![Sweden Sverige logo]

ECOWAS: Transitional Support to the ECOWAS Regional Radio

🤝	**Implementing partner(s)**	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission
🗺	**Location**	Monrovia, with nationwide coverage
📅	**Agreement period**	01 July 2018-30 December 2020
💵	**Budget total (Sweden)**	11 200 000 SEK

Overview and objectives

As part of its peacekeeping mission, United National Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) operated a radio station based in Monrovia. In March 2018, UNMIL transferred UNMIL Radio and its infrastructure to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). ECOWAS is a group of 15 member states promoting political cooperation, economic integration, and regional stability in West Africa.

ECOWAS Radio offers nationwide coverage. Programming covers news and current affairs, governance, rule of law, health, education, and entertainment. It provides a means for dissemination of non-partisan and trustworthy public information to the people of Liberia. The radio station serves as a public information channel to promote democracy, peace, stability and good governance. Transition of the station to ECOWAS retains

Figure 1: George Manneh Weah and Leopoldo Amado talking on the ECOWAS radio station at the transfer of UNMIL radio to ECOWAS, March 2018. Photo credit: ECOWAS

these benefits for Liberia, and additionally supports the strengthening of ECOWAS integration and regional stability as part of its regional radio and television plans.

The objectives of the transitional support provided by the Swedish Embassy are to:

- Build ECOWAS's **operational capability** to maintain the broadcast of the radio station and expand radio operations across all 15 ECOWAS member states.
- Use the radio programming to establish strategic partnerships with Civil Society Organisations, other media/communication institutions, and the public to **create a reliable platform for consolidation of peace and development in Liberia.**

Activities

The funding provided by the Swedish Embassy supports the transition of the radio station to ECOWAS. It provides for the operational running of the radio station, and for transition planning and capacity building. The support ensures ongoing nationwide coverage, maintains the technical broadcasting infrastructure, enables political impartiality, builds ECOWAS capabilities, and contributes to the expansion of ECOWAS Radio across the region.

Additionally, other activities directly contribute to peacebuilding and stability. For example, ECOWAS Radio has established 100 "listening circles" in the 15 counties, which monitor the radio and lead community dialogue on peace, security and development. ECOWAS Radio has also worked to expand its reach, establishing partnerships with nine community radio stations for the rebroadcasting of ECOWAS programmes, and producing pre-recorded programmes on peace and development to be aired by community stations.