

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS WORKING PAPER

Disaster preparedness in climate-change-affected countries: the example of the floods in Mali, Niger and Chad

Issuance date: 4 february 2025

Application Deadline and Instructions:

Applications must be received by 3 March 2025

All applications must be submitted electronically to pauline.poupart@sipri.org and marie.riquier@sipri.org with, in the subject line "WP- Disaster preparedness"

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 Basin¹.

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.

2. Rationale

WANEP, DRC and SIPRI are soliciting proposals for research from RECAP network members for the development of a working paper on **Disaster preparedness in climate-change affected countries: the example of the floods in Mali, Niger and Chad**.

In 2024, above-average rainfall and devastating flooding hit West and Central Africa, affecting 5 million people in 19 countries across the region, claiming hundreds of lives, upending livelihoods, displacing tens of thousands from their homes and decimating over a million hectares of cropland - in a region already in the grips of an important hunger crisis and facing armed conflict-related insecurities.²

In this context, the study will assess the consequences of the last year's floods in Mali, Niger and Tchad on the populations (difficulties of meeting basic needs, humanitarian assistance requested) and infrastructures (operation of water management systems, degradation of communications routes, sanitation risks).

It will also analyse the levels of disaster-preparedness of local, regional, and national authorities and the impacts of climate change on governance, especially in the context of political changes and security concerns.

¹ ECOWAS countries and Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Cameroon, Chad and Mauritania.

² World Food Programme, [West Africa hard-hit by climate crisis as deadly floods decimate lives and livelihoods](#), News releases, 17 October 2022.

This working paper will finally provide additional discussion on the concrete interconnections between insecurity and manifestations of climate change based on a case study framework. The working paper can focus on one of the countries cited or propose a comparison.

2.1 Background

The recent flooding has heavily impacted the countries under study. They share common human, economic, and political concerns and difficulties related to these climate-change induced events.

Mali

In 2024, Malian authorities declared a “national flood disaster” after the worst flooding in 60 years with an estimated 370,000 people impacted and around 17,800 displaced.³ The floods have worsened considerably the situation in all 19 of Mali’s regions. The worst affected ones in terms of people concerned were the regions of Ségou, Timbuktu, and Gao, followed by Bamako and Mopti. With recurring incidences, the floods have caused significant damage, displaced thousands of people, destroyed homes, livestock, and crops, and disrupted essential services such as water, sanitation, education and health.⁴ The floods in Mali represent a serious humanitarian concern, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of populations already fragilised by the Sahel humanitarian crisis, particularly women and children.

Niger

Niger shares similar concerns, with more than one million people affected by the worst floods in 20 years. By October 2024, more than 150,000 houses had collapsed, and nearly 26,000 head of livestock were lost.⁵ The Tillabéri region was particularly damaged, with bridges, roads destroyed, and fields underwater. In a region also marked by poverty, this triggered the need for emergency aid regarding food, shelter, sanitation and financial support.

Chad

On its side, Chad had 1.9 million people affected in all 23 provinces, the most severe hit being the southwest region’s Lac, Mandoul, Moyen Chari, Tandjilé, and N’Djamena provinces. Authorities reported over 570 deaths from the flooding and displacements as well as important loss of farmland and livestock. Moreover, it impacted the Sudanese refugee communities installed in Chad to escape the conflict in their country of origin.

Considering these dire consequences, the State’s responses, in terms of prevention and intervention, are to be assessed. If the heavy rainfalls triggered the level of losses and destruction, governance factors are also involved to explain their extent as “Preparedness, mitigation, and responsiveness interventions are also influential for shaping outcomes”.⁶

Governance has an essential role to play in the countries’ resiliency to flooding, from the setting of early-warning systems (such as the World Food programme’s Anticipatory Action programme in Niger) to the development of local techniques to mitigate the risks by promoting farming techniques that help restore degraded lands and ecosystems or supporting communities in building rainwater catchment systems and other sustainable water storage options⁷.

At the same time, flood-specific humanitarian programs can be designed and planned nationally or with the help of international institutions/donors to respond to immediate damages.⁸

³ Africa Center for Strategic Studies, [Records Levels of Flooding in Africa Compounds Stress on Fragile Country](#), Infographic, 10 December 2024.

⁴ World Food Programme, [WFP responds to devastating floods in Mali that have affected 350,000 people](#), News releases, 29 October 2024.

⁵ Handicap International, [Worst Floods in 20 years in Niger: HI helps the affected communities](#), Emergency, 19 November 2024.

⁶ (See note 3)

⁷ World Food Programme, [West Africa hard-hit by climate crisis as deadly floods decimate lives and livelihoods](#), News releases, 17 October 2022.

⁸ Wilson Center, [Catastrophic Flooding and its Impact on Displaced People in Chad](#), 5 December 2024.

