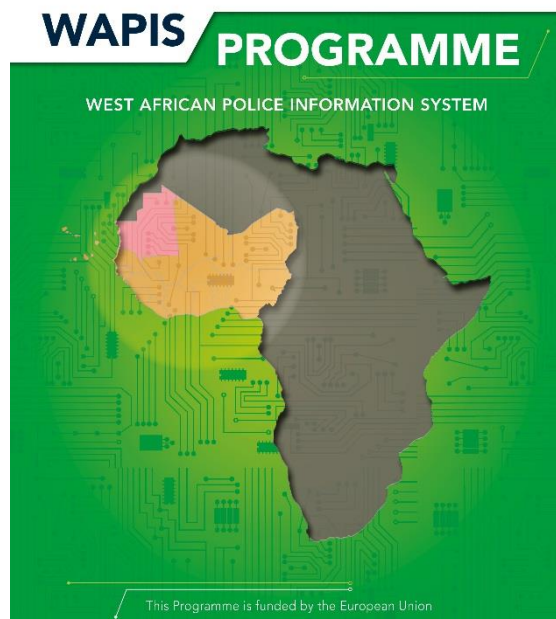




EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WAPIS Progress Report

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS PER COUNTRY	4
1.1 OUTPUT 1: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WAPIS AT A NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL IS SUPPORTED BY WEST AFRICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS.....	4
1.2 OUTPUT 2: THE WAPIS SYSTEM IS IMPLEMENTED AT A NATIONAL LEVEL, INCLUDING THROUGH THE PROVISION OF OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING	6
1.3 OUTPUT 3: THE WAPIS REGIONAL DATA-SHARING PLATFORM IS DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED IN COOPERATION WITH THE ECOWAS COMMISSION AND ECOWAS MEMBER STATES (AND POSSIBLY MAURITANIA) 7	7
1.4 NATIONAL WAPIS SYSTEMS ARE LINKED UP WITH INTERPOL CHANNELS THROUGH INTERPOL NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAUS.....	8
1.5 THE ECOWAS MEMBER STATES HAVE ADOPTED THE REQUIRED LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS WAPIS	8
1.6 THE WAPIS SYSTEM BEING HANDED OVER TO NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES ENSURING THE SYSTEM CAN CONTINUE IN THE LONG TERM 9	9
2 CONCLUSION	9

List of Abbreviations

AIRCOP	Airport Communication Project
CCSS	Committee of Chiefs of Security Services
DACORE	Data Collection and Registration (Centre)
DEVCO	Development and Cooperation Aid
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDF	European Development Fund
EEAS	European External Action Service
EU	European Union
EUCAP	European Union Capacity Building Mission
EULOs	European Liaison Officers (platforms)
IFS	Instrument for Stability
IT	Information Technology
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCB	(INTERPOL) National Central Bureau
PAJED	Programme d'Appui à la Justice et à l'Etat de Droit
PCMS	Plateforme de Coopération en Matière de Sécurité
PSCC	Programme Steering and Coordination Committee (PSCC)
RIP	Regional Indicative Programme
SEACOP	Seaport Communication Project
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
SRIEU	Special Representative of INTERPOL to the European Union
TOC	Transnational Organised Crime
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WANACO	WAPIS National Committee
WAPCCO	West African Police Chiefs Committee
WAPIS	West African Police Information System

INTRODUCTION

The WAPIS Programme has reached the first half of its implementation period. There are about 24 months left to increase the capacity of West African law enforcement authorities to combat transnational crime and terrorism through enhanced information management and sharing.

This report concerns programme implementation between the last Steering Committee in November 2019 and April 2020. Needless to say, this implementation period has been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of that and following INTERPOL adopted precautionary measures, all WAPIS Programme missions, events and trainings were interrupted until the end of August 2020 heavily impacting planned Programme activities. Obviously, the responsiveness of and implementation by the beneficiary countries was also impacted by this Covid-19 pandemic.

Nevertheless, the WAPIS Programme team has continued working with their partners and national authorities through emailing and by videoconferencing in order to conduct meetings and where possible continue ongoing activities.

The progress made during the reporting period is summarized here following the six expected outputs defined in the DOA and the WAPIS logframe. Moreover, this report is structured around and based upon the implementation of the recently developed M&E plan.

1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS PER COUNTRY

1.1 OUTPUT 1: THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WAPIS AT A NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL IS SUPPORTED BY WEST AFRICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

During the reporting period the Programme continued to work toward its endorsement by the national governments and the regional institutions.

For now, 15 out of 16 participating countries have signed the MoU on the WAPIS implementation. The only country that is yet to sign the MoU is Ghana.

Benin and Sierra-Leone formally established a WANACO during this reporting period. So far, 06 out of 16 of participating countries have established a WANACO; the other countries being:

Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. In the meantime, the Programme continues to follow up the national authorities of the remaining countries still having to establish a WANACO. Amongst others, all participating countries have received a template for the legal text establishing the WANACO.

