

# *Newsletter* of the **ONUDD/ECOWAS** Project Against Drug Trafficking

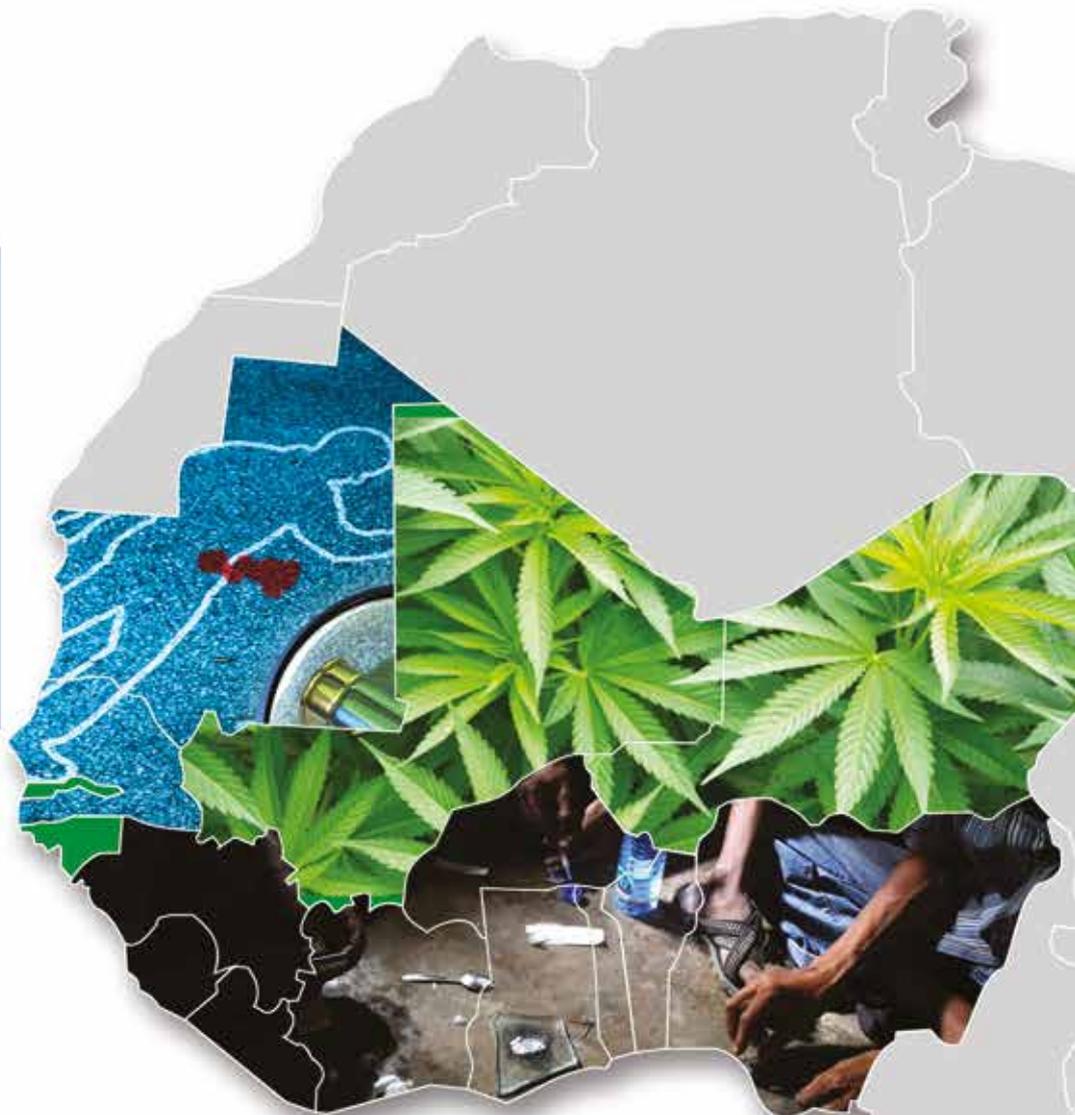
Support to ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on illicit drug trafficking, organized crime related to it and drug abuse in West Africa

Newsletter of the ECOWAS Project, Issue 1, September 2016

## **SYNERGIZING AGAINST DRUGS FOR WEST AFRICA DEVELOPMENT**

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- The ECOWAS Ministers adopt the 2016-2020 Action Plan against drug and organised crime
- WENDU : the Epidemiologists Network against Drug



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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

This Project is funded by the European Union



# SYNERGIZING AGAINST DRUGS FOR WEST AFRICA DEVELOPMENT



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## *Newsletter* of the ONUDC/ECOWAS Project Against Drug Trafficking



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## Synergy against drugs and for development in West Africa

Drug use and drug trafficking in West Africa bring about social, political and economical challenges as well as health and security issues. In reality, these challenges are a hindrance to the development of the region due to the emergence of organized criminal networks, and therefore must be addressed once the threats are identified.

The ECOWAS Regional Action Plan (2008-2014, renewed until the end of 2015) was put in motion in 2008 after a political declaration by heads of States; urging the need to address the increasing problems caused by drug trafficking, substance addiction and crime in West Africa in an integrated, coherent and regional approach. The Action Plan 2016-2020, adopted on the 5th of September in a ministerial gathering of ECOWAS in Abuja, is part of a coherent approach towards a common goal.

After the commitment to the declaration of 2008; the action plan had to be implemented with concrete actions. The Project of “the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on illicit drug trafficking, related organised crime and drug abuse in West Africa” financed by the European Union, is made possible by regional determination.

The project is strengthening the legal framework of the fight against drugs as well as institutions and professionals responsible for applying the law; making them better equipped to the realities of the region through training.

Actually, activities on the field have already been put into motion to our utmost satisfaction, and more than fifty police officers, judges, gendarmes and customs in Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Burkina have been trained with methods to fight against international drug trafficking.

Several studies on drug consumption and drug abuse have been conducted in numerous countries. The collected data will serve as a valuable tool in decision-making. Furthermore, the results of the tender will include organizations from the West African civil society that are fighting against drug use amongst young people. Our partnership with the EU and ECOWAS is built on the belief that the drug trade, carried by organized criminal networks in its destabilizing potential, is one of the most serious threats to development in West Africa.

The Regional Action Plan of the UNODC aims to contribute to the promotion of the rule of law, good governance and human security by supporting States,

### Pierre Lapaque

*Regional representative UNODC  
Regional office for Western and  
Central Africa*



regional organizations and the Civil society in order to respond to increasing threats. The Ministerial meeting in regards to illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa on the 5th of September in Abuja is proof that the mobilization of countries against drugs remains intact. And the validated the Plan for 2016-2020 brings about interesting perspectives, against cybercrime in particular. The task is huge, but we have no choice. We have opted through a comprehensive approach for a “Synergy against drugs and for development West Africa”.

In this first issue of our Newsletter, we hope to keep you informed about the issues regarding the fight against drugs and organized crime, as well as the progress and achievements of the project that we have the honor to collaborate in with ECOWAS and the European Union.

*Enjoy your reading!*

# UNDERSTANDING THE ECOWAS ACTION PLAN AGAINST DRUG

## The Action Plan in few Words



*The magnitude of the problem and its devastating consequences on the socio-political and economic development prompted the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government at their 35th Ordinary Summit in Abuja on 19 December 2008, to adopt the Political Declaration and Regional Action Plan on the Prevention of Drug Abuse, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crimes in West Africa (2008-2012). ECOWAS Heads of State and Government at the Forty-First Ordinary Session held at Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, 28-29 June 2012, re-affirmed their commitment to the Political Declaration and the Regional Action Plan on Drugs, as indicated in the following excerpts of the Final Communiqué.*

*“Conscious of its continuing health hazards and corrupting influence on society and politics, the Heads of State and Government express deep concern over the serious threats posed by drug trafficking to regional and international peace and security. They decide to renew their political commitment to the fight against drug trafficking and call for the speedy implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on the fight against Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa, adopted in 2008. To this end, they direct the Commission to urgently reactivate the Plan. They welcome the financial support by the EU, and invite other partners to also contribute to its implementation”.*

Although the production and consumption of cannabis and other drugs of abuse has always been present to some extent in West Africa, the introduction and transshipment of more addictive drugs (mostly Heroin and Cocaine) from outside the region with the involvement of local actors continues to have significant detrimental impact on the society. The drug traffickers have taken direct aim at West Africa, because of the geographical and social conditions; and weak anti-drug policies, legal framework and response capacities which allow transit of illicit drugs to European markets.

