



WEST AFRICA QUALITY SYSTEM PROGRAMME
Support for the Implementation of the ECOWAS Quality Policy (ECOQUAL)
Funded by the European Union

Project No. 140203

Implementation Report

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Programme implemented by UNIDO

Figures and tables	3
List of Annexes	3
List of Abbreviations	4
Summary of the report	5
Introduction.....	8
I. Programme implementation status	8
A. Governance of the Programme	8
B. Implementation of technical activities.....	12
C. Communication and Visibility	21
D. Programme main achievements.....	22
II. Partnership and Monitoring	31
A. Partnership and Synergies	31
B. Project monitoring and Evaluation	33
III. Gender Mainstreaming	34
IV Financial Report.....	37
Conclusion	42

Figures and tables

Chart 1: Trained Quality Awards Auditors

Chart 2: Regional Winners by country

Chart 3: ECOWAS Quality Awards Winners by Category

Chart 4: Number of Food Safety Management System (FSMS) qualified experts

Chart 5: Average Score in FSMS Qualifying Training per Country

Chart 6: Physical implementation rates by specific objective

Table 1: State of implementation per result (As of end July 2017)

Chart 7: Gender in Standards harmonisation activities

Chart 8: Gender mainstreaming in technical trainings

Chart 9: ISO 22000 qualified female experts

Charts 10: Gender mainstreaming success in ISO 22000 Qualifying trainings

Chart 11: WAQSP - Implementation rate per reporting period

Table 2: Overview of the distribution of expenditure

Chart 12: Financial Implementation rates by specific objective

Table 3: Detailed overview of the distribution of expenditure

List of Annexes

Annex 1: Report of the 5th Steering Committee Meeting of WAQSP-October 2016 in Abuja

Annex 2: Report-Second meeting of the enlarged steering committee-final version

Annex 3: Key Measures for WAQSP implementation rate acceleration

Annex 4: Chronogram of Activities, September 16 -August 2017, State of implementation

Annex 5: WAQS Revised budget - acceleration measures 2016-as per Addendum of CA

Annex 6: Table 1: State of Implementation of technical activities (as at end of July 2017)

Annex 7: Programme Management Unit organigram

List of Abbreviations

AB	Accreditation Body
AFRAC	African Cooperation for Accreditation
ARSO	African Organization for Standardization
CAB	Conformity Assessment Body
CTA	Chief Technical Adviser
EC	European Commission
ECOQUAL	ECOWAS Regional Quality Policy
ECOSHAM	ECOWAS Standards Harmonization model
ECOSTAND	ECOWAS harmonized standards
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
FAFA	Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement between the EC and the United Nations
FEWACCI	Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce & Industry
FWAEA	Federation of West African Employers Association
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IPSP	Industry and Private Sector Promotion
ISO	International Standards Organisation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NINAS	Nigerian National Accreditation Service
NSB	National Standardisation Body
NTC	National Technical Coordinator
NTCU	National Technical Coordination Unit
NQIP	The National Quality Infrastructure Project for Nigeria
PTB	Physikalisch-Technischen Bundesanstalt
RSC	Regional Steering Committee
RSC	Restricted Steering Committee
RTCU	Regional Technical Coordination Unit
SOAC	West African Accreditation System
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures:
THC	Technical Harmonisation Committee of ECOSHAM
TMC	Technical Management Committee of ECOSHAM
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TBT/EU	Technical Barrier to Trade Programme of EU
Programme	
TOR	Terms of Reference
TUNAC	Tunisia Accreditation Body
TRAQUE	Trade Related Assistance & Quality Enabling Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WAHO	West Africa Health Organization
WAQP	West Africa Quality Programme
WAQSP	West Africa Quality System Programme

Summary of the report

The Contribution Agreement (N° 2013/336-972) of the West Africa Quality System Programme (“Support for the implementation of the ECOWAS Quality Policy”) was signed by the EU and UNIDO on 27 August 2014 and the implementation started in September 2014.

Between end August 2016 and July 2017, the WAQSP managed to successfully implement the following technical activities:

- The finalisation of the National Quality Policies in Ghana and Guinea;
- The support to Liberia for the drafting of legal texts for the establishment of the Liberia Standards Authority and the Food Authority;
- The presentation of the final report regarding the establishment of the ECOWAS regional quality infrastructure structures ;
- The proposals and official adoption of draft legal texts for the establishment and operationalisation of the ECOWAS regional quality infrastructure structures;
- The support for the organization of 7 regional meetings for the harmonisation of standards (ECOSHAM);
- The support for the organization of a regional meeting of the ministers in charge of industry of ECOWAS Member States to adopt resolutions for the development of the cashew nuts & cocoa processing industry;
- The launching of the first activities of the ECOWAS Regional Accreditation System (RAS):
 - promotional activities in accreditation, namely the presentation of the chairmen of SOAC & NINAS to ministries in charge of quality in Côte d’Ivoire and Mali;
 - the Celebration of the Accreditation Day ;
 - The signature of a MoU between TUNAC and SOAC.
- The organisation of a regional seminar on the funding of the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure;
- The assessment of 13 laboratories and 3 inspection bodies on their action plans implementation;
- The follow-up of the implementation of the quality management system of 4 product certification bodies;

- The capacity building of resource people of the region in Food Safety Management System;
- The proposal of a guideline for the setting up of the ECOWAS Quality and Industry database;
- The drafting of a directory on accredited conformity assessment bodies ;
- The support to the organisation of 16 National Quality Awards;
- The organisation of the first edition of the ECOWAS Quality Awards;
- The implementation of the communication strategy and the Programme website development;
- The organisation of the second Enlarged Steering Committee Meeting and the fifth Steering Committee Meeting;
- The preparation and submission of the Contribution Agreement for Phase 2;
- The preparation of the mid-term evaluation of the Programme.

This progress in the implementation of the Programme can be assessed against the increase of the financial implementation rate, leading to a total disbursement of EUR 5,900,204.36 (including indirect costs) as at 31 July 2017, representing 92.8% of the three instalments received (EUR 6,358,685) and 90% of the total budget of the action (EUR 6,548,049.04). By end August 2015 this rate was 18% of the total project budget and by end August 2016, the rate was counting for 48% of the total budget. This performance was made possible due to acceleration measures proposed by UNIDO at the request of the Steering Committee. These measures comprised the reinforcement and the stabilisation of the project team of the Regional Technical Coordination Unit, starting the implementation of the ECOWAS structures of quality, the establishment of the Quality and Industry Database, and the implementation of activities related to National and ECOWAS Quality Awards as well as the ECOWAS Quality Mark.

From October, 17th to 18th 2016, the Programme held its 2nd Enlarged Steering Committee meeting in Cotonou (Benin) and on October, 31st 2016, the meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Abuja at the EU Delegation. Considering the progress made since the validation of the acceleration measures proposed in August 2016 and the recommendations made by the Enlarged Steering Committee meeting, UNIDO was requested to prepare the new Contribution Agreement for the phase 2 of the WAQSP and could request the third instalment for the first

phase. The Contribution Agreement was signed on 19 December 2016 and the first pre-financing instalment (EUR 2,017,765) was requested in January and received thereafter by UNIDO.

Introduction

This progress report presents the recent developments, actions undertaken and achievements made by the Programme during the period starting from 29 August 2016 to 31 July 2017. It will follow a structure based on four parts.

The first part is related to the Programme implementation status which includes the latest developments in terms of governance of the Programme, implementation of technical activities, communication and visibility and the Programme main achievements.

The second part of the report provides details on the ongoing partnerships and the monitoring aspect of the project while the following one provides highlight on gender mainstreaming in the framework of the project implementation.

Subsequently, the fourth part presents the financial report and a detailed overview of the distribution of expenditure as at 31 July 2017.

I. Programme implementation status

A. Governance of the Programme

1. Steering Committee Meetings

Two Steering Committee meetings were held during the third implementation year of the programme.

a) The second enlarged steering committee meeting

The second enlarged Steering Committee meeting took place in Cotonou, Benin, on 17-18 October 2016. In addition of the National Focal Points and the National Technical Coordinators from the ECOWAS Countries (except Nigeria) and Mauritania, the representatives of the following organisations attended the meeting: the ECOWAS Commission, the WAEMU Commission, the Delegation of the European Union in Benin, the Ministry of Industry, Trade

and Handicrafts of Benin, the ACP-EU TBT Programme, GIZ, PTB, the FEWACCI, the delegate of NINAS/NQIP, Nigeria, and UNIDO.

At this meeting, UNIDO presented the annual report of the Programme, the National Focal points presented the main achievements of the Programme in the countries and the partners invited presented the latest development regarding their interventions in the field of quality in the region. After discussions, the participants have proposed some recommendations for consideration as follows:

- Maintain the implementation of the acceleration measures;
- Make the funds available for the second phase of the WAQS Programme;
- Support the implementation of national activities in line with regional specific objectives, such as activities related to NQP implementation;
- Accelerate the implementation of ECOSHAM;
- Increase the visibility of the WAQSP at national level;
- Take special measures for countries that have registered some delay due to Ebola;
- Translation Availability of official documents in the three languages of ECOWAS
- Authorise financial allowances for National Focal Points.

b) The fifth Steering Committee Meeting

The fifth steering committee meeting was organised in Abuja (Nigeria) on October 31st 2016. The attendees were representatives of EU Delegations in Nigeria, ECOWAS Commission, FEWACCI and UNIDO (HQs attended via videoconference). WAEMU could not attend the meeting through videoconference due to official holiday in Burkina Faso.

