

Call for Expression of Interest

Open Call for Expression of Interest for the WASH, Climate Action and Environment Programme of the 2026-2030 Uganda Country Programme

CEF/UGA/2025/006

1 Timeline

Posted	Oct 30, 2025
Clarification Request Deadline	Nov 10, 2025
Application Deadline	Nov 20, 2025
Notification of Results	Dec 5, 2025
Start Date	Jan 1, 2026
End Date	Dec 31, 2027

2 Locations

- A Uganda
 - a Central

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

- A WASH and Environment
 - a Basic sanitation
 - b Hygiene
 - c Natural resources, environmental pollution and climate action
 - d WASH in emergencies
 - e Water

4 Issuing Agency

UNICEF

5 Project Background

Context: Access to safe water in Uganda remains a major challenge, compounded by water scarcity, rapid population growth, and climate change impacts across urban, rural, and refugee-hosting areas. Urban water infrastructure is aging and unable to meet demand, while in rural areas, about 15% of improved water sources are non-functional. Over eight million Ugandans lack access to safe water, and more than four million still practice open defecation. According to the WHO-UNICEF JMP (2022), safely managed water services reach only 9.33% of rural and 45.09% of urban populations; safely managed sanitation covers 16.18% in rural and 22.37% in urban areas; and basic hygiene services are available to just 25.09% of rural and 47.32% of urban residents. Basic water coverage stands at 55% in schools and 59% in

health facilities (HCFs), while sanitation services are at 39% in schools and 25% in HCFs. The pupil-to-latrine ratio is 71:1, exceeding the national norm of 40:1. Handwashing facilities exist in 56% of primary and 67% of secondary schools, while only 49% of HCFs have basic waste management. Limited disability-friendly WASH services and menstrual hygiene facilities contribute to 23% of adolescent girls dropping out after menarche. In refugee settlements, per capita water access ranges from 18–21 litres per day, with 85% using improved water sources but only 29% accessing improved sanitation (UDHS 2022). Furthermore, Children and young people, especially adolescent girls and young women, in Uganda are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, threatening their health, education, and protection. Uganda faces persistent hazards including droughts, floods, landslides, and water pollution, which have severely strained the WASH sector. These risks are worsening due to climate change, deforestation, and population encroachment into wetlands, leading to depletion and contamination of water resources, damage to infrastructure, and pressure on fragile services. Since 1960, Uganda's mean annual temperature has risen by 1.3°C, disrupting rainfall patterns (ND-GAIN, 2019). Between 2004 and 2023, drought affected 2.4 million people, impacting groundwater and the economy (UNDP, 2025). Flood incidences are increasing, particularly in wetlands and low-lying areas, while landslides are common in mountainous regions such as Elgon, Kigezi, and Rwenzori (CRVA, 2021). Urban areas face severe air pollution, exceeding WHO limits fivefold, and poor waste management, disproportionately affecting low-income communities. The National Development Plan III prioritizes air quality and urban planning. Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI), driven by household air pollution, remains a major child health concern, with 15.9% of under-fives affected in 2022 and 2,426 deaths reported (UDHS, 2022). Key contributing factors to these issues include weak political commitment and accountability, declining investments since the collapse of the WASH basket fund in 2016, inadequate resource mobilization, and poor financial flows from national to local levels. The sector also suffers from limited human resource capacity, poor infrastructure, weak private sector engagement, low public awareness of hygiene practices, and weak coordination across government, NGOs, and private actors. Furthermore, fragmented institutional roles and weak data systems hinder effective planning, monitoring, and decision-making, compromising sustainable WASH service delivery and resilience to climate-related shocks. UNICEF Prioritized Issues for 2026- 2030: The key deprivations that children and adolescents in Uganda are experiencing which underpins UNICEF's 2026-2030 programming cooperation in WASH, climate action and the environment are that children and their families, particularly in remote rural and poor urban areas are not having their rights met to live in a clean, climate resilient, and sustainable environment including affordable safely managed water and sanitation services and hygiene behaviours. Within these deprivations, UNICEF will prioritize its programming support on: Climate smart and low carbon social services; Empowerment of children and young people in promoting and contributing to environmental sustainability efforts and climate action; Safe sanitation and hygiene practices; Safe water, including water pollution, and WASH services access in health care facilities and schools. These were determined based on the Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents in Uganda conducted by UNICEF and the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA), the criticality of the issues, their priority in national development agenda, UNICEF's global leadership in multiple child-critical social sectors, the knowledge of what works and what to do, as well as a review of experiences and lessons learned, including unfinished business from the current country programme, and stakeholder consultations.

6 Expected Results

Envisaged path to change for the WASH Environment and Climate Programme : The desired outcome is that by 2030, more children (0–18 years) and their families live in a clean, climate-resilient, and sustainable environment, with access to affordable, safely managed water and sanitation services, and practice safe hygiene behaviors. Achieving this vision requires five key preconditions: (1) increased use of safe water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene; (2) access to safely managed sanitation facilities, adoption of safe hygiene practices, and elimination of open defecation; (3) enhanced capacity of children and families to adapt to climate change and promote sustainability; (4) resilience of essential child services to climate and environmental impacts; and (5) reduced environmental pollution and degradation. The higher-level causal pathway specifies that when water sources are uncontaminated, affordable, and functional, and schools and health facilities have inclusive, climate-resilient WASH infrastructure, children and families will use safe water. Similarly, when improved latrines and handwashing facilities are accessible, affordable, and supported by consistent hygiene promotion and supplies, families will practice safe sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, when social services and household practices are climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable, children and families will better adapt to climate impacts. Finally, compliance with environmental and waste management standards will reduce pollution and degradation. When these preconditions are met, the cumulative result will be a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable environment for all children and their families. Expected Results for the Closed Call for Expression of Interest: The outcome of WASH and Climate Action programme component is: By 2030, more children and families, have their rights met to live in a clean, resilient, and sustainable environment and use affordable, sustainable, and safely managed drinking water and sanitation services while practicing safe hygiene behaviours. Prospective applicants will contribute

Prospective partners are required to declare that their organization meets	Download the document here
A breakdown of the summary budget should be realistically calculated based	Download the document here
The concept note should be concise and contain clear information. It should	Download the document here
Detailed Open Call for Expression of Interest.	Download the document here

11 **Concept Note Template**

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

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