### Political Commitment

Drug trafficking generates corruption which undermines good governance, stability and economic development in the region. In parallel, there are evidences of increase in

substance abuse in West Africa. Drug abuse and addiction find their way onto streets of vulnerable coastal and inland states, taking terrible toll on families, education and social cohesion. Thus, in June 2007, at its 32nd Ordinary Session, the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State expressed serious concerns about the upsurge of drug trafficking and its effects, and mandated the ECOWAS Commission to take urgent action to respond to the challenge.

The magnitude of the problem and its devastating consequences on the socio-political and economic development led to the 35th Ordinary Summit ECOWAS Heads of State (2008), to adopt the Political Declaration.

The Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government went further to approve the ECOWAS Commission’s Memorandum for a two-year extension of the ECOWAS Drug Action Plan; extending the validity from January 2013 to December 2014 to ensure that the political and financial commitments, both regionally and internationally are explored to strengthen the regional and national structures to enhance implementation, and to make sure that the revalidation of the plan is concluded.

### ECOWAS Regional Action Plan to Address Illicit Drug Trafficking

The Regional Action Plan is derived from the ECOWAS Political Declaration on Drug Trafficking and Organized

Crimes in West Africa and the African Union Action Plan (2008-2012), and articulated around five thematic areas:

1. Mobilization of ECOWAS political leadership and the need for allocation of adequate national budget by ECOWAS Member states for preventing and combating illicit drug trafficking, related organized crime and drug abuse;
2. Effective law enforcement and national /regional cooperation against the high level of increase in illicit drug trafficking and organized crime;
3. Appropriate and adequate legal framework for effective criminal justice administration;
4. Facing and dealing with the emerging threats of increased drug abuse and associated health and security problems;
5. Valid and reliable data to assess the magnitude of drug trafficking and abuse problems affecting the region on a sustainable basis.

### The 2016-2020 Action Plan

Over the years, ECOWAS Heads of State and Government have demonstrated strong political commitment to the drug problem in the region. The 2008 Political Declaration and Regional Action Plan have provided the strategic framework for ECOWAS and development partners to dialogue and to collaborate to build capacity, improve coordination, support the development of national strategies and regional networking, and to improve overall understanding of the issues among various stakeholders in the region. However, the dynamic nature of drug trafficking and the increase in drug abuse problems and other related crimes coupled with delays experienced in accessing financial and technical resources, means that progress has been slow.

Thus, in January 2014 the ECOWAS Commission hosted the 10th Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Drug Coordinating Committee (IMDCC) of ECOWAS Member States to review national and regional progress on the implementation of the Plan. The Experts agreed that the thematic areas of the 2008 -2014 ECOWAS Drug Action Plan are the regions' priorities and relevant. But the Experts recommended that the ECOWAS Commission revise the plan to ensure emerging issues related to drug trafficking, drug abuse and crimes related are incorporated.

The ECOWAS Commission has now completed the re-validation process and the Draft **Action Plan to address Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime, and Drug Abuse in West Africa (2016-2020)** will be presented to Experts and Ministers in September, 2016. The 2016-2020 Action Plan, addresses growing concerns such as cybercrime, drug related money laundering, corruption, clandestine laboratories and diversion of precursors for illicit purposes. In addition, improving access and availability to controlled medications for medical and scientific purposes in line with the WHO access to controlled medications programme and the AU Plan of Action (2013-2017) is a new priority in the 2016-2020 Drug Action Plan.

The 2016-2020 Drug Action Plan aligns with the outcome document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs and Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals. It reflects a strong demonstration of the region's resolve and will require additional technical and financial support and collaboration of all partners to achieve the goal to drastically reduce drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in the region

**Dr. Sintiki Tarfa Ugbe**

*Director (Gender and Child Development, Youth/Sports, Civil Society, Employment and Drug Control)*

*ECOWAS COMMISSION*

## Key Accomplishments of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan (2008-2012).

Since the Praia Conference, through the plan and with the support of Experts from Member states, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and INTERPOL, the ECOWAS Commission has accomplished the following:

- ECOWAS Commission with the support of UNODC developed the Operational Plan and the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism to translate the Regional Action Plan and Political Declaration into concrete initiatives for implementation and resource mobilization. This was followed by the

ECOWAS-UNODC Donor Round Table in December, 2009 at which the European Union pledged to contribute 15 Million Euros towards the implementation of the ECOWAS plan to address drug trafficking, drug abuse and organized crime.

- An ECOWAS and INTERPOL, Joint Operation exercise termed "ATAKORA", preceded by a training took place in July 2012. About 160 law enforcement officers from Benin, Ghana and Togo were involved in the programme and nearly 8 tons of illicit drugs were seized and 74 people were arrested. The result of



this operation prompted ECOWAS and INTERPOL Regional Bureau to organise a training and operation on fake drugs for Benin, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo in June, 2013.

- A number of training workshops were held for major stakeholders to build capacities to support mobilization, sensitization and advocacy activities at community, national and regional levels on drug trafficking, drug abuse prevention and related organised crimes. Examples of such fora include the West African Drug Demand Reduction Experts meeting and the Regional Youth Stakeholders Workshop on Drug Use and HIV Risks in West Africa held in Accra in 2011; Workshop for Regional Media Experts in Lomé, Togo, in 2012; and Regional Workshop for Heads of Formal and In-Formal Educational Institutions, in Guinea, 2013.
- ECOWAS with technical support of the WHO launched the West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (WENDU) in June, 2013; and to date the WENDU Data Form has been validated and national Focal Points nominated to facilitate the collection and collation of drug abuse data in West Africa. Already, Member states like Nigeria and Senegal have adapted the WENDU Data Form and data collection, collation and analysis by national network are in progress.
- ECOWAS Commission supports the annual meeting of the Coordinators of the Inter-Ministerial Drug Coordinating Committee from ECOWAS Member states. The forum provides opportunity for Member states' experts to share knowledge, information and experience; and to foster networking amongst experts.
- Member states have developed, or are in the process of re-validating integrated national programmes or National Drug Plans to address drug trafficking, abuse and associated trans-national organised crime in line with the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan.
- ECOWAS Commission provided support to strengthen the functioning of the Inter-Ministerial Drug Coordinating Committee (IMDCC), to support the development of National Integrated Programme and hosting regional and continental meetings.
- ECOWAS Commission, with active involvement of Drug Demand Reduction Experts in ECOWAS Member States produced a Documentary to raise the public awareness on the growing drug abuse problems in the region.
- The ECOWAS Drug Action plan has given impetus to a number of bilateral, multi-lateral and non-government initiatives across the region. Such as the UNODC, INTERPOL, UNOWA & DPKO led West African Coast Initiative (WACI) Project, United States led West African Cooperation and Security Initiative (WACSI) Project, the support of the nations of the G8 Assistance Strategy Committee on Serious and Organised Crime in West Africa; and the Kofi Annan Foundation inspired West African Commission on Drugs.
- ECOWAS Commission continues to engage in high level advocacy to ensure that issues of drug trafficking and drug abuse are high on regional and international agenda and discourse through active involvement at the – UN Security Council, G8, WACD, and EU, UNGASS meetings.
- ECOWAS Commission and the EU, on the 22nd December 2013, signed the Financing Agreement for the project document - “Support ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on Illicit drug trafficking, related organised crime and drug abuse in West Africa” for EUR 16 470 000. EU Contribution has enabled the UNODC in May, 2015 to deploy a technical team hosted by the ECOWAS Commission to support the implementation of the more technical aspects of the Drug Action Plan. UNODC team are working closely with ECOWAS to build capacity that will contribute to the sustainability of the program.
- In line with ECOWAS- EU Financing Agreement, The ECOWAS Commission has strengthened the capacity of the ECOWAS Drug Unit (EDU) through the recruitment of staff with requisite skills and expertise to support policy advocacy, coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the ECOWAS Drug Action Plan.

