

Call for Expression of Interest

Provision of a comprehensive sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) package to refugees, asylum seekers and host communities in Ethiopia

HCR/ETH/2024/007

1 Timeline

Posted	Sep 12, 2024
Clarification Request Deadline	Oct 3, 2024
Application Deadline	Oct 13, 2024
Notification of Results	Nov 15, 2024
Start Date	Jan 1, 2025
End Date	Dec 31, 2025

2 Locations

- A Ethiopia
 - a Benshangul-Gumaz
 - b Gambela Peoples
 - c Afar
 - d Amara
 - e Somali
 - f Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples
 - g Oromia

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

- A WASH and Environment
 - a Basic sanitation
 - b Hygiene
 - c Water

4 Issuing Agency

UNHCR

5 Project Background

The Ethiopia operation upcoming Multi Year Strategy-MYS (2025 – 2029) is aligned with Ethiopia’s 2023 Global Refugee Forum pledges covering: climate action, human settlement, national system inclusion, private sector engagement, land access, and digital connectivity and documentation. The Government’s commitment to advance

durable solutions is embedded in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which is in line with the 10-year National Development Plan. UNHCR's interventions over the course of this Strategy seek to address long-term displacement by integrating climate-sensitive humanitarian, peace and development initiatives in aiding, seeking durable solutions and addressing protection risks. A sustainable programming approach will be employed throughout the plan to encourage refugee self-reliance and access to livelihoods and to ensure services are embedded within existing national systems capacitated through partnerships and development funding in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. UNHCR and partners are currently supporting WASH response in 22 Camps ,4 settlements and 2 entry points in 6 regions. While progress has been made in increasing access to clean drinking water and sanitation, average liters per person per day dropped sharply from the desired 20l/p/d to an average of 14 liters of water per person per day (l/p/d). Latrine coverage is also below 30% way below the standard of at least 85%. Emergency water provision is currently provided through water trucking in Metema (Amhara region), Bohk (Mirqaan) Somali region and part of Kebrebeayah part of Zone 3 and the whole of zone 4 in Somali region and zone C and D not connected to the main water distribution system in Alemwach in Amhara. The average liters of water per person per day delivered through water trucking is around, 11l slightly below the emergency maximum recommended 15 liters. Water trucking is expensive and unsustainable, meant to be only for life-saving purposes. Given the high cost of water trucking over an extended period, a firm commitment to develop more sustainable water supply solutions is required. Work is already in progress to end water trucking in these locations by installation of sustainable water systems. In line with the 2023 GRF Government of Ethiopia pledges, prospective organizations will be expected to work closely with RRS, government ministries such as the Ministry of Water and Energy, the Regional Water Bureau and all other relevant departments and offices to advance the inclusion agenda. Furthermore Ministry of Water and Energy, the Regional Water Bureau to take lead on water supply issues by providing expert advice and technical support, In Somali region, for example, UNHCR together with UNICEF and the Somali Regional Water Bureau are implementing a Regional WASH Program for Refugees, IDPs and Host Communities (R-WASH) in Kebrebeayah, Aw-Barre and Shedder of Somali region, which aims to provide climate resilient WASH infrastructure, nurturing social cohesion. As part of this project, UNHCR is implementing immediate WASH interventions while UNICEF and the Regional Water Bureau are working on the long term sustainable inclusive water service provision. The R-WASH is an example of one of the key projects which will see refugees, IDPs and host communities benefitting from integrated water supply provision and is a good practice under the GCR. It brings a development approach and a more sustainable 'whole of society' approach of delivering services. As such, selected partners in these locations will implement full WASH package due to current ongoing works and water utility establishment. Capacity building of relevant water committees and water tariff collection wherever possible will be the desired implementation modality. In Gambella, 3 camps (Nguenyiel, Kule and Tierkidi)-receive water direct from ITANG Water Utility under a different service provision modality. UNHCR standard of provision of 20 liters per person per day remains a top priority and should be ensured. Water quality monitoring and surveillance will be undertaken to ensure safe water is delivered. Solarisation of diesel-powered water systems will be prioritized to reduce operational costs and the negative impact on the environment by diesel powered generators. In line with climate change adaptation, groundwater monitoring will be standard practice at all boreholes. Rainwater harvesting will be supported wherever possible. Water demand management strategies such as water conservation will be prioritized. Included in this are systematic water metering/leakage/wastage control and public consistent awareness to users. Cash Based Interventions (CBI) will be considered as an implementation modality considering that it can provide a versatile, cost effective and more appropriate WASH response especially for those living out of camps or settlements in urban areas, when the market conditions allow.

6 **Expected Results**

Outcome Statement: WASH services in woredas and areas hosting forcibly displaced and stateless populations are improved and included in facilities managed by regional/ local Bureaus Focus will be on improving long term access to WASH services by adopting cost efficient, environmentally sustainable technology solutions and encouraging inclusion of refugee service provision within national structures. Together with partners, the following outputs will be fulfilled: Household and communal sanitary facilities/latrines constructed WASH and water system operational delivery increased or maintained Awareness-raising and training conducted on good hygiene practices and sustainable operation and management of WASH services The above will be achieved through a set of the following main activities:

Emergency water provision: Priority interventions of this action involve water trucking to provide emergency minimum water quantities. This will be done with a clear exit plan.

