



# Humanitarian Coordination in the Face of Multiple Challenges in West Africa

ACP-Director Moritz Ehrmann in Ghana at the Core Course of the ACP-project on **Capacity Development for Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa (HAWA)**: “During my own time in the humanitarian field, I would have wished for such training”. The course takes place at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra.

West Africa is facing multiple and intertwined challenges, including health-related crises, climatic disorders, identity-based extremism, disturbances in the world economy's supply chains, etc. These crises have both strongly impacted on the resilience capacity of African economies - for example, in the areas of food security, health systems, or disaster risk management. In addition, gender inequalities profoundly limit resilience efforts.

The Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP), in cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Defence and the Austrian Development Agency, the operational unit of the Austrian Development Cooperation, has been working for almost ten years to strengthen local capacities for effective humanitarian crisis response. The focus is on individual capacity development as well as on an exchange of perspectives between the different actors intervening in humanitarian action in the field, ranging from the military, police and justice, as well as non-governmental organisations.

Training courses in the framework of the project on **Capacity Development for Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa (HAWA)** take place at the KAIPTC in Ghana, as well as in other West-African countries from Burkina Faso to Niger. During the period of almost ten years hundreds of participants from all fifteen ECOWAS member states have taken part in these courses.

**ACP-Director Moritz Ehrmann** during the opening ceremony of the HAWA Core Course in front of stakeholders from NGOs, state disaster control authorities, police, military and

international organizations:

“The HAWA courses are run in a setting where the so-called silos are broken, where 30 or more nationalities come together, to exchange views and work on common solutions. During my own time in the humanitarian field, I would have wished for such training.”

“Those who focus on providing security, and those who look for peaceful and sustainable ways, I think we all do good to **listen to each other** and learn from one another – and hopefully thereby create a more **complete, rather than a partial answer.**”

**Air Commodore George Arko-Dadzie, KAIPTC:**

“There is a crucial need to tackle gender diversity concerns in humanitarian action and for coordinated actions and a mutual understanding between civilians and the military.”

As a course participant from a civil society organisation in Benin remarked during the Core Course in Accra:

“With this course, I will be able to look at the difference between interventions from the Red Cross and interventions from the ECOWAS and to identify key actors, at each level at the ECOWAS humanitarian assistance architecture and what are the synergies of actions between authorities from the ECOWAS and state authorities in the humanitarian fields.”

Another course participant from Nigeria shared:



“Everyone knows Nigeria’s story with terrorism and the kidnapping of the girls and women and how they are turned into “bush wives”, these are the main concerns in my country. We want to support these girls and women and see how we can bring them out of poverty and support them even after the crisis and how we can reduce stigmatization and discrimination in society. The HAWA Course offers me the opportunity to harness the knowledge and build my capability to address such pressing humanitarian issues in my country.”

Photos of the 2023 Core Course within the framework of the HAWA Project can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8ax6kt>

Here are the links to local media coverage in Ghana:

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/1211872/kaiptc-begins-2-week-training-course-on-humanitari.html>

<https://newsghana.com.gh/acp-calls-for-change-in-model-for-local-humanitarian-actors/>

<https://www.businessghana.com/site/news/general/279918/W-A-security-officials-civilians-begin-humanitarian-aid-course>

Here are the links to the ACP’s appearances on social media:

[https://twitter.com/ACP\\_Schlaining](https://twitter.com/ACP_Schlaining)  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/acpschlaining/>  
[https://instagram.com/acp\\_schlaining](https://instagram.com/acp_schlaining)  
<https://www.facebook.com/ACP.Schlaining>

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