

Call for Expression of Interest**Partnership to support the promotion of rainwater harvesting, wastewater reuse and permaculture approaches in Zahle / Central Bekaa****CEF/LBN/2023/005****1 Timeline**

Posted	Apr 12, 2023
Clarification Request Deadline	Apr 19, 2023
Application Deadline	May 5, 2023
Notification of Results	May 15, 2023
Start Date	Jun 19, 2023
End Date	May 31, 2025

2 Locations

- A Lebanon
 - a Mohafazat Baalbek-Hermel

3 Sector(s) and area(s) of specialization

- A WASH and Environment
 - a Natural resources, environmental pollution and climate action
 - b Water

4 Issuing Agency

UNICEF

5 Project Background

Introduction UNICEF is seeking a partner organization to support the promotion of rainwater harvesting (RWH), wastewater reuse for irrigation, water-use efficient irrigation and permaculture approach in locations in Zahle Municipality and Central Bekaa. This opportunity comes about due to funding made available by the Climate Change Adaptation Fund to UN-Habitat in a project entitled 'Resilient water solutions against climate change in Jordan & Lebanon'. UN-Habitat, in turn, is partnering with UNICEF for the implementation of the RWH, wastewater reuse and permaculture outputs. UNICEF has already scoped out the technical aspects of the RWH activity, with preliminary designs prepared for 10 locations in and around Zahle Municipality (see Annex 1). UNICEF will manage the construction aspects of the RWH. However, we are seeking a suitable non-governmental organisation (NGO) partner to support related community engagement, awareness raising and capacity building/training. Similarly, UNICEF has also scoped out the technical aspects of the wastewater reuse scheme, in which wastewater from Zahle Wastewater Treatment

Plant (WWTP) will be pumped to suitable agricultural areas in and around Zahle Municipality (see Annex 2). This scheme is now undergoing an environmental impact assessment through UN-Habitat. As with the RWH activity, UNICEF wishes to partner with a suitable NGO to support related community engagement, awareness raising and capacity building/training around wastewater reuse and irrigation in the localities that will benefit from the wastewater reuse scheme. The permaculture activities will promote permaculture as a possible approach to sustainable agriculture in Central Bekaa (for definition of permaculture, see below). The expected duration of the partnership will be for two years, from 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2025. Background UNICEF is a partner in a project managed by UN-Habitat and funded by the Adaptation Fund, entitled 'Resilient water solutions against climate change in Jordan and Lebanon'. In Lebanon UNICEF is responsible for implementing three activities: • Construction of RWH systems in various institutions in 10 locations. • Construction of a pumping scheme/piped network to convey treated wastewater from the Zahle WWTP to the locations where it will be reused for irrigation. • Supporting farmers in adopting permaculture through the implementation of a related training and the provision of various needed items/equipment. The project was scoped out in 2018/19 following a series of consultation meetings with local stakeholders and beneficiaries, and a feasibility study encompassing all proposed project activities. These included the Zahle Municipality and the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI), with the latter providing technical guidance and support. However, the agreement between the Adaptation Fund and UN-Habitat was only signed in July 2021 and more substantive engagement between the two UN agencies took place from April 2022. In the intervening period there were significant changes in the situation in Lebanon which resulted in the rescoping of the activities, to ensure continued feasibility. This resulted in a revised project being approved by the Adaptation Fund in October 2022. The agreement between UN-Habitat and UNICEF was signed in March 2023 with implementation now ready to begin. UNICEF is interested in partnering with a suitably qualified and experienced NGO to support with the relevant community engagement, awareness raising and capacity building/training for all the three mentioned outputs of the project, as well as lead on the permaculture output and the agricultural/irrigation aspects of the wastewater reuse output. This would include seeking all opportunities for the engagement of women, youth and adolescents in all phases of the project.

6 **Expected Results**

Rainwater Harvesting schemes The NGO partner will facilitate awareness raising of communities including women and young people on water scarcity and the potential role of RWH in mitigating this threat in the Zahle context, The focus will be on the communities served by the 10 schemes to be constructed (as per Annex 1). Awareness raising will include plans and guidelines for replication and scale up beyond the project period. The partner will collaborate with Zahle Municipality and the Bekaa Water Establishment (BWE) in the promotion of RWH in the area, including through the show room that will be developed within the grounds of BWE. The partner will work in collaboration with the UNICEF-engaged RWH consultant as necessary. **Wastewater reuse from Zahle WWTP and water-use efficient irrigation** Recent work by the International Water Management Institute has examined the technical and socioeconomic feasibility of various schemes for reuse of wastewater from Zahle WWTP . Based on this, UNICEF engaged a consultant to further examine the most appropriate technical option for distribution of the wastewater that fits within the available budget, including identifying the exact location of the agricultural area to be irrigated. The proposed scheme is currently undergoing an environmental impact assessment (EIA) through UN-Habitat. Engagement with the farmers, including youth farmers, who will benefit from/use the wastewater to irrigate their crops will be essential, as will an understanding of those communities which may be adversely affected by the scheme (e.g. in Bar Elias). Summary details of the scheme are included in Annex 2. **Promotion of permaculture** The project proposes the promotion of permaculture as an approach to agriculture that can be particularly effective in helping farmers adapt to climate change. The term 'permaculture' was introduced by Bill Mollison and David Holgrem in the 1970s and has been defined as: 'Consciously designed landscapes which mimic the patterns and relationships found in nature, while yielding an abundance of food, fibre and energy for provision of local needs' . As explained by David Holgrem, permaculture principles can be used to design, establish, manage and improve landscape, organic gardening skills, regenerative farming, energy efficient building, eco-village development and many other efforts made by individuals, households and communities towards a sustainable future. It is based on ethical principles, that promote the care of the earth, the care of people and a fair approach to consumption and distribution, and design principles — that are founded on systems ecology. More Details are provided in attachments