# THE BIG CHALLENGES AROUND THIS PROJECT

*Cheikh Touré gives an update on the strategic commitment of the European Union, ECOWAS and UNODC in the fight against drug trafficking. He also offers an analysis about what is at stake in this Project which aims to fight against drugs in West Africa.*

## A challenging context

We agree that globalization as a global phenomenon has contributed to the advent of more open societies. It has given unexpected opportunities to thousands of people and created a real platform for dialogue on global issues.

The ease of interconnection and exchange across and between previously unconnected areas has also opened up opportunities for cross-border criminal networks.

The West Africa, if not the whole continent, quickly became a kickback zone and implementation of drug trafficking networks, since the fight is hardened in Europe and North America. The 2000s are in this respect a period when the continent is the place of relocation of criminal activities related to drugs.

To give an image, the race against time [against drugs] started a long time and the associated crime activities take advantage to install the most vulnerable areas of the continent into a favouring climate to their criminal activities. A closer look at the areas of armed conflict provides a glimpse of the links between drug trafficking, organized crime and cross-border networks.

## Issues of coordinated Collective Action

A response against the above mentioned networks, with impressive logistics and enormous financial capacity, had to be appropriate and up to the challenges. That is why UNODC, under its mandate from the international community, has registered its support of the states in a regional coherence. Political and institutional legitimacy of ECOWAS is crucial to the success of the Project.

We would like also to welcome the commitment of the European Union (Abuja Office) who agreed to finance the project «Support to Regional Action Plan of the ECOWAS fight against drug trafficking, organized crime is related and drug abuse in West Africa» through a budget of over 14 million. This is both a financial commitment, political and institutional.

The ECOWAS political commitment, since the Declaration of Heads of States in 2008, take a step forward with the adoption by the ministers of that institution, of the 2016-2020 Action Plan at the 5th of September 2016 meeting in Abuja. We are pleased to partner with that regional institution that hosts us in its premises.

## Regional development issues

UNODC is aware of the great responsibility that is theirs in the conduct of this project to achieve significant results. Its expertise already in the service of States in other projects of the kind, will be best used to strengthen

## Cheikh Touré

*Regional Programme Coordinator*  
Project Support to the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on illicit drug trafficking, related organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa.



the relevant departments of our states to address the multifaceted threat of drug trafficking in connection with criminal networks.

Our States have heavy liabilities regarding illicit drug trafficking. The adverse consequences at economic and financial levels (financial flows out of control) and in terms of public health (young people attracted in drug connection), including the expansion of corruption, are factors of failure to development programs in our countries.

There is no need to say that the fight against drugs is part of the agenda of the peace and security of the region but also in the development of West Africa.

## A turning point

The project I have the honor to coordinate on behalf of UNODC is anchored in the realities of the region. The identified challenges will be met by strengthening capacities of bodies in charge of Law enforcement and the legislative framework to fight against drugs, by strengthening the scientific logistics, networking experts from the region to the reliable data collection ...

The Training program of Law enforcement bodies is being conducted with satisfaction. Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, already housed capacity building sessions for police, judiciary, customs under the direction of trainers specialised in drug issues.

Our states are in a logic of building a coherent and coordinated response through the implementation of the framework and Action plan. Our contribution is resolutely inscribed in supporting States and the achievements are to be obtained with them.

Political and institutional legitimacy, financial commitment, expertise to enlighten efficient and effective decisions. These are Key elements of success.

The break is already running.

# CIVIL SOCIETY

## Involving West Africa Civil society in the fight against drug



***How to involve Civil Society Organizations in the fight against Drug Use and Abuse amongst Youth in West Africa? Adopting a regional approach and agenda, the Project to “Support the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on illicit drug trafficking, related organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa” and funded by the European Union has been made public a Call for Proposals targeting West Africa Civil Society Organisations.***

The overall objective of this project is to contribute to a reduction of drug abuse, illicit drug trafficking and related organized crime in West Africa through the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan.

As part of its project implementation, UNODC, ECOWAS and the EU have announced a call for proposals in support of innovative and pilot prevention initiatives in four countries in 2016 for ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania. The targeted countries constituting this call for proposal are Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Mauritania.

### Targeting Youth

Approximately 18.8% of the population is between 15 and 24 years old. Generally speaking, these teenagers have very little or no access to information on key issues which affect their lives, such as reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and the dangers of drug use. Consequently, many young people are unable to obtain the awareness they need in order to deal with common events that may arise in their lives in preparation for the adult world.

This Call for Proposals seeks to undertake innovative drug prevention activities among youth that are consistent with the international standard on drug prevention.

### Solicitation process

The Call for Proposal has been extensively advertised in using different network.

Firstly, it has been advertised on UNODC ROSEN website (March 22nd 2016) and ECOWAS (April 8th). The initial deadline to submit the concept note was extended to May 8th.

Secondly, consultation with UNDP in each country has been made to enquiry in which newspaper the Call for proposal shall be published. Following their recommendation, the Call has been advertised in the main newspaper (in term of the number of readers) in each of the four selected countries. UNDP in each country has announced the Call for proposal on their website.

ECOWAS has officially send a letter to each of the government except Mauritania (not part of ECOWAS) to announced and detail the Call for proposal. Additionally, the UNODC focal point has been contacted in each of the country. The focal person has sent an official email to the civil society to announce the Call for proposal.

**Mr. Babacar DIOUF**  
Drug Demand Reduction—UNODC  
& **Sakina FRATTINA**  
Programme Officer – UNODC



### Evaluation process

The committee was composed of two UNODC staff members (The Programme Liaison Officer and the Drug Demand Reduction Programme Officer) and two ECOWAS staff members.

Each subsection has been given a score between 0 and 5 or between 0 and 10 in accordance with the following guidelines:

- **Relevance of the issue:** a particular attention should be provided on the drug situation in the country and its impact on the target population (Youth). (25 points).
- **Methodology/Approach** —The project provides need to highlight concrete set of activities to enhance the knowledge of youth regarding drug abuse (20 points).
- **Sustainability and Exit strategy** —The target groups/beneficiaries are well defined. The project should have tangible impact on its target group, have multiplier effects and be institutionally and financially sustainable (20 points).
- **The capability of the organisation** —The applicant should have project management experience, must demonstrate past experience

in drug prevention in the country and indicate experience in working with youth and other vulnerable groups (20 points).

- **Financial feasibility** — The project should be cost-effective and comply with value for money assessment. The budget is reasonable between 30,000 USD and 45,000 USD. The applicants must give a short, realistic description of the main budget items based on the proposed activities.

After the final review of the concept note the candidates had to submit the full proposals that had to comply with the guidelines and criteria.

The committee was members of ECOWAS and UNODC staff.

### Implementation

The selected NGO will have one year to implement their activities under technical support of UNODC team. UNODC will help to further establish a detailed action plan and to supervise the activities.

