

11th Annual Consultation of the Regional Committee on Disaster Management in West Africa

SUMMARY REPORT



5 - 7 July 2017

MONROVIA, LIBERIA

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1. Introduction

The 11th annual consultation of the Regional Committee on Disaster Management in West Africa (GECEAO) took place on 5-7 July 2017 in Monrovia, Liberia. Since 2007 the consultation has served as an influential forum for engaging actors that are involved in preparedness and disaster management in the region. The consultation includes disaster managers from ECOWAS countries, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, UN agencies, International Organisations, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and technical experts. From these diverse organizations, 62 participants were brought together this year.

The event is supported each year by ECOWAS, OCHA, IFRC, and was generously sponsored in 2017 by the World Bank, and IOM. As this year's hosts, the Liberian National Disaster Management Agency facilitated key logistical operations and ensured a warm welcome for all participants.

In the opening ceremony on 5 July 2017 the esteemed speakers highlighted the importance and relevance of the consultation, and within the context of Liberia, described Ebola as an opportunity to learn. A strong message was stressed to the group: that preparation and prevention are critically important.

Key themes from the consultation:

1. Reflection on the ECOWAS 2012-2017 Plan of Action and preparation for the 2018-2022 Plan;
2. Strengthening private sector partnership;
3. Learning about the potential of cash-based programming;
4. Shifting GECEAO support from being prescriptive to serving as guidance;
5. Regional climate outlook overview and humanitarian partner's perspectives (PRESASS feedback);
6. ECOWAS' Disaster Management Agency Model;
7. Emergency response and preparedness initiatives;
8. Post World Humanitarian Summit and private sector initiatives in the region;
9. Medical Emergency Teams and Epidemic Preparedness update;
10. Civil-military Cooperation in disaster response.

2. GECEAO progress since the 2016 annual consultation

This brief session provided a review of recommendations that came from the previous year's GECEAO in 2016. The presenters updated participants on the progress that has been made so far (the specifics can be referenced in document that was included in the presentation)

In discussion, group members noted that emphasis was largely placed on *response* rather than *prevention*. It was recommended that the group endeavor to re-focus this in efforts going forward. Additionally, participants voiced the need to re-direct the support that ECOWAS provides to members – from a prescriptive style to an approach that is more formatted to guidelines and frameworks.



Some of the updates mentioned include:

Strengthen link between ACMAD, Agrhymet, ECOWAS for distribution of bulletins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRESASS workshop took place in Ghana in May 2017 • Global Meteorological Organization (OMM) Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) is working to strengthen climate services in the region through a support project in Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Mali and Senegal.
Strengthen risk mapping initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • InfoRM 2017 tool is now up to date and available online • InfoRM Niger (subregion level - admin 2) is in production and will be finalized in November 2017 • Priority risk identification was carried out during joint emergency preparedness workshops involving disaster management agencies
Strengthen ECOWAS follow-up on the One Model Agency process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberia and Togo: Decree establishing the Management Agency signed in 2016 and 2017 respectively (Benin in 2013) • One model Agency under discussion at Presidency level in Guinea • Burkina Faso, Mali: Discussions initiated at civil protection level during workshops on disaster management (under the lead of OCHA) and / or bilateral meetings
Establish ECOWAS Civ-Mil Coordination Working Group for Humanitarian and Disaster Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation of terms of reference of the ECOWAS working group on civil-military cooperation in emergency response • Training of 40 experts in civilian-military humanitarian coordination in the WCA region (UN-CMCoord) • Work on two products of the ECOWAS working group on civil-military cooperation: 1) Development of standards and guidelines for the use of ECOWAS military assets in disaster response, 2) Development of a standard ECOWAS platform model for civil-military coordination of humanitarian action and disaster response
Define a GECEAO operational plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ECOWAS Humanitarian Plan 2012 - 2017 is being reviewed (both during and after the consultation) as well as priority actions for the region's next plan (2018 - 2022)
Assess disaster management laws in ECOWAS countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gambia: GRCS trained and sensitized 25 law makers on IDRL, as well as senior government officials and heads of security forces. • Burkina Faso: Waiting for implementing decrees concerning the law on prevention and management of disasters which was adopted in April 2014. • Senegal: The Senegalese Red Cross set up a multi-ministerial group to reflect on a harmonized law on disaster risk management.

