

Regional Indicative Programme for West Africa Region 2014-2020

The West Africa region includes the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.

As regards the indicative financial resources for the period 2014-2020, an amount of EUR 1 150 MEUR is envisaged:

Financial Overview	
Component 1: Peace, security and regional stability	250 MEUR
<i>SO1: Strengthen regional mechanisms for the promotion and maintenance of peace and stability and interventions in post-crisis regions</i>	<i>50 MEUR</i>
<i>SO2: Support regional initiatives to address the main threats against peace, security and stability</i>	<i>200 MEUR</i>
Component 2: Regional economic integration, aid for trade	575 MEUR
<i>SO1: Establishment of an integrated regional economic area</i>	<i>50 MEUR</i>
<i>SO2: Support for the competitiveness of the private sector</i>	<i>125 MEUR</i>
<i>SO3: Support to the transport sector</i>	<i>200 MEUR</i>
<i>SO4: Support to the energy sector</i>	<i>200 MEUR</i>
Component 3: Resilience, food and nutrition security and natural resources	300 MEUR
<i>SO1: Resilience and food security and nutrition</i>	<i>200 MEUR</i>
<i>SO2: Protection of the environment, biodiversity and the fight against climate change</i>	<i>100 MEUR</i>
Other support measures	25 MEUR
Total	1 150 MEUR

Component 1: Peace, security and regional stability

SO1: Strengthen regional mechanisms for the promotion and maintenance of peace and stability and interventions in post-crisis regions

Budget: 50 MEUR

Activities:

- Increased collaboration and coordination with the African Union (AU) and the countries of the region to everything related to collective security issues
- Creation of conditions for the full operationalization of the West African Standby Force;
- Financing and mobilizing regional training centers in compliance with the OECD DAC codes.
- Improving regional early warning mechanism and the development of its national focal points;
- Strengthening mediation and preventive diplomacy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also with a focus on promoting women's participation and development of expertise on gender issues in the field of prevention and management of conflicts and the promotion of education for a culture of peace;
- Development of ECOWAS activities in strengthening democracy and the rule of law;
- Support to ECOWAS election observation missions; ECOWAS action support for its member states in times of preparation and monitoring of elections;
- Promoting the rule of law, an independent judiciary, competent and effective, respect for human rights (including support to the regional observatory for Human Rights).
- Support actions for crisis response including emergencies related to health matters (eg Ebola).

SO2: Support regional initiatives to address the main threats against peace, security and stability

Budget: 200 MEUR

Activities:

- Establishment and operationalization of the Police information system for West Africa (SIPAO) in the 15 Member States of ECOWAS; interconnection of databases;
- Effective implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol on the freedoms of movement and common approach on migration issues; security of travel documents;
- Promoting the rights of migrants and awareness against irregular migration and the implementation of aid devices return and reintegration;
- Capacity building for integrated border management;
- Strengthening capabilities against organized crime and terrorism, including through training and professionalisation of domestic and trans-border security forces.
- Capacity building of national administrations involved in the management and control of borders (police, gendarmerie, national guard, customs, etc.);
- Support for the redeployment of government services (administration, security, basic services, etc.);
- Support for the implementation of the ECOWAS Action Plan for Integrated Maritime Strategy and the Yaoundé Agreement on Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea;
- Support for the fight against terrorism, religious radicalization, maritime crimes, drug trafficking corruption and money laundering, the proliferation of small arms.

Component 2: Regional economic integration, aid for trade

SO1: Establishment of an integrated regional economic area

Budget: 50 MEUR

Activities:

- Support for the harmonization and liberalization of the services market, including those related to supply chains; Support for the harmonization and implementation of trade policies.
- Supporting the institutional framework for the implementation of the EPA;
- Support for the fiscal transition through the implementation of the EPA and the regional policies of trade liberalization (capacity of tax administrations capacity, control and widening the tax base, etc.);
- Support for the negotiations to deepen the EPA in accordance with the clause of appointment of the Agreement (services, investment, intellectual property, public procurement, sustainable development etc.).
- Support for the free movement and right of establishment of people (institutionalization of the use of biometric travel documents for intra-regional traffic, development of a Community visa, protecting the rights of citizens);
- Support for the mobility of workers and their families (progress of work migration programs, facilitation payments transfers of migrant workers, development of professional services, including centers of excellence).