During the meeting, the participants discussed mainly about the implementation of the recommendations made by the fourth steering committee meeting and the last enlarged steering committee meeting, the request received from WAEMU concerning a support to cover the fees of auditors in the framework of the WAEMU Quality Award and to the WAEMU certification body, the Programme execution, the last year work plan and the second phase of the Programme

The recommendations can be summarised as follow:

- National activities can be implemented in the framework of the phase 2 of the WAQSP if they are contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Programme at

regional level and linkages should be properly highlighted. Therefore, UNIDO should work with the countries to propose national activities linked with the regional Programme;

- Take special measures to catch up the delay registered in some countries as Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (struck by Ebola outbreak);
- Reinforce the ECOSHAM secretariat at ECOWAS to foster the implementation of ECOSHAM. An expert shall be recruited to coordinate the THCs and related meetings;
- Future official documents for the countries should be made available in the three languages of ECOWAS;
- Improve the communication and visibility of the WAQSP and in particular use the FEWACCI platform;
- Keep implementing the Programme acceleration measures;
- EU and UNIDO will collaborate to conduct their WAQSP mid-term evaluations. In this regard, the mid-term evaluation TOR prepared by UNIDO will be shared with the EUD in Abuja;
- Concerning the request of WAEMU, duplication of activities at regional level shall be avoided and WAEMU and ECOWAS should work together for one approach;
- The Quality Award auditors trained by the WAQSP shall assess both Quality Awards (WAEMU & ECOWAS);
- Within the framework of the ECOWAS certification Mark, only National certification bodies which will deliver this regional certification Mark will be supported by the Programme. WAEMU regional certification body will not be supported unless it is agreed that it delivers the ECOWAS certification Mark;
- WAEMU and ECOWAS have an agreement for the implementation of the WAQSP. If there are some points of discordance, they should be highlighted;
- As per the contribution agreement, UNIDO's rules and regulations should be applied on travel matters. Therefore, issues regarding travels should be fairly discussed with UNIDO;
- Regarding the request for the funding of the second phase, UNIDO will send to the EUD all documents, including implementation status of phase 1, phase 2 project proposal (with activities, work plan, budget) as well as strong justification and argumentation on the need of the second phase and specifically showing how a 100% of implementation rate can be achieved by end of the phase;

- ECOWAS and UNIDO should transmit to the EUD in Abuja, an official request for the funding of the second phase of the WAQSP.

2. Request for WAQSP second phase funding

During the fifth restricted steering committee meeting, the EUD in Abuja provided some orientations to the representatives of the ECOWAS Commission and UNIDO. Following these discussions, in order to make the request, UNIDO shall provide a plan showing how the WAQSP will reach a 100% implementation rate by August 2017 and provide sufficient justifications supporting this targeted implementation rate. The work plan to be proposed must cover the last year of the first phase and the phase 2.

Also, in the drafting of the second phase, new activities such as national activities in line with the regional activities can be identified and included in the next phase work plan. However, as per the recommendations above, these national activities can be considered if they are contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Programme at regional level and in such case linkages must be highlighted.

All documents regarding the request for the next phase shall be (and were) submitted to the EU Delegation in December 2016. Following that request, the first instalment of the second phase for a total amount of EUR 2,017,765, including support costs, was received in February 2017.

3. Request of the third instalment of the WAQSP Phase 1

In the beginning of December 2016, UNIDO elaborated a supplementary report covering the period from end August 2016 to November 2016. In this report, UNIDO presented a financial report showing a total expenditure of EUR 3,875,293.43 incl. indirect costs, representing 87% of the total of first and second instalment and 59% of the total budget of the action. The total released funds were 68% of the total budget of the action and UNIDO has presented a work plan showing how the Programme will consume the entire budget available by end August 2017. In January 2017, UNIDO transmitted a financial report showing that more than 70% of the second instalment was consumed. In the beginning of March 2017, the third instalment for a total amount of EUR 1, 912, 558 was received, leading to a total released budget of EUR 6,358,685.

4. Implementation of the Programme Key Acceleration Measures

Following the recommendations of the last steering committee meeting, UNIDO has to keep up with the implementation of the acceleration measures. As a reminder, these measures primarily aimed at stabilising the project team of the Regional Technical Coordination Unit, starting the implementation of the ECOWAS structures of quality, the establishment of the Quality and Industry Database, and improving culture of quality within the region through the implementation of activities related to National and ECOWAS Quality Awards and the ECOWAS Quality Mark.

A detailed table of all actions identified for the increase of the WAQSP implementation rate is shown in the annexes of the current report (Annex 3).

UNIDO managed to indeed keep a high rate of implementation of activities during the period under review, with an increase in the financial implementation rate of 42%.

5. Contractual Reports on the implementation of the Programme to EU

The current report is a supplementary one covering the period starting from 29 August 2016 to 31 July 2017, submitted for the purpose of a request for extension of the duration of the implementation period. A final progress report, covering the three full years of the programme, will be submitted in due course, in compliance with the terms of the Contribution Agreement.

B. Implementation of technical activities

As mentioned above, the Programme is divided into four specific objectives. The summary of the results by specific objective is as follows:

1. Specific Objective 1 – Regional and national quality infrastructure

The study on the establishment of the regional quality infrastructure is now finalised and an internal restitution seminar was organised at ECOWAS on 20th September 2017. The main findings and proposals were made to the internal monitoring committee established by ECOWAS to follow up the study. Several comments regarding mainly the legal status, the funding financial mechanism and measures for sustainability of the Programme were made by the stakeholders. Considering the inputs received, the report of the study has been updated by the team of experts. The document was presented again to the internal committee in Abidjan on the 13th January 2017 in the framework of the preparation of an informative meeting on the study outputs with all stakeholders.

This information workshop was held from 1 to 3 February 2017 in Bamako, Mali. The meeting was attended by representatives of the ECOWAS Commission, the UEMOA Commission, the European Union Delegation in Mali, representative of EUD Nigeria, UNIDO, the FEWACCI, the Federation of Employers' Associations of West Africa (FWAEA), the Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NINAS), the West Africa System of Accreditation (SOAC), the African Cooperation Accreditation (AFRAC), PTB (the German National Metrology Institute), the International Electro Technical Commission / Africa (IEC / Africa), the WAQSP and ECOWAS / WAQSP Focal points.

In accordance with the ECOWAS procedures for the validation of study reports by the Council of Ministers, a meeting on this study, with ECOWAS' experts from all Member States, was held in Abidjan from 18 to 19 April 2017. After discussions and taking into account their amendments, the meeting adopted the study report, particularly the draft texts on the organization and operation of the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure (QI) Scheme' structures.

This meeting of experts was followed by a ministerial meeting the 21 April 2017, still in Abidjan, with the ministers in charge of quality of ECOWAS Member States to adopt the study report. The other attendees were the ECOWAS Commission, the UEMOA Commission, UNIDO, the FEWACCI, the Nigeria National Accreditation Service (NINAS), the West African System of Accreditation (SOAC), the African Cooperation Accreditation (AFRAC), the PTB, the African Electro Technical Standardization Commission (AFSEC) and the West Africa Quality System Programme (WAQSP).

After discussions, the meeting:

- has adopted the project of setting up ECOWAQ, the ECOWAS Agency for Quality and has recommended its adoption by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers;
- has adopted the legal texts of the structures of the Quality Infrastructure Scheme and Has recommended their adoption by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.

Considering the recommendation of this meeting, the report of the study has been presented and has been adopted by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers on 2 June 2017 in Monrovia, Liberia.

In Guinea the main national stakeholders validated the draft National Quality Policies. In Ghana, in cooperation with the TRAQUE Programme, a National Quality Policy was elaborated and validated. In 10 countries, the national quality policies are under official adoption process. As a reminder, the Policies have been already adopted in Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

As part of its monitoring missions, the ECOWAS Commission conducted two field missions in Ghana and Senegal to follow up with the development of regional standards. The ECOWAS Commission, the SOAC and the WAQSP representatives participated in a study tour in Tunisia in order to get familiar with the functioning of the Tunisian Quality Infrastructure; the delegation met several officials and organisations in charge of Quality such as the Minister of Industry of Tunisia, the TUNAC (Tunisian Accreditation Body) for better understanding of their functioning and discuss some opportunities of cooperation with the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure System.

After proposing a funding mechanism for the regional quality infrastructure, the WAQSP organised a regional seminar on this topic in Abidjan, the 29 June 2017, in the framework of the celebration of the Accreditation Day. The WAQSP collected 13 recommendations showing how to use national resources to support the National and the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure.

The project has also attended the General Assembly of the FEWACCI, Lomé, on April 2017. The objective of the attendance of this GA was to highlight the concept of quality and stimulate the private sector interest in quality matters.

1. Specific objective 2 – ECOWAS Standardisation System and Standards Harmonisation process

The ECOWAS Commission attended the Forum of the President of the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) from 1st to 04th March 2017 in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) to learn about the updated ARSO membership terms and the ARSO strategy to involve more countries and enhance cooperation on quality matters in Africa.

From 27 to 30 March 2017, the ECOWAS Commission presented the latest development in terms of infrastructure in the region and joined discussions on technology and innovation, global value chains, skills, Jobs and education, sustainability and environment, infrastructure, standards and stakeholder alignment at the First Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS 2017) held in Abu Dhabi.

On 21 April 2017, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the ECOWAS Member States Ministers in charge of Quality adopted the legal text for the establishment of ECOWAS Agency for Quality that will be in charge of the management of the ECOSHAM Secretariat. On 2 June 2017, this text was adopted by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers (1-2 June 2017, Monrovia, Liberia).

From 27 to 29 June 2017, the WAQSP and the ECOWAS Commission attended the 23rd General Assembly of the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO / ORAN) in Ouagadougou to present the West Africa Quality Programme and its contribution to “Improving Quality Infrastructure in Africa - Advancing Economic Competitiveness (Meeting the Standards, Quality and Compliance Infrastructure)”. The WAQSP took this opportunity to share promotional materials.

During this reporting period, the Programme organised several meetings for the development of regional standards. In The Gambia, a meeting of the THC 6 was organised from 1st to 3rd November 2016. During this meeting, the participants mainly discussed 11 tourism draft standards (including 4 ECOWAS standards (ECOSTAND)) and the THC 6 work plan for 2017. In Niamey, a meeting of the THC 4 was organised from 7th to 10th November 2016. The participants at this meeting reviewed 6 draft standards regarding construction materials. From 24 April to 28 April 2017, the THC 2 members met in Cotonou to discuss 14 ECOSTAND drafts on food product. The THC 1 members reviewed public enquiry comments on 3 ECOWAS Harmonized Draft Standards on agricultural products, 5 ECOWAS Harmonized Draft Standards on chemical products and 31 ECOWAS electro-technical Harmonized Draft

Standards were reviewed by the THC1, THC 3 and THC 5 during meetings organised by UNIDO.

In total, the WAQSP has supported the development of 67 ECOWAS standards, including 41 already adopted.

During the ECOSHAM Technical Management Committee (TMC) meeting organised by the WAQSP from 24 to 28 July 2017 in Accra, the Committee recommended the adoption of 21 ECOSTANDS and 7 ISO standards covering the area of building and construction materials, chemical products and tourism. The TMC also extended the scope of intervention of the THC 5 in charge of electro-technical standards to include mechanical aspects.

In addition to the support to the implementation of ECOSHAM, the WAQSP supported the organization of a regional meeting (Abidjan 20 April 2017) in which the ECOWAS Member States Ministers in charge of Agriculture have recommended the adoption of two resolutions on the industrial development of cocoa and cashew nuts sectors in the ECOWAS region by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. These two resolutions were indeed adopted by the 78th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers held in Liberia from 1st to 2nd June 2017.

