



ECOWAS COMMISSION  
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# **Project to Support the Regional Food Security Stockpiling Strategy in West Africa - Stock II**

## **Terms of Reference**

**For the Selection of a Regional Coordinator for the Project to Support  
the Regional Food Security Stockpiling Strategy in West Africa (Stock II)**



### **Economic Situation of the Region**

The population of West Africa was estimated at 435.2 million in 2023. According to estimates, 32.47% of this population will be living on less than \$2.15 per day in 2023, representing 141.32 million people living in extreme poverty in the region (ECA, 2023a, p. 24).

The economy of West Africa is dominated by the primary sector, particularly agriculture, which accounts for 22.2 percent of GDP (ECA, 2023b, p. 14). Furthermore, agriculture provides between 22 and 73 percent of employment in each country in the region in 2021 (FAO, 2023). Yet, the Sahel and West Africa region faces recurring food and nutrition crises affecting a significant portion of its population.

### **Food and Nutrition Situation in the ECOWAS and CILSS Region**

Since the first analyses of the Harmonized Framework (HF) in 2014, the number of people facing high levels of acute food and nutrition insecurity in the region has been steadily increasing, with the exception of 2018. Between 2020 and 2024, the number of people more than doubled, rising from approximately 22.1 million to 49.7 million (FSIN, 2024, p.16). The same analyses from the Harmonized Framework indicate that in November 2025, out of a total of 384 million people analyzed, approximately 36.9 million people - excluding results from Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Niger - are food insecure and require immediate food and nutrition assistance. In the absence of appropriate measures, an additional 10.7 million people could slip into acute food and nutrition insecurity by the lean season from June to August 2026. While the overall prevalence remains relatively stable, at around 9% in the current situation and 2% in the projected situation, it should nevertheless be noted that 113 million people - or 35% of the analyzed population - are experiencing food stress. Countries with at least 10% of their population facing food insecurity include Guinea with 1.5 million people (11.9% of the analyzed population), Sierra Leone with 998,608 people (11%), Chad with 1.9 million people (10.7%), and Nigeria with 27.2 million people (12.5% of the analyzed population), (RPCA, Dec. 2025).

Data from the Harmonized Framework analyses also highlight a particularly concerning situation for displaced populations, particularly in Chad, where nearly 1.6 million people have fled the Sudanese crisis. Among them, 356,000 are already in Phase 3 or worse, a figure that could reach 456,000 during the lean season without adequate interventions. It should be noted that this analysis does not include Burkina Faso, Liberia, and Togo.

### **Key drivers of the food crisis**

The intensification of conflicts and insecurity, the impact of economic shocks, and the effects of extreme weather events continue to drive acute food insecurity. These interrelated factors exacerbate the fragility of food systems, disrupt the socioeconomic fabric, and lead to population displacements on a regional scale.

- Conflicts and insecurity have caused massive internal and cross-border displacement, disrupted traditional agricultural and pastoral practices as well as the functioning of markets and trade, and hampered the distribution of humanitarian aid. This situation highlights the interconnected nature of food and nutrition crises in these regions (CILSS, March 2024). The situation has led to a gradual increase in regional displacement levels, with 8.4 million people forcibly displaced across 16 countries in the first quarter of 2024 (UNHCR, 2024; IOM, 2023 and 2024).
- Economic shocks: The inability of poor households to access food resulted from a decline in purchasing power, exacerbated by high inflation and weakened economic activity. These economic challenges were compounded by the lingering effects of COVID-19 and economic and political sanctions in certain countries in the region. This has led to disruptions in market functioning, resulting in shortages of goods, adding inflationary pressure on food prices and the cost of

humanitarian assistance, and restricting the mobility of people and pastoral transhumance (CILSS, March 2024).

- Extreme weather events: Every year, climate-related crises affect populations, with episodes of severe flooding, storms, droughts, fires, epidemics, and diseases. Floods and cumulative rainfall deficits have affected crops in some countries, notably Niger, Nigeria, and Chad. These extreme weather events have also affected the availability of pastoral resources, leading to an early onset of the pastoral lean season.

