

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

WORKING PAPER

Gaps and needs in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, early warning, and mediation mechanisms and structures in Ghana and its border areas

Issue date: 19 January 2024

Application Deadline and Instructions: Applications must be received by February 4, 2024. All applications must be submitted electronically to recapsecretariat@wanep.org with “WP - Ghana” in the subject line.

1. Introduction

The RECAP project, funded by the European Union, is implemented by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in 18 countries of West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin¹. The objective of the project is to strengthen the role of civil society organisations, community practitioners and researchers in effective peacebuilding, prevention of conflict and violent extremism in West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin to enable more informed decision-making by policymakers. The present call is administrated jointly by WANEP, SIPRI, and DRC.

2. Rationale

WANEP, DRC and SIPRI are soliciting proposals for research from RECAP network members to develop a working paper on the **Gaps and needs in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, early warning, and mediation mechanisms and structures in Ghana and its border areas**.

In this context, the study will thoroughly assess the current state of conflict prevention, peacebuilding, early warning, and mediation mechanisms and structures in Ghana, particularly in its northern regions. The study will also consider their effectiveness, needs, challenges, gaps and complementarities. Specifically, the working paper's findings and recommendations would contribute to understanding of the shortcomings and provide concrete and evidence-based recommendations to stakeholders to address the highlighted challenges.

2.1. Background

Reforms of the public sector, including of the civil service and the security sector, have been shaping Ghana's peace, early warning and conflict prevention architecture since the mid-1980s. Ghana is often

used as a case study^{1,2} for its bottom-up and decentralised approach to peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

District Peace Advisory Councils were established to mediate local disputes through community dialogues involving traditional authorities. The relevance of these decentralised conflict-resolution mechanisms led the government to institutionalize the peace advisory councils at a national level, and a National Peace Council was set up with the support of UNDP² And with constitutional backing (Act 818).

However, inter- and intra-community disputes over resources and power have continued in the northern regions of Ghana that can be explained, among other factors, by the limited socio-economic development, along with human, arms, and drug trafficking, as well as climate change related risks and violent extremist activities in the neighbouring countries.

The working paper will assess activities implemented and identify gaps and needs in thematic and geographical terms.

2.2. Research objectives

The general objective of this study is to produce an evidence-based Working Paper that will serve as a policy-oriented paper to present tools and practices for preventing conflict and violent extremism, countering radicalisation, and bringing security actors closer to the population in Ghana.

Specifically, the objectives of the working paper are the following:

- A brief assessment of relevant policy and programming framework in the areas of conflict prevention mechanisms, peacebuilding, early warning, mediation mechanisms and structures in Ghana, particularly in border areas;
- A problem analysis containing:
 - A stakeholder analysis, including the identification and analysis of needs and challenges of the main stakeholders (communities, National and Regional Peace Councils, NCCE, community leaders (e.g. chiefs), etc.), including, wherever available, quantitative information;
 - An assessment of ongoing and planned initiatives, including with funding from international donors, mainly in the northern regions of Ghana (or at a national level), including an analysis of lessons learned, complementarities, and gaps;
- Identification of ways and recommendations to engage in the future;
- Suggestions on how to mainstream: gender equality and empowerment of women and girls; human rights; disability; democracy; conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience in future interventions.

3. Scope of work and methodology

The researcher(s) or institution should clarify their research question, methodology, geographical scope and work plan in their proposal, indicating how the objectives of the research and working paper will be achieved.

¹ William A. Awınador-Kanyirige, *Ghana's National Peace Council*, 2014

² International Peace Institute, *Preventing Conflicts in Africa: Early Warning and Response*, 2012

The study should cover Ghana, with a particular focus on its border areas in the northern regions.

The researcher(s) will be responsible for implementing all stages of the study, from the design of the methodology to the drafting of the final report, including document review and data collection in the field. The researcher(s) will apply the highest rigour, quality, and professionalism standards.