**Babacar Diouf & Sakina Frattina**  
*Programme Officer - UNODC*

# UNDERSTANDING THE ECOWAS ACTION PLAN AGAINST DRUG

## ECOWAS Ministers adopt Action Plan to Address Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crimes

ECOWAS Ministers of Justice and Interior have on the 5th of September 2016, adopted the ECOWAS Drug Action Plan to Address Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crimes in the West Africa.



A cross section of Ministers from ECOWAS sub-region, delegates and Representatives of International Organizations during the group photograph of the Ministerial Meeting on 2016-2020 ECOWAS Drug Action Plan, Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organised Crime and Drug Abuse, Abuja, September, 5th 2016

Abuja 5th September 2016- The 15-Member State' Ministers including the Minister of Justice of Mauritania, have by this action at the end of their ministerial meeting, given more Philip to the resolve to chart a holistic course that is consistent with the collective wish of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, stakeholders and the people of West Africa to rid the region of the menace of drug trafficking and all forms of organised crimes.

By adopting the Action Plan, ECOWAS Commission, Member States, and all her partners will also now have a common strategic framework to guide their work in countering illicit drug trafficking, organized crimes and drug abuse in the region.

The Ministerial meeting was preceded by the meeting of Drug Demand Reduction, Law Enforcement and Legal/Judicial Cooperation from ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania who reviewed, validated and recommended for approval by the Ministers, of the ECOWAS Drug Action Plan 2016-2020. The recommendation was contained in the 9-page Final Report submitted to Ministers for their consideration.

Delivering a key note address at the opening of the ministerial meeting, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, His Excellency Marcel De Souza who was represented by the Vice President of the Commission His Excellency Edward Singhatey, outlined some of the efforts being made by the Commission to mediate in conflicts, restore democratic governance and peace in the region.

He also informed the Ministers that ECOWAS has developed the ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy (EIMS) and the ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2013) to address emerging crimes of piracy and terrorism in region. In addition to the ECOWAS Sahel Strategy which aims to support the implementation of post-conflict recovery, reconstruction and reconciliation initiatives in selected Member states

The President noted that although West African Member States have made important achievements in the implementation of parts of the 2008-2014 Action Plan (such as taking intelligence-based actions and improving border security, smashing organized crimes such as money laundering), drug use continues to claim the lives of the productive segment of our citizens. This situation clearly

calls for more commitment to prevent the region from its vulnerability to all forms of trans-national organized crimes.

According to the ECOWAS Commission President, there is the need to redouble efforts towards ensuring effective response to evolving and emerging drug trafficking and related organised crimes not only by increasing arrests, seizures and incarcerations but ensuring that prevention and treatment interventions are strengthened. In West Africa “drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation are the most cost-effective means of reducing drug-related crimes” the President emphasized.

In the President’s concluding remarks, he expressed appreciation to the Attorney-General of the Federation and Honourable Minister of Justice, Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Mr. Abubakar Malami, the host country for the meeting, the UNODC, for their technical support, and to the European Union for their commitment and financial support. He reiterated on behalf of the ECOWAS Commission, appreciation to all our development partners for their unwavering interest in the development of West Africa.

In his welcome address, the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice of Nigeria, His Excellency Mr. Abubakar Malami urged stakeholders to pay particular attention to crucial reasons for the adoption of the ECOWAS Drug Action Plan 2016-2020.

Minister Malami stated that the combat of illicit drug trafficking, abuse and related crimes remains a global problem which demands urgent attention of all stakeholders. He said Nigeria has made significant progress in tackling the problem through the vigorous implementation of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and all related legislations.

The statement of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), read by the Regional Representative of UNODC in Nigeria, Ms. Cristina Albertin, stressed among others that the ECOWAS regional action plan had become necessary because the identified scourge of drug abuse and attendant vices could exacerbate a very fragile situation with serious consequences at national, regional and international spheres.

The meeting was attended by ECOWAS Ministers and/or representatives of ministers of Justice and Interior from ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), European Union (EU), International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), United Nations Office for West Africa and Sahel (UNOWAS) and the West Africa Civil Society Forum (WACSOFF).

Following the adoption, the Drug Action Plan will be submitted to the ECOWAS Council of Ministers for their consideration for onward endorsement by the Heads of State and Government.

*Department of Communication, ECOWAS Commission*



L-R: Mr. Edward Singhartey, Vice President, representing, President of ECOWAS Commission; Mr. Augustin C. Faye, Acting Solicitor General, Federal Republic of Liberia and Chairman of the Ministerial meeting on the 2016-2020 ECOWAS Drug Action Plan; Mr. Abubakar Malami, Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Federal Republic of Nigeria; Hajiya Halima Ahmed, ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security and UNODC Country Representative, Cristina Albertin, representing the Executive Director during opening ceremony of the Ministerial Meeting on 2016-2020 ECOWAS Drug Action Plan, Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organised Crime and Drug Abuse, Abuja, September, 5th 2016.

# UNDERSTANDING THE ECOWAS ACTION PLAN AGAINST DRUG

## The Project Steering and Coordination Committee : Purpose and objectives



Stefania Marrone (EU Abuja), Dr Sow (Ecowas), Pierre Lapaque (UNODC), Cheikh Touré (UNODC), ©UNODC

*The first Steering Committee took place on 3 May 2016. Representatives of the EU, ECOWAS and UNODC agreed on the UNODC and ECOWAS workplans for 2016 and UNODC and ECOWAS presented achievements since the start of the project.*

The meeting participants were informed on progress on the development of the ECOWAS « ECOWAS Action Plan to Address Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crimes and Drug Abuse in West Africa (2016 – 2020) » and the « UNODC Regional Programme for West Africa to Prevent and Combat Crime, Terrorism and Health Threats and Strengthen Criminal Justice Systems in Line with International Human Rights Standards (2016-2020) ».

### Twice a year

The management structure of the project « Support to the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on illicit drug trafficking, » foresees the holding of a PSCC. This Committee takes place twice a year. The Steering Committee is composed of representatives of the ECOWAS Commission, the European Union Delegation to ECOWAS and the UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa.

### A Steering Committee what for?

The role of the PSCC stands in few points. First of all, it gives opportunity to validate the annual project work plans; and to discuss and endorse results obtained in the course of implementation.

The PSCC proposes Corrective measures, especially in relation to possible duplication with other initiatives conducted in the region.

### The objectives of the PSCC are also:

- To agree on, and request, revisions of the Financing Agreement, the Grant Agreement and the Funding Agreement; and to endorse project revisions as well;
- To decide on priority countries which are to receive assistance within the framework of this project in light of the limited resources available;
- To discuss/review any other matter of importance to the steering and coordination of the project at the strategic level.

### Rules of the Steering Committee

UNODC acts as Secretariat of the PSCC. The PSCC can amend its missions or organization by unanimity. The PSCC meets twice a year. Meetings are organized and chaired by the ECOWAS Commission and are hosted within its premises in Abuja, Nigeria.

Additional PSCC meetings may be requested by any of the members when deemed necessary. Such additional meetings could take place via videoconference, for example.

While the meeting conclusions do not need to be signed by each member, confirmation of acceptance by email from each member is required for the conclusions to become official PSCC documents. Record of such acceptance is kept by ECOWAS Commission.

The ECOWAS Commission generously bears the costs of hosting the PSCC meetings. Each member bears the costs linked to the attendance of its representatives.

**Monika Hillebrand**

*Programme and Liaison Officer  
ECOWAS Project*

# WEST AFRICAN EPIDEMIOLOGY NETWORK ON DRUG USE (WENDU)

## A Scientist Network to address Drug Use



Addressing the challenges posed by illicit drug supply, drug use, and drug dependence requires reliable evidence for policy formulation and evaluation of interventions and policies. Countries need mechanisms to monitor the extent, patterns and trends of drug demand and supply to inform national as well as regional responses. The West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (WENDU) was therefore established in response to this need.