7 **Indicative Budget**

500000.00000

8 Other Information

Partnership with LARI As indicated above, the NGO partner will be expected to partner with LARI for expert technical advice during the process. The cost of engaging with LARI should be built into the proposed partnership budget. Construction works associated with the RWH and wastewater reuse schemes All costs associated with the construction of the RWH and wastewater reuse schemes will be met directly by UNICEF and not form part of the partnership agreement with the NGO. Characteristics of the successful partner NGO The successful NGO will be an organization that has been registered for at least 5 years and has:

- A team of qualified technical staff with the experience and the technical skills required to implement this project.
- A track record of working successfully with farmers in Zahle Municipality and Central Bekaa over a number of years.
- Excellent relationships and ability to engage with local stakeholders in the Zahle Municipality and Central Bekaa including officials in the municipality.
- Excellent relationship and ability to work with relevant staff and departments of LARI.
- Expertise in agriculture including irrigation techniques, as well as interest and knowledge of permaculture approach and capacity to learn further.
- A focus on working with the most vulnerable, including children, women and youth, in their programmes.
- A track record on successfully addressing gender issues and inclusion.
- Ability to meet UNICEF requirements on funds’ management, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and accountability to affected populations.

Project Duration The expected project duration is two years, from 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2025. Project Budget UNICEF envisages that the successful partner will have existing relationships and programmes with farmers’ groups in Zahle Municipality and Central Bekaa. This partnership will be complementary to the work of the partner, and not a completely new initiative. Thus, the partner NGO will be expected to bring its own resources to the table, in the spirit of developing a partnership rather than a contractual relationship with UNICEF. The extent to which the partner NGO can do this will be one of the criteria against which UNICEF will assess the most suitable partner for this project. Thus, the partnership budget will cover the additional costs of project implementation, including:

- Costs of developing materials for promotion and training activities.
- Cost of holding trainings, including venue cost, refreshments, transport, etc.
- Cost of engaging additional expertise, including costs of partnership with LARI and engagement of international permaculture consultant as necessary.
- Cost of field support, monitoring, follow up and documentation (additional to regular activities of the partner NGO).
- Additional management and operational costs directly attributable to the project.

Over a two-year period, the UNICEF contribution to the partner is expected to be in the order of \$500,000. The partner NGO should clearly state the extent and value of its own contribution to the project. The template for budget submission is as per the attached Excel sheet. Submission of expression of interest Interested NGO partners should submit an expression of interest that contains the following:

- Profile of the NGO, including aims and objectives, history, governance structure, previous and on-going projects relevant to this project.
- Summary of understanding of the project and description of proposed contribution, including activities, geographical coverage, farmers’ groups to be involved (numbers, social profile, etc.).
- Description of how the NGO will ensure its approach is gender sensitive and inclusive.
- Proposed monitoring and evaluation plan.
- Project briefs from similar initiatives carried out by the NGO, including within Zahle and/or surrounding area.
- Clear statement on the mutual benefits of UNICEF and the NGO engaging in a partnership for the purpose of reaching the project aims and objectives.
- Description of staff to manage and support the project including experts to be engaged either from within NGO staff and/or externally, including internationally as necessary.
- Confirmation of the ability of partnering with LARI.
- Proven track record of successful work in Zahle Municipality and/or surrounding areas.
- Confirmation of ability to meet UNICEF requirements on funds’ management, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and accountability to affected populations.
- Approximate budget, including own contribution and needs from UNICEF.

Communication and visibility The selected implementing partner is to comply and apply the visibility and communications’ guidelines set for the project by UNICEF, UN-Habitat and the Adaptation Fund including and not limited to: events, social media posts, press release, interviews, branding, etc.

9 Selection Criteria

Name	Description	Weight
Experience working with UN	Previous partnerships with UNICEF / other UN agency	5
Cost effectiveness	Cost-Effectiveness - Value for Money: Cost-efficiency - Cost-efficiency compares the costs of the programme and the number of outputs and/or assumed outcomes reached. Cost efficiency would be expressed as cost per unit of output (or assumed outcome) generated. Cost-effectiveness - Cost-effectiveness is the cost of achieving intended programme actual outcomes (or impacts). This can be used to compare the costs of alternative ways of producing the same or similar outcomes	10

Contribution of resource	Contribution of resources from partner: Contribution of resources: Cash Contribution of resources: intellectual property, human resources, supplies and/or equipment	10
Local experience and presence	Local experience, presence and community relations: Track record of programmes in the Zahle / Central Bekaa area Track record of engagement with women, youth, farmers groups and communities Existing relationships with LARI, municipality and water establishment	22.5
Relevance of proposal to achieving expected results	Achievement of RWH results - awareness raising and promotion, upscaling Achievement of Wastewater reuse results - awareness raising, facilitation, training, technical support, upscaling Achievement of permaculture results - consultations, design, awareness raising, materials development, training, technical support, upscaling Project addresses gender needs and protection (do no harm) risks Clarity and effectiveness of the monitoring tools and methodology per activity	32.5
Sector expertise and experience	Expertise and experience in the WASH sector Expertise and experience in the agriculture sector NGO is able to manage the envisioned intervention (e.g., experience managing budgets and staffing of similar size, evidence from micro assessments and assurance activities)	15
Other	PSEA & AAP: NGO has appropriate policies and procedures for PSEA and AAP	5

10 Attachments

Description	URL
Project Details	Download the document here
Evaluation Criteria	Download the document here
Budget Template	Download the document here

11 Concept Note Template

[Download the document here](#)

12 For more information on this partnership opportunity, and to apply, please visit

[UN Partner Portal](#)