

Request for proposal

Consultancy to conduct a political economy analysis of WASH for climate and health resilience, mitigation and adaptation in Africa

1. Who we are

WaterAid is an international non-profit organisation committed to making clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere, within a generation.

Since our creation in 1981, we have remained resolutely focused on addressing these three critical lifechanging elements in our communities.

Without these three elements, communities cannot live with dignity and health. With these three elements, people can release their potential, break free from poverty and change their lives for good. Children grow up healthy and strong, women and men earn a living, whole communities begin to prosper. It is based on the premise that water and sanitation are essential human rights and services, vital for health, education and livelihoods.

In Africa WaterAid has teams in 16 countries and works with partners to transform millions of lives every year.

It strives to transform people's lives, providing taps and toilets and advocating for change through skills development.

2. Background and context

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) plays an indispensable role in Africa's transformation, as a foundational pillar for sustainable development and inclusive economic growth. Universal access to WASH is critical to realizing the goals of the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy and the ambitions of Agenda 2063 - the African Union's vision for a prosperous and inclusive continent over the next 50 years.

With only five years remaining to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Africa faces a growing public health and climate crisis. At the heart of this challenge is the lack of adequate WASH for adaptation, mitigation and resilience for vulnerable populations.

Recognizing the urgency of this issue, WaterAid's Pan Africa Programme (PAP) launched a "Pan Africa Advocacy Strategy on [WASH and Health](#) and [WASH and Climate \(2025–2030\)](#)." in June 2025. This strategy aims to reposition WASH at the heart of Africa's health and climate agendas by supporting WaterAid to drive policy change and embed WASH within national and regional health and climate policies, practises, strategies and plans.

3. Purpose of the political economy analysis

This political economy analysis aims to generate a deeper understanding of the political, policy, institutional, and economic landscape that shapes the integration of gender-responsive WASH into climate action and healthcare systems across Africa. Sectors such as food and agriculture, nature and biodiversity will be included in the scope of the PEA only where they are directly relevant to WASH.

This will serve as an evidence-based advocacy tool that WaterAid and its partners can use to strengthen their ability to influence systemic change in support of an effective advocacy for the inclusion of WASH in national and regional/pan African health and climate policies and strategies. This will provide evidence to WaterAid and partners to influence systemic change climate resilient WASH and Health.

4. Objectives

Overall Objective:

To analyse and better understand the existing structures/barriers, enablers and opportunities supporting WASH in health and climate action with the aim of advocating for the seamless integration of WASH into Health and Climate action

Specific Objectives:

- Evaluate the extent to which gender-responsive WASH is integrated and aligned into national climate and health policies, strategies, plans, (health, WASH, NDCs and NAPs, gender, and finance).
- Understand the dynamics, power structures, motivations of key actors in the WASH and climate and health sector
- Giving examples of best practise cases from at least 3 countries -identify policy and investment good practices and lessons on WASH in climate and health policies that can be duplicated in other countries
- Generate recommendations and advocacy messaging to support WaterAid's efforts in influencing regional WASH-health and WASH-climate policy and financing landscapes.

5. Key analytical themes

Power dynamics, leadership, and political commitment

- Analysis of the power and structural issues at play in the prioritisation and allocation of resources to WASH in the health and climate sectors
- High-level political will for WASH climate and health integration
- Role of national leaders, ministries, and regional institutions (e.g., African Union, Africa CDC, SADC, WHO Afro) understand the key players, their interests, relationships and roles in decision making on resource allocation

Policy alignment and integration

- Analysis of the current status of WASH inclusion in national health and climate policies and strategies versus the ambitions of the SDGs, Paris Agreement and Agenda 2063.
- Map and categorize relevant institutions across sectors by their primary function (e.g., implementer, advocacy, governance) and assess their power and influence within climate and health systems.
Alignment of WASH-health, WASH-climate objectives within Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and AU frameworks.

