



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



Africa Multi-hazard Early Warning and Action System

First AMHEWAS Coordination Meeting

Concept Note

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

18-19 October 2022

Background

Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents 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. It is imperative that actions are undertaken in a coordinated manner at continental, regional and national level to facilitate the development and **operationalization of multi-hazard early warning systems.**

In February 2022, at the African Union Summit, the African Union Commission adopted the Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action (AMHEWS).

The Italian Government was one of the first donors who supported the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic communities (RECs) and Member States in the implementation of the *Africa Roadmap for improving the Availability, Access and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action* and in the initial stage to establish the Continental Multi-hazard Early

Warning system (AMHEWS).¹ The support was provided through the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and through the technical partner CIMA Research Foundation.

An African Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System for DRR (AMHEWAS for DRR) relies on a network of institutions, the backbone of which comprises DRR units at the level of the AUC, RECs and the national disaster management authority, with the respective national emergency rooms. The initiative to constitute such a continental system builds upon existing capacity and infrastructures. It seeks to improve the capacity for organisations to systematically, timely and effectively access and use existing data and information.

The present initiative contributed to the review of the legal and institutional framework for the Africa MHEWS, consolidating and formalizing the roles and responsibilities of the partners. The institutional and operational Framework for Early Warning System was prepared by AUC, with the support of UNDRR, UNDP and the technical assistance of CIMA. Furthermore, the initiative analysed existing systems and operationalised an open-source platform to facilitate exchange and analysis of data and information among the different partners. The initiative equally supported the development of the Standard Operating Procedures for the exchange and analysis of the data.

The AMHEWAS Situation Room was inaugurated on 28th February 2022 at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa. It represents the centre of coordination for the operational activities, linked with the IGAD Disaster Operation Centre Situation Room, inaugurated on 27th October 2021 and with the ACMAD Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory Centre. 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 available on a regular basis are the Continental Watch and the Disaster Situation Report. These products were inspired

¹ In 2020, the Africa Roadmap for improving the Availability, Access and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action (<https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/73818>) outlined actions that should be undertaken at continental, regional and national level to facilitate development and operationalization of multi-hazard early warning systems.

by exchanges with the Italian Civil Protection and the European Union Emergency Response and Coordination Centre (ERCC). The Continental Watch is a forecast bulletin issued twice per week which monitors upcoming hazards over the African continent. The Event Situation Report provide updates on current disaster events and their observed impacts on lives and assets.

In July 2022, the partners – UNDRR, AUC, ACMAD, IGAD, CIMA - organized a 5-day Training of Trainers (ToT) course for a first group of trainers from AUC, ICPAC, ACMAD and selectd Member States already using the myDewetra data exchange and information management system. Two additional training sessions are being delivered in September and in October 2022 to inform on the AMHEWAS and of AUC activities in the field of DRR. These two training sessions are specifically addressed to key representatives from the SADC and ECOWAS Member States.

The present meeting complements the activities above, and it stands out as an important opportunity for the key partners of the AMHEWAS to coordinate. The meeting is organised as a follow up to the multi-stakeholder celebration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, dedicated this year globally to early warning <https://iddrr.undrr.org/> as well as in the context of the project entitled “Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Building in Africa (Phase II)” funded by the Government of Italy and implemented in 2022 through a collaboration between AUC, ICPAC, ACMAD, IGAD, ECOWAS.

The present meeting is co-organized by the African Union Commission, UNDRR and the CIMA Research Foundation.

Objectives

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- increase awareness of the key tenants of AMHEWS;
- demonstrate functionalities of the situation room and provide information on two products routinely issued by the situation room;
- enhance coordination among key members of the AMHEWAS;

- to update Standard Operating Procedures (SOP): for the exchange of information between AMHEWS centres; for the generation of the continental watch and of the disaster situation report; for the general operations of AMHEWS centre;
- to ensure that all relevant information about the AMHEWAS initiatives and components is provided to Member States and RECs who recently joined the network.
- Clarify on the roles and responsibilities of Member States and RECs who recently joined the network;
- identify concrete steps for a continued improvement of the services, tools, and operations of AMHEWAS (army worms)
- Agree future activities and investments and the requirements for their financial and operational sustainability

Participants

Participants of the workshop are:

- 1 representative of the AMHEWAS centres (AUC Situation Room, IGAD Disaster Operation Centre, ACMAD Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory Centre and the centre in ECOWAS and SADC)
- 2 Duty officers of AMHEWAS centres in AUC, IGAD, ACMAD,
- 1 prospective duty officer (ECOWAS, SADC)
- 1 climate centre representative (SADC, ECCAS)
- 1 representative of AGHRYMET

Logistic, duration and language

The meeting is planned in person for all participants, with a duration of 2 days.

It will take place in the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

UNDRR and the CIMA Research Foundation will cover the costs of travel and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA).

- Participants will receive Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA) in line with UN regulations for

participants (days of meeting plus one).

- Catering for morning and afternoon coffee breaks and lunch for all participants
- Reimbursement of expenses for Covid Test and VISA where requested, and upon presentation of the receipts of the incurred expenses.
- Travel and transportation expenses to reach Addis Ababa; local transport, during the training days, is understood to be covered by the DSA.

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

The meeting will be conducted in **English** language.

Draft agenda

Monday 17th October 2022

08: 30 – 09:00

All day : The programme of the Visit of The African Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction

Tuesday 18th October 2022

8:30 - 9:00 **Arrival and registration**

9:00 – 10:30 **Welcome & Introduction**

Welcome remarks (AUC)

demonstration of key functionalities of the situation room; information on two products routinely issued by the situation room (Continental Watch; Situation Report)

Overview of the Institutional Framework for AMHEWS with a specific focus on the relationship between the continental and regional level (TBC : identify 3-4 key aspects which will be elaborated during the in-depth sessions)

10:30 – 11:00 **Health Break**

11:00 – 12:30 **Session 1: Status of AMHEWAS services/products**

Continental Watch – Demonstration

Situation Report – Demonstration

AMHEWAS services/products review: production / dissemination/ validation of products / feedback mechanism to enhance the reliability of the disseminated products

AMHEWAS services/products SOPs: production / dissemination/ validation of products / feedback mechanism to enhance the reliability of the disseminated products

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 15:00 **Session 4: external stakeholder management**

distribution lists, national focal points for validation of CW/SR, weekly MS & donor meetings

15:00-15:30 **Session 3: Synergies and interoperability**

Existing Early Warning Systems and best practices: Presentations by IGAD, AC-MAD

15:30 – 16:00 **Health Break**

16:00 – 16:30 **Session 3: Synergies and interoperability (cont.)**

Existing Early Warning Systems and best practices: Presentations by ECOWAS, SADC

The day's summary: challenges & opportunities

Wed 18th October 2022

8:30 - 9:30 **Session 2: Stakeholder roles in AMHEWAS**

Overview of roles as proposed in the AMHEWAS

Present and future needs to enhance institutionalization

Open discussion

9:30 – 10:30	Session 4 tbc tbc
10:30 – 11:00	Health Break
11:00 – 12:30	Status of AMHEWAS Continental Watch – SOP and demonstration Situation Report – SOP and demonstration
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	Way forward and new products
15:00-15:30	Summary and conclusions
15:30-16:00	Coffee