SO2: Support for the competitiveness of the private sector

Budget: 125 MEUR

Activities:

- Development, harmonization and application of the rules related to competition, intellectual property, investment, etc.
- Support for the reform of the financial sector (to deepen the financial market and improve access to financial services); support to the integration and interconnectivity of financial markets (regional stock, regional payment system, etc.).
- Support for judicial reform
- Support for the establishment of regionally-based reference laboratories; Support for the harmonization and implementation of standards / standards (SPS) in priority sectors oriented towards export;
- Strengthening regional industrial policy, especially in the field of agribusiness

- Organization and professionalisation of services associated with supply chains (customs declarants, transporters, etc.);
- Support strategies / production facilities, export / import and information systems (market access) for small and medium operators (procedures, trade information, customs, border transport);
- Capacity building and upgrading of enterprises, particularly through the promotion of non-financial services to support regional / exporting SMEs, the establishment of business development centers, etc.
- Strengthening the capacity of regional intermediary organizations (regional chamber of commerce, trade associations for the development of businesses, employer organizations, unions, etc.) and implementation of intelligent networks for the private sector;
- Development of business partnerships, support forums for business and investment for the West African companies.

SO3: Support for the transport sector:

Budget: 200 MEUR

Activities:

- Contribution to financing of priority investments under the blending facility with one or more partners, taking into account the principle of multimodality.
- The targeted regional transport corridors, are mainly the following:
 - The West African coastal corridor (connecting Nouakchott-Lagos, including maritime connection with the Cape Verde Islands).
 - The trans-Saharan corridor of West Africa (Dakar-Bamako connection-Ouagadougou-Niamey).
 - Main North-South corridors (eg Abidjan-Ouagadougou-Bamako, Tema-Ouagadougou-Bamako-Niamey, Lome-Ouagadougou-Bamako).
- Support for the establishment of monitoring bodies (eg observatories, joint customs posts, traffic management, maintenance management, multimodal strategy).

SO4: Support for the energy sector

Budget: 200 MEUR

Activities:

- Support the development of production capacity, transmission and distribution and promotion of energy efficiency
- Support the implementation of regional integration infrastructure, prioritizing projects PIDA, WAPP and ECREEE;
- Support the development of infrastructure supporting the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency objectives;
- Promoting investment by the private sector, including the production and marketing of electricity, to ensure the increased rate of access to sustainable energy in the region, and reducing disparities.
- Improved regulation at the regional level, support to implementation, harmonization and monitoring of policies at national level;
- Creation and / or harmonizing technical standards, including in the construction, transport and industry;
- Support for technology transfer, knowledge and strengthening of expertise at regional level; facilitating technological exchanges between the EU and West Africa, including twinning projects and skills transfer;
- Mobilization, support and encouragement of the private sector to create a dynamic regional market and attract investment
- Improved technical and commercial capabilities through vocational training, promotion of appropriate technologies;
- Support for the creation of centers of excellence and incubation center for the private sector in the field of sustainable energy.

Component 3: Resilience, food and nutrition security and natural resources

SO1: Resilience and food security and nutrition

Budget: 200 MEUR

Activities:

- Support to pastoralism and transhumance through knowledge support, the establishment of a monitoring and advocacy platform on pastoralism, development of the chain of livestock and meat value, support for the surveillance and cross-border epidemiological cooperation on dangerous animal diseases and / or having an impact on human health;
- Support for the dissemination and implementation at the regional level, good sustainable agricultural intensification practices and adapted to the modes of production of small producers, targeting priority strategic sectors (especially rice, maize, cassava, millet / sorghum).
- Support for the production of quality food: sharing experiences and making regulatory level for the diversification of food products on the market, meeting the food and nutritional needs and compatible with the sanitary, phytosanitary and environmental standards. Strengthening the quality system, including the creation of a label for processed products and the promotion and Geographical Indications
- Improving the functioning of the regional food market (business intelligence on trade policies and measures, advocacy to remove trade barriers and strengthening public policies to make regional trade rules predictable);
- Support functionality of information and warning systems to prevent the development of crises and their consequences for the population.

SO2: Protection of the environment, biodiversity and the fight against climate change

Budget: 100 MEUR

Activities:

- Support biodiversity conservation and enhancement of natural heritage at the "eco-regions" (deserts, savannas, forests and mangroves);
- Support the maintenance and promotion of ecosystem services, especially in border areas, and regeneration of ecosystems; Support actions to safeguard endangered vulnerable species.
- Promoting economic development of forest resources and the development of ecotourism.
- Support for the fight against environmental crime;
- Supporting local NGOs to benefit the conservation of biodiversity and the fight against desertification in West Africa;
- Support for the implementation of laws and regulations for the conservation of biodiversity and preservation of the environment and the actions of justice in synergy with other ongoing programs;
- Strengthening measures and wildlife monitoring capabilities in the fight against illicit hunting and wildlife crime.
- Supporting the development and integration of climate information in planning at regional and national level, working closely with the global framework of meteorological services;
- Support for the implementation of the regional program to reduce vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in West Africa;
- Support for the integrated management of water resources in transboundary watersheds and supporting the establishment of an integrated information system on water (SIIEAU) in 4 pilot countries in the ECOWAS region.