



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

REGIONAL FACTCHECKING PARTNER FOR THE E-MAM (ELECTORAL violence MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION) 2023-2026 PROJECT

1- Background

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) is a West African based peacebuilding organization founded in 1998 in response to civil wars that plagued West Africa in the 1990s. Since its foundation, WANEP has successfully established its regional office in Ghana and National Network offices/ secretariats in all 15 ECOWAS member states, with over 700 network member organizations whose expertise span across various thematic areas in the field of peace and security. As the leading peacebuilding civil society organization in the region, WANEP works with diverse stakeholders to promote peace and stability in the region.

WANEP is currently implementing the third phase of the Electoral violence Monitoring, Analysis and Mitigation (E-MAM) 2023-2026 project in 12 countries in West Africa. Funded by the European Union (EU), the overall objective of the project is to contribute to the reduction of electoral violence in West Africa through the strengthening and mobilization of regional and national capacities required for the prevention or mitigation of political violence in democracy. As part of the implementation of E-MAM, WANEP is issuing this call for expression of interest for the recruitment a regional partner that can contribute to the factchecking efforts by the project before, during and after the targeted elections.

Elections are fundamental to democracy, but they have also become critical moments for reinforcing the stability of countries in West Africa. Increasingly, since 2000, the information ecosystem during electioneering processes have been dangerously polluted by disinformation and misinformation. This has exacerbated tensions, violence, and fuelled conflicts in West Africa. According to the 2024 Global Risk Report¹, “Misinformation and disinformation” holds the top slot in the short term (2 years) global risks ranked by severity. This informs the needs to develop counter-messaging strategies that employ the use and spread of verified news to dispel misinformation and disinformation. In this regard, fact-checking initiatives come as the first line of defence to shape the “truth narrative” around elections. This will be the main contribution expected from the regional partner sought to support the implementation of the E-MAM project in the 10² remaining countries in West Africa.

2- Objectives of the factchecking partnership

The main objective of this factchecking partnership is to provide verified, accurate, unbiased analysis of viral and public statements as contribution to shape true narratives around elections in targeted countries.

The specific objectives are to:

- a) Provide long term coordinated and harmonized factchecking support on pre, during and post-election issues in the targeted countries,
- b) Provide a regional updated online database via a website where all the fact-checked reports and other publications can be accessed per thematic and targeted countries,
- c) Operationalise a counter-information disorder strategy that use the checked disinformation and misinformation in electoral context to spread verified news among all relevant stakeholders.

¹ World Economic Forum, The Global Risks Report 2024, 19th edition, page 11

² Burkina-Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Niger, The Gambia, Togo, and Benin.

3- Expected deliverables.

The partner is expected to deliver:

- 1- Fact-Checked reports for all viral and public statement related to pre, during and post-election issues in the targeted countries,
- 2- Regional updated online database via a website to access all fact-checked reports and other publications per thematic and targeted countries,
- 3- Well-structured network using the checked disinformation and misinformation to spread verified news among all relevant election stakeholders,
- 4- A final report for each of the targeted countries based on the objectives of the factchecking partnership, in French or English with 3,000 to 5,000 words in length, excluding the table of contents and references.

4- Duration of the partnership

This partnership is expected to last for 3 years (2024-2026) corresponding to the length of the E-MAM project on the basis of an annual MoU renewable after satisfactory review by parties. The partner is expected to maintain an online presence and make accessible all the products generated by the project even after 2026. During the mentioned period, the partner will be required to work closely with WANEP Regional Coordinator - Network Development, as well as the National Network Coordinator of the targeted countries on progress and inputs.

5- Eligibility, qualification, and experience required.

Interested organisation should have at least the following qualifications:

- Registered organisation or network based or working in West Africa against information disorder,
- Have at least 5 years' experience in fact-checking on elections in West African countries (English-speaking and French-speaking),
- Have an up-to-date database linked to a website giving access to all previous fact-checking reports carried out by the organisation in French and English,
- Have sufficient ongoing projects and funding that can be complemented by the E-MAM project to perform the objectives of this partnership,
- Have the necessary human resources and well-established networks in the region to contribute effectively to the implementation of the partnership in all the target countries.

6- Application

Qualified and Interested organisations should submit the following documents to wanep@wanep.org with mandatory copy to joussou@wanep.org before 23:59 GMT on 25th May 2024.

- Cover letter with the proof of registration of the organisation attached,
- Last 3 years annual reports,
- A detailed profile document of the organisation responding to all the mentioned aspects in the "eligibility, qualification and experience required" section above.

For further information please call +233(0) 302 411638 or send a mail to joussou@wanep.org before the deadline.