

Terms of reference

<i>Job Opening number</i>	:	22-United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction-185230-Consultant
<i>Job Title</i>	:	Information Technology Expert to support MHEWS (ACMAD)
<i>General Expertise</i>	:	Sustainable Development
<i>Category</i>	:	Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
<i>Department/ Office</i>	:	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<i>Organizational Unit</i>	:	

Duties and Responsibilities

Background:

Created in December 1999, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is the designated focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster reduction activities of the United Nations and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields. Led by the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDRR has around 100 staff located in its HQ in Geneva, Switzerland, and 5 regional offices and other field presences. Specifically, UNDRR coordinates international efforts in disaster risk reduction, and guides, monitors and reports on the progress of the implementation of the international strategy for disaster reduction, now the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-2030; campaigns to create global awareness of disaster risk reduction benefits and empower people to reduce their vulnerability to hazards; advocates for greater investments in disaster risk reduction to protect people's lives and assets, and for increased and informed participation of men and women of all stakeholder groups in reducing disaster risk; and informs and connects people by providing practical services and tools such as Prevention Web, publications on good practices, and by leading the preparation of the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction and the organization of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Established in November 2021 at African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) in Niamey-Niger, the African Continental Multi Hazard Advisory Centre coordinates the provision of advisories and outlook services to the African Union situation room, humanitarian and DRR stakeholders as part of the Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action System for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa. Specifically, the continental advisory centre monitors and forecasts the continental weather and climate, organizes and coordinates technical briefings with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services as well as Regional Climate and Specialized Meteorological Centres for severe weather, analyses and reports on the state of continental weather and climate as well as related extremes, provides outlooks and advisories as well as situation reports to AUC and REC situation rooms, build capacity of regional and national centres on quality services for Disaster Risk reduction. The Situation rooms at AUC and RECs, National and Regional Meteorological and Hydrological centres are the main target users.

In March 2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 was adopted by the UN General Assembly. In alignment with the SFDRR, the African Union (AU) member states developed a new Programme of Action (PoA) for the implementation of the SFDRR in Africa. In addition to the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework, the PoA has an additional 5 targets. The PoA aims

to achieve "substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries."

Early Warning Systems (EWS), which ensure people are prepared and ready to act in the event of a disaster, are one of the most effective measures that government can undertake to achieve substantial reduction of disaster losses. In that light, the PoA, as stipulated in the SFDRR, targets to substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030, and increase the number of countries with, and periodically testing, risk-informed preparedness plans, and, response, and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction mechanisms. However, achieving these targets would require establishment of agile and interactive early warning systems at all levels to facilitate mitigation, response and recovery to increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards.

A regional and continental response has to be enhanced to proactively support member states in mitigating impacts of natural hazards and in event of a disaster. Observing from the recent disasters on the continent, hazards such as droughts, floods, tropical storms and cyclones, pests and epidemics have constantly affected more than one country simultaneously. Even where such hazards occur locally, the severity in which these events have manifested could easily overwhelm localized response. Many countries face multiple disasters at the same time.

UNDRR partners with the AU Commission, ACMAD, RECs, Member States and other partners to mobilize resources for the establishment of Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) supported by the Government of Italy under the project entitled "Establishment of the impact-based early warning for early action and trans-boundary risk management function of the African Union". The initiative aims at building the capacity of the African Union Commission, African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States to effectively collect, exchange and analyse Risk information relevant to impact based Early Warning Systems (EWS) for Early Action and Trans-boundary Risk Management.

Under this framework, UNDRR is recruiting consultants to build capacity of the Continental Multi-hazard Advisory centre at ACMAD as well as Regional and National Meteorological and Hydrological Centres to improve quality and value of services for Disaster risk reduction at the continental, regional and national levels in Africa.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the oversight of the Deputy Chief UNDRR Regional Office for Africa and guidance by the Director General of ACMAD, the consultant is accountable for technical assistance to develop and operationalize emergency preparedness and response Early Actions in the context of transboundary risk management. To achieve this, the consultant will contribute to a better understanding of potential disaster impacts and will promote and facilitate the use impact-based advisories, watches and warnings.

Specifically, he/she will support operation of the continental multi-hazard advisory centre at ACMAD and other regional institutions ensuring implementation of the MHEWS. In the exercise of his/her functions the consultant shall:

- Install and maintain the operations of the MyDEWETRA platform at ACMAD;
- Support ACMAD/WIS/DCPC including through updating of the web portals, installation and operation of knowledge management systems, developing products catalogue specifically to facilitate interactions between ACMAD and the situation rooms at AUC and REC levels;
- Implement cloud-based data processing and data archiving and sharing platforms;
- Design applications and web servers for data exchange;

- Integrate ACMAD products in the MyDEWETRA platform;
- Design and establish a geospatial portal;
- Support the establishment of dashboards and other applications facilitating access to and exchange of data.

Ultimate result of service

- Work plan and deliverables progress report.
- Activity schedule.
- Solutions and report on the status of: web portals, dashboard, cloud-based system with options for data exchange; knowledge management system and tool.
- Geospatial portal.
- Report presenting stakeholder/user feedback and its analysis.
- Monthly progress and final reports.

Title & ID number of programme/project

Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Building in Africa - Phase 2 (ITALY)

Is any other department or office of the Secretariat or any other organization of the United Nations involved in similar work to the best of your knowledge?

No

Travel Details

Applicable

Travel is applicable in Africa and in Europe.

Outputs/Work Assignment

- Work plan and deliverables progress report.
- Activity schedule.
- Solutions and report on the status of: web portals, dashboard, cloud-based system with options for data exchange; knowledge management system and tool.
- Geospatial portal.
- Report presenting stakeholder/user feedback and its analysis.
- Monthly progress and final reports.

Expected Duration

2 months

Evaluation Criteria

Academic Qualifications : Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in computer science, administration of operating systems, data science, web and portal development is required.

A first-level university degree in combination with two additional years of qualifying experience may be accepted

in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Experience : Minimum of three (3) years of relevant experience in Information technology, computer science, software development, Geoportal development. Proven experience in Information system development Is required.

Experience working in Africa at the regional or national level on computer networking, software development and use of GIS is desirable.

Language : English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For this position fluency in either English or French is required.