In order to facilitate the adoption of ECOSTANDS, the WAQSP is ensuring the translation of all drafts standards in English, French and Portuguese.

The Programme has also made available the ISO 9000v2015, ISO 9001v2015, ISO 9004v2009 and ISO 19011v2011 for quality auditors of the national and ECOWAS quality awards.

2. Specific objective 3 – Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies

Within the framework of the support to CABs, a regional training on laboratory metrology was performed in Cotonou (Benin) from 17 to 18 October 2016 for 22 technicians coming from a pool of testing laboratories selected in the region.

WAQSP has selected 40 CABs that are supported for accreditation. A pool of technical accreditation assessors covering different specialisations were recruited to support the laboratories towards accreditation in various technical fields (building materials, instrumental analytical chemistry, food chemistry (fortified foods), spectral chemistry, etc.). 2 international experts in inspection have been recruited to support selected inspection bodies towards

accreditation. 1 international expert in certification is supporting the certification bodies towards accreditation. All supported CABs have already been visited by the experts. Plans for the upgrading of visited CABs are under implementation. The support to metrology laboratories is implemented in cooperation with PTB ECOWAS Programme.

UNIDO contracted with ACCREDIA (the Italian Accreditation Body) for the accreditation of 4 certification bodies; the assessments should be organized before the end of 2017. For the laboratories, since most of them are already accredited by Accreditation bodies, UNIDO will work with these ABs for the execution of accreditations assessments.

The WAQSP is currently going to contract with a Quality consultancy company to implement Quality Management System in 7 pharmaceutical inspection agencies.

Within the framework of the establishment of the Regional Accreditation System, the Community Committee for Certification and the Community Committee for metrology, the ECOWAS Member States Experts (18-19 April Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire) recommended the adoption by the ECOWAS Ministers in charge of quality of the legal texts drafted for the operation of these three regional structures. The Ministers in charge of Quality (21 April 2017, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire) approved and recommended the adoption of the said texts by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers; the texts were officially adopted (1-2 June 2017) in Monrovia.

In the framework of the promotion of the Regional Accreditation System of ECOWAS, the ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Industry and Private Sector Development has led a courtesy & information mission to the ministers in charge of industry in Mali (February 2017) and Côte d'Ivoire (April 2017). The chairmen of the SOAC and the NINAS have been introduced to the ministries and challenges linked to Quality Infrastructure in general, specifically Accreditation have been discussed.

During the mission of the ECOWAS, SOAC and WAQSP representatives in Tunisia, from 10 to 14 July 2017, a Cooperation agreement was signed between the SOAC and the TUNAC.

In terms of participation in international meetings, the Director of industry represented the ECOWAS Commission at the AFRAC bi-annual meeting in May 2017.

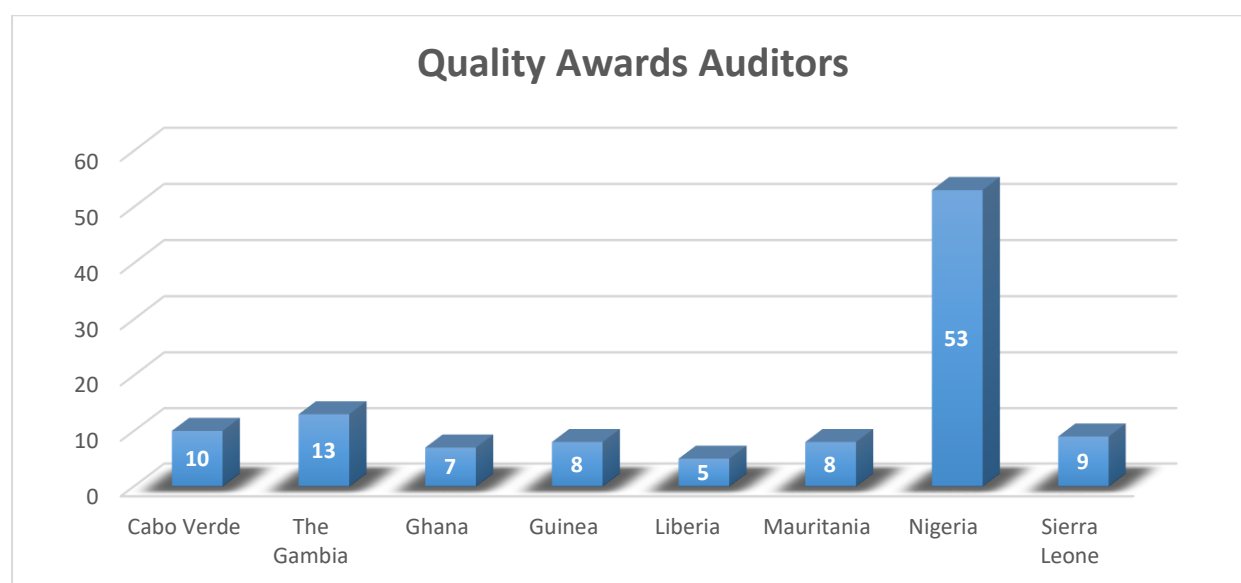
3. Specific objective 4 –Promotion of Quality Culture

National and ECOWAS Quality Awards:

A pool of experts supported the organisation of National Quality Awards in Non WAEMU countries which were organizing their quality award for the first time. In Nigeria, the support was delivered in cooperation with the NQIP. The WAQSP also supported the organization of the national award in 6 countries from UEMOA region (except Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire).

In all countries, 130 companies were audited within the framework of the National Quality Awards, 29 were qualified to participate in the ECOWAS Quality Awards but 28 competed. 113 auditors were also trained in the non-WEAMU countries. The chart 1 below shows their repartition per country.

Chart 1: Trained Quality Awards Auditors



A pool of 4 international auditors audited 28 companies in the framework of the ECOWAS Quality Awards. The ECOWAS staff in charge of the secretariat of the award witnessed a sample of the regional audits. This staff was successfully trained previously in quality management system (IRCA ISO IEC 9001 Auditor training) to have a good knowledge of this specific field of activity. Companies coming from all ECOWAS member States, except from Guinea, participated in the first edition of the ECOWAS Quality Awards. The ceremony of the ECOWAS Quality Awards was held in Abidjan on 30 June 2017 and 15 companies were awarded. The chart 2 shows the number of winners per country and the third chart per category.

100% of audited companies in Nigeria (3), Côte d'Ivoire (1) and Mali (1) were awarded at the ECOWAS Quality Awards. In total, 42% of large enterprises competing for the ECOWAS Quality Awards, 50% of medium size enterprises and 83% of small enterprises won an award. These results show that through the implementation of the WAQSP, UNIDO has contributed to the rooting of a quality culture in the region.

Chart 2: Regional Winners by country

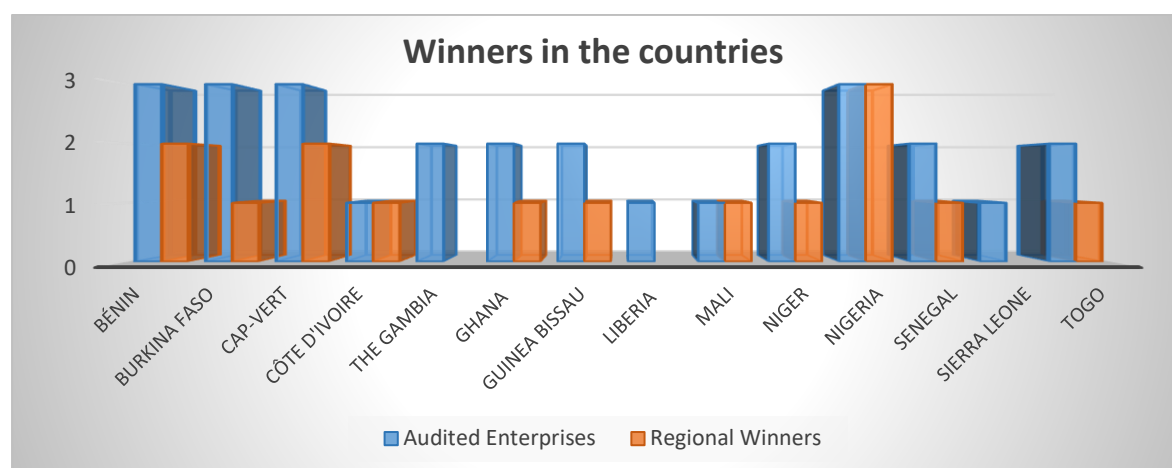
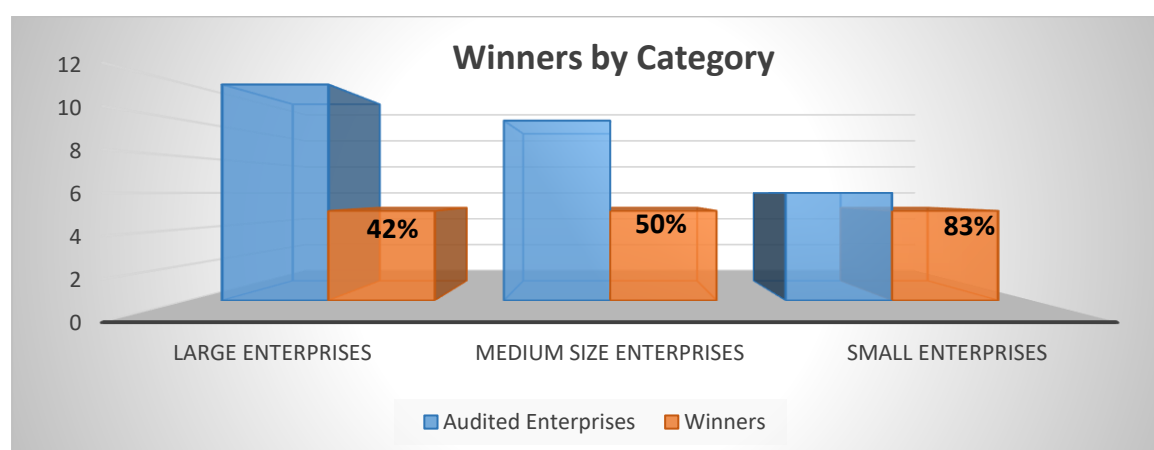


Chart 3: ECOWAS Quality Awards Winners by Category



Capacity building in Food Safety

In terms of human capacity building the Programme has initially trained 225 resource persons on Food Safety Management System and awarded a contract with Association Française de Normalisation (AFNOR) regarding the support for certification of 105 resource persons on

Food Safety Management System. At the end of the process, a total of 100 got their qualifications (95%). Chart 4 below shows the success rate per country while chart 5 shows the classification of countries per score (the maximum score is 100). In all countries, 100% of participants who attended the qualifying training were qualified, except in Côte d'Ivoire (71%) and Togo (57%). It is to be noted that the success rate of women is 100%.

