

CONCEPT NOTE

AFRICA MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING AND EARLY ACTION SYSTEM (AMHEWAS) TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING, 1-3 JULY AND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, 4-5 JULY 2024, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

1. Background

The African Union Commission (AUC) is implementing the Africa Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) to contribute to resilience building and reduce disaster losses by 2030. The AMHEWAS Programme seeks to increase availability and access to multi-hazard early warning system and disaster risk information, and enhance coordination for Transboundary Risk Management. The AMHEWAS Programme is being implemented through the financial support from the Italian Government, under a project '**Establishment of Impact-based Early Warning for Early Action and Transboundary Risk Management Function of the African Union**' jointly with UNDRR and CIMA Research Foundation. The key achievements of the AMHEWAS Programme include the establishment of four Multi-hazard Early Warning Situation Rooms on the continent: one at the continental level in African Union Headquarters, one at African Centre for Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) in Niamey, Niger, one at IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in Nairobi, Kenya and a one Situation Room at Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) in Abuja, Nigeria. The four situation rooms interoperate to generate disaster risk information for timely decision making.

The AMHEWAS Steering Committee is the programme's governing body that oversees the overall implementation of the programme and sets the strategic vision for the programme. The AMHEWAS Technical working group aims to facilitate coordinated implementation of the AMHEWAS programme. The working group is comprised of the AU Member States (MSs), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AUC, multi-lateral/bilateral partners, international organizations, representative of media, civil society, academia, youth, women and other stakeholders supporting and or implementing multi-hazard early warning systems and anticipatory actions. The AUC convened the inaugural AMHEWAS Programme Steering Committee and Technical Working Group meetings on 26 to 28 June and 1 to 2 July 2023 respectively in Windhoek, Namibia. The meetings witnessed the launch of the AMHEWAS Steering Committee and the Technical Working Group. The AMHEWAS Steering Committee discussed and adopted the AMHEWAS Programme, work plan and budget. Additionally, the AMHEWAS meetings discussed and adopted the rules of procedure for the AMHEWAS Steering Committee. The AUC is organizing the second meeting of the AMHEWAS Steering Committee and Technical Working Group in Lusaka, Zambia to discuss the progress in implementation of AMHEWAS Programme. The meetings will also discuss the operationalization of the Technical Working Groups at regional and national levels as espoused in the Operational and Institutional Framework for AMHEWAS. The will also be a brief visit by the delegates to the National Disaster Operations Centre, Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit of Zambia to learn about the operations, best practices, challenges and opportunities for AMHEWAS intervention.

The AMHEWAS meetings also provide a platform for coordinated approach and enhanced governance on the continent to address fragmentation and duplication of efforts in the implementation of Multi-hazard Early Warning initiatives. Apart from the AMHEWAS Programme, the World Meteorological Organisation is implementing the Early Warning for All Initiative, which seeks to ensure every person on earth is covered by Early Warning Systems by 2027. The AMHEWAS Technical Working Group and Steering Committee are therefore, key in advancing and promoting synergies and complementarity of Multi-hazard Early Warning Programmes and initiatives in Africa. The meetings will provide a platform for knowledge sharing, exchange of best practices and building synergies.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Technical Working Group Meeting are:

- To review progress in the implementation of the AMHEWAS Programme
- Prepare the recommendations and action points for endorsement by the AMHEWAS Steering Committee
- Take stock of other initiatives in implementation of multi-hazard early warning and anticipatory action in Africa
- Discuss and adopt the implementation plan (2024/2025) of AMHEWAS
- Deliberate on the modalities for the operationalization AMHEWAS Technical Working Groups at regional and national levels

The objectives of the AMHEWAS Steering Committee are:

- Discuss the operationalization of the AMHEWAS programme and associated projects
- Consider the progress of implementation of AMHEWAS Programme
- Discuss resource mobilisation strategies and coordination of the broader AMHEWAS Programme
- Discuss and make recommendations on the AMHEWAS Strategy and Resource Mobilisation Strategy

3. Venue

The two meetings shall be held in Lusaka, Zambia from 1 to 5 July, 2024. The AMHEWAS Technical Working Group will be held on 1 to 3 July, 2024, followed by the AMHEWAS Steering Committee from 4 to 5 July, 2024. The actual venue of the meetings is being procured and information is to be made available in due course.