3. Regional climate outlook

The African Center of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) presented on regional hazards and their potential impact. This included a review of the Outlook Update for June 2017, which reported heavy rainfalls for September that bring both infrastructure and health risks. Participants were informed of the Regional Climate Centres (RCC), which are World

Meteorological Organization (WMO) Centres of Excellence intended to perform regional-scale climate functions.

ACMAD called for the integration of practical solutions for managing the discrepancy in rainfall distribution, and also improvement in data and information for DRM. The need for a regional joint plan framework was also raised, with the importance of countries sharing risk information with each other.

Recommended actions:

- Set a meeting to work on the heads of meteorological agencies together for a meeting later this year to prepare a regional early warning plan.
- Better dissemination of the bulletin within all GECEAO members
- Recommended to incorporate ACMAD's efforts into the Early Warning System, with a training component to help operationalize centers.
- Request translation of presented ACMAD documents into French.

4. Post World Humanitarian Summit agenda

OCHA informed participants of the major outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and shared key updates on its implementation. WHS was discussed as an important initiative within the context of decreasing funding and increased humanitarian needs. The international community recognized a need to work differently and change how assistance is delivered, which led to the manifestation of the large event in Istanbul in May 2016, where 3,500 commitments were made by governments and actors contributing to humanitarian assistance. It was noted that all commitments are aligned with the five pillars of the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity, and were accompanied by the establishment of the Grand Bargain and the New Way of Working (NWOW) initiative.

This year, extra emphasis was placed on defining the NWOW; and a call made for concerted efforts in reducing need and addressing vulnerabilities. The NWOW involves bringing together the humanitarian and development spheres, from the very beginning of a crisis to work towards achieving collective outcomes, over multi-year timeframes, and based on comparative advantages. For this to occur, we need to ensure predictable and joint situation analysis; better joined-up planning and programming, empowered leadership and strengthened coordination; and financial modalities that can support collective outcomes.

In conclusion, OCHA stressed that there is very low level of reporting from African countries on implementation of WHS commitments, and that they can still register for reporting.

Recommended actions:

- Member states encouraged to register and report on implementation of WHS commitments through the Platform for Action (PACT) www.agendaforhumanity.org



- OCHA was requested to further disseminate and sensitize relevant actors on the results of the WHS in the region.

5. Cash-based response overview and training

This session provided participants with a comprehensive introduction to cash-based response initiatives by including both an overview and training. The Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) explained their role, notably in research, capacity building and technical aspects. CaLP demonstrated the meaning of cash transfer programming through group activities that discussed opportunities and advantages. The activities also allowed an opportunity for CaLP to address common misconceptions about cash transfer program methods and impact. The importance of moving towards the “cash first” approach was stressed to participants.

A case study was presented on the implementation of cash based programming in Liberia during the Ebola crisis, where it was observed that it motivated people to work rather than creating dependency. Finally, a preparedness presentation highlighted key actions in supporting cash, such as establishing cash working groups, and integrating cash minimum preparedness actions and 3W into contingency plans.

Recommended actions:

- Ensure civil protection in involvement of existing cash working groups - appointment of a national focal point and development of a 3W on who does what in cash (national and international).
- Where feasible, cash should be considered first as a modality of response to all emergencies but ensuring context analysis.

6. Private sector initiatives

Representatives from OCHA, the Confédération Générale des Entreprises de Côte d'Ivoire, and telecom company MTN shared their experience and recommendations for private sector involvement in humanitarian action. A key message delivered was that the private sector is interested in being involved, but humanitarian actors need to reach out and engage them, and furthermore, they must establish those relationships prior to the onset of crisis. Côte d'Ivoire was used as a case study for implementation of the Connecting Business initiative (CBI). MTN recalled their participation in the Ebola response, which demonstrated the capacity of telecom companies to contribute more than cash, and in fact extend to providing materials and information management services.