The score expected by each attendee to pass the qualified exam was 50%. The average of scores obtained by attendees in each country has been determined. The highest scores are performed by trainees from Ghana (75.9), The Gambia (75.7) and Sierra Leone (74.3) while the lowest are performed by Guinea-Bissau (53.6), Togo (54.7) and Benin (61.4). These results shows that the WAQSP has significantly contributed to the strengthening of human capital in the ECOWAS region by qualifying 105 experts on ISO 22000. In each country, internationally recognised and qualified experts on ISO 22000 are available and ready to support private and public companies for the implementation of Food Safety Management System and toward certification.

Chart 4: Number of Food Safety Management System (FSMS) qualified experts

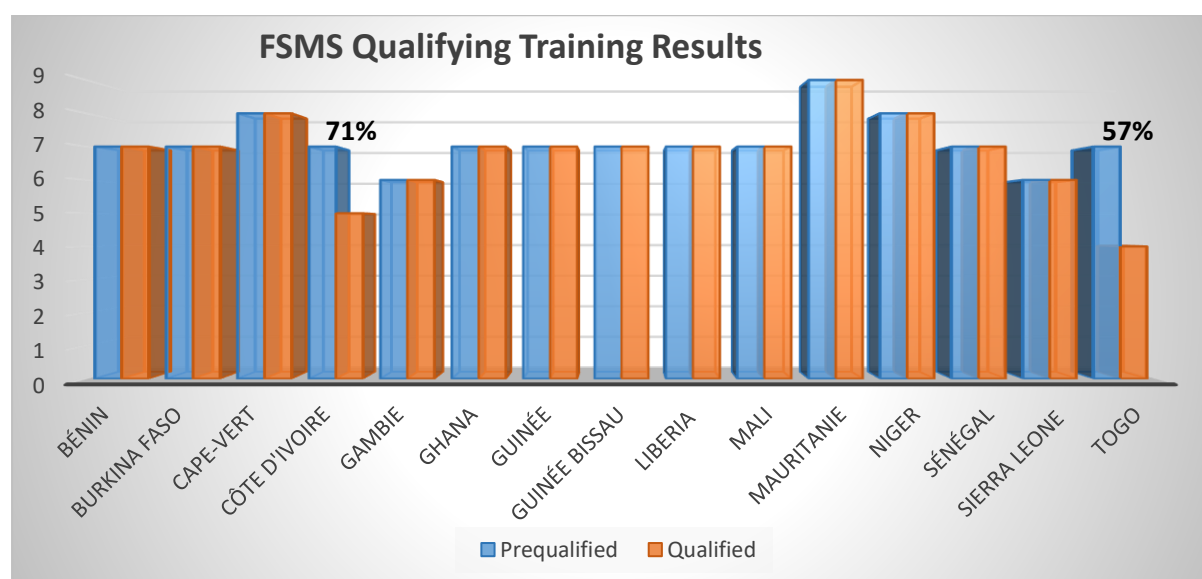
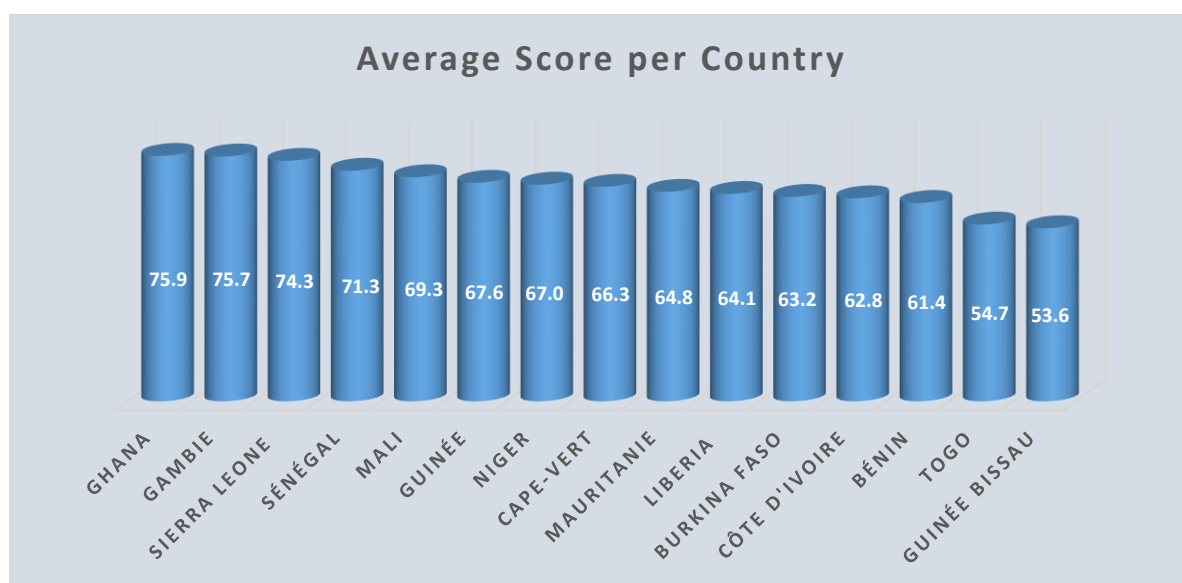


Chart 5: Average Score in FSMS Qualifying Training per Country



Setting up the ECOWAS Quality and Industry Database

In cooperation with ECOWAS, the WAQSP has developed tools (metadata and filling guide) during a meeting organised in Cotonou in April 2017 for the collect of data in order to support the establishment of the ECOWAS Quality and Industrial database. A directory of internationally accredited CABs in West Africa has been drawn up. It will be a benchmark for economic operators & consumers regarding the best CABs performing within the region.

In December 2016, in the framework of the capacity building of the ECOWAS network of journalists, 16 journalists coming from the ECOWAS member countries and Mauritania and members of the ECOWAS network of journalists were trained on quality matters and sensitised on the setting up of the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure.

C. Communication and Visibility

1. Development and implementation of the communication plan

As part of the implementation of the WAQSP communication plan, the 4th newsletter was released and disseminated at ECOWAS and National levels. This newsletter was also distributed to the members of the NQIP steering committee during their last meeting. The 5th

newsletter is only in electronic version and the 6th is ready to be shared with the countries. An illustration of the guide for the ECOWAS Quality Awards was developed and shared in the countries. There was a media coverage for all validation of National Quality Policies seminars and launching of the National and ECOWAS Quality Awards in the countries. A special edition was made for the ECOWAS Quality Awards and shared with main counterparts and stakeholders mainly at the ECOWAS Quality Awards Ceremony. The Programme also covered the ministerial meetings in Abidjan (April, 2017) and Liberia (June, 2017) and all ECOSHAM meetings organised by the Programme. On 30 June 2017, the media coverage of the ECOWAS Quality Awards allowed to produce and share 4 television broadcasts in National and Regional televisions.

2. Dissemination of promotional materials

The Programme web-site is online and highlights the main achievements made by the WAQSP while announcing upcoming activities. The pool of communication experts is currently gathering necessary elements to provide sufficient data to the web-site. A Facebook and a Twitter accounts are operational and managed by the communication expert. These accounts are used to share news and pictures about the latest activities conducted by the Programme. A WhatsApp group for the WAQSP was created and is used daily to share information with stakeholders and beneficiaries on quality and the Programme implementation. For the promotion of the ECOWAS Quality awards, more than 2292 promotional materials (including leaflets, rolls up, T-shirts, printed newsletters, gadgets ...) were produced and shared both at National level and regional level.

D. Programme main achievements

The chart below shows the physical implementation level of the Programme. In other words, this is an evaluation of the progress made at this stage according to the initial indicators of the Programme. The establishment of the legal framework of the quality infrastructure at national and regional level is a requirement to ensure that all actions taken in the Programme will be made in accordance with ECOQUAL. This can explain the high rate of implementation on this first specific objective (93%). The rate in the specific objective 2 has improved (83%) because of an acceleration in the implementation of ECOSHAM (5 meetings conducted in 2017 against 3 in 2016), leading to a total of 14 meetings organised for the development and adoption of ECOWAS standards. The rate of implementation regarding the support to CABs has increased

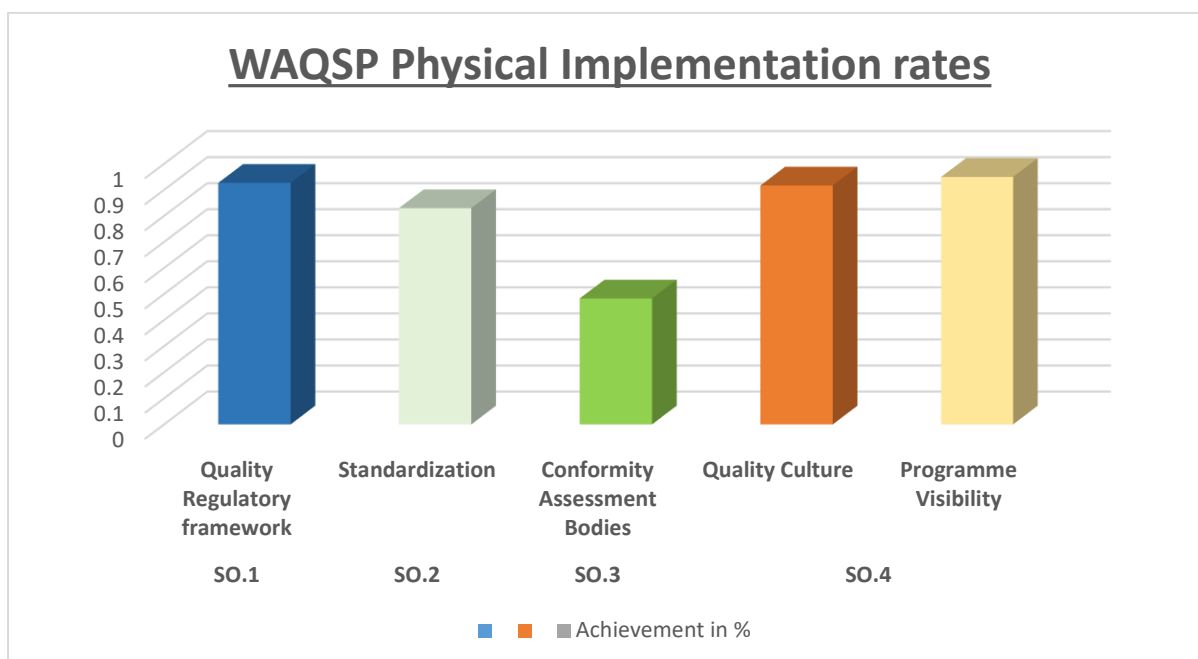
from 18% to 48% due to actions undertaken under that specific objective since the last steering committee meeting. In addition to the increasing support to the conformity assessment bodies, the legal text establishing the regional accreditation system, the regional certification system and the regional metrology system have been adopted by the ECOWAS Members states Ministers and ECOWAS Council of Ministers.

