

Call for Expression of Interest

Sustainable Integrated Water Management in the ASAL regions of Kenya

CEF/KEN/2025/027

1 Timeline

Posted	Sep 16, 2025
Clarification Request Deadline	Sep 19, 2025
Application Deadline	Sep 26, 2025
Notification of Results	Sep 30, 2025
Start Date	Oct 1, 2025
End Date	Jun 30, 2026

2 Locations

- A Kenya
 - a Marsabit

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

- A WASH and Environment
 - a Water

4 Issuing Agency

UNICEF

5 Project Background

The Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), particularly the arid land counties of Garissa and Marsabit are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change that manifest in frequent and severe drought, water scarcity and floods that limit economic development, have decimated livelihoods and trapped communities in a cycle of poverty. The Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides for the fundamental right to water for all citizens that is safe and in sufficient quantities. Moreover, without reliable water sources, women and girls who are traditionally responsible for water collection are more vulnerable to abuse, attack and ill-health, affecting their ability to attend school, study, work and live in dignity. The arid lands have potential for sand dams to provide year-round access to drinking water for people, livestock and small gardening whilst recharging the groundwater aquifers, but this opportunity has not been sufficiently exploited. The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) of Kenya managed by the UN Resident Coordinators office has provided funds to advance the UN joint programme on Sustainable Integrated Water Management for improved health, food security and resilient livelihoods in the Kenya ASALs through the UN agencies. One of the key outcomes of the MPTF support is "Improved resilience and water access for people in ASAL counties through nature-based solutions and sustainable management systems" in Garissa, Wajir, Mander and Marsabit counties. UNICEF would like to utilize

part of the funds to conduct feasibility assessment, design and construct sand dams sand dams and establishment management system for rural water systems to demonstrate low-cost climate resilient interventions to improve access to water for multiple uses and enhance groundwater recharge in Garissa and Marsabit counties. The assignment will directly contribute to UNSCDF (2022 –2027), Strategic priority 2 (SP 2):Prosperity and Planet Outcome 2.1: By 2026, people in Kenya at risk of being left behind - particularly all women and girls, all children and youth, all people in the ASAL counties and in informal urban settlements - derive benefit from inclusive, sustainable, diversified and environmentally/climate-sensitive quality livelihoods with decent work in the sector economies and realise growth that is resilient, green, and equitable and Output 2.1.2: Strengthened capacities and policies/ strategies of institutions and communities for climate action, disaster risk management and justice for the benefit of youth, women, PWDs, people in ASALs and urban informal settlements. The assignment will address outcome 1 of UNICEF (2022-2027) workplan (Survive and Thrive): By 2027, more newborns, children, adolescents and women, particularly in deprived areas, survive and thrive, live in a safe environment with better access to and improved utilization of high-quality preventive, promotive, curative, responsive and affordable high-quality health (including HIV), nutrition and WASH services and Output 1.9 The Ministry of Water, county water departments, their partners, and water service providers are better able to provide inclusive, climate change-adaptive and gender-responsive safely managed drinking water in urban and rural communities in priority counties, including in emergencies. The purpose of the Call for Expression of Interest is to identify eligible Civil Society Organisations for prospective partnership with UNICEF Kenya. Eligible Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are invited to submit proposals for partnership to support achievement of results for children outlined below. Organisations that wish to participate in this Call for Expression of Interest are requested to submit their technical proposals indicating their capacity for the assignment and budget via the UN partner portal (UNPP) by 26th Sept 2025.

6 Expected Results

The purpose of the project is to establish Multi-dimensional resilience and adaptative capacities to crises and shocks established for 15,000 people through construction of sand dams for multipurpose water use as nature-based community resilience investment to unlock funding for the sector from Government annual budget allocations, development partners and private foundations for scale up, whilst also enhancing local capacity for sustainable operation and management of water harvesting/supply systems established alongside sand dams, such as hand-dug wells, pumps, and solar-powered systems for domestic, irrigation, and livestock use through the establishment of One Stop Service Centers (OS2Cs) in each targeted county. These centers will serve as hubs for technical support, maintenance services, and spare parts, empowering local community to take a leading role in managing water infrastructure. In response to the prevalent service gaps such as non-functional boreholes, broken handpumps, unreliable solar and grid-powered systems, untreated water, and poor water management structures, OS2Cs will work closely with relevant government counterparts to provide reliable and inclusive services across the county. Sand dams will directly contribute for Disaster Risk Reduction in the area by reducing runoff, increasing aquifer recharge and improving water quality and water availability. This approach aims to build resilient water systems while fostering local ownership and economic opportunities. The project will be implemented from 1st of October 2025 to 30th June 2026. The key outputs and activities to be implemented in Marsabit and Garissa counties are: Output 2.1: Multi-dimensional resilience and adaptative capacities to crises and shocks established for 15,000 people through construction of sand dams for multipurpose water use as nature-based community resilience investment to unlock funding from county annual budget allocations, development partners and private foundations for scale up ■ Feasibility assessment for sand dams in target counties, selection of and design of 6 sand dam sites ■ Construction of 3 sand dams as nature-based community resilience investment in high demand areas. Community engagement to forge local ownership, establishment of community committee and contribution of local materials for sand dam construction ■ Construction of 3 sand dams as nature-based community resilience investment in high demand areas – Construction of sand dam complete with infiltration gallery, suction well and hand pump installation. The sand dams will be built in stages to ensure resilience to floods. Output 2.2- Youth led SME like One Stop Service Centres (OS2Cs) established for sustainable water system management ■ stakeholder mapping, and market assessment in the project areas ■ Stakeholder and community consultation ■ Identification and training of youth entrepreneurs (at least 5 youth) ■ Establishing and equipping the One stop Service centers

7 Indicative Budget

40000000.00000

8 **Other Information**

The budget is indicative external contribution and implementing partners are expected to show their contribution for the project.

9 **Selection Criteria**

Name	Description	Weight
Sector expertise and experience	Experience of organization on sand dams in the ASAL regions in Kenya.	40
Relevance of proposal to achieving expected results	Methodology proposed to implement the project and quality assurance measures	30
Cost effectiveness	Extent to which budget aligns with market rates for similar projects	30

10 **Concept Note Template**

[Download the document here](#)

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

[UN Partner Portal](#)