



European Commission



The African Peace Facility

FACTSHEET

Capacity building for the operationalisation of the APSA



OBJECTIVES

- Strengthening the capacity and efficiency of the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) to prevent, manage or resolve to crises and conflicts in Africa by operationalising the **African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)**.

POLITICAL CONTEXT

116 expected outputs



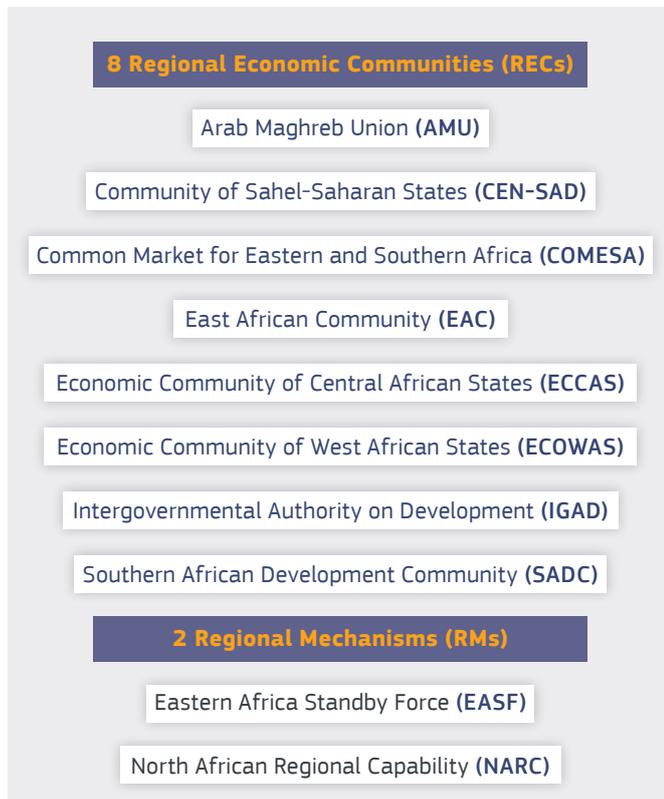
- The 2016-2020 APSA Roadmap¹ → 5 strategic priorities, 32 specific objectives, 116 expected outputs
- The EU-funded APSA Support Programme contributes to :
 - conflict prevention (early warning systems)
 - conflict management (mediation and African Standby Force)
 - post conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding
 - strategic security issues (terrorism, piracy, Small Arms and Light Weapons, etc.)
 - coordination and partnerships.

At the continental level

- The **AU Peace and Security Council** (AU PSC) is the AU standing decision-making organ for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. It is supported by the AUC, the PoW, the CEWS, the ASF and the Peace Fund.
- the **African Union Commission** (AUC) provides operational support to the AU PSC.
- the **Panel of the Wise** (PoW) is composed of five eminent personalities, and is vested with both peace-making and advisory functions on all issues pertaining to the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability.
- the **Continental Early Warning System** (CEWS) provides timely advice on potential conflicts and threats in order to develop an appropriate and timely response.
- the **Peace Fund** is meant to provide the necessary financial resources for peace support operations and other operational activities related to peace and security.
- the **African Standby Force** (ASF) is organised in five regional standby forces raised and maintained by the RECs / RMs. Its functions include: observation and monitoring missions, other types of peace support missions, post-conflict disarmament and demobilisation, etc.

¹ <http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/2015-en-apsa-roadmap-final.pdf>

- At the regional level, **8 RECs/ 2 RMs** constitute the building blocks of the overall security architecture, collaborating closely with the AUC to ensure a common and tailored African response to crises.



APF FUNDING

Over **EUR 170M** so far 

Used for:

- 14 AU Liaison Offices**, enabling the AU to maintain its presence in conflict and post-conflict countries, thus facilitating crisis follow-up and monitoring.
- Salaries for 169 staff** from the AUC Peace and Security Department (PSD).
- A **Command, Control, Communication and Information System (C3IS)** to facilitate situation awareness, tracking and reporting between the AU in Addis Ababa, the regional level and the mission in the field, in order to better manage African-led peace support operations.
- The operationalisation of the **AU Continental Early Warning System (CEWS)**.

BENEFICIARIES

- African Union Commission (AUC)**
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs):**
 - Common Market of East and Southern Africa (COMESA)
 - East African Community (EAC)
 - Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
 - Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
 - Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD)
 - South African Development Community (SADC).
- Regional Mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution (RMs):**
 - Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF)
 - North Africa Regional Capability (NARC)

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2016, **78%** of interventions by APSA actors were successful or partially successful in either de-escalating or preventing conflict 

- 67 violent conflicts** across Africa in 2016 were eligible for intervention by APSA actors:
 - AU and REC interventions in 28 conflicts (42%) through diplomacy, mediation, peace support operations, or a combination of all three instruments.
 - 86% of these interventions were deemed to be of high or medium quality regarding their appropriateness and conduct
 - 78% of these interventions were successful or partially successful in either de-escalating or preventing conflict.
- 500 decisions** taken by the AU PSC since its establishment in 2004, on a growing number of peace, security and governance issues, ranging from protracted violence to political unrest related to unconstitutional transfers of power.
- From 2007 to 2014:** The EU Joint Research Center developed a range of analytical tools and information monitoring systems which have contributed to set up the CEWS and, in turn, reinforced the AU's ability to anticipate and prevent conflicts in Africa.
- Main challenges to APSA's full operationalisation:**
 - New forms of security threats** such as cross-border terrorism.
 - Development of ad hoc, regional security initiatives**, e.g. Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram or G5 Sahel Joint Force.
 - Unity of action:** Misunderstandings persist around the application of the principle of subsidiarity in the maintenance of peace, security and stability in Africa.