The ECOWAS Project for establishing the WENDU was launched in Abuja, Nigeria during a three-day meeting held from the 25th – 27th June 2013 in collaboration with the World Health Organization. The WENDU was part of the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan against Illicit Drug Trafficking, related Organized Crime and Drug Abuse, adopted by ECOWAS Heads of State and Government on December 19th 2008, which calls for: “valid and reliable data to assess the magnitude of drug trafficking and related abuse problems affecting the region on a sustainable basis.” This is reflected in the ECOWAS Political Declaration on Drug Trafficking and Other Organized Crimes in West Africa.

WENDU was designed to provide sentinel surveillance regarding drug situation in ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania. It aims at improving information base for policy makers in addressing the social, health and economic consequences of substance use through the establishment of local sentinel surveillance networks in all Member States.

Specifically, the meeting main objective was to review and agree on the data reporting form, identify data sites, requirements for data collectors, and to propose mechanism for data collection and reporting.

Following up on the inaugural meeting of WENDU, a Report Back Meeting was held in Abuja, Nigeria from the

21st – 23rd April 2015. Specific objective of the WENDU Report Back meeting was to receive feedback from Experts in Member States drawn from psychiatric hospitals, treatment and rehabilitation centers on the effectiveness of the WENDU Data Collection Form and the Country Reporting form in obtaining relevant information on drug abuse trends in ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania.

A Two-Day Technical Experts’ Meeting of the WENDU was held from the 13th to 14th of July 2016 at the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja with a main objective: strengthening the capacity of focal points in the collection and collation of epidemiology data at the regional and national level on drug treatment demand indicators and aggregate data on drug supply. The following recommendations were made:

The network shall: (1) Assess the regional and national responses/interventions on drug control; (2) Support Member States to regularly report on the drug situation as required by International Drug Control Conventions and; (3) Assist Member States to generate strategic information for policy making.

### Composition of WENDU

WENDU consists of thirty-two focal points nominated by the fifteen ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania. They come from the national agencies/institutions that have responsibility for addressing substance use problems, directly benefiting from information acquired about drug use, and/or responsible for collection and reporting of data on drug use and supply in each country.

### Conclusion

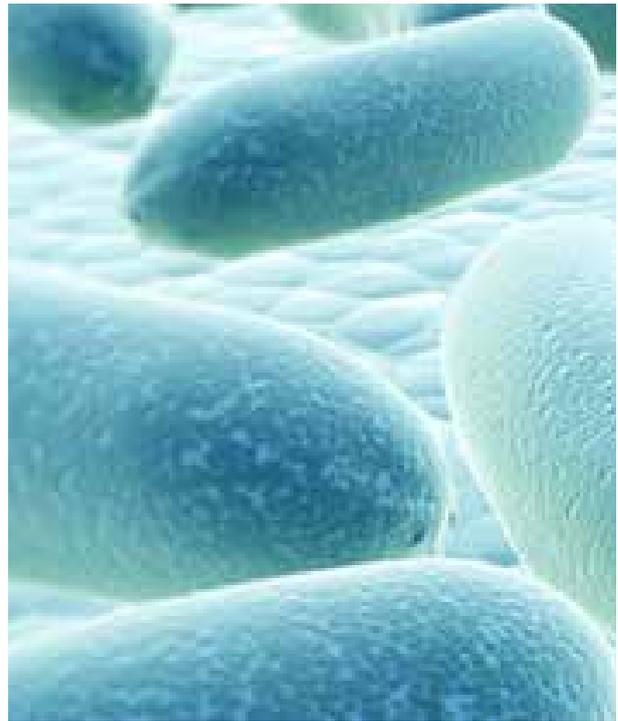
This forum (WENDU) will afford ECOWAS Member States the opportunity to quantify the extent of drug

abuse, nature, patterns and trends of drug use behaviors, demographics of people who use drugs (PWUD), risk factors associated with drug use as well as the psychosocial, health and economic consequences of drug use on individuals, families, communities, and the West African society at large. This is expected to provide detailed guidance to respective Member States towards monitoring their drug use situation thereby improving the focus, relevance and effectiveness of national and international policy responses to drug demand and supply.

Recommendations from the Technical Experts' meeting held at Abuja

The following recommendations were issued at the last 13th to 14th of July 2016 WENDU Meeting at the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja.

**Abiola Olukayode Olaleye,**  
*Epidemiologist UNODC*  
**Olabusayo Akinola PhD,**  
*Drug Demand Reduction Officer ECOWAS Commission*  
**Dr. Sintiki,**  
*ECOWAS Commission*



1. The ECOWAS Commission, in collaboration with UNODC is required to obtain political support and initiate the legal or regulatory framework for the establishment of the national information system on drugs by Member States;
2. The ECOWAS Commission in collaboration with UNODC is required to define protocols and framework agreements (MoU) between the main national institutions and the harmonized management mechanisms for drug information system;
3. The ECOWAS Commission in collaboration with UNODC is required to establish information collection mechanisms on drugs (supply and demand) in Member States and to develop data collection instruments (forms, indicators, guides / manuals, data sources and frequency of reporting);
4. The ECOWAS Commission in collaboration with UNODC is required to provide implementation guide and training support explaining the terminology, drug epidemiology indicators and reporting techniques from Member States;
5. The ECOWAS Commission in collaboration with UNODC is required to organize training sessions for different players and staff involved in the implementation of the drug information system;
6. The ECOWAS Commission in collaboration with UNODC is required to establish monitoring and evaluation mechanism for information system performance on drugs.

## **Recommendations to Member States**

7. Member States are required to nominate appropriate technical experts in the thematic areas in drug supply, demand reduction, and epidemiology to participate in related activities.
8. Member States are required to organize national coordination meeting with the parties involved in the collection of drug related data for the presentation of the Epidemiology Network (WENDU), roles and responsibilities and reporting mechanisms including the definition of the anchoring institution;

9. Member States are required to collect, collate and disseminate data with adequate guidelines and capacity building support provided by ECOWAS in collaboration with UNODC
10. Member States are required to identify training needs of the various parties involved in the national drug information system;
11. Member States are required to train professional officers responsible for prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and data collection in health and related facilities;
12. The Member States in coordination with ECOWAS Commission and in collaboration with UNODC are required to identify and implement sustainable funding mechanisms to support the national information system on drugs;
13. The Member States in coordination with ECOWAS Commission and in collaboration with UNODC are required to identify the different national parties involved in the information system on drugs (drug demand reduction, supply and risk reduction);
14. The Member States in coordination with ECOWAS Commission and in collaboration with UNODC are required to involve the civil society actors as a source of data providers and key stakeholder of the national drug information system

## **Recommendations to the WENDU focal points required for effective establishment of a national information system on drugs**

15. Focal Points are required to take the lead in national mapping of stakeholders and services, in organizing the national networks and identifying national capacity needs as well as related drug data collection /analysis activities
16. Focal Points are required to engage with respective national counterparts for gap analysis and in policy formulation (strategies and action plan) for drug supply and demand reduction activities in line with the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan
17. **ECOWAS Commission and Member States are required to ensure implementation of the above-slated recommendations.**

# THE ECOWAS PROJECT IN ACTION

*Since the beginning of the project, building capacities is in the heart of its activities. Law Enforcement bodies from Mali, Burkina, Guinea Bissau, Niger, have been reinforced. Several other countries are on the list.*

## UNODC and MINUSMA deliver training on techniques against international drug trafficking in Mali



*Anti-Narcotics Officers at the end of the training held in Liberia ©UNODC*

Dakar, 1st July 2016,- In the mid 2000s, Africa has become a transit area to Europe for international drug trafficking, especially, cannabis resin from the Moroccan Rif and cocaine from Latin America. The emergence of new synthetic drug, which are also produced locally, such as methamphetamine is an additional cause of concern to stakeholders in the fight against drugs.

