



**CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY & DEVELOPMENT
(CDD)
(DFID-ASSN PROJECT ON *SECURITY SECTOR TRANSFORMATION IN WEST AFRICA*)
WACSO-F NATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY COALITIONS PROGRAMME**

PROPOSED BENCHMARKS/INDICATORS FOR ECOWAS CONFLICT EARLY WARNING TRACKING



2008

Introduction

The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), in collaboration with the West African Civil Society Forum (WACSO), held a two-day capacity-building workshop on ECOWAS Early Warning Mechanism at the Hotel Palm Beach, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 13th and 14th December,

2006. The Workshop, which was organized within the framework of the *West African Security Sector Transformation* of the African Security Sector Network (ASSN), is part of a broader project funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) through ASSN.

The central objective of the workshop was to train WACSOF focal points and national civil society coalitions in the various ECOWAS member states and to strengthen their capacities to understand, anticipate, monitor and forecast governance challenges and potential conflict triggers with a view to contributing to ECOWAS Early Warning Mechanism. The workshop was organized to:

- Create a forum for WACSOF (zonal national) focal persons in the 15 ECOWAS member states to exchange views on how best to work for sustainable peace in the West Africa, and
- Develop an acceptable action plan/framework of agenda with necessary benchmarks and indicators that will enhance their capacity to perform their roles.

The workshop witnessed several paper presentations including the one by the Director of Observation and Monitoring Centre (OMC) at the ECOWAS Commission, Col. Yoro Kone. There were robust debate and critical review (at both working group and plenary sessions) of the ECOWAS Early Warning benchmarks and indicators (94 altogether) which Col. Kone had informed participants were being piloted for two years before final review and adoption by ECOWAS. It is on this basis that the workshop reviewed, synthesised and reduced the indicators to 41, covering four thematic areas. Since the Ouagadougou Workshop CDD has shared these restructured and more user-friendly indicators in its zonal consultations and capacity building work with WACSOF national focal points and the ECOWAS Zonal Bureaux. In the process, the indicators have been further revised and sharpened into 41 in line with comments received from participants at those events.

It is in the context of the foregoing that they are being proposed to ECOWAS for adoption as its Conflict Early Warning benchmarks and indicators at the expiration of the two-year pilot period. It is our expectation that they will be received as a genuine contribution by CDD (in collaboration with WACSOF), through the ASSN, to the realization of sustainable peace and security in West Africa.

The adoption of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework is an opportunity for civil society to engage our regional organisation and states in a more active programme of early warning and early response to conflict. These indicators will be useful in this regard.

Proposed Benchmarks and Indicators

From Options A-E, select any one that is most applicable to each of the 41 items listed under the four thematic issues for your country:

Political Theme:

1. Electoral fraud was evident or reported (if so, explain).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

2. Interference with other arms of government was evident or reported (if so, identify).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

3. Abuse of office was evident or reported (if so please explain).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

4. Corruption and lack of accountability was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

5. Violation of rights of assembly, speech and protests was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed

- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

6. Victimization of ethnic and/or minority groups was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

7. Disregard for rule of law and constitutionalism was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

8. Militarisation of civil life was evident or reported (if so, explain).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

9. Political exclusion was evident or reported (if so, identify).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

10. Exclusion and discrimination of women was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

Economic Theme:

11. Poor agricultural yield and famine was evident or reported (if so, identify and assess if an incident reported is required).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

12. Raiding or theft of agricultural produce was evident or reported (if so, assess if incident report is required).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

13. Pastoralists-farmers conflict was evident or reported (if so, assess if incident report is required).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

14. Trade and industrial dispute was evident or reported (if so, explain if they there are potential violence characters).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

15. Inflation, high prices of basic/strategic staples and unemployment were evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed

- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

16. Illegal access to mining or oil exploitation was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

17. Problem of transportation facilities were evident or reported (if so, identify).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

18. Communal and community conflict over land was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

19. Decline in economic growth (measured by GDP) was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

Social Theme:

20. Children and women trafficking was evident or reported (if so, identify).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed

- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

21. Roadblocks, armed checkpoints and armed gangsters were evident or reported (if so, identify and assess if incident report is required).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

22. Smuggling of goods was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

23. Inadequate or lack of access to basic health facilities was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

24. Inadequate or lack of access to education was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

25. Poor access to water sanitation was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

26. Violence against women was evident or reported (if so, identify and assess if incident reported is required).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

27. Harmful cultural practices and discriminatory laws against women were evident or reported (if so, identify).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

28. Religious conflict was evident or reported (if so, identify and assess whether incident report is required).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

29. Social insecurity was evident or reported (if so, assess whether incident report is required).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

30. Discrimination against ethnic minorities was evident or reported (if so, explain).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

Peace and Security Theme:

31. Small arms and light weapons were readily available.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

32. Armed communal or political violence was evident or reported. (if so, identify the parties and assess whether an incident report is required).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

33. Destabilising impact of armed conflicts in a neighboring country was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

34. Influx of internally displaced persons and refugees was evident or reported (if so, assess whether an incident report is required).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

35. Civil Society groups' engagement in local peace initiatives was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

36. Request for assistance with mediation, negotiation or reconciliation was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

37. Gaps between Disarmament, demobilisation and re-integration (DDR) programmes were evident or reported (if so, identify and explain).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

38. Security forces' actively engaged in peace initiatives in local communities.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

39. Incidents of drought, environmental damage or pollution were evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

40. Lack of adequate search and rescue capacity to respond to local disaster was evident or reported (if so, explain).

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence

41. Abuse of human rights by security personnel was evident or reported.

- (A) Agree: Widespread activity
- (B) Somewhat agree: Contained
- (C) Don't know: Mixed
- (D) Somewhat disagree: Isolated
- (E) Disagree: No evidence