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Call for Expression of Interest

Kiribati Southern Island Drought Preparedness

CEF/KIR/2025/002

1 *Timeline*

Posted	Sep 19, 2025
Clarification Request Deadline	Sep 28, 2025
Application Deadline	Oct 5, 2025
Notification of Results	Oct 13, 2025
Start Date	Oct 20, 2025
End Date	Oct 20, 2026

2 *Locations*

A Kiribati
  a Line Islands

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

A WASH and Environment
  a WASH in emergencies

4 *Issuing Agency*

UNICEF

5 *Project Background*

The Southern Gilbert Islands of Kiribati are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, particularly prolonged droughts that threaten water security and public health. These islands rely heavily on fragile water systems such as rainwater harvesting, wells, solar distillation units, and limited desalination technologies. However, many of these systems are aging, under-maintained, or insufficient to meet the needs of growing populations. In recent years, communities in these islands have experienced severe water shortages, with schools, clinics, and households struggling to access safe and sufficient water. The lack of reliable data on water infrastructure, water quality, and consumption patterns further complicates efforts to plan and respond effectively to drought conditions. To address these challenges, UNICEF is launching a community-driven initiative to enhance drought resilience in the eight islands of the Southern Gilbert Group. This project will be implemented in partnership with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that have strong local presence, community trust, and technical capacity. The initiative focuses on collecting and analyzing data related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and drought vulnerability. It will assess the condition of water systems, including rainwater tanks, wells, pumps, solar distillation units, and desalination plants, with a particular focus on community-managed systems, schools, and clinics. The goal is to identify gaps and develop costed plans for rehabilitation and maintenance. In addition, the project will support Outer Island Assistant Infrastructure

Technicians (OIAITs), formerly known as water technicians, to monitor water quality and salinity levels. CSOs will also help facilitate rainfall monitoring in collaboration with the Meteorological Office, using both formal methods and low-tech tools involving school students. This participatory approach will build local awareness and ownership of climate resilience efforts. Community surveys will be conducted to estimate water consumption patterns and compare findings with existing data from clinics and Island Councils. This will help determine whether current water systems are adequate for the population and identify priority actions to prepare for future droughts. A key feature of this initiative is its commitment to inclusive participation. Women, youth, and persons with disabilities, who often face disproportionate challenges during droughts, will be actively engaged in all stages of the project. From community surveys to school-based monitoring and local consultations, their voices and experiences will shape the data collection process and inform the final recommendations. This approach ensures that the project not only strengthens technical capacity but also builds social resilience and equity. By engaging CSOs, the project aims to strengthen local capacity, promote inclusive participation, and ensure that data collection and analysis are grounded in community realities. The final output will be a comprehensive report that informs decision-making and guides future investments in water infrastructure and drought preparedness.

6 ***Expected Results***

1. Comprehensive Data Collection on WASH Infrastructure • Conduct island-wide assessments of water systems, including rainwater harvesting units, wells, pumps, solar distillation units, and desalination plants. • Document the functionality, capacity, and condition of systems in communities, schools, and clinics. • Identify infrastructure gaps and develop costed rehabilitation plans for each island. 2. Support to Outer Island Assistant Infrastructure Technicians (OIAITs) • Collaborate with OIAITs to collect water quality data, including salinity levels and contamination risks. • Provide logistical and technical support to ensure consistent monitoring across all eight islands. • Facilitate training and peer learning opportunities for technicians. Strengthen local capacity for ongoing monitoring and maintenance of water systems. 3. Rainfall Monitoring and Community Engagement • Collaborate with Kiribati Meteorological Service to gather rainfall data • Implement low-tech rainfall tracking projects in schools, engaging students in climate education and data collection. • Monitor water levels in selected rainwater tanks to assess seasonal availability and usage trends. 4. Water Consumption Surveys and Data Comparison • Design and conduct community surveys to estimate household and institutional water consumption. • Compare survey results with existing data from clinics and Island Councils to identify discrepancies and validate findings. • Analyze consumption patterns to determine adequacy of current water systems. 5. Final Report and Recommendations • Compile all collected data into a comprehensive report for each island. • Assess whether existing water infrastructure meets the needs of the population. • Provide actionable recommendations for drought preparedness, infrastructure upgrades, and policy support.

7 ***Indicative Budget***

145000.00000

8 ***Other Information***

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9 ***Selection Criteria***

Name	Description	Weight
Local experience and presence		30
Relevance of proposal to achieving expected results		30
Cost effectiveness		30
Realistic timelines and plans		10

10 ***Concept Note Template***

Download the document here

11 ***For more information on this partnership opportunity, and to apply, please visit***
UN Partner Portal