The researcher(s) will carry out:

- An in-depth **literature review**, based on academic and non-academic publications, of conflict prevention, peacebuilding and early-warning mechanisms in the northern regions of Ghana and its interplay with national structures and mechanisms.
- **Individual interviews and/or discussion groups** with relevant actors at the local level (community, district, regional levels) and national levels including among others youth and women's organisations, traditional and/or religious leaders, civil society organisations, technical and financial partners, including the European Union Delegation to Ghana, COGINTA, USAID and GIZ.
- The **methodology document and framework questionnaires** for the interviews will be validated together with the Scientific Committee as part of the Inception report.
- A **working paper** compiling the main findings and policy recommendations arising from the research.
- A Power Point presentation (or equivalent) of the main results for a potential restitution meeting.

Fieldwork in the northern regions of Ghana is expected from the researcher/institution. The researcher(s) or institution will be responsible for arranging transportation, accommodation, and insurance, securing proper visas and authorizations for their research activities, and making adequate provisions in the Financial Proposal. The researcher(s) or institution is also responsible for any staff or sub-consultant they may engage as part of this mission. The final research product is subject to REcAP's internal review and editing process, and the researcher(s) or institution will resolve all necessary revisions within the scope of the contract.

Based on a request from the REcAP Project Secretariat, and conditional on the final product not revealing information that can put anyone or an organization in danger, the researcher(s) or institution might present a briefing of the findings for the public with a focus on targeting practitioners in the field, policymakers, and financial and technical partners

4. Expected Deliverables & Timeline

The Researcher(s) or institution will submit the following deliverables as mentioned below and according to the proposed timeline:

- A working paper in English.

The working paper should be comprised between 20 and 30 pages excluding the cover page, the executive summary in English, the table of content, the list of abbreviations and acronyms, the list of references and the appendices. Appendices should include at least the list of people met/interviewed and any other tool or element required to assess the methodology used for the study.

- The researcher(s) will provide the deliverables by e-mail to the Project Secretariat (recapsecretariat@wanep.org).
- The researcher(s) might be invited to a virtual meeting with REcAP's Scientific Committee to discuss the contents, including policy claims and positions, intellectual arguments, and any other issues.

Expected deliverables	Indicative description	Maximum expected timeframe
Inception Report	An inception meeting with SIPRI will be organised after submitting the inception report. The contents will include methods, approaches, research tools, calendar, detailed research questions as well as approaches to be adopted to supervise and support countries experts.	5 working days after signing the contract
<i>Comments</i>	<i>Comments & Feedback from the EU FPI, Project Secretariate or Scientific Committee. The Inception Report will be finalised consequently by the researcher(s) upon reception of the comments.</i>	<i>2 working days</i>
Draft Working Paper	The researcher(s) submits the first draft of his research paper to SIPRI a maximum of 20 working days after the finalisation of the Inception report. The draft Working Paper should follow the standards and styles defined by the Scientific Committee. It should be drafted in English and has to be approximately 30 pages excluding cover page, table of content, and references (single spacing using Calibri 12), and embeds with in-depth situation analysis, key findings and action-oriented recommendations. From this stage onwards, each new version of the working document will be tested for plagiarism by SIPRI. The researcher might be invited to a virtual meeting with REcAP's Scientific Committee and the EU FPI to discuss the findings.	25 working days
<i>Comments</i>	<i>Comments & Feedbacks from SIPRI, the external/internal reviewers, and/or the EU FPI, The researcher has five more days to incorporate the inputs and submit an updated manuscript. This process can be repeated as many times as needed to achieve an acceptable manuscript.</i>	<i>5 working days</i>
Final Working Paper	The working paper is considered final when the Scientific Committee votes in favour by a simple majority and when the EU FPI has no longer comments. The final manuscript is sent to the in-house or external editor to prepare the text for publication in line with	5 days