Recommended actions:

- Ensure the private sector is reflected as a priority area in the ECOWAS Humanitarian Plan 2018-2022 and is integrated in its activities, where relevant
- Organize dedicated private sector meetings in-country with disaster managers



- Ensure advocacy for the establishment of the humanitarian – private sector platforms in the region based on the Connecting Business initiative (ex. CDI).
- Recommended to establish private sector relationships as part of preparedness, prior to crisis.
- Encouraged to consider private sector support that extends beyond financial donations, as in the case of MTN contributions in the Ebola response.

7. Evaluation of the Plan of Action of the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy

This year's consultation dedicated time to the important discussion of the ECOWAS Plan of Action; reflecting on lessons learned from the 2012-2017 Plan and setting a vision for the upcoming 2018-2022 Plan. In this session, ECOWAS reviewed the strategic objectives and activities of the 2012-2017 Plan and presented results of the Plan of Action questionnaire, which had results from nine of 16 countries. In small-group discussion, participants reviewed the current relevance of the 2012-2017 Plan's strategic objectives, and also the priority areas for the 2018-2022 Plan. Overall, the objectives were viewed as relevant but requiring more enhancement. Some priority areas noted were legal frameworks, early warning and response systems, and staff training and capacity building.

Recommended actions:

- Plan revision based on recommendations from member states, draft proposal circulated by mid-August.
- Action plan to be presented at the ECOWAS/IASC meeting to be held in September 2017.
- The 2018-2022 ECOWAS Plan of Action to provide a Framework to guide member states on emergency preparedness and response.
- ECOWAS to incorporate inputs from group discussions into the final report (which covered priority areas for 2018-2022 and evaluation of strategic objectives.)
- Participants are encouraged to submit questionnaires on the evaluation of the 2012-2017 Plan of Action by next week.
- Recommended to share the plan online to give an opportunity for feedback and broader ownership of the document by mid-August.
- Member states to adapt broad indicators to fit their own national context.
- Member states to take part of the shared responsibility for monitoring of implementation of the Plan of Action.
- In advance of the GECEAO meeting have an annual report on performance indicators of Plan of Action.

8. Emergency Response Preparedness: joint IASC and Government approaches

In this session OCHA provided an overview of Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) roll-out in West Africa, including an outline of ERP strategy development and displaying the geographic

regions that have benefited from or requested the service. This was complimented by a presentation on implementation in Burkina Faso by the National Council of Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation, where an ERP was facilitated in September 2016. Although funding was cited as a challenge, overall signs of improvement have been observed since the ERP. In terms of reviewing plan implementation, OCHA clarified they are done by request.

Lastly, the NGO Search for Common Ground (SFCG) informed participants of their approach to early warning and rapid response, which comes from a perspective of conflict transformation. SFCG presented their projects in Nigeria and Guinea, where SFCG focuses on preventing election and community violence. The organization is looking to expand both their role and partnerships in humanitarian response, and potentially extend this to natural hazards.

Recommended actions:

- Reinforce the link between different initiatives related to preparation (WADPI, KAIPCT, EPR, SFCG)
- OCHA to finalize and share a preparedness guide for governments
- OCHA to share a detailed guidance ERP document
- OCHA to support ERP training at national level when requested
- Make an inventory of the ECOWAS Early Warning Centers – including roles, responsibilities and links to initiatives at national and local level.

9. Medical emergency teams and epidemic preparedness

In this session, the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) presented on the ECOWAS Regional Rapid Response Team (ERRRT). The aim of ERRRT is to be the key regional integration and solidarity mechanism for tackling epidemics and health emergencies. It takes a One Health Approach and engages in capacity building activities such as developing training curricula. ERRRT has a list of countries where capacity building training is planned for 2017, and WAHO explained that some were delayed due to translation requirements for the adopted model. In discussion with participants, it was clarified that health sector actors should take the lead in response to disasters that are primarily health issues, but in other cases NDMA or civil protection should lead.

Recommended actions:

- Clarify agreements being negotiated with airlines and member states to ensure mobility during emergencies.
- Reinforce coordination between expert rosters in ECOWAS: EERT, UNDAC, and ECOWAS Expert Database for health (ERRRT) – ensure that UNDAC rosters at ERRRT complement the EERT roster.