Liberia, Niger, Mauritania, Sierra Leone did organise a WANACO meeting in February 2020 and Benin in April 2020 to adopt the annual WAPIS implementation action plan for their respective country. The other countries, reportedly due to the Covid-19 pandemic context, were not able to organise their WANACO meeting.

During the reporting period, the Programme continued to benefit a strong support from the ECOWAS Commission and from the EU Commission. The report of the November 2019 Steering Committee, summarizing specific recommendations for each participating country, was shared with the Ministers overseeing the Programme in the participating countries by the ECOWAS Commissioner Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS). The commissioner PAPS also has intervened on the clearance by Customs in Ghana of procured WAPIS equipment. In December 2019, the EU–AU relations for West and East Africa Director at the EU Commission has sent a note to all the Heads of EU Delegation of the participating countries. The note underlines the importance of WAPIS Programme, presented the results achieved in each country and indicated the next steps and called upon the support of relevant EUDs in engaging and motivating national authorities where necessary on WAPIS implementation.

As part of the promotion of the WAPIS system in participating countries, a national communication plan template was drafted as recommended by the 4th Steering Committee. The template available in French, Portuguese and English will be shared with the Single Point of Contact on May 2020 for preliminary discussions. The WAPIS Newsletter No. 13 was published in February 2020 and the No. 14 will be published in May 2020 after being delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new WAPIS Brochure, mix of the two previous brochures, has been designed and edit. It considers the extension of the scope of data collected by the WAPIS systems. Finally, the Programme has developed a WAPIS factsheet. It is available in English, French, Portuguese and Arabic and 4 300 hard copies have been printed and are ready to be distributed.

1.2 OUTPUT 2: THE WAPIS SYSTEM IS IMPLEMENTED AT A NATIONAL LEVEL, INCLUDING THROUGH THE PROVISION OF OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING

During the reporting period, the Programme continued to work on increasing the number of established and operational DACORE's, the number of operational remote sites connected to WAPIS System and the completion and implementation of a training strategy.

Apart from Cabo Verde and Guinea Bissau all the "new" participating countries have assigned premises to host the DACORE. The renovation of the DACORE in Liberia has been fully completed. The renovation of the DACORE in Côte d'Ivoire is completed at 85%. The technical specifications for the renovation of the DACORE in Gambia, Mauritania, Sierra-Leone, and [REDACTED] are completed. Procurement processes have been launched for Senegal and Sierra-Leone and the analysis of the offers are in progress and are expected to be completed by Mid-May with the attribution of the bid to the selected companies.

To assist the participating countries operating their DACORE, the WAPIS programme has developed and is distributing a "DACORE Guide". The Guide describes the missions, the organization of a standard DACORE and the standard functions of the WAPIS system. The guide has been translated in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese. It is distributed to the participating countries.

A wizard to enhance the data entry process into the WAPIS system has been developed. The programme is currently working on a reviewed version that will include the new domain "Administrative police data". In addition, the WAPIS software has been translated into Arabic and Portuguese and the translations were integrated in the system.

During this reporting period different sets of IT equipment have been delivered to Liberia, Senegal, [REDACTED] Nigeria, Benin, Niger.

The extension of the WAPIS system beyond the DACORE in Niger has been implemented. 09 remote sites have been connected. 31 additional sites are expected to be connected in the coming months pending the installation of the national INTRANET by the country. In **Mali**, on 13 December 2019, the programme has completed the data network and electrical wiring upgrade of 21 remote sites. The country's existing internet infrastructure will be used for the connection of the remote sites with the DACORE. The network equipment has been purchased in April 2020 and delivery is planned for July 2020. In **Ghana**, the IT equipment needed to establish the network connection to 4 identified remote sites is still in customs custody. In the

“new” participating countries, the remote sites have been identified and all network routers for their connection have been ordered in April 2020 by anticipation.

The training strategy is now completed, and the WAPIS team are reviewing and updating all training modules during the COVID-19 lockdown. During the reporting period, training sessions related to WAPIS implementation were conducted in Mauritania, Togo, Gambia, Liberia, Côte d’Ivoire, and Mauritania.

The need to assist participating countries in designing and implementing methods for the collecting and processing of data together with **the need to ensure data quality** was discovered and confirmed during this reporting period. A procurement process aiming at seeking a consulting service supporting the Programme addressing this need has been launched. The consulting service is expected to start by September 2020.

1.3 OUTPUT 3: THE WAPIS REGIONAL DATA-SHARING PLATFORM IS DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED IN COOPERATION WITH THE ECOWAS COMMISSION AND ECOWAS MEMBER STATES (AND POSSIBLY MAURITANIA)

The type of data sharing mechanism for the regional platform has been already identified and adopted by the ECOWAS Commission and ECOWAS Members states during earlier implementation periods.