	<p>REcAP’s templates, clarifying language, logic and structure and checking facts and references.</p> <p>Once all questions have been addressed with the author(s), the editor prepares a typeset version of the publication (i.e. in the form it will appear in print or online). The researcher should carefully read the typeset (proof) version of the publication and inform the editor of any final changes.</p> <p>The publication stage may involve the author(s) drafting or reviewing a press release or other launch material contact with the media (e.g. media interviews), or giving presentations to the donor, conferences and briefing sessions.</p> <p>The researcher might be invited to a virtual meeting with REcAP’s Scientific Committee and the EU FPI to discuss the findings.</p>	
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5. Duration of the assignment and payment schedule

- The assignment is expected to last for 35 working days throughout a maximum of two (2) months from the contract signature date. **The Final Working Paper is expected to be delivered on March 21st, 2024, at the latest.**
- The total budget available is six thousand euros (6000 EUR).
- The payment schedule will be as follows:

Instalments	Indicative description	%
First instalment	Upon approval of the Inception report	30%
Last instalment	Upon approval of the Final version	70%

6. Eligibility, qualification, and experience required

Interested candidates should have at least the following qualifications:

- Be a member or a prospective member of the REcAP Network. Members of the REcAP’s Scientific Committee cannot apply. However, other researchers from their respective organisations can apply. An organisation cannot submit more than two proposals.
- Be based in Ghana
- Master’s degree or PhD in a relevant field;
- At least 3 years of research experience in the field of peacebuilding, prevention of conflict and violent extremism, with a particular focus on Ghana and neighbouring countries.
- Excellent command of English (spoken, read, and written). Working knowledge of languages spoken in Ghana.
- Female researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.

7. Application

Interested candidates should submit the following documents to the REcAP Project Secretariat (recapsecretariat@wanep.org) before **23:59 GMT on 4 February 2024**:

- a **technical narrative proposal** demonstrating the technical and operational capacity of the researcher(s) or institution and his/her team to carry out the assignment within the given timeframe, with an updated curricula vitae of the lead expert and the overall approach and methodology with proposed timeline. If you plan to work with additional colleagues, describe their role, their level of knowledge, and how their experience is related and beneficial. Describe the overall staffing plan for the project.
- a **financial proposal** detailing the estimated number of working days and fee rate per expert mobilised, transport and subsistence costs (in case of missions) and other reimbursable costs required to fulfil the assignment. The amount of VAT/indirect tax, if applicable, must be indicated separately. Purchase of mobile phones or computers is not eligible. As the project financing this research is funded by the European Union, the financial proposal must be in Euros (EUR).

8. Evaluation of applications

Only those shortlisted may be contacted for an interview with the panel to ensure their understanding of the consultancy services. The research proposals will be evaluated following the criteria outlined below.

No.	Criteria	Max. Score
1	Education: Master's degree or PhD in a relevant field;	10
2	Languages: Excellent command of English (spoken, read, and written). Working knowledge of languages spoken in Ghana.	10
3	Research Experience: At least 3 years of research, with a particular focus on Ghana and neighbouring countries. Familiarity and knowledge of the topic/theme as well as evidence of previous research experience in the theme/topic	20
4	Relevance technical narrative proposal: Does the research proposal addresses the objective of the research? Are the research objectives and research questions well-constructed and easily understood? Do they align with the research problem?	25
5	Methodology: Technical soundness and quality of the proposed methodology including understanding of the assignment and innovativeness of the approach to undertake it.	25
6	Overall quality of proposal: the degree to which the proposal complies with the application guidelines and is of high quality (table of contents, organization, pagination, margin and font size, ideas effectively presented, referencing, well prepared vitae etc.)	10

The sum of the scores of the criteria mentioned above gives the technical score.

The best financial offer scores 100. Scores of the other financial offers are calculated pro rata. For instance: 5000 EUR is the best offer and receives a score of 100. Other offers are 5500 EUR and 6000 EUR and will receive financial scores of 91 ($5000/5500=90,9$) and 83 ($5000/6000=83,3$), respectively.

The final score is determined by the following formula:

$$Final\ score = \frac{financial\ score + technical\ score}{2}$$

The offer with the best final score is selected to conduct the research.