

Call for Expression of Interest

Strengthening Water Partnerships and Capacity for Lusaka Water Trusts

CEF/ZMB/2025/002

1 Timeline

Posted	Apr 7, 2025
Clarification Request Deadline	Apr 24, 2025
Application Deadline	Apr 30, 2025
Notification of Results	May 30, 2025
Start Date	Jul 1, 2025
End Date	Jun 30, 2026

2 Locations

- A Zambia
 - a Lusaka
 - b Lusaka
 - c Lusaka

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

- A Social Policy and Advocacy
 - a Policy advocacy
- B WASH and Environment
 - a Water

4 Issuing Agency

UNICEF

5 Project Background

Since 2020, UNICEF Zambia, under the leadership of the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation (MWDS) and the National Water Supply and Sanitation Council (NWASCO), has been instrumental in ensuring the continuity of safe water supply across 11 Commercial Utilities (CUs). This comprehensive support has included the provision of critical water treatment chemicals (chlorine gas, alum, and HTH), rigorous monitoring of supply management, targeted recommendations for operational improvement, the development of a water treatment chemical sustainability strategy, and technical assistance aimed at enhancing overall efficiency. In response to the 2023/24 cholera outbreak, the Water treatment chemicals supply support was strategically extended to Water Trusts in Lusaka with an aim of bridging a critical gap in safe water service delivery within peri-urban communities of Lusaka, particularly in identified cholera

hotspot areas. These communities rely on Water Trusts, operating under a delegated authority from Lusaka Water and Sanitation Company (LWSC), to provide essential water services. Technical assistance conducted alongside this support to Water Trusts in Lusaka identified that critical capacity gaps with Water Trusts were identified that require addressing to enhance safe water service delivery by the water trusts and LSWC in the targeted peri-urban areas, this included outdated or non-existent agreements between LWSC, and the Water Trusts have severely hindered efficient and sustainable service provision. To address these challenges, UNICEF Zambia seeks to partner with a suitably qualified Civil Society Organization (CSO) or Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to: Facilitate the review, negotiation, and finalization of legally sound agreements between LWSC and Water Trusts, implement priority capacity-building interventions to strengthen Water Trusts' service delivery. 3. Ensure a coordinated and impactful approach in collaboration with LWSC and MWDS.

6 **Expected Results**

By 2026, the seven Water Trusts in Lusaka will demonstrate improved efficiency to supply water services directly resulting from finalized agreements, enhanced technical capacity, and financial sustainability. The expected outcomes include. 1. Finalized Agreements – Operational partnership agreements established between the seven Water Trusts and LWSC, ensuring clarity on roles, responsibilities, and operational procedures. 2. Improved Technical and Operational Capacity – Water Trusts demonstrate enhanced service provision through technical and managerial improvements. 3. Financial Viability – Water Trusts achieve financial sustainability through effective tariff structures, technical support, and strategic partnerships. The expected results to be achieved under the project include: 1. Finalization of Agreements: Facilitate the review, negotiation, and signing of legally sound and mutually beneficial agreements between LWSC and each of the seven Water Trusts. This will result in clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and operational procedures, ensuring a robust framework for collaboration. 2. Capacity Building Program Implementation: Develop and conduct practical training sessions and mentorship programs on water treatment, chemical dosing, water quality monitoring, and operational management. 3. Operational Strengthening: Improve management structures and operational procedures within Water Trusts to enhance efficiency and sustainability, including support procurement of critical small equipment for water quality analysis and Operations and maintenance tools. 4. Tariff Adjustment and Financial Planning: Advocate for fair and sustainable water tariff structures and support Water Trusts in financial planning for long-term viability. 5. Technical Assistance Deployment: Address identified technical gaps by implementing targeted support measures, including infrastructure improvements and operational enhancements. 6. Strategic Partnership Development: Establish collaborations with relevant stakeholders, including government entities, private sector partners, and donor organizations, to enhance resource mobilization and service delivery.

7 **Indicative Budget**

200000.00000

8 **Other Information**

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9 **Selection Criteria**

Name	Description	Weight
Sector expertise and experience	experience in strengthening Commercial Utility partnerships and multi stakeholder collaboration (with CUs, Water trusts and other key stakeholders) in the country during the last five years.	25
Other	Organizational Capacity - Evidence of staff with knowledge and capacity to implement the project activities. Experience in mediating agreements and understanding Zambian water sector regulations. Proven ability to deliver practical training and mentorship to improve technical skills. Knowledge of tariff structures and experience in advocating for sustainable financial models. Appropriate/adequate systems in place required to implement the project to highest standards of quality, in the framework of established collaborative systems	30

Other	Proposed Approach and Methodology – Integration of systems strengthening, community engagement, gender responsiveness, climate resilience, and disability inclusion strategies. .	20
Cost effectiveness	Ability to deliver high-impact results with optimal resource mobilization (NGO/CSO contribution)	15
Experience working with UN	Prior engagements with UN and/or other international partners	10

10 **Attachments**

Description	URL
EOI- COLLABORATIVE ACTION FOR ENHANCED SAFE WATER SERVICES IN LUSAKA'S P	Download the document here
REPORT ON CRITICL PRIORTY NEEDS AND INTERVENTIONS FOR WATER TRUSTS IN LUSAK	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](#)