- To what extent are global commitments such as (e.g., SDGs, , One health, Lusaka Agenda, Africa Water Vision, Ngor declaration, Paris Agreement, G20 Kunming-Montreal Protocol, Ramsar Convention, Freshwater Challenge) are aligned, harmonised, aligned and implemented into national priorities

6. Scope of the work and deliverables

Data collection will consist of key informant interviews, focus group discussions, process mapping and tracing. Key informants should include (but not be limited to) WaterAid's partners, NGOs, relevant government agencies, and international agencies operating in Africa. Interviews should be selected from a mix of civil society, academic, government, and business representatives. There is no travel budget for this consultancy, so research should be conducted primarily remotely, with interviews conducted via phone or Microsoft Teams/Zoom. The consultant(s) will use [WaterAid's PEA tool](#) . The consultant(s) will be expected to lead this work independently

The consultant(s)/firm will:

- Conduct an analysis of leadership at national, sub-regional, and continental levels to drive integration of GR-CR WASH into health and climate policies and strategies.
- Conduct a WASH in climate and health audit in the current policies and implemented actions of key institutions such as AU and sub-regional blocks such as SADC, EAC, ECOWAS. This should include examining whether climate and health sections especially those referencing WASH are being prioritised and translated into concrete actions.
- Review of policy alignment and harmonisation between sample examples national health, WASH, and climate frameworks, including their integration into Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and African Union strategies.
- Examine of the roles and responsibilities of regional institutions (e.g., African Union, Africa CDC, SADC, AMCOW, WHO AFRO), in agenda setting for WASH in climate and Health and the level of institutional coordination, harmonization and alignment amongst them.
- Evaluation of the key structural and policy implementation challenges and proposals to overcome them.
- Examine the Role of private sector actors in WASH

Deliverables

Work under this ToR will result in the following deliverables:

- An **analytical report** to be framed in the context of what the issues are, situation now, why are things this way and what the data/information extracted means for our desired change for WASH and health and climate integration with in-depth analysis, structured broadly as follows:
 - Executive Summary
 - A stakeholder mapping
 - Analysis and synthesis of relevant context, power, institutions, actors, and political processes in the region
 - Recommendations for key policy and advocacy opportunities, suggested tactics and targets/ processes for influencing
 - Annex of interview notes
- Facilitation of **an online workshop**: validation and discussion of key findings

7. Duration

All deliverables and payments to be completed by **1st October (final draft approved)**, 2025. The anticipated level of effort for this assignment **is 25-30 person days**.

8. Payment schedule

| Deliverable Milestone | Payment % |
|---|-----------|
| Inception plan | 20% |
| Submission of first draft PEA report | 40% |
| Submission of final deliverables package including workshop | 40% |

9. Expertise required

To be successful, the lead consultant needs to have:

- The lead consultant needs to have advanced degree in economics, public health, political Science, social sciences or related field of study
- Proficiency in English and French language

Other consulting team members and or lead consultant need to have:

- In-depth knowledge and understanding of African health systems and processes with a speciality in Maternal, newborn, child health and or disease control areas.
- In-depth knowledge and understanding of climate, gender and WASH policies, practices and implementation
- Extensive experience of designing and conducting political economy analyses with gender lens
- Strong understanding and networks with actors in key regional institutions in Africa
- Expertise in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector

10. Submission guidelines

WaterAid invites proposals from consultants with the experience and skills described above. To apply for the position, please provide the following:

Technical proposal:

- Description of previous relevant work (maximum 1 page);
- Composition of team with names and CV of all key staff (maximum 1 page);
- Detailed proposal explaining how the areas of work mentioned in Scope of Work will be addressed, including risk and mitigation strategy and timeline

Financial proposal:

- Budget.
- Detailed budget justification with number days of work

Proposal assessment criteria:

- Technical proposal: 75%
- Understanding of the assignment and approach: 30%
- Skills, experience, expertise and networks to accomplish the assignment: 30%
- Quality of proposal: 15%

- Financial proposal / consultancy rate: 25%

Deadline for Submission: Monday 18th August

Submit to: Moreblessings Chidaushe MoreblessingsChidaushe@wateraid.org
and Kine Fatim Diop kinefatimdiop@wateraid.org , **Subject** : PEA Climate and
Heath