### **National and regional initiatives to address food and nutrition crises**

To address food crises, ECOWAS member states - including Chad and Mauritania - regional organizations, and their technical and financial partners have established various response and solidarity mechanisms. Each year, the states develop National Response Plans (NRP) to ensure access to food, address malnutrition, and support the livelihoods of vulnerable populations. However, their implementation remains limited by the scarcity of mobilized resources. The assessment of the 2025 NRPs, presented at the regional consultation in Dakar (November 17–18, 2025), reports the mobilization of 177.9 billion CFA francs, covering only 34% of needs, revealing a funding gap of 66%. Resources were allocated as follows: 56% for food, 43% for nutrition and livelihoods, and less than 1% for coordination.

Faced with these constraints, countries with at least one area in Phase 3 or higher of the Harmonized Framework can mobilize regional solidarity mechanisms, notably the Regional Food Security Reserve (RFSR). As a key pillar of the regional response, the RFSR has mobilized over 65,037 metric tons of cereals since 2017. In 2025, its total stock is estimated at 69,459 tons, distributed among seven storage countries: Niger, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Ghana, and Sierra Leone. ECOWAS continued its interventions in 2025 with the delivery of 500 tons to Mali and Sierra Leone, the distribution of 230 tons of Supercereals+ in Nigeria, and preparations to make approximately 400 tons of nutritional products available to Chad, Togo, and Sierra Leone. These efforts, supported by the contribution from UEMOA (5,000 tons) and activities to establish the risk financing mechanism, aim to consolidate the physical and financial reserve for more consistent, diversified, rapid, and sustainable responses.

Looking ahead, ECOWAS plans to strengthen national responses, combat malnutrition, and accelerate the operationalization of the financial reserve to improve regional responsiveness and coordination in the face of food crises.

### **Brief Overview of the Program**

Since 2012, ECOWAS has had a regional food security stockpiling strategy. This strategy is part of the regional agricultural policy, ECOWAP. It aims to provide a sovereign response to food, nutritional, and pastoral crises in the 17 countries of the ECOWAS-UEMOA and CILSS region. It is based on three complementary levels of stockpiling: Community stocks managed by producer organizations, national safety stocks managed by governments, and finally, the Regional Food Security Reserve (RFSR), established in 2013 by the Heads of State and Government.

The RFSR has a dedicated governance mechanism, and its operations are based on specific rules and a clear regulatory framework. The management of this system involves the three regional institutions (ECOWAS, CILSS, and UEMOA), all member states, as well as agricultural and livestock producer organizations, civil society, and national storage organizations. Technical management is provided by the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food. Funding is provided by the ECOWAS Commission and its partners.

Between 2016 and 2021, an initial phase of operationalizing the storage strategy was implemented with financial support from ECOWAS and the European Union, as well as technical support from AFD, AECID, and the Agrhymet/CILSS Regional Center. Building on the achievements and lessons learned from this phase, the region has embarked on designing a new phase of the strategy's implementation to address the ongoing deterioration of the food and nutrition situation in the region.

Since 2022, the combined resources of ECOWAS, UEMOA, AFD, AECID, and the World Bank have made it possible to consolidate the three storage lines (local, national, and regional) and to embark on an ambitious process of revising the Regional Food Security Stockpiling Strategy based on lessons learned from the first phase, as well as to take into account new factors (increase in the number of food-insecure people, geographical expansion of affected areas, geopolitical reconfiguration of the region, etc.).

Today, the RFSR has a stockpile of nearly 70,000 tons of cereals. It has intervened 26 times, providing over 65,000 tons of aid to support seven countries facing severe food crises. It has also mobilized nutritional products to address malnutrition among children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.

A new financing agreement worth 16 million euros has been signed between ECOWAS and the European Union for the period 2026–2029. This funding is implemented by RAAF through two delegation agreements with the AFD on the one hand and the AECID on the other.

The overall objective of the initiative is to improve food and nutritional security for the populations of West Africa and the Sahel, as well as the resilience and sustainability of food systems.

This general objective is broken down into two specific objectives:

- Specific Objective 1: The integrated and coordinated implementation of the ECOWAS regional stockpiling strategy is improved.
- Specific Objective 2: Regional governance of food and nutrition security among stakeholders in the Sahel Club and West Africa is strengthened, including the link between crisis prevention and management.