Finally, in 2024, the floods experienced in Mali, Niger and Chad reached record levels suggesting that “such extreme weather events may no longer be rare and may be expected to become more frequent.”⁹ These events and, more globally, the impacts of climate change on West Africa reinforce existing security concerns - already triggered by local violent conflicts.

The patterns of concern connecting climate change, disaster preparedness and insecurity are usually described for West Africa as: “the worsening livelihood conditions; the increasing migration and changing pastoral mobility patterns; tactical considerations by armed groups; and elite exploitation of local grievances”.¹⁰

2.2 Objective of the consultancy

WANEP, DRC and SIPRI are soliciting applications from Members of the REcAP Network to produce a working paper on **Disaster preparedness in climate-change-affected countries: the example of the floods in Mali, Niger and Chad.**

This study aims to produce an evidence-based working paper that will serve as a tool for influencing policy and practice. The aim is to improve disaster preparedness regarding flooding in the concerned countries and reduce connected insecurities and risks of conflict.

The study should propose practical recommendations that can be applied by the stakeholders concerned.

In this context, the study will thoroughly assess the state of disaster preparedness and responses in one (or more) of the countries of interest to analyse the challenges and gaps encountered and provide recommendations to inform future policies on the issue.

More specifically, the objectives of this working paper are as follows:

- An assessment of the disaster preparedness and response policies and programming framework before and after the flooding episodes to examine their effectiveness to determine gaps and identify potential better strategies;
- A problem analysis containing:
 - o A stakeholder analysis, including identification and analysis of the needs and challenges encountered by the affected populations and regions (interviews, focus groups with affected individuals, local and regional authorities, fieldwork NGOs, CSOs, etc.);
 - o A stakeholder analysis, including identification and analysis of the needs and challenges of key stakeholders (national governments, ECOWAS, EU, UN, CSOs, etc.) in charge or helping the design and implement disaster-preparedness connected to climate change.
- A possible comparison between two/ or three countries in terms of past experiences and the evolution of preparedness and responses to flooding.
- An identification of lessons learned and recommendations for future international cooperation on climate preparedness and flooding.
- An identification of lessons learned and recommendations for national/ regional/ international mitigation of insecurities and conflicts in connection with climate-change manifestations.

⁹ Africa Center for Strategic Studies, [Records Levels of Flooding in Africa Compounds Stress on Fragile Country](#), Infographic, 10 December 2024.

¹⁰ TARIF, K., [Climate Change and Violent Conflict in West Africa: Assessing the Evidence](#), SIPRI publications, February 2022.

The working paper's findings and recommendations should contribute to understanding the shortcomings and provide concrete and evidence-based recommendations to stakeholders to address the highlighted challenges.

This working paper will be presented by its author and discussed during a REcAP Network online research "Meet Up" with fellow authors, members of the REcAP network, the EU and interested stakeholders and partners.

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.

The study should cover one or several of the three countries previously mentioned: Mali, Niger and Chad. A case study or a comparison of cases is possible.

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 quality of the research produced will be assessed at each stage to meet the contract expectations.

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.
- 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; the methodological approach to data processing and analysis adopted; the findings and conclusions of the literature review. It will be validated together with the Scientific Committee as part of the Inception report.
- 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.
- **Write the first draft of the working paper** based on the analysis of the desk review.
- **Produce a PPT presentation of the conclusions**, which will be presented during research "Meet Up" to the REcAP Network, the EU and interested stakeholders and partners.
- **Write the final draft of the working paper** including comments received from the REcAP Scientific Committee and EU FPI and during the Stockholm forum.
- Produce a **high-quality working paper** as a resource or tool for **advocacy** and **policy discourse**.

If travel is required, the researcher(s) or institution will be responsible to arrange transportation, accommodation, insurance, securing proper visas and research authorizations for their research activities and to make adequate provision 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 **French**.

The working paper should be approximately thirty (30) 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 required to assess the methodology used for the study.

- The researcher(s) will provide the deliverables by e-mail to the SIPRI coordination team (marie.riquier@sipri.org and pauline.poupart@sipri.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 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 project secretariat or Scientific Committee</i>	<i>2 working days</i>
Draft working paper	Desk research, work meetings and analysis. The draft working paper 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
<i>Comments</i>	<i>Comments & feedback from the Scientific Committee and/or the EU FPI</i>	<i>7 working days</i>
Final working paper	Final version taking into consideration comments & feedback from the Scientific Committee and/or the EU FPI	7 working days

5. Duration of Assignment and payment schedule

- The assignment is expected to last for 32 working days throughout a maximum of two (2) months from the contract signature date.
- The maximum budget available per working paper is six thousand euros (6,000 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 conflict prevention, peacebuilding, prevention of violent extremism.
- Excellent command of French (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 SIPRI coordination Team (marie.riquier@sipri.org and pauline.poupart@sipri.org) before **23:59 GMT on 3 March 2025**.

- 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).

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 (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