In the area of quality culture, the improvement of the high rate of implementation (92%) was made possible because of the progress in the support for certification of persons on ISO 22000, to the organisation of National Quality Awards in the countries and to the organisation of the ECOWAS Quality Awards. Since the WAQSP web-site and the social media page are online and regularly updated to inform the partners and the stakeholders on the implementation of the Programme.

The implementation of the communication strategy is in full swing and all meetings and trainings in the countries and the region are covered by radio, televisions and newspapers, which led to 95% of implementation.

It appears that the global physical implementation rate of phase 1 is estimated to 82%. In total, the target on National Quality Policies update and development is reached, all the legal texts for the establishment of the regional quality infrastructure are adopted, the ECOSHAM implementation has accelerated, the support to CABs is ongoing in all areas targeted by the Programme, the National Quality Awards ceremonies were organised in 14 countries, the ECOWAS Quality awards ceremony was organised and 15 trophies have been awarded, and many actions regarding the communication plan allow to cover all events mentioned above and in the report below. However, some more activities (estimated to 18%) have to be finalised during August or supplementary 2 or 3 months (if an extension period is granted).

Chart 6: Physical implementation rates by specific objective



The table below shows the progress in terms of implementation as it allows the comparison between initial indicators and achieved indicators to date. This table also shows the technical execution rate of the Programme considering results achievement rate pondered by financial weight of each result in the total budget allocated to technical activities and visibility.

Table 1: State of implementation per result (As at end-July 2017)

OUTPUTS	INITIAL INDICATORS	ACHIEVED INDICATOR(S)	% of execution
Specific objective 1. Relevant actors in countries covered by the programme make use of the regional quality infrastructure and harmonized legal framework			93%
Result 1.1.	National quality policies are in line with the regional quality policy and implemented		93%
	A national quality policy is developed / updated in at least 10 countries covered by the Programme.	National Quality Policies developed or updated and harmonized with ECOQUAL in 16 countries. They are officially adopted in Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.	
	Public Procurement rules are updated to integrate quality requirements in at least 8 countries.	Non applicable at the current phase of the Programme (phase 2)	
Specific objective 2. Private sector has access to strategically prioritized and harmonized standards for facilitated regional and international trade			83%
Result 2.1	The regional standardization system is operational and ready to issue standards		42%

OUTPUTS	INITIAL INDICATORS	ACHIEVED INDICATOR(S)	% of execution
Result 2.2	Regional structure in charge of standard harmonization appointed or established by the ECOWAS Commission and staffed in a gender responsible approach;	The general legal text for its establishment is officially adopted by the ECOWAS Member States Ministers in charge of Quality and the ECOWAS Council of Ministers. The ECOWAS Council of Ministers has authorized the setting up of the ECOWAS Agency for Quality (ECOQUAL) in charge of the secretariat of ECOSHAM	
	At least 5 regional technical standardization committees involving female economic actors are established (priority sectors) and are operational.	5 Technical Harmonization Committees identified (THC1, THC2, THC3, THC4, and THC5) and the THC 6 is established with the support of the Programme. 5 THC secretariats are fully equipped to perform their duties	
	At least 5 harmonized standards in average sold by country	The concept note of the regional database on standards is available. The tools to set up the ECOWAS database, specifically standards are available (metadata and filling guide). A complete list of standards is available and a catalogue of standards is under finalisation	
	Regional standards are adopted for priority products in the region		98%
	At least 50 regional standards on priority products adopted & homologated	41 adopted ECOWAS Standards. 12 ECOWAS standards recommended for adoption in April 2016 and 28 recommended for adoption in July 2017. A total of 64 regional standards developed. 41 draft standards presented and discussed by the THC 2 and the THC 5 in April 2016. 10 ECOWAS standards (ECOSTAND) and 7 ISO Standards reviewed by the THC 4 and 6, 49 electro-technical standards drafts reviewed and discussed by the THC 5 and 6 ECOSTANDS drafts on chemical products reviewed by the THC 3 in 2016. 14 ECOSTANDS drafts reviewed by the THC 2 and public enquiry comments on 39 ECOSTANDS drafts reviewed and considered by the THC 1, 3 and 5 in 2017.	
Result 2.3	The capacities of the documentation centres of national standards bodies are enhanced		24%
	National documentation centres use and update the regional database on standards	A concept note, a filling guide and a metadata document for the regional database are available.	

OUTPUTS	INITIAL INDICATORS	ACHIEVED INDICATOR(S)	% of execution
		A complete list of regional standards is available and a catalogue is under preparation.	
	At least 30 people per country are sensitized to & informed on harmonized standards	Non applicable at the current phase	
Specific objective 3. Private and public sectors have access to a network of accredited and competitive conformity assessment services provided in the region			48%
Result 3.1	The regional accreditation system is established and strengthened to serve the needs of accrediting conformity assessment services in the region		38%
	The secretariat of the regional accreditation system is operational and has adopted a gender-balanced human resource management	Adoption of legal texts for the establishment of the ECOWAS Regional Accreditation System by the ECOWAS Member States Ministers in charge of Quality and by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers Signature of a Cooperation agreement between the SOAC and the TUNAC	
	Needs of the region are 100% covered (geography and language).	The needs of the region are identified and an action plan is developed.	
	At least 1 of the AB of the Regional (West Africa) Accreditation System is recognised as an affiliate member by ILAC.	NINAS and SOAC have started their registration to become AFRAC members.	
	The accreditation application files for at least 10 conformity assessment bodies (CABs) are assessed by accreditation committees of accreditation bodies in the region	Data collected on the 140 (CABs) that have applied. 30 CABs selected to be supported by the WAQSP towards accreditation. The planning for the assessments of CABs by Abs from the region is under preparation, including the training of assessors	
Result 3.2	A network of accredited conformity assessment services is established and strengthened in order to provide the full range of services required in the region		52%
	At least 20 new CABs are accredited in the region during the programme	30 CABs supported toward accreditation by the Programme. Methodology & tools to assist CABs towards accreditation available.	
	At least 100 technical staff of labs are trained in the region, including 50 women;	17 experts trained on ISO 17065. 17 experts trained on ISO 17020. 22 technicians trained on metrology function in testing laboratories. 5 technicians from the building material sector trained in metrology	
	An average of 2 labs (not yet accredited) in each country have participated in inter-laboratory comparisons (ILCs);	Areas for the laboratories inter-comparison tests are identified.	

OUTPUTS	INITIAL INDICATORS	ACHIEVED INDICATOR(S)	% of execution
Result 3.3	At least 1 Proficiency Testing Organizer is operational at national or regional level to serve the region.	Terms of references a strategy for the regional laboratories proficiency tests available.	
	A regional certification scheme and a regional "ECOWAS Product Certification Mark" for products is established, promoted and used		85%
Result 3.4	Regional product certification scheme is adopted by ECOWAS.	Adoption of legal texts for the establishment of the ECOWAS Regional Certification System by the ECOWAS Member States Ministers in charge of Quality and by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.	
	ECOWAS product certification Mark is created and protected at WIPO	A concept note for a contest to propose the ECOWAS mark Logo is drawn	
	At least 5 national product certification bodies deliver the "ECOWAS Product Certification Mark	5 Certification Bodies are supported for accreditation according to the scopes identified as important for the region.	
	The regional metrology/calibration system (RMS) is established and operational to provide calibration services to laboratories and companies with traceability to the international system of measurement (SI)		70%
	The secretariat of the regional metrology system is operational and has adopted a gender-balanced human resource management	Adoption of legal texts for the establishment of the ECOWAS Regional Metrology System by the ECOWAS Member States Ministers in charge of Quality and the ECOWAS Council of Ministers	
	Priority needs of the region are covered for Mass, Temperature, Pressure and Volume.	Priority needs in the region are identified.	
	At least one additional metrology laboratory is accredited for each of the following dimensions: mass, volume, temperature and pressure.	6 calibration structures will be supported for accreditation according to 10 scopes to serve the region in coordination with PTB ECOWAS Programme.	
	At least 40 technicians trained for key metrology quantities in the region, following a gender-balanced selection	22 technicians from testing laboratories trained on Metrology function in laboratories	
Specific objective 4. A culture of quality is entrenched in private sector operators			92%
Result 4.2	Training of trainers on structured themes on quality mainly in coordination with industry and trade associations – trainers able to train consultants, auditors, and leaders for corporate management systems		76%
	An average of 20 trainers (male and female) per country trained and qualified in certain quality domains (ISO 22000, ISO 14001, and ISO 9001) among the	225 resource persons trained in the region in ISO 22000. 105 prequalified experts supported for qualifying training on ISO 22000, 100 qualified expert on ISO 22000 in the region.	

OUTPUTS	INITIAL INDICATORS	ACHIEVED INDICATOR(S)	% of execution
Result 4.3	candidates from the private and public sectors and education.		
	Relevant regional and national actors in the quality area are aware of the quality principles and of the business services provided by its infrastructure; they have access to the required knowledge and are motivated for the implementation and improvement of quality objectives		98%
	Gender neutral texts (leaflets on standards, guidelines, brochures...) related to standardization and quality are available in NSBs and Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI) and are being promoted and distributed, including a brochure on the gender impact of standards development	Gender neutral leaflets issued for the presentation of the WAQSP, ECOWAS quality Awards and the participation of the WAQSP at the ARSO General Assembly meeting in Ouagadougou	
	At least 75 corporation managers, including 25 women, sensitized to the implementation of major standards (ISO 9001, ISO 14001 - environment, ISO 22000 -food safety, GLOBALGAP, ISO 50001 – energy management...)	225 corporation managers and resource persons including 73 women trained on ISO 22000 and 105 experts, including 40 women qualified on ISO 22000. 100% of women presented at the qualifying training got their qualification.	
	16 national Quality Days organized with the specific focus of reaching women as their target audience	15 national launching of the WAQSP; 7 National quality promotional events organized in the countries. Promotional events organised in each country to launch the ECOWAS Quality Awards and 16 support to the launching and organisation of the National Quality Awards in the countries.	
	The regional ECOWAS Award is organized at least once and includes a special award for Women entrepreneurs.	The ECOWAS Quality Award is organized; The UEMOA Quality Award is organized; One required criterion for the ECOWAS QA “Resource Management” is gender-related. A Special trophy for Women entrepreneurs was awarded to Clina-Lancet Laboratories (Nigerian company)	
	Participation of companies from all countries in the ECOWAS Quality Award	Adoption of the repository of the Regional Quality Award criteria. 17 secretariat managers, 20 auditors and supervisors of National / regional Quality Awards sensitized and trained at regional level. The Guide for the organization of National Quality Awards and the guide for the quality award secretariat are available in each country.	

