

### Call for Expression of Interest

# Closed Call for Expression of Interest for Accelerating Climate Resilient Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services for Schools and Healthcare Facilities in Karamoja sub-region

**CEF/UGA/2026/006**

## 1 Timeline

Posted	Mar 17, 2026
Clarification Request Deadline	Mar 24, 2026
Application Deadline	Apr 7, 2026
Notification of Results	Jun 1, 2026
Start Date	Jul 1, 2027
End Date	Dec 31, 2027

## 2 Locations

- A Uganda
  - a Central

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

- A WASH and Environment
  - a Energy
  - b Hygiene
  - c WASH in emergencies
  - d Water

## 4 Issuing Agency

UNICEF

## 5 Project Background

Uganda faces persistent WASH challenges driven by water scarcity, population growth, climate change, and ageing infrastructure. Over 8 million people lack safe water, and 4 million practice open defecation. Institutional WASH coverage remains critically low, especially in rural areas: only 55 per cent of schools and 59 per cent of health facilities have basic water services; sanitation coverage is 53 per cent in schools and just 9 per cent in health facilities. Hand hygiene facilities are even scarcer—12per cent in schools and 25per cent in health facilities. According to Uganda Bureau of Standards (UBOS) 2025, the national safe water coverage in rural areas was estimated at 81.1%. The functionality for rural water supplies has stagnated at 85% since 2018. Safe water coverage stands at 72% in Kikuube district, 75% in Kamwenge district, Madi-Okollo 61%, Yumbe 48%, Adjumani 94%, Terego 64% National sanitation

coverage stands at 77.2%. Majority of the target districts are below the national coverage for instance Madi-Okollo 63.5%, Yumbe 67.4%, Adjumani 90.8%, Terego 63.5%, Kikuube 62.1% and Kamwenge 49%. Similarly, the coverage of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in schools in the region lags the national standard for pupils to stance ratio of 40:1. Yet proper WASH infrastructure and services in schools are critical to ensure a healthy environment where all children can reach their educational potential. The degree of impact that safe water, sanitation, and hygiene have on a child's school performance is profound. Limited access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services affected the rural poor most acutely, as they are increasingly trapped by poor health and a degraded environment. The provision of WASH services in schools, Health Care Facilities (HCFs), and communities is critical to improving the quality of care as this is a key component in the prevention, reduction, and control of infectious diseases (diarrhea, malaria, cholera among others) and their associated mortality and morbidity rates. WASH also reduces hospital infections, a major cause of neonatal death. Children and adolescents in the West Nile and Western region are increasingly exposed to climate shocks such as droughts and floods which are further straining fragile systems, reducing groundwater yields, damaging infrastructure, and disrupting services. Across Uganda, droughts alone affected 2.4 million people over the past two decades, and these climate pressures are particularly pronounced in West Nile's semi-arid districts, where communities and institutions face persistent vulnerability and limited adaptive capacity. The proposed project will focus on strengthening institutional capacity for the operation and maintenance of existing institutional mini-motorized water systems for sustainability, while expanding service coverage to additional schools, health care facilities, and nearby communities in critical need, improve basic sanitation coverage through market-based approach (MBSIA) and enhance FSM to support the sanitation infrastructure. The process will further strengthen the interrelationships amongst beneficiaries, management committees, local council's local governments and service providers.

## 6 **Expected Results**

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: • Enabling Environment: Strengthened enabling environment and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms at district, subcounty and community level for improving financing for and access to quality WASH services. • System Strengthening and Operation and Maintenance: Improved capacity of districts, private sector and service delivery points to provide and manage quality and functional climate resilient WASH infrastructure in targeted schools and healthcare facilities. • Community Engagement/Demand: Increased knowledge and improved attitudes of communities to demand and utilize WASH services at schools and healthcare facilities.

## 7 **Indicative Budget**

282177.00000

## 8 **Other Information**

This Closed CFEI is open to ONLY the pre-selected National and International Civil Society Organizations. This Closed CFEI is a follow up of the pre-selection process of the partners under the WASH, Climate and Environment Programme of the 2026 – 2030 GOU-UNICEF Country Programme. Project timeline is estimated at 18 months (July 2026 – December 2027)

## 9 Selection Criteria

Name	Description	Weight
Clarity of activities and expected results	Clear description of the design and approach, innovation, strategy, alignment and linkages to other initiatives, and expected results and intended impact.	19
Sector expertise and experience	The required specific skills, sector specialists, knowledge and human resources.	35
Project management	Ability to deliver project objectives, accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, considering the audit results of the previous UNICEF funded/ funded/ another humanitarian projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements and adopting to banking system. Partners that have three consecutive qualified audit opinions for UNICEF funded projects may not be considered.	15
Local experience and presence	On-going programme in the area of operation as well as experience implementing similar interventions	11
Cost effectiveness	Sound proportion of administrative and personnel costs in relation to project deliverables.	10
Contribution of resource	Evidenced and documented contribution of resources to the project in cash or in kind (e.g. human resources, suppliers and/ or equipment) by the partner that are presently available (or potentially mobilized by the partner) in order to supplement UNICEF resources. Short narrative description on contribution source	5
Experience working with UN	Global and/or local partnership included knowledge of policies, practices and programmes, including an understanding of and ability to work within UNICEF's funding limitations and associated inherent risks.	5

## 10 Attachments

Description	URL
A breakdown of the budget should be realistically calculated based on the s	<a href="#">Download the document here</a>
Project Proposal Document Template_for Closed CFEIs	<a href="#">Download the document here</a>
Detailed Open Call for Expression of Interest.	<a href="#">Download the document here</a>

## 11 Concept Note Template

[Download the document here](#)

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

[UN Partner Portal](#)