

**Country/Region/Global: Senegal, Sierra Leone, Niger, Guinea**  
**EWASME Project Initiation Plan Extension**

**Project Title:** Laying the groundwork for the EWASME programme formulation

**Expected SP Outcome(s):**

**outcome 1: Structural transformation accelerated, particularly green, inclusive, and digital transitions.**

**Expected RP Output(s):**

Outcome 2: African citizens (especially women, and youth) benefit from a regionally integrated, structurally transformed, and inclusive economy

**Output 2.3. National Governments, subnational governments and private sector organisations have the knowledge and tools to promote and support youth and women relevant productive value chains based on a sectoral and ecosystem approaches**

**Original Project Initiation Plan Start/End Dates:** 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023

**Extension Start/End Dates:** 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

**Implementing Partner:** UNDP

### Brief Description

This 12-months extension of the EWASME initial Project Initiation Plan aims to provide additional time for the implementation of key preparatory activities necessary to lay the groundwork for a full-fledged UNDP/IsDB initiative entitled “Empowering West African Women Small and Medium Enterprises in Rice Value Chains (EWASME) 2022-2025 in Guinea, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone”. Funded by the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) to a tune of USD 11.5 million, the EWASME programme builds on and effective links with the existing Regional Rice Value Chain Programme (RRVCP), which is already contributing to the transformation of rice production in select West African countries. The EWASME programme extends its efforts to transform the entire rice value chain – largely dominated by women across the four countries. It will do this by empowering 1,000 Women SMEs/VMEs (500 WSMEs and 500 WVSEs) across the four countries in post-production activities that expand and upgrade their businesses across the rice value chain. This includes developing capacities in post-production and business management, combined with grant matching finance, increased access to markets, and an enabling environment achieved through legal and regulatory reforms that support women’s entrepreneurship. To effectively address the rice value chains’ constraints and challenges across the four countries, it has been deemed vital that a comprehensive understanding of the current situation, identification of critical gaps in data and evidence are needed. Such assessments are not only vital to determine EWASME programme baseline data but equally for the design more effective and targeted interventions that address identified constraints across the rice value chains - from production through to the market – while applying technical, policy, gender and socio-cultural lenses. The EWASME programme will, therefore, be implemented in two phases. In this first project initiation phase, more specifically, this project aims at conducting a gendered rice value chain assessment with focus on production constraints and post-harvest operations, including milling and storage for high quality, market access, and assessment of enabling policies and capacity development needs to drive women’s entrepreneurship.

Programme Period: Jul/2022 – Dec/2023

Atlas Project Number: 00144337

Atlas Output ID: 00132142

Gender Marker: GEN3

Total Resources Required: US\$670,480.00

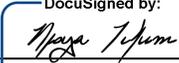
Total allocated resources: US\$670,480.00

- Regular: US\$110,000.00
- Other:
  - Donor: US\$560,480.00
  - Government:

Unfunded budget:

In-kind contributions:

Agreed by UNDP:

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06-Feb-2023

Njoya Tikum  
 Manager

## I. PROJECT INITIATION PLAN (PIP) IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

The Initiation phase of the EWASME project was planned to start the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022 and end on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. The four following activities were planned to be pursued during these 6 months.

1. The Project Baseline study including a gendered Value Chain and Ecosystem Analysis and recommendations for the project design and implementation.
2. The Establishment and operationalization of the RVC National Coordination platform in each of the four countries.
3. The Elaboration and endorsement of the Project document including M&E Framework, social & Environment Assessment, 2023 Workplan, and Risk Log.
4. The Setup and operationalization of the PMU unit.

However, out of the four planned activities, only activities 3 and 4 have started due to late starting of the project coordinator and the delay on the baseline data collection procurement process. The following table shows the status of each planned activity:

|   | Activity   | Status  | Cause of delay  |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | <b>Baseline assessment study</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Terms of Reference finalized and procurement process engaged</li> <li>- Recruitment of the consulting firm paused pending the reception of funding from ISDB</li> </ul>  | Lack of resources to proceed to the recruitment of the firm due to <b>the delays in disbursement of funds by ISDB</b>                       |
| 2 | <b>Establishment of the RVC National coordination Platform</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential stakeholders identified in each country</li> <li>- Engagement paused pending the signature of official agreement with beneficiary countries by ISDB</li> </ul>   | Official agreement between ISDB and the Governments of beneficiary countries (Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Niger) has not been signed yet |
| 3 | <b>Project documents</b>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project document partially drafted</li> <li>- 2023 Workplan (PIP extension period) drafted</li> <li>- Project document finalization and complementary studies depend on inputs from the baseline study and are hence on pause</li> </ul> | Baseline study is delayed (see activity 1)  |
| 4 | <b>Setup and operationalization of the PMU Unit</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project coordinator recruited</li> <li>- Team structure drafted (as part of the Project document)</li> </ul>   | The recruitment of other PMU unit members depends on the needs and the effective start of the project                                       |

## II. OBJECTIVE OF THE EXTENSION PERIOD

The objective of this extension period is to provide additional 12 months for the implementation of foundational activities necessary to prepare the implementation of the EWASME Project.