The actors of underground criminal networks adapt to law enforcement and the chaos of the armed conflict in the region has provided a fertile ground for their activities. Terrorism and trafficking in the Sahel-Saharan region are now intertwined elements.

To fight against these threats, UNODC regional office, in collaboration with MINUSMA, has organized from 20 June to 1 July in Bamako, Mali, a training workshop

on « investigative techniques against international drug trafficking».

The training brought together 18 professionals from both units dedicated to the fight against international drug trafficking in Mali: The Drugs Central Office (DCO), with an international vocation, and the Bamako Drug Brigade, with a national competence.

The purpose of this high-value training was to enable successful investigation, drug seizures and drug trafficker interpellations. It was also to strengthen the operational capacities of the Malian anti-drug units for providing a fast and efficient judicial and operational response. Both units will then have to work in the most harmonious way for a greater efficiency in the field.

*Source: UNODC*

## Magistrates and gendarmes better prepared to deal with methamphetamine trafficking in Burkina Faso

Dakar, 16 th August 2016- Since the mid-2000s, Africa has become a transit hub for international drug trafficking to Europe. Underground criminal networks have developed the capacity to adjust to law enforcement capabilities and the regional instability has facilitated illegal drug activities in West Africa. However, Africa has risen from a transit zone to a production and consumption zone. New more dangerous drugs have also appeared in West Africa.

For a harmonized respond at a regional level, the project

to « Support to ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa», fully funded by the European Union (Abuja Office), has been implemented and executed by UNODC in collaboration with member states of ECOWAS.

In the framework of this project, the UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa organized from 16 th to 19 th August 2016, a training in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in collaboration with ECOWAS. This workshop aimed at strengthening Burkinabe capacities

to fight against drug trafficking, and especially on the « Operational strategies to fight against illegal methamphetamine trafficking ».

To this end, the training gathered members of law enforcement agencies and institutions, namely the Police, Gendarmerie, Justice and Customs. This aimed

at ensuring a comprehensive to the threat and challenges facing in dealing with methamphetamine production, transportation and consumption in the country. Mali, Niger and Guinea-Bissau have already benefited from similar activities led by UNODC trainers.

*Source: UNODC*

## UNODC trains 15 trainers to step up the fight against international drug trafficking in Niger

2 June 2016, Niamey- Since the early 2000s, the West African region has become one of the main hubs for cocaine trafficking from Latin America to Europe. This could be explained by the war on drugs in Europe and USA which altered the traditional drug routes. Moreover, the unregulated profits generated by the organized crime engaged in drug trafficking have created a macroeconomic instability in affected countries. Another serious concern induced by drug trafficking is the significant public health problems it creates.

The frequent recurrence of drug seizure in the region is a testament to the intensity and evolution of the illegal activities in the region. Furthermore, terrorist groups have involved themselves in the transnational drug trafficking in West Africa as a mean to raise funds to finance their activities.

To fight against these threats, UNODC has launched, in collaboration with the ECOWAS, the project Support to ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa. This project is entirely funded by the European Union (Abuja Office) through the 10th European Development Fund. In this context, and in partnership with its Sahel Programme, the UNODC Regional Office conducted a training for trainers from 30 May to 2 June 2016 in Niamey, Niger, to strengthen field units mandated to fight against international drug trafficking. This training was made possible through the contributions of the government of Denmark and the European Union.

*Source: UNODC*

## Bissau – UNODC trains 16 Police Officers and Judges in the fight against international drug trafficking

Bissau, 10th June 2016-The Regional Office of the United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized a training of trainers from 1st to 09th June in Bissau to strengthen the units responsible for the fight against international traffic narcotics.

The training brought together 16 professionals (11 men and 5 women) from the Police and Judiciary for 09 days supervised by anti-narcotics fight specialists.

The Guinea-Bissau authorities, officials of UNODC and a representative from the Office of the European Union in Bissau attended the opening ceremony.

The chosen theme: «Means of obtaining evidence and criminal investigation organization and procedures in the fight against drug trafficking» is topical as ever.

Guinea-Bissau has been concerned by international drug trafficking for many years because the African continent has become a transit zone, production and even drug use area. Evidenced by the amounts of increasing seizures of cocaine, heroin and cannabis.



*A participant receiving her attestation in Guinea Bissau ©UNODC*

*Source: UNODC*

# PROFILE

## Djibril Sangaré: Senegalese Customs Officer, anti-drug trainer and specialist



*Having joined the team of trainers in the ECOWAS Program in May, his modules on drug identification and concealment have been well received by law enforcement officers. Lieutenant Djibril Sangaré is the current Head of the Customs Brigade in Diamniadio, Senegal. He spent his childhood in the Prytanée Military Academy in Saint Louis and is outspokenly fighting against fraudsters and drug traffickers.*

His childhood dream was to join the military academy and become an officer of the Senegalese army.

According to him, it was by chance that he went to the entrance examination of the School of Customs after his baccalaureate. He graduated “top of the class” in December 1995. He has since come a long way and it’s not by chance that he is today a Senior controller of the Senegalese customs and ranked as Lieutenant.

«I love my job because it gives me the opportunity to protect my country, which was my childhood dream; not only security-wise, but also economically and fiscally”. At only 41 years old and with 21 years of service in the Senegalese customs, he is already an “old fox” with no less than 18 years of career ahead of him.

When he completed his training, he was assigned to a post at the border of Gambia, then to a mobile brigade before another post on the border of Mauritania. It was after that he was transferred to a river brigade in northern Senegal. There can be incidents with huge risks during service. “I have spent eight exceptional years spent on the field”, he says. “Today as I am looking back, I realize that I could have lost my life several times”.

After having passed the examination for becoming a customs controller, he became a supervising officer but “got bitten by a virus for fraud investigation” and could not restrain himself from working on the field. At the time, alongside his officers, he carried out his first cocaine seizures in the Southeast region of Senegal, which have been according to him, “the best ones at the national level”. The results of his work were acknowledged by the General Customs Director, Mr. Armand Nanga, who offered to assign him to the brigade of Pont Serigne Bassirou Mbacké in order to fight more efficiently against the scourge of drugs.

Sangaré’s efforts in fraud and drug investigation then led him to a post at the airport in Dakar where he served as a shift supervisor of the Tourism Brigade and as the Head of the Inspection Brigade for five years; carrying out “fairly satisfactory seizures of all kinds of drugs”. Now having been the Chief of the Customs Brigade in Diamniadio for

only nine months, he has already had his share of narcotics seizures.

An instructor in the fight against drugs

As he is the «Trainer of all ranks», over 700 officers have been able to benefit from his expertise in the past four years at the National Customs Academy, the National Police Academy and the Academy for National Gendarmerie Officers that hosts several nationalities of the sub-region. In addition, he has participated as a trainer in several national and international training seminars on the fight against drugs. He has obtained a degree in «engineering of vocational training» since 2013 and has acquired a lot of expertise from his active participation in training seminars held by the World Customs Organization. Now, he intends on sharing his know-how with officers working in the customs.

Honored by the trust placed in him, Mr. Sangaré has been hired as a French training expert in the UNODC training program of ECOWAS countries and Mauritania since May. He was recommended by the officials of the regional office of the DEA (US) to Mr. Gary HYDE who is the Law Enforcement Agent in the ECOWAS Project of the UNODC. Mr. Sangaré wants everyone that are involved in the fight against drugs and psychotropic substances at the national or international level to benefit from his expertise. This is one of the reasons why he has specialized in the fight against drugs, particularly in the training of the security and defense forces.

