CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
Main Publication: Contributing Authors

Local Madrasas, Middle East Foundations and Salafism as Paths to Radicalisation in West Africa's Coastal States

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Issuance date:

Application Deadline and Instructions: Applications must be received by <u>July 20, 2024.</u> All applications must be submitted electronically to <u>recapsecretariat@wanep.org</u> with the subject line "MP – Local Madrasas" in the subject line.

1. Introduction

The Research and Action for Peace (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 Basin[1]. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the role of civil society, including regional, national, and community practitioners and researchers, in the promotion of effective peacebuilding, crisis management, and 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.

One of the main activities of this Network from 2024 to 2025 is to publish a book on the topic "Local Madrasas, Middle East Foundations and Salafism as Paths to Radicalisation in West Africa's Coastal States". The present Call for Application aims to describe the roles and tasks of the contributing authors.

2. Rationale

WANEP, DRC, and SIPRI are soliciting proposals for research from REcAP network members to develop a chapter in French, English, or Portuguese on a topic related to "Local Madrasas, Middle East Foundations and Salafism as Paths to Radicalisation in West Africa's Coastal States."

2.1 Background

The main topic ("Local Madrasas, Middle East Foundations and Salafism as Paths to Radicalisation in West Africa's Coastal States[2]") stems from the lack of study on the path to radicalization through madrasas and conventional schools run by local organisations that derived funding from foundations emanating out of the Middle East, notably the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Indeed, not many efforts are directed at understanding how foundations, philanthropic organisations, and Dawah networks might be contributing to aiding the propagation of puritanical canonical positions and extremist theological worldviews in West African coastal states. Therefore, there is a need to assess the level of control that foundations from the Middle East exert on the

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[1] ECOWAS countries and Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Cameroon, Chad and Mauritania.
[2] Benin Republic, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Gambia, Senegal and Nigeria

curriculum content, teaching methods and push to engage in Dawah of the educational institutions that their funds support. It is also essential to understand the level of control that the state and its regulatory agencies have over the curriculum of madrasas and conventional schools run by local Islamic organisation that get funding and sponsorship from Middle East foundations. Besides, it is crucial to analyse how this funding might contributes to aiding the growth of radicalism among highly impressionable school children in West Africa's coastal states.

2.2 Objective of the consultancy

To this end, WANEP, DRC, and SIPRI are soliciting applications from Members of the REcAP Network or prospective Members of the REcAP Network to produce a chapter in French, English, or Portuguese that presents country-specific case studies on **education as a path to radicalisation in West Africa's Coastal States.**

More specifically, the chapter should focus on the following objectives:
- Examine the nature and mode of operations of madrasas and conventional schools that benefit from fundings provided by foreign foundations especially from the Middle East in the educational system of coastal states in West Africa.
- Assess the nature and patterns of state regulation and control over foundation schools and local madrasas, especially as they relate to the religious content of their curriculum and teaching.
- Examine the forms of religious content in the curriculum of madrasas and foreign foundation-run schools, paying attention to the issue of indoctrination, radicalization and propagation of extremism through teaching.
- Radicalism, extremism, and political violence in West Africa's coastal states.

Considering the short deadline of this assignment, researchers are expected to work on something they already know.

3. Scope of work and methodology

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

The study must be in French, English, or Portuguese and cover one of the following countries: Benin Republic, Togo, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau or Senegal.

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 chapter, including document review and data collection in the field if necessary. The researcher(s) will apply the highest rigour, quality and professionalism standards.

The researcher(s) will carry out the following tasks:

- Carry out a **literature review** based on existing documentation (scientific and academic literature, NGO reports) to provide a summary of current knowledge on the subject matter.
- If needed, conduct **key informant interviews with main stakeholders**, especially representatives of local organisations in contact with impacted populations, including representatives of international and regional institutions such as the European Union,

ECOWAS, UNOWAS, etc.
- Drawing up a **preliminary preparatory report** highlighting: the definition of the subject of the study; the research and data collection methodology to be used in the field; and the methodological approach to data processing and analysis adopted. It will be validated together with the Scientific Committee as part of the Inception report.
- **Write the first draft of the chapter** based on the analysis of the desk review and data generated from fieldwork as the case might be.
- **Write the final draft of the chapter,** including comments received from the REcAP Scientific Committee and EU FPI.

If travel is required, the researcher(s) or institution will be responsible for arranging transportation, accommodation, and insurance, securing proper visas and research 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 chapter in French, English or Portuguese.

The chapter should be approximately 5,000 words or 15 pages, excluding the cover page, the executive summary in French and English (no more than one page each), the table of contents, the list of abbreviations and acronyms, the list of references (single spacing using Calibri 12) and the appendices. Appendices should include at least the list of people met/interviewed and any other tool or element deployed as part of the methodological approach 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 other issues.

Expected deliverables	Indicative description	Maximum expected timeframe
Inception report	Inception meeting with project secretariat and/or Scientific Committee to clarify ToRs. The contents will include methods, approaches, research tools, calendar, detailed research questions	5 working days after signing the contract

	as well as approaches to be adopted to supervise and support countries experts.	
Comments	*Comments & Feedbacks from the project secretariat or Scientific Committe*	*2 working days*
Draft chapter	Desk research, work meetings and analysis. The chapter embedded with in-depth situation analysis, key findings and action-oriented recommendations is presented to the REcAP Scientific Committee. The researcher might be invited to a virtual meeting with REcAP's Scientific Committee and the EU FPI to discuss the findings.	20 working days
Comments	*Comments & feedback from the Stockholm Forum, the Scientific Committee and/or the EU FPI*	*5 working days*
Final chapter	Final version taking into consideration comments & feedbacks from the Scientific Committee and/or the EU FPI	5 working days

5. Duration of Assignment and payment schedule

- The assignment is expected to last for 30 working days throughout a maximum of eight (8) months from the contract signature date.
- The maximum budget available per chapter is five thousand euros (5,000 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. Qualifications

Interested researcher(s) are expected to have 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.
- Have a Master's degree or PhD in a relevant field.
- At least 3 years of research experience in the field of radicalization and prevention of violent extremism in West Africa
- Excellent command of French, English or Portuguese (spoken, read, and written)
- Proficient in English (spoken, read and written)
- Female researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.

7. Application

Interested researcher(s) should submit the following documents to the REcAP Project Secretariat (recapsecretariat@wanep.org) before **23:59 GMT on July 20, 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 the 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.
- An example of **published work** on a topic related to radicalization and the prevention of violent extremism in West Africa.
- 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).

Only those shortlisted will be contacted.

8. Evaluation criteria for research proposals

The following criteria will be used by the Scientific committee to evaluate research proposals:

No.	Criteria	Max. Score
1	**Education**: Master's degree or PhD in a relevant field;	**10**
2	**Languages:** Excellent command of French English or Portuguese (spoken, read, and written). Proficient in English (spoken, read, and written).	**10**
3	**Research Experience:** At least 3 years of research. Familiarity and knowledge of the selected topic/theme as well as evidence of previous research experience in the selected theme/topic	**20**
4	**Relevance technical narrative proposal:** Does the research proposal address 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**