10. Implementing the One Disaster Management Agency Model

A panel of representatives from Guinea, Liberia, and Togo described the path within their respective countries towards a unique disaster management agency. Several experiences were shared on advocacy and the gradual progress that took place at legislative and presidential levels,

which in the case of Liberia allowed them to learn about their own ability to engage influential lawmakers.

In discussion, there was a clear voice that states have transcended the prescriptive model of ECOWAS *informing* how to design and establish an agency, and it was emphasized that the path to a unique NDMA varies by country context. In the way forward, participants were posed the following question to consider: what can we do today to ensure that these autonomous agencies become a reality in these countries?

Recommended action:

- Identify countries that can support other countries in putting an agency in place (ex. Nigeria with Gambia).
- ECOWAS should ensure high-level advocacy for putting agencies in place, and ensure advocacy missions (ex. Liberia 2017).

11. New and upcoming preparedness tools and trainings

This session included presentations on two preparedness initiatives: 1) the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Induction Course (UNDAC), and 2) the West Africa Disaster Preparedness Initiative (WADPI). For UNDAC, OCHA shared details of an upcoming francophone UNDAC training session in Dakar, Senegal on 22 October – 3 November, and reviewed general UNDAC program details and methodology.

The WADPI presentation described the organization's role as a platform for regional engagement for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and the "all hazards approach" in which it operates. Notably, WADPI has established a talent pool of over 1,400 experts across ECOWAS countries using an all African train-the-trainer approach. The organization also conducted civil military plans in 11 countries. WADPI Phase Two will be challenged by funding uncertainty as only one additional year is guaranteed. It was stressed that further advocacy is required to continue this valuable initiative.

12. Improving civil-military coordination in disaster response

ECOWAS in collaboration with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is developing the ECOWAS Perspective in Civil Military Coordination and to give strength to this development, a Working Group on Civil Military Coordination in Humanitarian Action in West Africa is set up.

During the consultation ECOWAS informed participant on the specific objectives of this working groups:



- To develop standards and guidelines for the use of military and security assets in emergencies in line with the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy Plan of Action's strategic objective 1.
- To advance regional civil-military coordination and collaboration agenda in the ECOWAS region during humanitarian emergencies.
- To assist ECOWAS Member States to ensure enhanced civil-military cooperation in responding to disasters and humanitarian emergencies based on international best practices in line with the existing standards and guidelines

Recommended action:

- Plan a meeting on civil-military coordination to work on the two first deliverables (1. development of standards and guidelines on the use of ECOWAS military and security assets, 2. Development of ECOWAS standard civil-military coordination platform.)

13. Evolution of Disaster Management in Liberia

This session briefed participants on the transition from the Liberian National Disaster Relief Commission to the recently legislated National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). It was reported that with the establishment of the NDMA there is improved capacity; there are plans, policies; and a commitment from the government to allocate budget.

NDMA highlighted various achievements realized so far are:

- More than 500,000 people have received relief assistance
- Over 63 Liberians trained in 2015 in Disaster Management in Accra, Ghana
- 450 disaster management practitioners trained through a replication of the course in Liberia
- Reactivated all County Disaster Management Committees, with clear roles & responsibilities
- 30 acres of land was donated by the President of Liberia to NDMA for headquarters construction.

14. Building Liberia's capability in Climate Monitoring

The Assistant Director of Meteorological Agency shared with participants an example of the Early Warning System used in climate monitoring. In his opening remarks, he noted that Early Warning System (EWS) is a set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning of possible extreme events that can cause disasters that threaten people's lives. The purpose of this information is to enable at-risk individuals, communities and organizations to prepare and act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm, loss or risk.

For EWS to be effective, it requires strong technical foundations and also knowledge of relevant factors of the communities they serve, such as existing capacities. Public awareness and education are critical and require the involvement of all sectors.