OUTPUTS	INITIAL INDICATORS	ACHIEVED INDICATOR(S)	% of execution
		Organisation of National Quality Awards in 14 countries in the region. 28 companies from all countries of ECOWAS region, except Guinea, participated in the ECOWAS Quality Awards and 15 were awarded.	

Result 4.4.	An organized and coherent bilingual Internet based regional information system on services delivered by the quality infrastructure is established and used		65%
	The bilingual Internet based regional information system is deemed to be updated, easy to use, and useful	The concept note for the ECOWAS regional database is available. A metadata file and a filling guide are developed.	
Communication and Visibility			95%
	A communication plan taking into consideration female audience is adopted and implemented, in conformity with the communication and visibility criteria of the partners (ECOWAS, EU and UNIDO)	The Programme communication strategy is developed and finalized with the agreement of ECOWAS and the EU. The Fourth Newsletter is distributed in the countries Specific communication tools for the ECOWAS Quality Award have been developed (leaflets, Special Edition of the WAQSP newsletter, goodies, etc.)	
	At least 2 articles issued per country and per year;	At least 1 article issued per meeting and training performed at national level, including the launching of the programme, the national sensitisation seminar for journalists, the development and validation meetings of the NQP, the national training in Food Safety Management System and the launching of the National and ECOWAS quality Awards.	
	At least 2 TV reports broadcasted per country and per year;	National and private TV covered all national trainings and meetings in the countries and produced television broadcasts.	
	At least three newsletters on the program disseminated per year;	Five newsletters are released and shared with all counterparts and countries, the sixth is ready to be shared and a special newsletter for the ECOWAS Quality Awards was produced and shared with National and Regional actors	
	A website about the program is operational	The Programme website is operational. Latest information on the WASQP activities are displayed through the Programme social media pages such as Facebook and Twitter. The WhatsApp application is also used to share information directly on stakeholders and beneficiaries phones.	
	Overall Technical execution rate of the Programme		82%

II. Partnership and Monitoring

A. Partnership and Synergies

The ACP-EU TBT Programme did collaborate with the WAQSP on a regular basis. The WAQSP helped several times identify specific needs for assistance in countries, which were not foreseen in the work plan of the WAQSP. This TBT Programme was therefore often nicely complementing the WAQSP activities as it was able to trigger quick-action in response to specific quality-related training needs in countries. Also, this co-operation led to conduct joint activities such as training. For instance, the two programmes jointly conducted a regional training in metrology for laboratories technicians that was held from 17 to 18 October 2016 in Cotonou (Benin). This cost-sharing operation led to an increased number of recipients hence to higher impact.

As stated in the previous reports, the WAQSP holds regular meetings with the NQIP project in Nigeria for the implementation of the two projects. The WAQSP met with the NQIP by end October 2016 to discuss about the implementation plans of the two Programmes in order to harmonise actions, improve the impact of activities and avoid duplication of activities, particularly regarding Nigeria. The WAQSP also participated in the NQIP Steering Committee Meeting held on 09 November 2016 to take note of the progress made so far, consider comments from stakeholders and highlight the importance of the outcomes of the NQIP for the regional Programme.

The support to the calibration laboratories selected by the WAQSP will be implemented in cooperation with the PTB ECOWAS Programme. The WAQSP is regularly invited to the steering committees of the PTB programme. The PTB programme is regularly attending the main meetings organized by the WAQSP. In the field of accreditation, the two programmes have decided to cooperate to support the operation of the Accreditation Body of Ghana.

The selection of inspection bodies to be supported for the implementation of a quality management system has been done with the support of the West Africa Health Organisation (WAHO). WAHO has attended the workshop on quality organized for pharmaceutical inspection bodies (Ouagadougou, July 2016).

The ECOWAS GIZ programme has organized an informative mission to the RTCU at Abuja to prepare its study for the strengthening of the training capacities of ECOWAS in the field of

quality (September 2016). The WAQSP has shared its experience and results achieved so far on this field; the WAQSP has requested that the study take stock of the ECOWA Regional Quality Infrastructure Scheme. The CTA attended the debriefing meeting with the Commissioner of the IPSP department on the presentation of the results of this study and has made its amendment on the report. The report was presented during the 2nd enlarged steering committee of the WAQSP (Cotonou, September 2017).

In the field of Food regulation, the WAQSP attended the regional workshop organized by the ECOWAS-USAID Food Safety programme. The two programmes have decided to cooperate for the proposal of a mechanism of harmonization of the technical regulations within the region in the framework of the operation of the community committee for technical regulation.

The WAQSP worked with the TRAQUE programme in Ghana, specifically in the field of the technical validation of the national quality policy. The policy was technically adopted in July in Accra. The WAQSP will also take stock of the results achieved by this programme in the field of capacity building of accreditations assessors to develop training programmes in accreditation assessment.

The WAQSP work with the UNIDO Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) in Senegal for the drafting of a sectorial quality policy in the field of food safety that is taking into account the national quality policy. The final draft of the document was released in August 2016 for the official adoption by the government.

The WAQSP has received support of the FEWACCI for the designing of the ECOWAS and national quality awards repositories as well as for the promotion of the awards at national level. The WAQSP has supported FEWACCI in the organization of their general assembly in Lomé in April 2017. It was an opportunity to present to the members of the GA the results achieved so far by the WAQSP. FEWACCI is a member of the WAQSP steering committee.

Following the invitation of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Nigeria, the Programme, represented by the monitoring and evaluation expert, and the ECOWAS Director in charge of Industry attended the validation meeting of the SOP for Zero Reject Methodology, the Zero Reject Committee 5-Year Action Plan for Public Sector implementation, the Single Window Platform & Trade facilitation by customs and the National Quality Policy Plan (A Quality Infrastructure framework for Nigeria).

B. Project monitoring and Evaluation

1. EU Mid-Term Evaluation

During the last WAQSP steering committee meeting, the EUD in Abuja informed that the EU was going to conduct a mid-term evaluation of the WAQSP. Initially planned for the first quarter, the evaluation will take place in August. In addition of visiting Nigeria (Abuja) where the WAQSP is hosted, from 14 to 18 August 2017, the independent evaluators will visit Liberia and Senegal from 21 to 26 August 2017. The WAQSP has informed the countries and updated on the status of the evaluation.

A list of contacts for the targeted countries was sent to EU and the project experts were made available to support any request from the EU evaluators.

2. UNIDO Missions in the region

From September 2016 till July 2017, the WAQSP Project Manager undertook 7 monitoring missions in the region and visited 5 countries: Benin (October 2016), Nigeria (November 2016, January 2017), Mali (February), Cote d'Ivoire (April, June) and Burkina Faso (June).

Each monitoring mission consists of meeting the key stakeholders at ECOWAS and national level (Ministries, EU Delegations, and Organized Private Sector), the coordination units as well as relevant beneficiaries like NSBs or laboratories. In Nigeria, the missions allow strategic planning of the action with ECOWAS Commission and the regional coordination team as well as supervision and team building at the RTCU.

In February, the UNIDO Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation, Mr. Bernardo CALZADILLA-SARMIENTO came also in Nigeria (February 2017) and met the regional coordination team and main stakeholders to follow up with the WAQSP implementation and meet with the regional coordination team to identify main issues and propose some solutions. He also met with the Coordination team of the EU-funded NQIP Programme in Abuja to monitor the co-operation between both programmes which are managed by the same Department of TII at UNIDO.

The WAQSP Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and ECOWAS representatives, namely the ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Industry and Private Sector and the ECOWAS Director of industry, attended an SPS programme meeting (funded by USAID) in Dakar (May 2017).

This was an opportunity to present the state of implementation of the Programme and discuss about possible synergies and cooperation.

In Liberia, the ECOWAS Commission organised the ECOWAS Council of Ministers meeting from May 28th to June 2nd to adopt some resolutions, among them the legal text for the setting up of the ECOWAS Quality Infrastructure. The CTA and the WAQSP Communication Expert attended the event to promote the WAQSP and support the adoption of the legal texts. They met EUD representatives and the Minister of Industry of Liberia and other officials and organisations like the CNFA Liberia Agricultural Development Activity (LADA) funded by USAID, the National Standards Laboratory, the National Monitoring committee to discuss on the WAQSP implementation and possible forthcoming and future supports, notably in the context of the implementation of their National Quality Policy.

As mentioned above, the CTA was part of the mission conducted in Tunisia from 10 to 14 July. While on mission, he visited the Tunisian Quality Infrastructures bodies, identified possible synergies and cooperation scopes. He also assisted in the signature of a cooperation agreement between the SOAC and the TUNAC.

III. Gender Mainstreaming

The WAQS Programme identified several activities aiming at improving women's conditions and their participation in the development process of the region. By applying its Gender mainstreaming in the framework of the WAQSP, UNIDO has reached several results by supporting involvement of female actors in regional standards harmonisation and technical trainings.

The graph 7, shows the percentage of participation of women involved in standards harmonisation activities. Indeed, in the harmonisation of standards, on average 27% are women. The chart 7 shows that there is no real trend, women are more or less involved and the percentage is low, which means that more efforts shall be done in this field to involve more women. By cons, a look at the implementation of other technical activities (Metrology, ISO 17065, ISO 17020, ISO 9001 and ISO 22000) show a positive trend, meaning that women are increasingly involved in regional activities (chart 8).

In addition of that, in the framework of the ECOWAS Quality Awards, the consideration of the gender aspect shows that 40% of the regional auditors and 30% of the enterprises representatives were women.

The results achieved in Food Safety Management System (ISO 22 000) through the consideration of the gender dimension is worth a focus. In order to qualify the 7 best of each country, the WAQSP has conducted a first training for 225 resource persons in the region (excluding Nigeria) and out of the 105 presented at the qualifying test, 100 were qualified as mentioned above. Considering the gender aspect at national level (chart 9), the best are Sierra Leone (83%), Côte d'Ivoire (80%) and Cabo Verde (75%) while Niger (14%), Mauritania (14%) and Guinea (0%) need to strongly improve the participation of women in the Programme activities. A regional gender focus (chart 10) shows that at the selection test, there were 31% of women (73 in total), 35% (37) at the qualifying test and 36% (37) of qualified female experts at the end of the process. This means that 51% of female candidates are qualified in the region against 39% for male candidates. The considerable result is that 100% of women presented at the ISO 22000 qualifying are now qualified against 92% for men.

