



FACT SHEET

Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data in West Africa Project (REWARD)



U.S. Embassy Nigeria Deputy Chief of Mission Maria Brewer witnessing the agreement signed by USAID/West Africa Mission Director Alexandre Deprez and ECOWAS President Kadré Désiré Ouedraogo. November 19, 2015, Abuja, Nigeria

Goal:

Enhance early warning and response systems to reduce the risk of violence in West Africa

Life of Program:

9/2015-3/2020

Total USAID Funding:

U.S. \$20 million

Geographic Focus:

ECOWAS countries

Implementing Partner:

Creative Associates International (Creative), lead partner with:

- Fund for Peace (FFP)
- Karuna Center for Peacebuilding

Program Description

REWARD is part of a broader U.S. Government initiative—the Early Warning and Response Partnership (EWARP) —announced at the U.S. Africa Leaders Summit in August 2014. The objective of EWARP is to bolster the capacity of the ECOWAS Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN) to monitor, gather, analyze and disseminate threat information to its 15 member states to support peace and security in the region.

In support of this objective, REWARD will address critical gaps in the conflict early warning and response systems of ECOWAS. REWARD has a two-tier approach:

- (1) Work with the ECOWAS Commission for Political Affairs Peace and Security (CPAPS) to enhance conflict early warning and response systems to reduce the risk of violence across West Africa in the 15 ECOWAS member states, and
- (2) Support national and local stakeholders in targeted countries in the region to mitigate electoral violence triggers before they escalate into violence.

Program Objectives

- Objective 1 – Strengthen the ECOWAS response to early warning recommendations
- Objective 2 – Improve the ability of national and local stakeholders to respond to electoral violence triggers in targeted countries.

REWARD will provide technical assistance to reinforce the capacity of the ECOWAS directorates within CPAPS to collect and analyze conflict-risk data, develop strong recommendations, and improve response strategies and sharing of information within ECOWAS member states and with other relevant actors.

Expected Results

- REWARD will strengthen the capacity of the CPAPS Early Warning Directorate to produce early warning recommendations, appropriately reflecting regional policies, best practices and socio-cultural conflict dynamics.
- The program will build the capacity of the CPAPS Directorate of Political Affairs to act on these recommendations in a timely, gender-sensitive and politically appropriate manner to mitigate conflict through strengthening existing tools such as the Council of the Wise and the Mediation and Facilitation Division.
- REWARD will enable civil society groups to act on appropriate early warning recommendations by engaging in national and community-level peace initiatives.