The Medal of Honor of the Senegalese Customs

The medal of honor of the Senegalese Customs is the Holy Grail for any customs officer. Through hard work and tracking down all kinds of fraudsters and smugglers, the dream of receiving that medal has become a reality for Lt Sangaré. He receiving his medal 4 April 2015 from the Finance Minister at that time, Mouhamadou Makhtar Cissé, and as the icing on the cake, the minister was his elder at the Prytanée Military Academy.

Nevertheless, Lt Sangaré still breaks out in a cold sweat

when he recalls the day when he and his colleagues escaped a murder attempt by villagers in a location he chooses not to disclose, when they were in the search and seizure of fraudulent merchandise that had led them to the home of the village marabout. Luckily they got away, although without managing to seize the merchandise. “That day could have been the last for all of us but we got out safe and sound”, he says with a smile on his face.

He has devoted his career mainly to the fight against drugs within Senegal, followed by a post at the airport and has made large seizures of cocaine and marijuana either by land, river sea or air.

### Mansour DIOUF & Lieutenant SANGARÉ



## Attention Méthamphétamine !



Currently, a major problem in West Africa is the emergence of underground methamphetamine laboratories. Methamphetamine is a very addictive, dangerous and powerful stimulant that is able to destroy the youth of a country in a trice. The substance also considerably increases crime rate as well as insecurity as meth users are highly unpredictable.

But it is these secret laboratories where the drug is manufactured that pose the biggest danger. These labs can function anywhere, yet they have a high risk of exploding, causing fire and polluting the environment due to the waste and toxic gases that they produce. Some criminal organizations are well aware of the vulnerabilities of the African continent and thus have chosen to install their laboratories manufacturing synthetic drugs there before exporting the finished product to major European and Asian countries for consumption. These new markets create a risk in Africa by adjusting the price of the product according to the local purchasing power. When addiction is growing, the markets can then manipulate their clients as they wish.

In my view, there is no sufficient enough of a method in the world in the fight against drugs since drug trafficking is constantly evolving and adapting to our strategies. However, I find that Senegal is quite well equipped to fighting drugs due to the fact that in recent years, all of the corps (Customs, police, gendarmerie and army) have attained a significant amount of seizures. The emergence of mixed drug control units (CAAT and UMCC) has much contributed to the cohesive effort of all of these corps in the fight against drugs. My biggest wish would be to see the people join us in the fight against this scourge. People must never forget that the security forces are part of the population they ought to protect, as are drug traffickers and users. To denounce the latter is not deceitful but rather demonstrates an act of good citizenship. By enabling the police or customs to arrest a drug dealer, one may have saved the life of a close relative, friend or one's own child from the grip of drugs. I therefore appeal to everyone to help us protect their close ones from drugs.

Furthermore, I would like to see countries worldwide investing more in drug prevention as well as in informing people about the risks of drug use through public announcements or discussions etc. Indeed, many users are trapped by drugs by not being aware of their long term risks.

Lieutenant SANGARÉ

## INTRODUCING THE PROJECT TEAM

*Implementing the ECOWAS Project required diverse and multidisciplinary skills and profiles. The team has progressively been installed. The men and women who have taken up the challenge to fight against drugs within the ECOWAS Project are introduced in this issue. The team is distributed between Dakar and Abuja.*

### Cheikh TOURÉ

Project Coordinator



Regional Programme Coordinator at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Cheikh Toure has an extensive background in managing programmes, often, in complex emergencies and post-conflict environments, committed to contribute to the improvement of the rule of Law and Governance in developing countries. Cheikh Toure landed his first job in International Development at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems in Washington where he focused on democratic processes and anti-corruption issues in West Africa, especially in Nigeria and Liberia. This initial exposure to the field gave him the confidence and motivation to continue in the same vein and led him to jobs with the United Nations Development Programme in Chad, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Chad, the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Palestine, Lao PDR. Cheikh Toure has extensive global exposure in Governance and Rule of Law issues. He holds a Diplôme Supérieur d'Administration et de Management from L'Institut Supérieur d'Administration et de Management (ISM) in Dakar - Sénégal and a master's degree from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

### Melinda MANCEBO,

Forensic Expert



I joined the ECOWAS Project since October 2015 and is based in Abuja. My Fields of Competency: Advanced degree in Toxicology and two Masters (Biochemistry and Forensics) and other Certificates. Experience in cooperation with investigation services: Police, Gendarmerie, Justice, Customs. I worked as Investigator and Crime scene investigator at French National Anti-Doping Agency. My added-value to the Project: « An efficient and sustainable technical support to West Africa Forensics services and putting up a Network that will guaranty fluidity and liability to the Law Enforcement Results.

### Babacar DIOUF

Drug Demand Reduction Expert



Based in Dakar and joined the ECOWAS Project since June 2016. Babacar hold a DEA in Sociology, a DSTS in Social Work and a Master in Public Health. He has a sound knowledge of health system in Senegal and West Africa, strong Skills in management, monitoring and evaluation of public health programs (Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS, and Insurance scheme implementation) and a Proven experience in management of drug demand reduction approaches as well. Excellent data analysis skills in quantitative and qualitative studies, Experienced in rapid and participatory evaluation methodologies... I commit myself to provide the necessary support to the ECOWAS Programme to assist Member States and communities in preventing, treating and rehabilitating drug dependent persons for the development and wellbeing in our subregion.

**Gary HYDE**

Law Enforcement  
Expert



An American national, he has an undergraduate degree in Business Management, a Law degree and 25 years of federal law enforcement experience in which he investigated all types of crimes, managed investigators, served as a federal prosecutor, legal advisor, legal trainer, INTERPOL criminal intelligence officer and international antimoney laundering advisor. He is licensed to practice law and holds professional certifications with the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists, the Association of Certified Financial Examiners and the International Association of Financial Crime Investigators. He speaks French fluently and is conversational in Spanish and Portuguese. In the 16 months he has developed a detailed costed work plan, performed 5 capacity assessment missions, supervised the creation of seven comprehensive country reports, created European Francophone, Anglophone and Lusophone technical expert teams, and overseen the development and delivery of 5 narcotics trafficking enforcement training courses in 3 different languages without a translator.

**Monika HILLEBRAND**

Programme and Liaison Officer



Based in Dakar and joined in March 2015. Monika's responsibilities:

Acts as link between the UNODC project team in Abuja and the team in Dakar; regarding strategic, coordination and reporting matters; Prepare all narrative reports required according to UNODC and European Union rules and regulations, ensure coordination and an adequate flow of information among the staff involved; Monika monitors and facilitates the implementation of programme, conduct programmatic tasks necessary for the functioning of the Office, Co-ordinate the work carried out by the Office;

**Amadou Mansour DIOUF**

National Communication  
Officer



Amadou Mansour DIOUF, National Communication Officer, based in Dakar and joined since March 7th 2016. Mr Diouf is a trained journalist and holds a Master in Communication and Journalism and a Master in Information Management and an Advanced degree in Literature (University of Dakar).

Competencies: Communication for development, Content production, Strategic communication... Worked as information Officer for International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and for UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office. He gained a wide experience in Development Communication, Humanitarian Communication and Journalism gathered from previous positions at the African Press Agency, Panos Institute West Africa and ENDA Third World... His challenge : to use communication as a tool of change for the Project.

**Chinyere OKORIE**

Finance/ Administrative  
Associate



Based in Abuja, joined 2nd May 2016. Fields of Competency: Finance, Administration, Management/ Human Resources. Previous activities: Finance, Administration/Logistics and Management/ Human Resources my expected added-value to the Project: "Proper accountability and management of the project resources, and the general administration of the project to ensure the project objectives are met."

**CLAIRE DUBOIS-LIDON**  
Project Management Specialist



CLAIRE DUBOIS-LIDON, Project Management Specialist Claire is based in Dakar and joined since June 2016. She is specialist in Defence Policy and Security Issues, Governance and Public Affairs. Claire was a consultant for the World Food Programme, Regional Office for West and Central Africa, she worked also as a consultant for the European headquarters of Eurocorps, Strasbourg (France) and intern at the US House of Representatives (the Capitol), Washington DC (USA). His passion for peace and the struggle against organized crime themes and its project management skills will be an asset to the project.