These Terms of Reference describe the desired profile, roles, and responsibilities of the Regional Coordinator for the Project to Support the Regional Food Security Stockpiling Strategy in West Africa.

Based in Lomé (Togo) and reporting to the Head of the Regional Reserve Division,

The position of Regional Coordinator is jointly funded by delegated grants from the European Union implemented by AFD and AECID, according to a distribution key defined between the operators and RAAF. He/she is responsible for the entire project, including all components, in strict compliance with the principles of no double funding and cost traceability imposed by the European Union.

## 2. Job Description

### 2.1. Roles/Responsibilities

He/she will be responsible for:

#### A. Technical Implementation of the Project

- Provide technical support to the RAAF for the effective and orderly implementation of the revised Regional Food Security Storage Strategy within the overall framework of ECOWAP.
- Support the RAAF's Regional Food Security Reserve Division in implementing and coordinating project activities at various levels (regional reserve, support for national and local storage systems, livestock feed reserve, support for the implementation of Reserve interventions).
- Support the Regional Food Security Reserve Division in providing differentiated support to stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Regional Food Security Storage Strategy at various levels (local, national, and regional).
- Ensure that project actions align with the guidelines of regional steering bodies for food crisis response (ECOWAS, UEMOA, and CILSS) and other stakeholders (RPCA, UNS, international NGOs, etc.).
- Coordinate the development of the project's AWPB and Procurement Plan and ensure the proper execution of planned activities in close collaboration with implementing partners (CILSS, UEMOA, OPR, etc.), with a particular focus on meeting deadlines.
- Ensure the day-to-day management of the project, including management of the implementation team and synergies/complementarity with other ECOWAP projects and programs.

- Represent the project in any other high-level forum and maintain regular communication with any entity likely to have an interest in the project, for informational purposes and to explore potential synergies.

#### **B. Administrative, Financial, and Contract Management**

- Oversee the preparation and execution of the annual budget and procurement plan in accordance with the procedures of the ECOWAS Commission, AFD, and AECID.
- Supervise, in coordination with RAAF's Administration and Finance Division, the project's accounting and financial management, the quality control of expenditures, and the production of periodic financial reports in accordance with the principles of ECOWAS and the technical and financial partners (AFD and AECID).
- Ensure the preparation of tender documents and requests for proposals, the compliance of contracting processes with established procedures, and the proper management of contracts for intellectual services, supplies, and services.
- Ensure the proper application of RAAF's administrative and financial procedures manual and the project manual.
- Facilitate, in coordination with the internal audit unit, the internal and external audits specified in the project document and conducted by the ECOWAS Commission.
- In the context of project implementation, assume responsibility for compliance with ECOWAS rules and the contractual provisions of the financing agreements with the EU, AFD, and AECID.

#### **C. Monitoring, evaluation, reporting, knowledge capture, and dissemination of project outcomes**

- Establish a system for monitoring and evaluating the performance of project activities that aligns with the mechanisms of RAAF, ECOWAP, and technical and financial partners.
- Produce semi-annual and annual technical and financial reports, as well as any other reports required by ECOWAS rules, in accordance with the deadlines set forth in the contractual provisions of the financing agreements with the EU, AFD, and AECID.
- Oversee internal and external evaluations of project activities.
- Capitalize on best practices and disseminate lessons learned and success stories.
- Support the implementation of the communication and visibility strategy for the project and RAAF.

#### **D. Project Coordination and Governance**

- Develop, implement, and monitor the annual work plan and budget (AWPB) as well as the project's procurement plans.
- Supervise the activities of the technical project implementation team.
- Prepare technical documents for meetings of the Steering Committee (CoPil) and the Technical Monitoring Committee (CTS) for ECOWAP projects and programs, and ensure the implementation of recommendations.
- Ensure consistency between the project's functional organization and the RAAF's internal organization (reporting lines, validation processes, decision-making channels).
- Serve as a liaison with the RAAF, the DARD, the EU, the AECID, and the AFD, as well as other technical and financial partners and national stakeholders.
- Represent the project at technical meetings at the national, regional, and international levels and explore potential synergies.
- Conduct the annual individual performance evaluation of the project team within the required deadlines in preparation for contract renewals and propose improvement measures as needed.
- Oversee the timely production of periodic project implementation reports in accordance with ECOWAS rules and the provisions of the financing agreements, as well as reports presented to the ECOWAP Regional Steering Committee for Projects and Programs.
- Manage the archiving, cataloging, and preservation of documentary information produced in the context of project implementation in accordance with the provisions of the financing agreements.

