



# The African Peace Facility

FACTSHEET

## Early Response Mechanism (ERM)

### OVERVIEW

### OBJECTIVES

- When?** 04/11/2009 to 31/10/2024
- Where?** **So far:** Burundi, CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Conakry, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.
- How many initiatives?** 40
- How much?** EUR 55 million
- With whom?** The African Union (AU) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs)
- Why?** To enable the AU and the RECs/RMs to react in an appropriate and timely manner to evolving crises and suddenly emerging windows of opportunity for peacebuilding.

- Increase the role and decision-making capacity of the AU and RECs/RMs in mediation and preventive diplomacy processes.
- Strengthen their capacity to set up conflict prevention and management initiatives.
- Support planning processes and early stages of African-led peace support operations.

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## POLITICAL BACKGROUND

Focusing on the early stages of crises since 2009



### 2008

#### Joint EU-AU evaluation reveals the need to

- provide the AU and RECs/RMs with an immediately available and reliable source of funding for initiatives aimed at preventing and managing violent conflict.
- conduct fact-finding missions on possible interventions as soon as a strategic option is requested by the AU.
- set up planning cells when needed.

### 2009

- First ERM contract signed.



#### The ERM focuses on urgent and unforeseen needs related to

mediation, political negotiation, shuttle diplomacy support to the deployment of security/Human Rights observers  
fact-finding missions for the preparation/ and set-up of a peace support operation

### Duration of actions

- Urgent mediation and political negotiation activities: maximum 24 months.
- All other actions: maximum 12 months.

## BENEFICIARIES

### The African Union Commission (AUC)

#### The Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

- the Arab Magreb Union (AMU)
- Common Market of East and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- East African Community (EAC)
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD)
- South African Development Community (SADC)

#### The Regional Mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution (RMs)

- Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF)
- North Africa Regional Capability (NARC)

## HIGHLIGHTS

10 days response time for urgent crises



### Main achievements

- **Flexibility:** adapted to African partners' needs.
- **Leadership:** increased role for the AU and RECs/RMs in mediation and preventive diplomacy.
- **Decision-making:** analysis of situations on the ground and better planning documents enable AU and RECs/RMs to make informed decisions.

### Approval process

- Requests for ERM initiatives from AU and RECs are forwarded to the EU by the AUC.
- EU assessment of relevance and design of the request.
- Approval process takes max. 10 working days.
- If approved, immediate availability of funds.

## EARLY RESPONSE MECHANISM SINCE 2009

### Examples of initiatives funded

#### Mediation actions

• Lesotho	Multi-stakeholder dialogue on governance reform	
• Madagascar	AU-SADC mediation operation	
• Sudan	AU high level implementation	
• Guinea Bissau	ECOWAS-Burkina Faso mediation	
• Somalia	Office of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) facilitator	
• Niger	AU mediation efforts	
• Uganda	Fight against Lord Resistance Army	
• Ivory Coast	High Level Group	
• Libya	AU ad-hoc High Level Group	
• Sahel region	AU Sahel program	
• South Sudan	AU and IGAD mediation / High Level Revitalisation Forum	
• Central African Republic	AU mediation / Forum de Bangui	

#### Fact-finding missions / observing missions and crisis monitoring

• Madagascar	Establishment of AU-SADC Liaison Office	
• Mali	AU-ECOWAS Human Rights observers	
• Burundi	AU Human Rights observers	
• Great Lakes	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region	

#### Early support to Peace Support Operations

• Gambia	ECOWAS Mission in The Gambia	
• Great Lakes	Joint verification mechanism of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region	
• Lesotho	SADC Preventive mission to the Kingdom of Lesotho	
• CAR	Support to the implementation of the 2019 Peace Agreement	

#### Electoral violence prevention

• Kenya	IGAD support	
• Burundi	COMESA-EAC support	
• Liberia	ECOWAS support	
• Sierra Leone	ECOWAS support	