These results mean that the involvement of female actors leads, not only to a better equity between women and men but also to better results in projects' implementation, particularly in quality. The lesson learned is that involving more women in technical activities will significantly contribute to human capacity building and economic development in the ECOWAS region.

Chart 7: Gender in Standards harmonisation activities

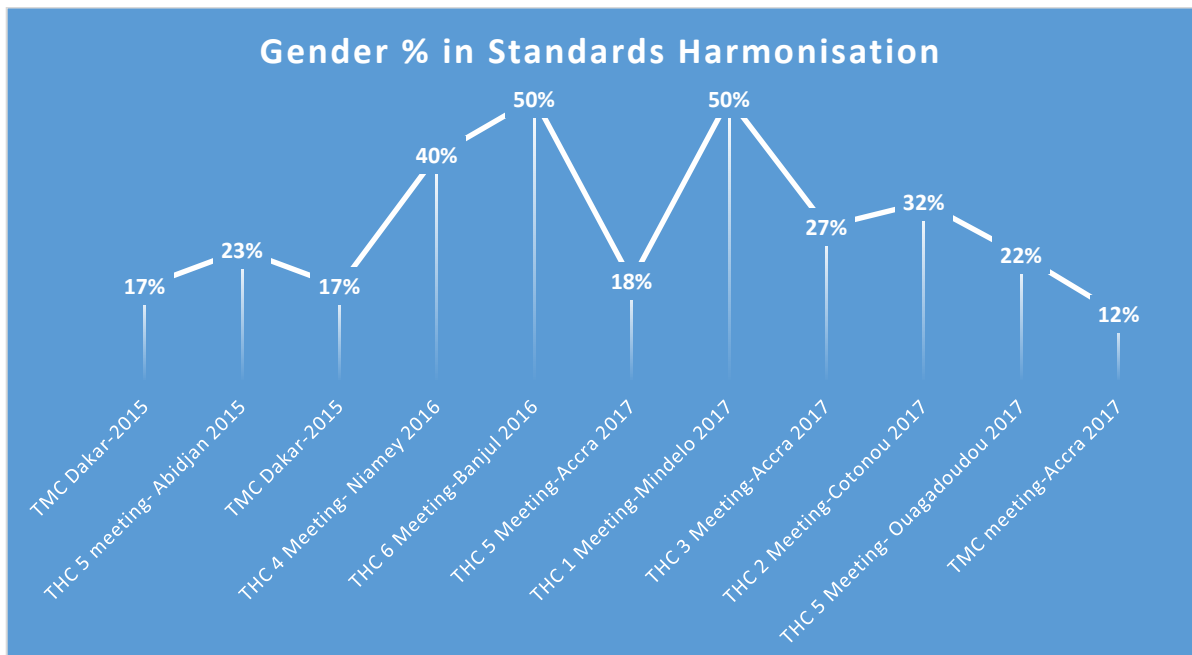


Chart 8: Gender mainstreaming in technical trainings

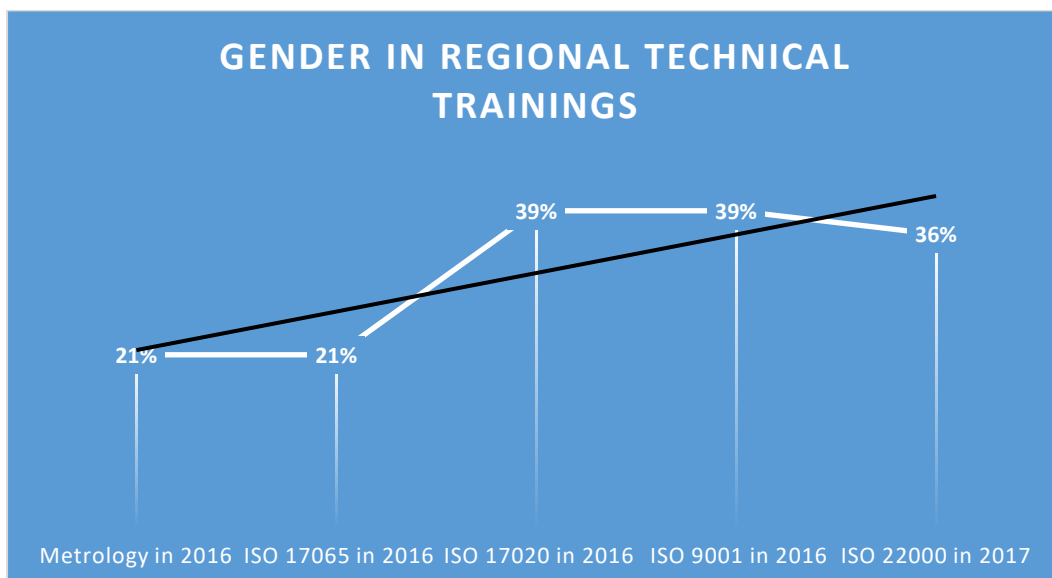
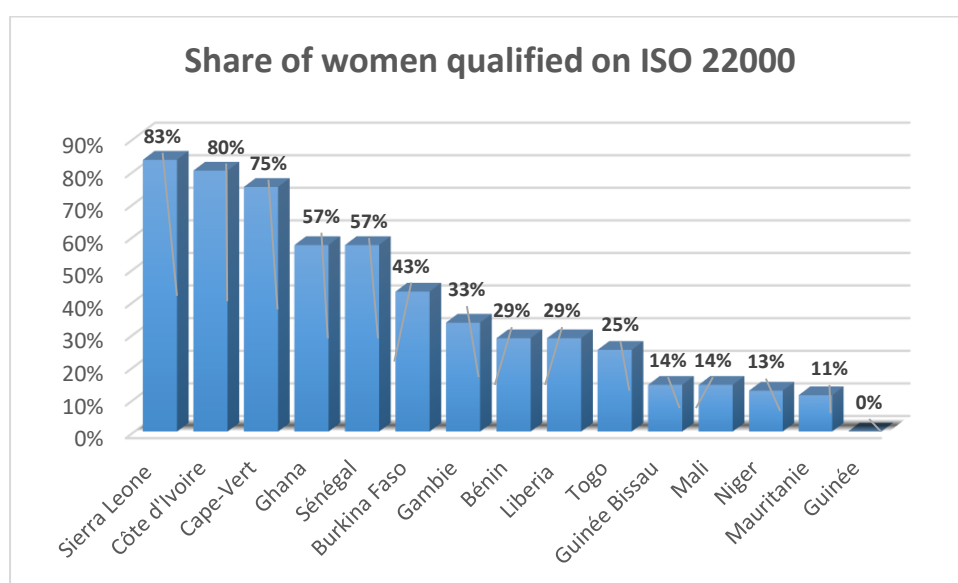
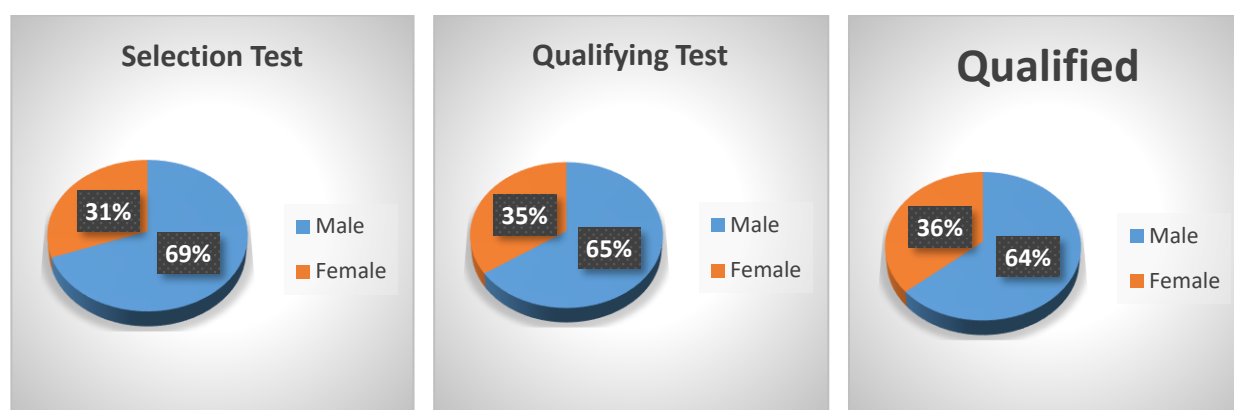


Chart 9: ISO 22000 qualified female experts



Charts 10: Gender mainstreaming success in ISO 22000 Qualifying trainings



IV Financial Report

The overall budget of the action is EUR 6,548,049 (including indirect Costs).

On 23 September 2014, UNIDO received a first pre-financing of EUR 2,314,391 corresponding to 90% of the budget for the first year. The second instalment for a total amount of EUR 2,131,736 was received in March 2016, bringing the total instalment received at EUR 4,446,127, which corresponds to 68% of the overall budget of the action. In March 2017, the

WAQSP received the third instalment for a total amount of EUR 1, 912, 558, leading to a total received amount of EUR 6,358,685.

As at end-July 2017, the total expenditure amount is EUR 5,514,209.68 net, equivalent to EUR 5,900,204.36 incl. indirect costs. This represents 93% of the total of first, second and third instalments and 90% of the total budget of the action.

