions will have the chance to concretely try the operations of the Situation Room.

Participants and selection

The training envisages the participation of **two participants per Member State**. The participants should be representatives from two organisations from the institutions listed below:

- DRR unit (EWS team if existing)
- EWS institution (if separate)
- hydrometeorological service
- climate change (analysis and operational rather than policy)
- any other entity working on domains of multi-hazard early warning and operationally working in hydrological service/meteorological service/civil protection

Participants should satisfy the following criteria:

- Being involved in EWS projects and activities at the national/regional/continental level
- Being proficient in English or French language
- Not having participated in previous AMHEWAS courses

The Training is an event co-organized by ECOWAS, the African Union Commission, UNDRR and the CIMA Research Foundation.

Logistic, duration and language

The training is planned to be residential for all participants, with a duration of 3 days, excluding travel days. UNDRR will cover the costs of travel and DSA:

- Participants will receive Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA) in line with UN regulations for participants (days of training plus one).

- Catering for morning and afternoon coffee breaks and lunch for all workshop days and for all participants
- Reimbursement of expenses for Covid Test and VISA if requested, and upon presentation of the receipts of the incurred expenses.
- Travel and transportation expenses to reach the destination (local transport is not reimbursed as it is understood to be covered by the daily DSA).

COVID measures: UN a rules and regulations apply to the organization as well as specific regulation of the country where the training is organized.

A visit to the ECOWAS Situation Room has been scheduled for the Day 1 of the training. Participants will meet at the workshop venue “Chlesea Hotel”, Abuja, for departure to the ECOWAS Disaster Operation Center where the Italian Ambassador in Nigeria, and H.M Commissioner of ECOWAS will officially open the training.

The training will be conducted in **English** and **French**.

Agenda			
	D1	D2	D3
8:00 8:30	Participants meet at Chelsea Hotel for registration and departure to ECOWAS Disaster Operation Center	Group work on MyDewetra (TTX)	Continental Watch and Impact Based Forecast
9:30 10:30	Institutional greetings and welcome		
10:30 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 12:30	Visit to the ECOWAS Disaster Operation Center	Conclusion on TTX Situation Report	Group work on CW (production)
12:30 13:30	<i>Return at Chelsea Hotel and Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 15:00	MyDewetra introduction and recap of the exercises	Group work on SitRep (production and peer to peer evaluation)	Feedback on the products of AMHEWAS
15:00 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 17:00	Country sharing from REC	Country sharing from REC	Final discussion and remarks Certificates delivery