# Presentation on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Mechanisms ECOWAS Situation Room

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# Background

Key Issues Impact			
☐ Disaster Risk Management relies heavily on scientific data, including both observations and analysis and simulation data that are multidisciplinary, heterogenous and dispersed across institutional and country boundaries.			
☐ The need for open data and data interconnectivity, i.e., data which are accessible and usable by researchers, decision-makers, and the public, has become most critical in disaster risk management and mitigation.			
Generally, while recognizing the existence of many datasets, from various disciplines ranging from earth observation (EO), hydrology, meteorology, earthquake, geography to health, there is a ground data gap in Africa- and this require substantial investments.			
☐ However, this process will take time and yet will not solve all problems until data can be easily shared among countries, RECs, ACMAD and African Union, and analyzed through common agreed modalities.			
☐ While national authorities are and will always remain responsible for the EWS, regional and subregional organizations play a fundamental role in ensuring the development and implementation of common standards to collect and analyze data and disseminate newly generated information products.			
☐ They are equally crucial in facilitating transboundary risk management, identifying regional priority needs and coordinating investments to fill the data gap.			



## AMHEWAS – Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System:

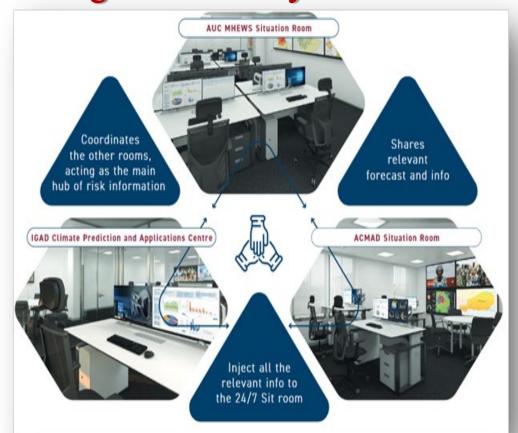
With the vision to facilitate and enhance-RECs and Member States' preparedness and response to disasters associated directly with natural hazards, the AUC has embarked on a mission to enhance Multihazard Early Warning Systems (EWSs) across the continent.

AUC together with other partners UNDRR, CIMA foundation Italy and the Italian government joined efforts in creating an African Road Map for Improving the availability, accessibility, and utilisation of disaster risk information for early warning and early action including the context of transboundary risk management.

To put everything in perspective, AUC has established a Continental Situation Room. The 24/7 situation room will trigger the exchange, monitoring, and analysis of DRR data and information through the myDEWETRAplatform.

Establishing the situation room contributes specifically to target G of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: substantially increasing the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments for the people by 2030.

The situation room is envisioned to offer multiple products which are designed specifically for AUC organs, RECs, and Member States. Continental watch reports and Situation Reports are the most prominent products from the situation room to be availed at the regular basis. Other products will be developed and issued as time proceeds.



## ECOWAS Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System/Situation Room:

To strengthen the African Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System (AMHEWAS), the AUC, UNDRR, and CIMA Foundation Italy initiated a project to establish a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System in ECOWAS.

The project is structured in two (2) phases. The first phase has just been completed, with the establishment of a 24/7 situation room located within the Department of Human Development and Social Affairs ECOWAS Commission, Abuja. It was officially launched in June 2023.

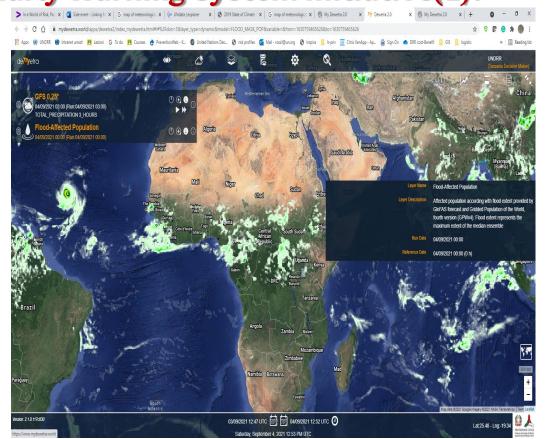
The second phase commenced immediately with the following activities:

- Operationalization of the situation room by linking it to the AMHEWAS situation rooms at AUC, IGAD and ACMAD
- Staff support to operationalise the situation room and build capacity for the operators.
- An in-depth training programme would be made available to ECOWAS and member states on the operation of the systems, data and information exchange, and preparation of situation briefs for decision-makers.