Sustainable water supply provision: In close collaboration with RRS, government regional water bodies, undertake a comprehensive water supply assessment to produce sustainable water supply options where possible. Construction, rehabilitation, upgrading and maintaining of existing water systems Support operation and maintenance of water systems

Hygiene promotion: Good hygiene remains key in preventing transmission of preventable diseases such as AWD, cholera, dysentery, typhoid, skin infections. As such, timely and

consistency is required in delivering soap and other associated materials and facilities: Mobilization and training of community hygiene promoters to mitigate the health risks /threats to the refugee population and raise awareness on good hygiene practices. Distribution of relevant hygiene items such as jerry cans, children's potties and soap will be done. Cash-based interventions in providing these items will also be explored where possible. Provision of functional hand washing facilities Sanitation and solid waste management: Sanitation remains an operational priority. There is widespread open defecation in most of the camps/settlements. Access to latrines is critical for proper and safe disposal of human excreta, which serves as a barrier for disease transmission and prevention of health risk/threats associated with poor sanitation conditions. Community participation in latrine construction will be strengthened. Cash-based interventions will be explored wherever possible. Improved sanitation that hygienically separates human excreta from the living environment can improve the health of individuals and communities through the following: Construction of household latrines/ bathing shelters Construction of family shared latrines/bathing shelters Construction of emergency communal latrines responding to any possible new influx Rehabilitation/desludging and maintaining communal emergency latrine Provision of appropriate facilities including cleaning tools and construction of final disposal sites Undertake solid waste clean-up campaigns in collaboration with the community structures at refugee sites in each state Institutional WASH in institutions strengthening: WASH facilities at health facilities and schools will be strengthened in all the targeted locations. Capacity Building on Operation and Maintenance of WASH facilities: formation and training of community structures including WASH Management Committee, community hygiene promoters and community leaders and equipping them with the necessary tools. Other protection issues/principles will be mainstreamed in all the above activities through, but not limited to ensuring active women participation, disability friendly and appropriate WASH facilities, and privacy in line with UNHCR and SPHERE WASH standards and associated indicators. To ensure the adequate protection of forcibly displaced and stateless persons, UNHCR requires partners to adhere to applicable sector standards outlined within UNHCR's areas of specialization.<https://supportcso.unpartnerportal.org/hc/en-us/articles/19272970373527-Areas-of-Specialization>

7 Indicative Budget

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8 Other Information

REFER TO THE ATTACHED SIGNED CFEOI FOR MORE INFORMATION.

9 Selection Criteria

Name	Description	Weight
Sector expertise and experience	The required specific skills, sector specialists, performance, knowledge, material, and human resources. Knowledge of relevant protection, humanitarian principles and the approach to Age, Gender, Diversity (AGDM). Approach to the participation of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in the Programme Cycle. Partner's PSEA (Prevention of Sexual Exploitation & Abuse) capacity self-assessment and data protection and information security self-assessment have been completed and submitted (where relevant to the partnership). Mainstreaming measures to integrate environmental sustainability within proposed activities. Environmental considerations are aligned to the objectives of UNHCR's Strategic Framework for Climate Action. https://www.unhcr.org/604a26d84.pdf	25
Local experience and presence	Ongoing programme in the area of operation; local knowledge; engaging refugees and other persons of concern; trust from local communities; local presence; partner policy on community relations; complaint mechanisms for persons of concern; self-organized groups of persons of concern; and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the persons of concern and that would reduce administrative difficulties.	25

Project management	Ability to effectively deliver project objectives with robust management systems/processes, and meet the expectations of all stakeholders, as well as provide accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements and pending open audit recommendations (accounts receivables and internal control related recommendations) where applicable. Clear segregation of duties policy, as well as the integration of risk management; adequate control over procurement, of assets and inventory (if applicable).	15
Other	Capacity to undertake procurement - Ability to undertake large scale procurement, prior procurement experiences and value of procurement. Functioning procurement unit in the country of operation. Established effective internal-controls and PQP status (when procurement is US\$100K and above).	5
Experience working with UN	Experience working with UNHCR/other UN agencies - Global and/or local partnerships including knowledge of UNHCR policies, practices, and programmes, including an understanding of and ability to work within UNHCR's funding limitations and associated inherent risks. Partners that have three consecutive qualified audit opinions for UNHCR-funded projects may not be considered.	10
Other	Applicants should have experience in using the cash transfer modality in the delivery of goods and or services through both a basic needs approach or towards a specific sector, to address the needs of the affected people. Applicants should have experience conducting market-assessments, examining whether the intended goods and services are available and accessible, for what price, quality and whether the supply can sustain an increased demand. Applicants who have implemented CBIs should also demonstrate accounting systems that can trace the process from the transfer of funds to the payment of an individual household. Furthermore, Applicants should indicate any experience with establishing Complaint Response Mechanisms in relation to cash assistance, as well as conducting Post-Distribution Monitoring Surveys and measuring the impact of the assistance.	10
Other	GCR (Inclusion/Integration) - Partner's understanding of inclusion of refugees in the national systems, GCF and CRR Framework, regional and national trends around RRF, government planning cycle, policies and commitments related to inclusion of refugees in national systems .	10

10 Attachments

Description	URL
https://supportcso.unpartnerportal.org/hc/en-us/articles/17496552170263-Con	Download the document here
Signed CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CfEoI)	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](#)