



European  
Commission



## The African Peace Facility

FACTSHEET

# Early Response Mechanism (ERM)

## OVERVIEW

<b>When?</b>	04/11/2009 to 31/07/2019
<b>Where?</b>	<b>So far:</b> Burundi, CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.
<b>How many actions:</b>	37
<b>How much?</b>	EUR 30 million
<b>With whom?</b>	The African Union and the Regional Economic Communities
<b>Why?</b>	To endow the AU and RECs with a source of immediately available funds in urgent situations for the first stages of mediation activities, fact finding missions and ad-hoc reinforcement of peace support operations' planning cells.
<b>How?</b>	Via the signature of a Contribution Agreement for ERM I and a Delegation Agreement with mitigating measures for ERM II.

## OBJECTIVES

- Increasing the role and decision-making capacity of the African Union (AU) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on mediation and preventive diplomacy.
- Strengthening their capacity to set up conflict prevention operations through mediation, political negotiation or shuttle diplomacy
- Improving strategic planning processes of African-led peace support operations.

## POLITICAL BACKGROUND

Focusing on early stages of crises since 2009



### 2008

#### Joint EU-AU evaluation reveals the need to

- provide the AU and the RECs with an immediately available and reliable source of funding for the first stages of actions aimed at the prevention, management or resolution of crises.
- conduct fact-finding missions on possible intervention as soon as a strategic option is requested by the AU.
- set up a planning cell.

### 2009

- First ERM contract signed.



#### The ERM focuses on unforeseeable, urgent and early stages of crisis

- mediation, political negotiation, shuttle diplomacy
- support to the deployment of security/Human Rights observers
- fact-finding missions for the preparation/set up of a peace support operation

### Duration of actions

- Urgent mediation and political negotiation activities: maximum 12 months.
- Urgent unforeseeable actions: maximum 6 months, extendable to 9 months.

The approval process of the ERM takes up to 10 working days.

## BENEFICIARIES

### The African Union Commission

#### The 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)

#### The Regional Mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution (RMs)

- Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF)
- North Africa Regional Capability (NARC)

## HIGHLIGHTS

10 days response time for urgent crises



### 3 ongoing actions

- ECOWAS-led support to the Liberian elections.
- ECOWAS-led support to the Sierra Leone elections.
- SADC-led conflict prevention mission to Lesotho (SAPMIL).

### Main achievements

- **Flexibility:** adapted to African partners' needs.
- **Leadership:** increased role for the Regional Economic Communities in mediation and preventive diplomacy.
- **Decision-making:** analysis of situations on the ground and better planning documents enable RECs to make informed decisions.

### Main challenges

- Intractable nature and unforeseen evolution of many African conflicts.
- Broad scope vs limited budget.
- Implementation period too short to address mediation activities.

## EARLY RESPONSE MECHANISM SINCE 2009

A source of immediate funding for the first stages of actions aimed at the prevention, management or resolution of crises

### Mediation actions

• Madagascar	AU-SADC mediation operation
• Sudan	AU high level implementation
• Guinea Bissau	ECOWAS-Burkina Faso mediation
• Somalia	Office of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) facilitator
• Niger	AU mediation efforts
• Uganda	Fight against Lord Resistance Army
• Ivory Coast	High Level Group
• Libya	AU ad-hoc High Level Group
• Sahel region	AU Sahel program
• South Sudan	AU and IGAD mediation / High Level Revitalisation Forum
• Central African Republic	AU mediation / Forum de Bangui

### Fact-finding missions / observing missions and crisis monitoring

• Madagascar	Establishment of AU-SADC Liaison Office
• Mali	AU-ECOWAS Human Rights observers
• Burundi	AU Human Rights observers
• Great Lakes	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region

### Early support to Peace Support Operations

• Gambia	ECOWAS Mission in The Gambia
• Great Lakes	Joint verification mechanism of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region
• Lesotho	SADC Preventive mission to the Kingdom of Lesotho

### Electoral violence prevention

• Kenya	IGAD support
• Burundi	COMESA-EAC support
• Liberia	ECOWAS support
• Sierra Leone	ECOWAS support