In comparison, these implementation rates were respectively the following when compared to the total budget:

- 4% as at end of March 2015
- 18% as at end of August 2015
- 35% as at end of March 2016
- 48% as at end of August 2016
- 64% as at end of January 2017

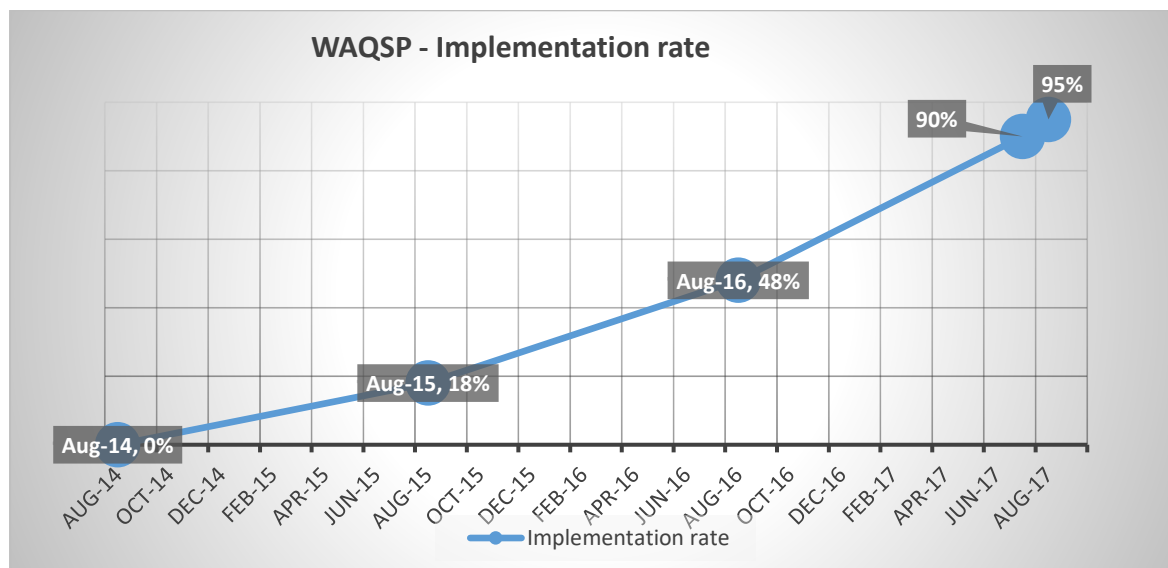
This shows that implementation has increased by 72% since the end of year 1 (August 2015) and 42% since the end of year 2 (August 2016), demonstrating a huge progress made in the implementation of the Programme and the effectiveness of the acceleration measures taken in 2016 as it can be perceived in the chart 11 below. While, foreseeing the implementation of the whole budget by the end of the first phase seemed rather unrealistic 2 years ago, the Programme has managed to overcome the difficulties faced since the beginning in terms of delays in the implementation of the Programme and staff constraints to finally reach 93% of implementation the total received instalments in July 2017. The table 2 and the chart 12 provide detailed information on consumption per specific objective and implementation rates against project total budget.

Table 2 shows that the implementation rate varies from one output to another, with the highest scores in SO.1 due to the finalization of the quality policy-related work in almost all countries as well as SO.4 due to the large number of promotional activities organised at both regional and national levels including national quality Awards and the first edition of ECOWAS Quality Award.

The relative low performance of under Monitoring, reporting and evaluation and under SO.3. is due to the fact that remaining activities have to be finalised by end of phase in August

(steering committee meetings and final report) or have to be continued after this period (necessary for personal actions within some conformity assessment bodies) or under phase 2.

Chart 11: WAQSP - Implementation rate per reporting period



The table 2 below shows the detailed overview of the distribution of expenditure.

Table 2: Overview of the distribution of expenditure

Outputs	Total project budget	Total expenditures till 31.07.2017	Impl. Rate Total Budget	Balance
SO.1 Regional QI and legal framework	€ 736,092.00	€ 725,223.10	99%	€ 10,868.90
SO.2 Private sector access to standards	€ 994,400.00	€ 921,434.19	93%	€ 72,965.81
SO.3 Private sector access CA services	€ 1, 416,674.00	€ 1, 030,977.62	73%	€ 385,696.38
SO.4 Quality culture in private sector	€ 716,807.00	€ 764,411.29	107%	-€ 47,604.29
Programme visibility	€ 154,800.00	€ 148,978.88	96%	€ 5,821.12
Supervision and Coordination	€ 1, 779,554.00	€ 1, 701,505.40	96%	€ 78,048.60
Monitoring, reporting and evaluation	€ 321,345.00	€ 221,679.20	69%	€ 99,665.80
Total direct costs	€ 6, 119,672.00	€ 5, 514,209.68	90%	€ 605,462.32
Indirect costs	€ 428,377.04	€ 385,994.68		
Total	€ 6, 548,049.04	€ 5, 900,204.36	90%	€ 647,844.68

Chart 12: Financial Implementation rates by specific objective

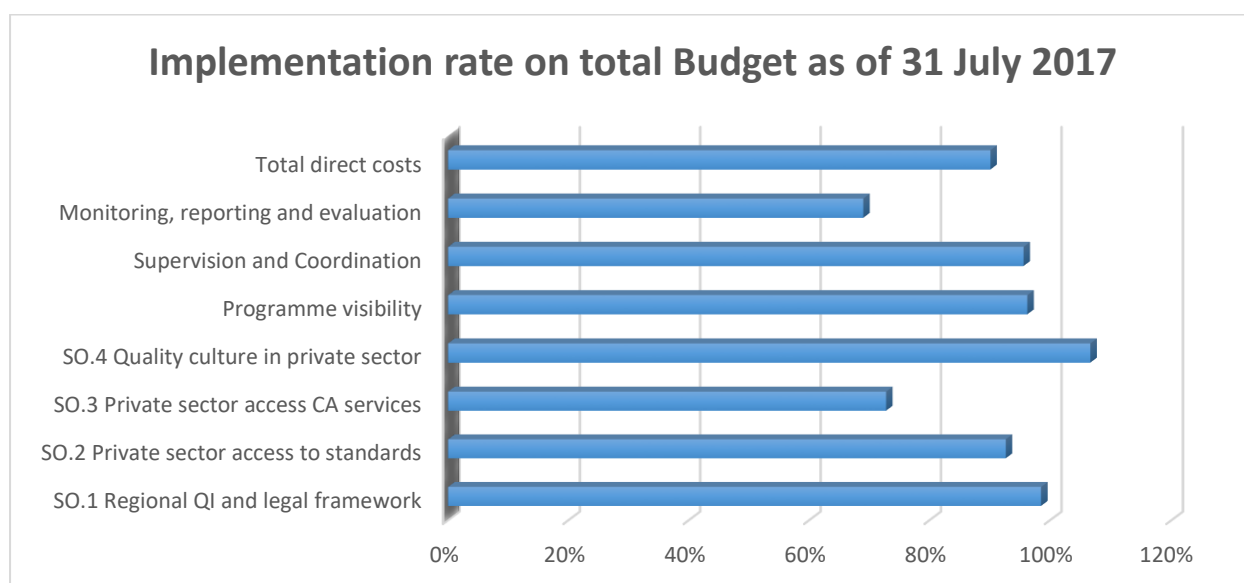


Table 3: Detailed overview of the distribution of expenditure

WEST AFRICA QUALITY SYSTEM - 31.07.2017			
Specific Objectives and Activities	Expenditures (c+d)	Payments (d)	Commitments (c)
SO.1 Regional QI and legal framework	725,223.10	675,955.63	49,267.47
1.1 National quality policies are in line with the regional quality policy and implemented	725,223.10	675,955.63	49,267.47
SO.2 Private sector access to standards	921,434.19	815,969.10	105,465.23
2.1 The regional standardization system is operational and ready to issue standards	230,969.02	214,543.08	16,426.08
2.2 Regional standards are adopted for priority products in the region	687,837.72	598,798.57	89,039.15
2.3 The capacities of the documentation centres of national standards bodies are enhanced	2,627.45	2,627.45	0.00
SO.3 Private sector access CA services	1, 030,977.62	654,396.40	376,581.22
3.1 The regional accreditation system is established and strengthened to serve the needs of accrediting conformity assessment services in the region	295,018.44	126,966.02	168,052.42
3.2 A network of accredited conformity assessment services is established and strengthened in order to provide the full range of services required in the region	689,397.96	493,677.53	195,720.43
3.4 The regional metrology/calibration system (RMS) is established and operational	46,561.22	33,752.85	12,808.37
SO.4 Quality culture in private sector	764,411.29	665,979.88	98,431.41
4.2 Training of trainers on structured themes on quality mainly in coordination with industry and trade associations	159,444.05	163,466.65	-4,022.60
4.3 Relevant regional and national actors in the quality area are aware of the quality principles and of the business services provided by its infrastructure	525,862.11	465,284.67	60,577.44
4.4 An organised and coherent bilingual Internet based regional information system on services delivered by the quality infrastructure is established and used	79,105.13	37,228.56	41,876.57
Programme visibility	148,978.88	137,559.33	11,419.55
Visibility of the Programme	148,978.88	137,559.33	11,419.55
Supervision and Coordination	1, 701,505.40	1, 497,355.53	200,488.38
Establishment of the regional and national technical coordination units	1, 658,142.48	1, 466,739.61	187,741.38
Operation of the Technical Coordination Unit (TCU)	43,362.92	30,615.92	12,747.00
Monitoring, reporting and evaluation	221,679.20	213,602.34	8,076.86
Monitoring, reporting and evaluation	221,679.20	213,602.34	8,076.86
Grand Total	5, 514,209.68	4, 660,818.21	849,730.12

Conclusion

Since 29 August 2016, the Programme implemented a large set of activities which has brought the Phase 1 programme really close to full achievement. Indeed, Phase 1 can be seen as a design / development phase (quality policy and their implementation action plan, Quality Infrastructure legal texts, selection of conformity entities to be supported etc.) while phase 2 will come as a phase of consolidation and implementation of texts and arrangements (policies, structures, effective accreditation of CABs, operation of the database, etc.).

With an overall implementation rate of 90% (actually 86% as 14% are not real expenditures but commitments) end of July 2017, this phase 1 Programme has caught up the delay registered at the beginning. The estimation of the physical implementation under the report period is about 82%, increasing, since critical long-standing activities are coming to full completion, such as the finalisation of the regional quality infrastructure study, the draft and adoption of the legal texts for the setting up of the regional quality infrastructure, the organisation of the National and ECOWAS Quality Awards, the training of 295 experts in different fields and the qualification of 102 experts on ISO 22000. A remarkable result was achieved in gender, 100% of women participating in the ISO 22000 passed the examination and are now internationally recognised as qualified experts and ready to serve the region.

However, the WAQSP also went through various challenges, going from lack or instability of staff to delays due to the availability of the second instalment and the amendment to the contribution agreement, which resulted still in a too low pace of physical implementation.

The steering committee of the Programme raised the issue of the feasibility to use the full budget by the end of the phase 1 and requested UNIDO to propose acceleration measures.

Following this request, UNIDO has successfully taken actions to increase the financial implementation rate and to efficiently use the budget allocated during the current phase.

Indeed, in line with the acceleration measures adopted, many activities could be quick-started in various important technical areas and come to almost completion, such as National Quality Policies update and development, support to CABs, study for the setting up of the Regional Quality Infrastructure structures and the establishment and organisation of the Regional Quality Awards.

Based on these measures UNIDO has managed to implement the maximum of activities in order to ensure that the implementation rate be received with satisfaction by all stakeholders and counterparts at the end of the Programme.