**Kamal TOURÉ**  
eLearning Officer



Kamal TOURÉ, eLearning Officer Holding an Engineering Degree in Information Technology obtained from Polytechnic College of Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Kamal is also certified in Project Management (PMP, PRINCE2). After working a few years as an IT Officer, he went on to implement Supply chain and Logistic systems in more than 12 countries on 4 continents. Kamal joins us with a vast experience in training (face to face and remotely) and in Project Implementation acquired along his 10 years of experience, which he spent mostly in humanitarian organizations like Oxfam and Doctors Without Borders, from where he joins us...

**Abiola, Olaleye**  
National Programme Officer -  
Epidemiology.



He is based in Abuja and joined the ECOWAS Project since June, 2016. He is competent in : Epidemiology, Biostatistics, HIV prevention, care and support, Adolescent Health (including drug abuse prevention); Monitoring and evaluation of public health and development programmes, conducting research including surveys; Public health programme management. Previously he worked as Senior Technical Advisor, Global Fund Project, in Abuja, Nigeria, as State Programme Coordinator for Global Fund Round 9, Phase 2 Project, Rivers State, Nigeria and Provincial Antiretroviral Therapy Coordinator - National HIV Treatment Programme, Free State Province, South Africa. Abiola is an Associate Fellow of the West African College of Physicians (Community Health) and a recipient of the Academic Honourary Colours of the University of Pretoria and the Niger State Governor's Youth Service Merit Award.

**Khoudia Diallo**  
Travel/Logistic Assistant



BTS (Brevet de Technicien Supérieur at CFPC; I have in 2007 completed a master's degree (Master 1) in Business Administration at the African Institute of Management (IAM) in Dakar Senegal. My area of focus was Administration-marketing and communication. In 2012, I've completed a License in project management (DTS) at ENEA (Ecole Nationale d'Economie Appliquée). I've worked as Assistant to the editor in chief at the Pan African News Agency (PANAPRESS) until 2007 when I joined the Open Society Initiative for West Africa as Receptionist and administrative assistant. Prior to joining OSIWA, I have had the opportunity to work with also Aide action (Direction Afrique) South Africa Embassy as administrative assistant. I gained from the work many experience. In November 2013, I've integrated a project funded by Bill and Melinda Gates in Intrahealth Senegal as program Assistant and after I've the opportunity to work with one of the UN system ICAO as Team Assistant.

Since 15 January 2016, I've integrated UNODC as travel and logistic assistant

**Sokhna Sock**

Human Resources Assistant



I joined the ECOWAS project since February 2016 and based in Dakar office. Previously I worked as HR Assistant at UNDP Dakar. I totalise 07 years' experience on the job with international institutions. As Human Resources Assistant, my responsibilities are focused on recruitment process, onboarding of staff, evaluation process of staff, and monitor the implementation of rules and regulations. I give support to all activities within the Project such as workshops. My work is also to ensure that all the project documents and timesheet are properly archived and kept.

**Sakina FRATTINA,**

Programme Officer



Sakina Frattina is a graduate of the University Paris I, Pantheon-Sorbonne (Master). Her legal studies focused principally upon public international law and human rights law at the domestic, regional and international level. She also holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree at McGill University, Montreal - Canada. Before joining the ECOWAS Project, Sakina worked as a legal advisor at the Court of Appeal in France. Sakina, is a dedicated and innovative professional, with research and community experiences, in 2006, while in Laos with UNODC, she documented and reported on human rights violations related to drugs and human trafficking in Laos and South-East Asia. Additionally, she was involved field opium survey the Northern remote areas of Lao PDR. Sakina in her first round in Laos, worked on legal reform framework and Humble and energetic with a knack for learning new skill, conceptualized the first drug prevention campaign for youth in Lao PDR involving local celebrities.

## ECOWAS, UNODC sign Letter of Cooperation on the Fight against Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa.



The letter of cooperation signed by His Excellency, Marcel de Souza, President of the ECOWAS Commission and Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC on behalf of the two Institutions

Abuja, 20/09/2016- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on September 19, 2016 on the sidelines of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly signed a letter of cooperation to confirm their commitment for an effective and integrated implementation of the UNODC Regional Programme and the ECOWAS Action Plan on the Fight against Illicit Drug Trafficking, related Organized Crime, Corruption and Terrorism, as well as Drug Abuse in West Africa.

This cooperation between ECOWAS and UNODC has come when the development, peace and stability of West Africa is being threatened by transnational organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, terrorism, corruption, the laundering of criminal assets and terrorism financing, weakness in the criminal justice system, as well as HIV/AIDS and drug abuse. These constantly evolving threats if left unchecked will ultimately compromise social, economic and human development in the region.

Following the evaluation of the results of the UNODC Regional Programme and the ECOWAS Plan for West Africa 2008-2014, and considering emerging threats and trends, the UNODC has developed its new Regional Programme for West Africa, while ECOWAS elaborated its Regional Action Plan to Address Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa, both covering 2016 – 2020 implementation period.

These two strategic documents aim to mobilize joint efforts to successfully face current and future threats in West Africa. They are aligned and strategically complementary with the purpose of supporting a framework of national, regional and inter-regional collective actions to strengthen the capacities of States in areas of governance, security and health promotion, linking national, regional and inter-regional actors.

The letter of cooperation was signed by His Excellency, Marcel de Souza, President of the ECOWAS Commission and Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC on behalf of the two Institutions.

Department of Communication,  
ECOWAS Commission

Newsletter of the ONUDC/ECOWAS  
Project Against Drug Trafficking

# ECOWAS PROJECT TRAINING PROGRAMME

## EMPOWERING LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES IN WEST AFRICA

Support to ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa



This Project is funded by the European Union

## CAPACITY BUILDING : ELEARNING OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

One of the expected outcomes of the XAW/Z28 project is to Establish Computer-Based Training (CBT) centres in selected ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania (Outcome 4.1.3).

For this purpose, 5 countries have been identified: Sierra Leone, Ghana, Senegal, Togo and Guinea Bissau. These countries will benefit of Mobile Training Units (MTUs) that will be installed will primarily be established within national law enforcement training schools (customs, police and gendarmerie). Decentralised locations will be considered as well. Each centre will have to be self-sustainable in terms of power and Internet.

A Mobile Training Unit is a set of Computers (a server and Workstations), Headphones and network equipment, which will allow law enforcement officers, working in the field of countering international drug trafficking and criminality, to have access to courses developed by UNODC on tackling illicit drugs, crime, and any other relevant topic (<https://www.unodc.org/eLearning/en/>

[courses/course-catalogue.html](https://www.unodc.org/eLearning/en/courses/course-catalogue.html)). The MTU will include the 100+ courses available in English, plus the translated version (in French or Portuguese depending on the country) of selected courses on which the users will be trained. The courses will be accessed offline, using a local network, without the need to connect to the Internet. However, there is also an online platform where all the courses (and their translated version) are located, that can be accessed from any location (<https://www.unodc.org/eLearning/en/courses/course-catalogue.html>).

The objectives of the ELearning, are not limited to installing CBT centres in these 5 countries. As a whole, the ELearning aims to contribute to all ROSEN projects in west Africa by helping them to get an eLearning training component, and to offer eLearning as a UNODC “Corporate Service”, in order to facilitate and improve law enforcement officers’ knowledge on all UNODC mandates.

**Kamal TOURÉ,**  
*eLearning Officer UNODC*





***“Drug trafficking is a growing problem in West Africa as the production of synthetic drugs and their use are increasing in the region”.***

*Source: UNODC Annual Report*