4. Meeting Programme

i. AMHEWAS Technical Working Group (1-3 July 2024)

Time	Agenda item	Responsibility
Day 1 – 1 July		
Session 1: Opening and objectives of the meeting		
08:30-09:00	Registration/arrival of participants	AUC
09:00-09:30	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDRR • SADC • Representative of the Host Government, Republic of Zambia • Mr. Harsen Nyambe, Director, SEBE-AUC 	AUC
09:30-09:40	Adoption of the Agenda	Director, SEBE

09:40-09:50	Objectives of the meeting	AUC
09:50-10:00	Introductions	AUC
Session 2: Operationalisation of the Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action System Programme in Africa		
10:00-11:00	Overview of the AMHEWAS Programme	AUC
11:00-11:30	Group Photo/ Health Break	AUC Communication Team/ All delegates
11:30-13:00	Update on the implementation of AMHEWAS Programme and related initiatives at regional level A. Setting the scene: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDRR CIMA UNDP B. Regional presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGAD ECOWAS ACMAD ECOWAS SADC UMA 	ICPAC AUC
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	All delegates
14:00-14:30	Status of Implementation of EW4ALL Initiative on the continent	WMO
14:30-15:15	Development of roadmap on the establishment of Technical Working Groups at regional and national levels (group discussions)	AUC
15:15-15:30	Health Break	
15:30-17:00	Development of roadmap on the establishment of Technical Working Groups at regional and national levels (continued)	
16:30	Wrap Up - day 1	
Day 2 – 2 July		
Session 3: Status of implementation of AMHEWAS Programme and related initiatives		
09:00-09:30	Recap - Day 1	
09:30-10:30	Presentation from groups	Participants
10:30-10:45	AMHEWAS Progress report and status of implementation of previous action points	AUC
10:45-11:00	Health Break	AUC
11:00-12:00	Update on the Progress of implementation of AMHEWAS Programme and Early Warning initiatives at national level: AU Member States	Member States
12:00-12:30	Presentation on impact- based forecasting	CIMA
12:30-13:00	Briefing on programme for site visit to national Disaster Management Operations Centre	GoZ
13:00-14:00	Lunch break	
14:20-16:30	Site visit to the National Disaster Management Emergency Operations Centre of Zambia	AUC
16:30	Wrap Up - Day 2	AUC
Day 3 – 3 July		
09:00-09:30	Recap – Day 2	AYAB

09:00-10:00	Feedback on the Visit to the National Disaster Emergency Operations Centre of Zambia	All
Session 4: Coordination and Governance of AMHEWAS Programme and Early Warning Initiatives		
10:00-10:45	Presentations of 2024/2025 MHEWAS Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUC • RECs • Partners 	AUC
10:45-11:15	Health break	AUC
11:15-13:00	Panel discussion 2: Strengthened Coordination and Governance of Early Systems on the Continent: Building Synergies and Complementarity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUC • UNDP • IFRC • WMO • ITU • UNDRR • Other Partners (IOM; OCHA; UNECA; UNWomen; ARC; APRM; PAPS; WFP; GNDRR; DIRAJ; NEPAD; AU CLIMSA; etc) 	ECOWAS
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	AUC
14:00-15:00	Panel discussion 3: Experience and knowledge sharing on Anticipatory Action, Triggers and Thresholds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUC • FAO • IFRC RECs (SADC and ICPAC)	UNDRR
15:00-15:30	Presentation of action points	AUC
15:30-16:00	Closing	AUC

ii. AMHEWAS Steering Committee (4-5 July 2024)

Time	Agenda item	Responsibility
Day 1 – 4		
8:30-9:00	Registration/arrival of participants	AUC
9:00-9:30	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDRR • Director, SEBE-AUC • Representative – Government of the Republic of Zambia • PRC Subcommittee Chair 	AUC
9:30-10:00	Introductions and Adoption of the Agenda	Director, SEBE-AUC
10:00-11:00	Setting the scene: AMHEWAS Programme and Associated projects	AUC
11:00-11:30	Family photo/ Health Break	All delegates
11:30-12:00	Presentation of the report of the TWG	AUC
12:00-13:00	Presentation of AMHEWAS Workplan	AUC
13:00-14:00	Lunch	All delegates
14:00-15:30	Presentation of Resource Mobilisation Strategy	Director, SEBE-AUC

15:30-16:30	Health break	AUC
16:30-17:00	Presentation of draft roadmap for establishment of Regional and national TWGs	Director, AUC
Day 2 - 5 July		
9:00-9:30	Recap – Day 1	AUC
09:30-11:00	Discussion and adoption of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Report of the AMHEWAS TWG; • AMHEWAS Resource mobilization strategy. • AMHEWAS workplan. • Draft roadmap for establishment of TWGs; 	Director, SEBE-AUC
11:00-11:30	Health Break	All delegates
11:30-12:00	Statements by Partners	Denmark Italy UNDRR UNDP World bank NORCAP
12:00-12:30	Action Points	AUC Director
12:30-13:00	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDRR • Director, SEBE-AUC • Representative – Government of the Republic of Zambia • PRC Subcommittee Chair 	AUC
13:00- 14:00	Lunch break	All