By the end of 2019, the technical specifications of the WAPIS regional data-sharing platform should have been finalised and by mid-2020, the data-sharing platform should be designed and the procurement for the regional platform should be starting. No progress has been made toward these targets during the reporting period. In fact, following discussions with the EU Commission, it has been decided that the priority of the Action should be given for the implementation of the WAPIS at the national level. The WAPIS national platforms are the core of the regional system and without them there is no viable regional platform.

These delays will impact the development of the regional software system that was expected by the end of 2020.

New schedules for these targets will be proposed by the Programme during the next steering committee.

1.4 NATIONAL WAPIS SYSTEMS ARE LINKED UP WITH INTERPOL CHANNELS THROUGH INTERPOL NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAUS

The Programme reached a key milestone on 22 November 2019. In Niger, the national WAPIS system was connected to the INTERPOL I-24/7 system. From that moment, national WAPIS users had direct access to INTERPOL global databases of stolen motor vehicles, stolen and lost travel documents.

So far, Niger remains the only country connected to the INTERPOL I-24/7 network. Burkina Faso, Sierra-Leone, Benin, and Mali are expected to be connected next. Burkina Faso, Sierra-Leone have signed the cooperation agreement on direct access to and use of the INTERPOL Information System, bringing the number of participant countries that have signed the agreement to 05. The 03 other countries are: Ghana, Mali, and Niger.

The Programme has not reached the target to have by the end of 2019, 4 West African countries, with a focus on the 04 “pilot countries”, having their WAPIS national system connected to INTERPOL I-24/7. The required network equipment for Ghana is still in custody at the customs waiting for the clearance by the national authorities, Benin has not yet signed the required I-24/7 agreement for the connection and in Mali, there has been a delay delivering the internet infrastructure. And finally, the COVID-19 pandemic has generated a delay on the process of purchase of the network equipment. Delivery of the equipment is expected for July 2020.

1.5 THE ECOWAS MEMBER STATES HAVE ADOPTED THE REQUIRED LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS WAPIS

During this reporting period, the Programme continued to progress towards the goal to increase the number of countries having adopted a legal framework for the national WAPIS system.

In January 2020, assessment missions were conducted in Mali and Togo to ascertain the legal requirements for setting up their national police databases. As a result, drafts of national legislation were developed to establish the DACORE in Mali, and the DACORE, the WANACO and the WAPIS System in Togo.

The WAPIS Best Practice Guide (“BPG”) on Data Protection has now been finalized. It was translated into French, Arabic and Portuguese, and was printed. It will be distributed during training on data protection in the participating countries.

Following the provision of legal assistance by the WAPIS Programme, Benin and Sierra Leone have formally established their WAPIS National Committees.

Legal support, through providing templates for and reviewing drafts of national legislation has been provided to the national authorities of Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo enabling them to define and finalise the legal framework for the establishment of their respective DACORE.

1.6 THE WAPIS SYSTEM BEING HANDED OVER TO NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES ENSURING THE SYSTEM CAN CONTINUE IN THE LONG TERM

The November 2019 Steering Committee identified developing and proposing of budget models to the participating countries and the ECOWAS Commission as one of the key issues to be addressed during 2020. To this end a consultant service has been hired and has started their development. The first draft of the template is expected for mid-June and the final version of the template by the end of July 2020. The WAPIS SPOCs will contribute to the development of the template and to facilitate the appropriation in their respective countries. To this end, a survey to collect the SPOC's inputs is being developed and will be shared with the SPOCs in May 2020.

During missions and meetings with the high-level authorities and other national relevant actors, the sustainability of the WAPIS system after June 2022 has been always emphasized.

2 CONCLUSION

At the end of April 2020 06 out of 16 participating countries dispose of national WAPIS police information system that is fully operational. These 06 countries (Benin, Burkina-Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Sierra-Leone) have considerably increased the creation and the consultation of electronic police data at the national level.

So far, Niger is the only country connected to the INTERPOL I-24/7 network and is as such ready to exchange police data with the international police community.

The Programme, despite the current Covid-19 pandemic context, is focussed on upholding the logframe's key next milestones defined for the end of 2020. They are:

- 08 West African countries have established a DACORE
- 06 West African countries have operational remote sites connected to WAPIS system

- The WAPIS national system in 06 countries connected to INTERPOL I-24/7
- All West African countries have adopted a legal framework
- The WAPIS Programme has assisted ECOWAS Commission to identify a legal framework to establish the regional mechanism
- The WAPIS Programme has proposed and presented to the national authorities, an estimated budget for the maintenance of equipment and premises, and operational cost of national WAPIS system
- The WAPIS Programme has presented to the ECOWAS Commission, an estimated budget for the maintenance of equipment and premises, and operational costs of regional WAPIS system
- 04 West African countries have included WAPIS training modules in basic LEAs' training curricula



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