### III. WORK PLAN

Period: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

| EXPECTED OUTPUTS  | PLANNED ACTIVITIES   | PLANNED BUDGET   |                         |                      |              |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
|   |  | Timeline   | Funding Source          | Budget Description   | Amount (USD) |
| <p><b>Output 1: Baseline study completed, stakeholders sensitized and ownership established, and plans for operationalizing the RVC project completed</b></p> <p><b>Baseline Indicators:</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Baseline assessment report</p> <p><b>B.</b> System documents – Growth Acceleration programme operations manual and MEL plans</p> <p><b>C.</b> No. of Joint Action</p> | <p><b>1. Value Chain and Ecosystem Analysis, recommendations and action plan finalized, RVC platforms installed, and study validated</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TORs developed and agreed upon for procurement and implementation; data collection instruments finalized and</li> <li>• literature review, secondary data collection completed.</li> <li>• Primary data collection completed</li> <li>• Data cleaning and analyses, and synthesis report completed</li> <li>• Gendered assessment of the rice value chains with an emphasis on the post-production in Guinea, Niger, Senegal, and Sierra Leone: Context assessment, Impact pathways and needs assessment for the Enabling environment, Capacity building, Grant-matching mechanism, Market linkages</li> <li>• Potential synergies of the EWASME project with existing projects in the rice value chain in the target geographies, especially IsDB funded projects.</li> <li>• Operations manual for the Growth accelerator programme for each country and each group of beneficiaries including Timeline and duration, Size of cohorts, Eligibility and selection criteria of beneficiaries, Beneficiaries' selection process, Business development needs and training curricula, Eligibility and selection criteria of the panel members, Programme design, Matching grant funding process and guidelines</li> <li>• Monitoring, evaluation and learning framework and plans</li> <li>• Assessment study validation workshops</li> <li>• RVC National Coordination platform Established and operationalized including sensitization &amp; representation of Beneficiaries and communities</li> </ul> | January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023 to July 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 | EWASME (Comp C and D.3) | Consultancy Firm/NGO | \$462,963    |

|   |  |  |                   |                              |                  |
|---|--|--|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Plans established for the RVC;<br><b>D.</b> No. of National Coordination Platforms/ meetings operationalized;<br><b>E.</b> Project Documents Finalized and endorsed;<br><br>D. 12 (3 in each country);<br>E. Project Documents Finalized and endorsed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identification of key partners (Government, NGO/CSOs, Development Partners, Private Sector, Communities, Associations, etc.)</li> <li>○ Quarterly meetings of the RVC National Coordination Platforms</li> <li>○ Sensitization workshops and radio programmes in target districts completed</li> </ul>  |  |                   |                              |                  |
|   | <b>1.2 Project documents finalized and endorsed by the 4 countries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Project M&amp;E Framework</li> <li>● Social &amp; Environment Assessment</li> <li>● Risk Log Finalized and Endorsed.</li> <li>● Technical Committee established and operationalized with Core Stakeholders</li> <li>● Steering Committee Established with high level decision makers</li> <li>● Gaps identified and potential donors for additional resource</li> <li>● Appraisal meetings organised and Project document validated</li> </ul> | January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023 to August 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2023 | UNDP              | PMU/ Consultant              | \$10,000         |
| <b>Output 2: Project implementation supported</b>   | <b>2.1 Stakeholders (Government, donors, beneficiaries) engagement, Workshops and meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National and regional project Kickoff meetings</li> <li>● Other stakeholders' engagement fees</li> </ul>   | May 1 <sup>st</sup> to December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2023          | EWASME (Comp D.1) | National project kickoffs    | \$56,000         |
|   | <b>2.2 'Project Management Unit (PMU)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Salaries</li> <li>● Office space, equipment, DPC and other costs</li> </ul>   | January 1 <sup>st</sup> to December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2023      | UNDP              | Salaries and other PMU costs | \$100,000        |
| <b>General Management Support (8%)</b>  |  |  | IsDB              |                              | \$41,517         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |  |  |                   |                              | <b>\$670,480</b> |

*\*NB: Field missions to countries are not included in the current budget and should be supported by COs in addition to their 250k of co-financing commitment. The number of field missions will depend on the needs expressed by the countries.*