## Relevance of the ECOWAS Multi Hazard Early Warning System Initiative(1):

- ❖The MHEWS Situation Room, constructed and operated under the ECOWAS Humanitarian Affairs and DRR Division, is intended to enhance the capacity of the ECOWAS Commission and Member States to collect data from countries and International Organizations and to improve the capacity to issue probabilistic impact-based early warnings.
- ❖The MHEWS situation room is designated to address all types of hazards, natural or manmade, and their adverse effects. The situation room addresses the disaster situation across all countries on the continent.
- ❖The situation room is envisioned to offer multiple products designed specifically for relevant organs and sectors at continental, regional, and member-state levels.
- \*Regional watch reports and situation reports are the most prominent products from the situation room that are regularly available. Other products will be developed and issued as time passes.



#### Modalities for operationalization of the ECOWAS Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems:

- The EMHEWS situation room comprises ICT equipment, Furniture, software, and communication equipment. It is designated to operate 24/7, and duty officers will be engaged in shifts.
- The room will be a coordinating centre for collecting, processing and disseminating Disaster Risk Management Information. It will perform all functions of the Emergence Operation Center during disaster events or when situation dictates.
- Establishment of a legal and institutional framework that ensures the effectiveness of the responsibility chain by attributing roles and responsibilities to all relevant stakeholders and establishing a coordination mechanism.
- Develop a network of operational centers adequately staffed and capacitated, which collect and analyze data and information to generate accurate quantitative probabilistic information about expected impact scenario unanimously interpreted by all recipients.

The risk scenario must be timely transmitted to those in charge of activating and implementing the emergency plans and to the public, previously informed and trained, for implementing their self-protective measures.

A strong link must be created with academia to ensure continuous improvement of the system and the creation of adequate professional expertise for staff and institutions. International expertise should be used to first support the operation center and academia in shaping up their own internal capacity and jointly serving the institutions' needs.

Expenses and costs for the operationalization of the system should be identified in the budget of center (ECOWAS) (including the private sector) and relevant stakeholders through the resilient dividends approach.

### Engagement, Connection and Complementarity with Stakeholders:

- Many datasets exist from various disciplines, ranging from earth observation (EO), hydrology, meteorology, earthquake, geography, and health. An effective continental mechanism is set up to enhance data access and exchange across continental, regional, and national authorities.
- Development of the SitRep may include all stakeholders who have information needed for the Situation report from National Disaster Management Offices, officers from National Early Warning institutions, International and local organizations, and media.
- stakeholders for this purpose who will be contacted include the officers from Regional Economic Communities, officer.
- Member States in operations of the situation room are recognized as primary data sources for The situation room operations in ECOWAS linked to the situation rooms at AUC, IGAD and ACMAD.
- AGRHYMET will be connected. We will now enter phases 2 and 3 of the project.

### The objective of the framework is aligned to the international checklist (2017) for MHEWS.

#### **Disaster Risk Knowledge**

Are key hazards and related threats identified?
Are exposure, vulnerabilities, capacities, and risks assessed?
Are roles and responsibilities of Stakeholders identified?
Is risk information consolidated?

# Warning dissemination and communication

Are organizational and decision-making.

processes in place and operational?

Are communication systems and equipment in place and operational?

Are impact-based early warnings communicated effectively to prompt action by target groups?

# Detection, monitoring, analysis and forecasting of the hazards and possible consequences

Are there monitoring systems in place?
Are there forecasting and warning services in place?
Are there institutional mechanisms in place?

# Preparedness and response capabilities

Are disaster preparedness measures, including response plans, developed and operational?

Are public awareness and education campaigns conducted? Are public awareness and response tested and evaluated?