#### **E. Other Tasks**

- Support the planning and operationalization teams of the ECOWAP Project Steering Committees and the ECOWAP Technical Project Monitoring Committees.

- Support RAAF teams in the preparation of semi-annual and annual reports for the Economic Affairs and Agriculture Department of the ECOWAS Commission.
- Provide technical support and the necessary information to RAAF's cross-cutting departments (monitoring and evaluation, communication, administration, etc.) to ensure effective management of the institution.
- Support and promote the development of synergies with other projects and programs operating within the project's scope of action in the region;
- Effectively ensure the visibility of the project's actions and, by extension, those of ECOWAS
- Perform all other tasks related to achieving the project's objectives.

## 2.2. Qualifications, Experience, Skills

### A. Academic Qualifications

- Master's degree (or equivalent) in economics, agro-economics, agronomy, animal husbandry, development sciences, or a related field.
- Proficiency in computer software (database management, data analysis, word processing, Excel, etc.).

### B. Required professional experience

The candidate must demonstrate proven experience, as outlined in a detailed resume and supported by supporting documents:

#### a) General Experience

- At least ten (10) years of professional experience in managing multi-donor projects (coordination, technical, administrative, and financial management, and team management) in the field of food and nutrition security and food crisis response, including at least 3 years in a project coordinator role related to food security.

#### b) Specific Experience:

- At least five (5) years of proven professional experience, with technical and/or coordination responsibilities, in the fields of food and nutrition security and the management of food, nutrition, pastoral, and agro-pastoral crises.
- Proficiency in regional policy frameworks and mechanisms: Demonstrate a solid understanding of the implementation of ECOWAP or the UEMOA Agricultural Policy.
- Knowledge of the ECOWAS Regional Food Security Storage Strategy, as well as the main food and nutrition security governance mechanisms (PREGEC, RPCA, NRP, etc.) and their alignment with national policies is an asset
- Experience in project implementation and food crisis management: Demonstrated experience in preventing and responding to food crises in the Sahel and West Africa, including the implementation of projects or programs funded by ECOWAS, the European Union, AFD, and/or AECID or any other bilateral donor, and a track record of collaboration with key institutional and humanitarian actors (intergovernmental organizations, states, TFPs, UNS, NGOs, etc.).
- Professional experience in supporting state actors in capacity building related to agricultural policies, food and nutrition security, and food crisis response.

#### c) Additional Skills

- Leadership, management, and communication: Demonstrate strong leadership and multidisciplinary team management skills, as well as excellent written and oral communication skills, including the ability to represent the RAAF in high-level forums.
- Institutional integration, tools, and mobility: Proficiency in the administrative structure of ECOWAS and the ability to integrate the project team into the functional organization of an agency such as the RAAF, with strong proficiency in IT tools, database management, and document management systems, and availability for frequent travel within the ECOWAS region and beyond.

#### d) Language Skills

- Ability to communicate fluently in at least one of the three official languages of ECOWAS; knowledge of a second language would be an asset.

### **3. General conditions for the position**

#### **3.1. Location and duration of the assignment**

- The Regional Coordinator will be based in Lomé, Togo, at the ECOWAS Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF);
- The assignment will last for the entire duration of the Project following a six-month probationary period. However, the consultant's contract will be signed for 12-month periods, renewable subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory performance, and the needs of the Project, for the duration of the project (4 years)
- This is a full-time position;

#### **3.2. Other requirements**

- The Consultant must adhere to the objectives and values promoted by ECOWAS;
- The Consultant must work in accordance with the principles and guidelines established within RAAF;
- The Consultant is required to avoid any situation that could create a conflict of interest in the context of the assignment assigned to them.