Throughout Liberia, 11 weather stations have been established to monitor and provide daily weather forecasts. This generates live weather updates and maps of hourly, daily and monthly forecasts that are publicly available. The websites for each station is listed below:

City	Online Weather Center	City	Online Weather Center
Monrovia	http://bit.ly/Monrovia_Weather	Gbarnga	http://bit.ly/Gbarnga_Weather
Kakata	http://bit.ly/Kakata_Weather	Voinjama	http://bit.ly/Voinjama_Weather
RIA	http://bit.ly/Harbel_Weather	Buchanan	http://bit.ly/Buchanan_Weather
Tubmanburg	http://bit.ly/Tubmanburg_Weather	Barclayville	http://bit.ly/Barclayville_Weather
Robertsport	http://bit.ly/Robertsport_Weather	Tapeta	http://bit.ly/Tapeta_Weather
Sanniquellie	http://bit.ly/Sanniquellie_Weather		

15. Gender mainstreaming in disaster management

UN Women informed participants of gender issues in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and the necessity of women's involvement in prevention and response. Despite WHS proclamations to place women at the center of humanitarian planning and responses, data collection remains sub-optimal, which then results in policies and programmes that continue to portray women as victims. Policies and international commitments to gender equality were highlighted, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which states that "A gender, age, disability and cultural perspective should be integrated in all policies and practices, and women and youth leadership should be promoted."

UN Women shared the following recommendations:

- Strengthen capacities of different stakeholders on gender dimensions of disaster risk, particularly in terms of women's exposure to hazards, vulnerability and capacity
- Systematic gender mainstreaming of DRM policy and risk governance, which Liberia has already started on
- Strengthen women's capacity to prevent, prepare for and recover from natural hazards in a changing climate
- Strengthen women's participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction and resilience building
- Encourage National Platforms in each country to develop gender mainstreaming policies and strategies, as well as indicators of progress.

16. Managing an emergency operations centre: Lessons from the Liberia Incident Management System

The Director General of the National Public Health Institute presented lessons learnt and progress thus far on the institutionalization of the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), which was established during the Ebola response. In his remark, he informed participants that the EOC was initially set up in October 2014, using the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention model. He explained the management system of each response pillar, which consisted of the Case Management, Epi-Surveillance, Laboratory, Dead Body Management and Logistics; including the selection criteria for the leads.

He noted that the EOC was instrumental in ensuring effective coordination of the response and highlighted some key achievements, such as: support in increasing Ebola Treatment Units from 2 to 28 (with 22 operational), mobilization of over 70 burial teams, and set-up of EOC structures in 15 counties and five logistic bases.

Moving Forward

It was agreed on that the 2018 annual consultation will be hosted by Mali in Bamako. Should the need for an alternative arise, Benin will take the role. As the presidency of the GECEAO is a two-year term, Benin will maintain that position until 2018.

Annex 1: Summary table of key recommendations

Regional Committee for Disaster Management in West Africa (GECEAO)

11th Annual Consultation

Key Recommendations

Area	Français	English
Regional Climate Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planifier une rencontre entre les services météo pour préparer un plan pour l'alerte précoce au niveau régional (2018) - Renforcer la diffusion des bulletins météo (assurer que les membres GECEAO sont sur la mailing list ACMAD) - Renforcer le lien entre ACMAD et les systèmes d'alerte précoce au niveau national 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set a meeting to work on the heads of meteorological agencies together for a meeting later this year to prepare a regional early warning plan. - Better dissemination of the bulletin within all GECEAO members - Recommended to incorporate ACMAD's efforts into the Early Warning System, with a training component to help operationalize centers.
Plan Action Humanitaire ECOWAS 2018 - 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Révision du plan sur base des recommandations des Etats, proposition de draft pour septembre 2017. - Ce plan d'action sera présenté à Dakar lors de la réunion intersectorielle IASC-ECOWAS/Octobre 2017 - Ce plan servira de cadre d'action pour les Etats pour l'implémentation de la préparation et réponse au niveau national. - Les participants sont encouragés à répondre au questionnaire d'évaluation sur le plan d'action. - Partager le plan online (via le siteweb GECEAO par ex.) - Valider des indicateurs qui peuvent être pertinents pour les plans d'action au niveau national. - Responsabiliser les Etats pour le suivi de la mise en œuvre du plan au niveau national. - En amont de la consultation annuelle, partager un rapport avec les Etats membres sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du plan d'action humanitaire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan revision based on recommendations from member states, draft proposal circulated by September 2017. - Action plan to be presented at the ECOWAS/IASC meeting to be held in October 2017. - The 2018-2022 ECOWAS Plan of Action to provide a Framework to guide member states on emergency preparedness and response. - ECOWAS to incorporate inputs from group discussions into the final report (which covered priority areas for 2018-2022 and evaluation of strategic objectives.) - Participants are encouraged to submit questionnaires on the evaluation of the 2012-2017 Plan of Action by next week. - Recommended to share the plan online to give an opportunity for feedback and broader ownership of the document by mid-August. - Member states to adapt broad indicators to fit their own national context. - Member states to take part of the shared responsibility for monitoring of implementation of the Plan of Action.

