

Call for Expression of Interest

Technical Assistance to SmSA & PHED Assam for Sustainable, Green and Climate Resilient WASH and MHM in Schools

CEF/IND/2026/022

1 **Timeline**

Posted	Apr 17, 2026
Clarification Request Deadline	Apr 20, 2026
Application Deadline	Apr 24, 2026
Notification of Results	Apr 27, 2026
Start Date	May 1, 2026
End Date	Dec 31, 2027

2 **Locations**

- A India
 - a Assam

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

- A WASH and Environment
 - a Basic sanitation
 - b Hygiene
 - c Water

4 **Issuing Agency**

UNICEF

5 **Project Background**

The Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II offers a strong opportunity for India—and Assam in particular—to build on its ODF achievements and advance towards ODF Plus through improved solid and liquid waste management, reliable water access, climate resilient systems, and sustained hygiene behaviours. The Ministry of Education’s Swachh Evam Harit Vidyalaya Rating (SHVR) serves as a powerful tool to guide schools in strengthening WASH, O&M, waste management, greening, and climate smart practices. Assam has shown commendable commitment by assessing 50,935 schools under SHVR 2025, and while 1 and 2 Star schools (about 23%) indicate areas for improvement, they also represent a clear opportunity for targeted strengthening and accelerated progress. Complementary national initiatives further reinforce this momentum: Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is significantly expanding access to functional tap water in schools and Anganwadi centres, enhancing health, learning, and hygiene outcomes, while Swachh Bharat: Swachh Vidyalaya (SBSV) continues to promote the foundational “WASH in Schools” principles, ensuring every child has access to safe sanitation, water, and handwashing facilities. Many schools in Assam are already demonstrating

promising progress, and with focused support—particularly in flood prone, riverine, tea garden, char, and remote areas—the state is well positioned to enhance service continuity and environmental hygiene. Strengthening behaviour change platforms such as Eco Clubs and integrating Mission LiFE will help nurture a culture of cleanliness, conservation, and climate responsibility among students. Improving Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) also presents a positive pathway to support adolescent girls’ dignity, confidence, and regular attendance, especially in KGBVs and residential schools. PM SHRI schools in Assam further offer potential demonstration sites for integrated, climate-resilient WASH and environmental practices. In this context, the UNICEF–CSO partnership brings a timely and constructive opportunity to support 1 , 2 , and 3 Star schools through a climate resilient, systems strengthening, and child centered approach that enhances institutional capacities, promotes positive environmental behaviours, and addresses gender and equity needs—ultimately enabling schools to progress to higher SHVR ratings and create safe, inclusive, and future ready learning environments across Assam. Under this partnership, CSO will serve as the technical partner in five districts, Kamrup Metro, Kamrup Rural, Morigaon, Nagaon, Sonitpur, covering 3467 Schools) Government and government-aided schools. These districts represent diverse vulnerability contexts, including flood-prone and riverine areas where recurrent inundation disrupts water and sanitation services, as well as arsenic-affected regions where ensuring safe drinking water remains a critical public health priority. Working in these geographies offers a strong opportunity to demonstrate climate- resilient, equity-focused WASH solutions and accelerate progress among schools with lower SHVR performance, while strengthening local systems and community ownership for long-term sustainability.

6 Expected Results

1. System Strengthening & Governance • District and state systems demonstrate strengthened leadership, coordination, and accountability for clean, sustainable, and climate resilient school environments. • Institutional mechanisms and capacities are embedded within government systems to sustain school WASH and green practices beyond the project period. 2. Capacity Building & School Led Transformation • Schools are empowered to plan, implement, and maintain sustainable and climate resilient WASH solutions aligned with government education frameworks. • Teachers and school leaders serve as change agents, promoting green practices and climate responsive behaviours within schools and communities. 3. Monitoring, Quality Assurance & Evidence • Robust monitoring and evidence systems enable data driven decision making and continuous improvement in school WASH quality and sustainability. • Proven models, innovations, and learning generate evidence to inform policy dialogue and support scale up at the state and national levels. 4. Advocacy, Convergence & Community Engagement • WASH, climate resilience, and green practices are mainstreamed within education and allied sector programmes through strengthened convergence and advocacy. • Children, adolescents, and communities actively contribute to sustained hygiene, environmental stewardship, and climate resilient behaviours. 5. Source Sustainability & Climate Resilient Water Security • State and sector stakeholders adopt climate informed approaches to drinking water source protection and long term water security. • Strategic partnerships and policy dialogue strengthen pathways for climate resilient rural water supply systems, benefiting schools and communities.

7 Indicative Budget

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8 Other Information

Government liaison in Assam • Close coordination with the Education Department (SmSA) and the Public Health Engineering Department will be required

9 Selection Criteria

Name	Description	Weight
Clarity of activities and expected results	Clarity of activities and Expected Results	25
Cost effectiveness	Cost Effectiveness	15
Local experience and presence	Local Experience and Presence	35
Sector expertise and experience	Sector Expertise and Experience	25

10 **Attachments**

Description	URL
Submit concept note based on the Programme details provided	Download the document here

11 **Concept Note Template**

[Download the document here](#)

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

[UN Partner Portal](#)