

COOPERATION PROGRAMME 2025-2028 AECID-ECOWAS

WORKING TOGETHER IN WEST AFRICA FOR A MORE
RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE AND INTEGRATED REGION



MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA
Y COOPERACIÓN



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

Spain and the Economic Community of West African States (hereinafter, «ECOWAS») have a long and solid history of collaboration and cooperation. The objective of this new Cooperation Programme (2025-2028), agreed in the Declaration of Intent for the Renewal of International Cooperation of 12 January 2023, is to establish a general framework for sectorial and annual action plans to be implemented. Following a strategic assessment of the framework documents and documents of both ECOWAS and Spain, as well as an analysis of the work undertaken in recent years, three main priority areas have been identified: (1) rural development, sustainable agri-food systems and food security; (2) access to clean energy; and (3) gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. In addition, the following cross-cutting priorities have been identified: (1) connectivity and infrastructure; (2) inclusive economic development and (3) institutional strengthening.

PROGRAMMATIC BASES

The solid partnership between both institutions is materialised with an extensive cooperation programme between AECID and ECOWAS, based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2005 and further developed in the 2009 Abuja Declaration.

Total Spanish ODA disbursements from 2009 (Abuja Declaration) to 2023 amount to €174.4 million, distributed in the following sectors: agriculture, rural development, food security and nutrition; infrastructure; renewable energies; migration; gender and institutional strengthening.



The relationship between Spain and ECOWAS is framed by the new Spain-Africa Strategy 2025-2028, approved in September 2024, the 1/2023 Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity and the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation 2024-2027 which include West Africa, the Sahel and its regional bodies as a priority.

On its side, the ECOWAS Commission published in 2022 its new strategy, Vision 2050, centred on the development of a peaceful and prosperous region, with strong institutions. In addition, the Strategic Objectives established in the Commission's Community Strategic Framework-CSF 2022-2026 (known as 4x4) were published in 2022, comprising 4 Strategic Objectives –i) enhancement of peace and security at the regional level; ii) deepening integration; iii) good governance; iv) inclusive and sustainable development–and 2 key factors –i) competent institutions and ii) equitable partnerships–.

Sectors / Areas of cooperation:

Priority Sectors

- **Rural development, sustainable agri-food systems and food security:** AECID will provide support to Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF/ARAA) in promoting sustainable and inclusive food systems that protect the environment, guarantee healthy food and safeguard the livelihoods of farmers.
- **Access to clean energy:** AECID has been supporting the Centre for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (CERECEC/ECREEE) since its creation in 2010. AECID's contribution to the ECREEE will facilitate the advancement of existing initiatives included in ECREEE's strategic plan that prioritise the development of circular economy interventions, energy efficiency and the energy transition for the management of water and agri - food systems (Water-Energy and Food Nexus).

- **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls:** AECID will continue to collaborate with the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre (CCDG/EGDC) supporting programmes related to health, economic inclusion of women and encouraging the participation of women in community dialogues.

Cross-cutting priorities

- **Connectivity and Infrastructure:** since 2009, Spain committed to supporting the establishment of the Infrastructure Project Preparation and Development Unit (PDDU) of the ECOWAS Commission and the ECOWAS Regional Infrastructure Development Plan. Currently, this Plan encompasses projects across four key sectors: transport, energy, ICT and trade liberalisation.
- **Inclusive economic development:** AECID is committed to mobilise multi-stakeholder partnerships involving civil society, governments, the private sector and international organisations to address inclusive development and the fulfilment of socio-economic rights. AECID and ECOWAS will foster initiatives that aim to promote economic opportunities and employability of women and youth.
- **Institutional strengthening:** AECID will continue to promote the reinforcement of public agencies' capacities, supporting the establishment of regional priority policies, improving donor alignment and synergies, as well as facilitating the elaboration of institutional mechanisms necessary to guarantee the implementation of the policies themselves and the continued growth and relevance of ECOWAS agencies.



MANAGEMENT BASES

This programme defines a governance structure with a Steering Committee and a Technical Monitoring Committee, both composed of representatives of AECID and ECOWAS, to ensure the implementation of the programme and its monitoring against the expected results. The programme's indicative financing for the period 2025-2028 is Euro 16 million.

Monitoring and evaluation

The main tools for programme monitoring will be the programme's matrix and the Periodic Action Plans. The progress of the programme will therefore be rigorously monitored against the expected results and specific objectives. Follow-up and monitoring will be in accordance with the dimension and complexity of the intervention and will allow adopting decisions based on the evolution and on any unforeseen events that may arise.

Visibility

AECID and ECOWAS will seek the best ways to ensure the visibility of their collaboration. Both parties will seek through their own means to ensure the understanding of these activities across its beneficiaries and foster collaboration and engagement with other actors and partners with similar agendas.



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