Post WHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Les Etats membres sont encouragés à reporter les actions réalisées dans le cadre du post-WHS via la platform for Action (PACT) - www.agendaforhumanity.org - OCHA est invité à partager les éléments relatifs aux résultats de la mise en place des actions post WHS dans la région. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Previous to the GECEAO meeting have an annual report on performance indicators of Plan of Action - Member states encouraged to register and report on implementation of WHS commitments through the Platform for Action (PACT) www.agendaforhumanity.org - OCHA was requested to further disseminate and sensitize relevant actors on the results of the WHS in the region.
Secteur Privé / Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veiller à ce que le secteur privé se reflète comme un domaine prioritaire dans le plan humanitaire de la CEDEAO 2018-2022 et qu'il soit intégré dans ses activités. - Organiser des réunions dédiées au secteur privé dans le pays avec des gestionnaires de catastrophes - Assurer le plaidoyer pour la mise en place des plates-formes humanitaire-privé dans la région sur la base de l'initiative Connecting Business (par ex. CDI). - Recommandé d'établir les relations avec les acteurs du secteur privé dans le cadre de la préparation, avant la crise. - Encourager le soutien du secteur privé qui dépasse les dons financiers, comme dans le cas des contributions du MTN dans la réponse Ebola. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure the private sector is reflected as a priority area in the ECOWAS Humanitarian Plan 2018-2022 and is integrated in its activities, where relevant - Organize dedicated private sector meetings in-country with disaster managers - Ensure advocacy for the establishment of the humanitarian – private sector platforms in the region based on the Connecting Business initiative (ex. CDI). - Recommended to establish private sector relationships as part of preparedness, prior to crisis. - Encouraged to consider private sector support that extends beyond financial donations, as in the case of MTN contributions in the Ebola response.
Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renforcer le lien entre différentes initiatives liées à la préparation (WADPI, KAIPTC, EPR) - Finaliser et distribuer le guide pour les gouvernements sur la préparation - Partager le ERP package. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinforce the link between different initiatives related to preparation (WADPI, KAIPTC, EPR). - OCHA to finalize and share a preparedness guide for governments. - OCHA to share a detailed guidance ERP document
Cash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assurer l'implication des protections civiles dans les cash working group existants – nomination d'un point focal national et développement d'un 3W sur qui fait, quoi en matière de cash (national et international). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure civil protection in involvement of existing cash working groups - appointment of a national focal point and development of a 3W on who does what in cash (national and international). - Where feasible, cash should be considered first as a modality of response to all emergencies but ensuring context analysis.

Roster d'urgence / Emergency roster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considérer la réponse cash comme la première modalité pour la réponse quand cela est faisable. - Renforcer la coordination entre le roster d'experts d'ECOWAS : EERT, UNDAC, WADPI et l'ECOWAS Expert Data Base pour la santé (ERRRT) – assurer que les rosters UNDAC et ERRRT complètent le roster EERT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinforce coordination between expert rosters in ECOWAS: EERT, UNDAC, and ECOWAS Expert Database for health (ERRRT) – ensure that UNDAC rosters at ERRRT compliment the EERT roster. - Clarify agreements being negotiated with airlines and member states to ensure mobility during emergencies.
Early Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faire un état des lieux sur le ECOWAS Early warning center – rôles et responsabilités et liens avec les initiatives au niveau national et local. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make an inventory of the ECOWAS Early Warning Centers – including roles, responsibilities and links to initiatives at national and local level.
Agence unique / One model agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifier les pays pouvant appuyer certains pays pour la mise en place de l'agence (ex. Nigeria avec Gambia). - ECOWAS devrait assurer le plaidoyer au plus haut niveau pour la mise en place de l'agence et assurer des missions de plaidoyer (ex. Liberia 2017) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify countries that can support other countries in putting an agency in place (ex. Nigeria with Gambia). - ECOWAS should ensure high-level advocacy for putting agencies in place, and ensure advocacy missions (ex. Liberia 2017).
CMCoord / Civil-military coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Travail sur les deux premières actions du groupe CMcoord (1) développement de standards et guidelines pour l'utilisation des atouts militaires et sécuritaire de ECOWAS, (2) développement de la plateforme de coordination civile-militaire d'ECOWAS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan a meeting on civil-military coordination to work on the two deliverables (1. development of standards and guidelines on the use of ECOWAS military and security assets, 2. Development of ECOWAS standard civil-military coordination platform.)