## Roles and Responsibilities for MHEWS.

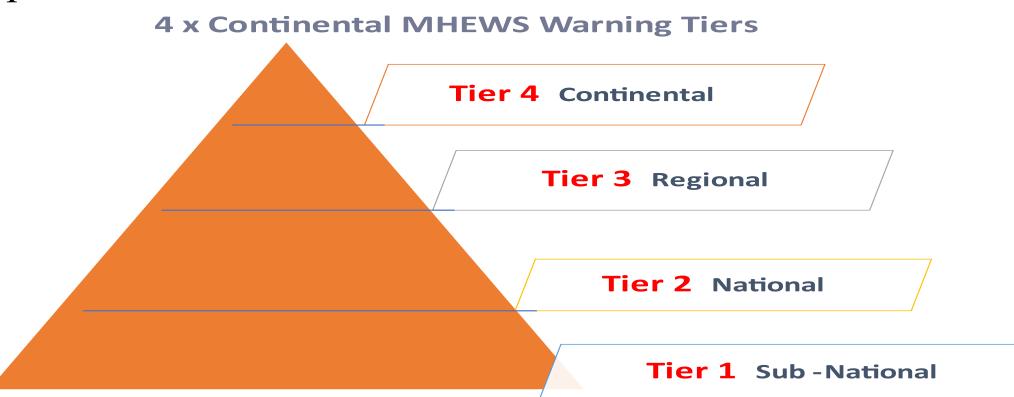
- The successful implementation of this framework depends on cooperation and coordination among different Departments and other stakeholders at the regional level.
- Key departments that must work together in the delivery of the Framework include:
  - Department for Agriculture, Environment
  - Political Affairs, Peace and Security
  - EWD
  - WAHO Health,
  - Education Science and Technology
- ECOWAS and MS will need to customise this to their institutional settings



## Operational Model

Level	Criteria for Activation	Continental Level Action
Level 1	<ul> <li>Very localized Sub-National Warning triggered by National EWS Service or community based EWS targeting specific geographical areas within a MS.</li> <li>Warnings issued for relatively low impact, routine, events which can be managed by local authorities or communities with no major risk of escalation or transboundary spread.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No action required.</li> <li>General monitoring by Situation Room.</li> </ul>
Level 2	National warning triggered by National MHEWS facility for significant events which may escalate, impacting/ potential to impact multiple administrative areas within MS or more localized events with potential of very significant consequences which requires national hazard monitoring and forecasting and may potentially require intervention of National resources in support of the local level depending on the organization of the MS.	<u>-</u>
Level 3	<ul> <li>Regional Warning triggered when the REC MHEWS Situation Room identifies the potential for significant impact that can exceed the coping capacity of the MS and may require international support and related supranational coordination. These events are likely to determine transboundary impacts/ anticipated impacts even from a single hazard event affected more than 1 MS. This may be triggered by information received from regional hazard monitoring services, or from information received from a MS.</li> <li>Regional Warning may be issued to all impacted/potentially impacted MS within same REC. Where neighbouring MS from another REC may be impacted, transboundary warnings may be issued through the Continental MHEWS Situation Room.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Monitor the situation with the involved REC(s).</li> <li>Evaluate the situation and escalate to Level 4 Warning if required.</li> <li>Issue Situation Reports to impacted REC Situation Rooms to monitor the situation.</li> </ul>
Level 4	Continental Warning issued by the AMHEWS Situation Room for the most significant events that may potentially exceed the coping capacity of the affected MS by a large amount and require international support and related supranational	<ul> <li>Full activation of the Situation Room to coordinate information from multiple sources, liaison with RECs on transboundary impacts or anticipated impacts.</li> <li>If a disaster occurs, ensure data and information on hazards being monitored continues to be provided to the Continental Disaster Coordination Centre.</li> <li>Issue regular Situation Reports on hazards and early warnings issued, and on Early Actions taken, for AUC Bodies, AUC Senior Decision Makers and International Partners.</li> </ul>

# Operational Model





# ✓THANKYOU! ✓MERC!!!