Annex 2: GECEAO Terms of Reference

Regional Committee for Disaster Management in West Africa (GECEAO)

11th Annual Consultation

5 – 7 July 2017, Monrovia, Liberia

Terms of Reference

1. Context

In the continuous effort to improve preparedness related to disasters and to strengthen the capacity of governments to respond effectively, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for West and Central Africa (OCHA ROWCA) and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) of Liberia are organizing the 11th Regional Consultation of the Regional Committee for Disaster Management in West Africa (GECEAO). The Consultation will be held in Monrovia, Liberia from 5 to 7 July 2017.

This 11st regional consultation will focus on the following key themes:

- Revision of the plan of action of the ECOWAS humanitarian policy (2012 – 2017);
- Regional climate outlook overview and humanitarian partner's perspectives (PRESASS feedback);
- ECOWAS' Disaster Management Agency Model;
- Emergency response and preparedness initiatives;
- Post World Humanitarian Summit and private sector initiatives in the region;
- Cash based response training and best practices at national level;
- Medical Emergency Teams and Epidemic Preparedness update;
- Civil-military Cooperation in disaster response;

Experts will exchange with participants and share various tools available for emergency preparedness, response and coordination.

2. Key Objectives of the regional consultation

- Evaluation of the plan of action of the ECOWAS humanitarian policy (2012 – 2017);
- Consistent implementation of the One Disaster Management Agency Model;
- Building cash response and preparedness technical capacities at national level;
- Identify key follow-up actions and commitments after the World Humanitarian Summit;
- Sharing best practices for emergency response and preparedness at national level;
- Reinforce dialogue/coordination between national disaster management agencies and private sector for disaster response;
- Feedback on the two deliverables of the Civil Military regional coordination working group.

3. Methodology

- The Consultation will be in English and French, English with interpretation services in these two languages.
- Partner organizations, including the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), West Africa Health Organization (WAHO), African Development Bank (AFDB), Liberia Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection, will be invited to present on specific topics in their area of expertise.
- Sessions will be participatory with specific topics for discussion. The meeting will alternate plenary sessions, general discussion and working groups.

4. Participants

- The GECEAO Network is composed of the heads of Disaster Management Agencies/Civil Protection Directors of the ECOWAS countries plus Mauritania and the country and regional Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement representatives.
- Participants should be high level officials familiar with disaster and emergency management, data collection related to disaster situations, analysis and mapping, threat and vulnerability assessments and post-crisis evaluation.
- The profile of participants should reflect that of policy makers and technical experts. The participants will need to prepare to share their respective experiences to feed working groups and plenary discussions.



Annex 3: Agenda

Wed 5 July	Day 1	Facilitation/Presenters	
08:30	Arrival of participants & registration	NDMA-OCHA	
09:00 – 10:00	Opening ceremony	GECEAO Chair, UN, ECOWAS, MIA/NDMA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Aristide Dagou, Chair GECEAO Mr. Yacoub El Hillo, DSRSG/UNRC Mrs. Florence Iheme, Director Humanitarian and Social Affairs or ECOWAS Representative in Liberia Dr. Henrique F Tokpa, Minister Internal Affairs 	
10:00 – 10:30	Overview of GECEAO progress since latest annual consultation	Chair GECEAO	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the agenda Presentation of progress vis a vis recommendations 		
10:30 – 11:00			
11:00 – 12:00	Regional Climate Outlook Update	ACMAD/ECOWAS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current seasonal forecast Preparation and response status for the current rainy season Discussion on how to work better jointly on alerts and climate services? (outcomes of the DRR day at PRESASS-04) Cross-border support or cooperation needed 		
12:00 – 12:30	Post World Humanitarian Summit Agenda	OCHA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key outcomes with focus on NWOW and Grand Bargain Latest updates 		
12:30 – 13:00	Cash based response overview	CALP/OCHA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash based response overview 		
13:00-14:00			
14:00 – 16:00	Cash based response training	Min. of Gender, Children and Social Protection /CALP	
	Government-led cash based response: case study of Liberia		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations to ECOWAS States on cash-based Government-led disaster response Cash and Preparedness 		
16:00 – 16:30	Break		
16:30-17:30	Private Sector Initiatives	OCHA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to engage the private sector in humanitarian action Connecting Business Initiative - the case of Cote d'Ivoire 		
17:30	End of Day 1		

Thu 6 July				Day 2	
08:30 – 09:00	Day 1 wrap-up				
09:00 – 11:00	Evaluation of the Plan of Action of the ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy			ECOWAS, OCHA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the 2012-2017 action plan • Initial findings from the evaluation questionnaire • Group work on the evaluation of the action plan • Plenary wrap up 				
	<i>Coffee-tea during group work</i>				
11:00 – 12:00	Medical Emergency Teams and Epidemic Preparedness Update			WAHO	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of Medical Emergency Teams roster • How can NDMAs/Civil protection contribute to the One Health approach? • Enhance cross-border surveillance 				
12:00 – 13:00	Emergency Response Preparedness: joint IASC and Government approaches			OCHA, ECOWAS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of ERP package roll-out in the region • Government-Humanitarian Partners' cooperation on ERP implementation (case of Burkina Faso) • Search for common ground presentation.... 				
13:00 - 14:00					
14:00 - 14:30	Emergency Response Preparedness (continued)				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on ECOWAS Humanitarian Capacity Building and Humanitarian Handbook • Early warning at community level • Follow-up actions 				
14:30 – 16:00	Implementing the One Disaster Management Agency Model			ECOWAS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point of situation • Panel with Guinea, Liberia, Togo 				
16:00 – 16:30	Break				
16:30 – 17:00	Implementing the One Disaster Management Agency Model (continued)			ECOWAS, WAHO	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key functions and One Health Approach • Joint recommendations for implementation 				
17:00 – 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on new or upcoming preparedness tools & trainings (WADPI, Guide for Governments, Handbook, UNCMCOORD online, UNDAC Induction course) 			OCHA	
17:30	END DAY 2				

Day 3			
Fri 7 July			
08:30 – 08:45	Day 2 Wrap-up		
8h45 – 10h00	Improving civil-military coordination in disaster response	ECOWAS, OCHA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GECEAO inputs on draft deliverables: DELIVERABLE 1: Development of Standards and Guidelines for the Use of ECOWAS Military and Security Assets in Humanitarian Action and Disaster Response DELIVERABLE 2: Development of ECOWAS standard civil-military coordination platform model for humanitarian action and disaster response		
10:00-10:45	Evolution of Disaster Management in Liberia (From the NDRC to NDMA)	NDMA	
10:45-11:00	Building Liberia's capability in Climate Monitoring - a case for disaster management in Liberia	Early Warning System/MOT	
11:00 – 11:30	Break		
11:30 – 12:00	Gender mainstreaming in disaster response: NDMA Liberia	UNWOMEN	
12:00 - 13:00	Managing an emergency operations centre: lessons from the Liberia Incident Management System	Liberia National Public Health Institute	
13:00 - 14:00			
14:00 – 15:00	Next steps and priority follow-up actions	ECOWAS OCHA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision on the next venue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ousmane Watt - Facilitator Christiana, Uche and Mercy 	
15:00 – 15:30	Closing ceremony	Current GECEAO Chair, ECOWAS, NDMA, OCHA	