

Call for Expression of Interest

Building Capacities and Systems for Climate-Resilient WASH and Disaster Risk Management in Gujarat

CEF/IND/2026/045

1 Timeline

Posted	May 27, 2026
Clarification Request Deadline	Jun 4, 2026
Application Deadline	Jun 8, 2026
Notification of Results	Jun 12, 2026
Start Date	Jun 19, 2026
End Date	Oct 31, 2027

2 Locations

- A India
 - a Gujarat

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

- A Cross Sectoral Areas
 - a Emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction
- B WASH and Environment
 - a Basic sanitation
 - b Hygiene
 - c Water

4 Issuing Agency

UNICEF

5 Project Background

Gujarat faces severe vulnerabilities to climate-induced disasters including floods, cyclones, and droughts which disproportionately disrupt the livelihoods of marginalized communities and hinder sustained social development. While initiatives like the National Cyclone Risk Management Plan (NCRMP) and Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) exist, their local implementation is limited by weak stakeholder coordination and a lack of decentralized disaster risk reduction capacity. Addressing these growing risks requires urgent, strategic actions to strengthen community-based disaster preparedness, establish inclusive evacuation mechanisms, and build resilient local governance structures capable of minimizing losses to lives and infrastructure. Water and sanitation in rural Gujarat have made significant advancements in recent years, driven by the Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission.

Gujarat has achieved notable progress in creating an open defecation-free environment and has initiated SBM-G Phase II to address ODF+ components like ODF sustainability and solid and liquid waste management. However, achieving climate-resilient water, sanitation and waste management requires strategic actions, including enabling policies, financing, technical support, capacity-building, and practical approaches to value-chain-focused operations and maintenance for safe sanitation management. To bridge these gaps, the proposed interventions focus on a three-pronged strategy that targets systems strengthening and coordination, community resilience, and localised workforce safety. First, it utilizes a state- and district-level mechanism to streamline GO-NGO emergency response coordination and map critical resources for enhanced response strategy. Second is to operationalise national disaster management guidelines at the grassroots level by building the capacity of local governance bodies and testing community-based preparedness models. Finally, the strategy is to address critical vulnerabilities in essential services by equipping rural sanitation workers with vital safety protocols, equipment training, and social security access. Together, these practical, capacity-building actions transform high-level resilience policies into actionable, community-led systems.

6 **Expected Results**

Output 1: Enhancing inter-agency coordination systems for emergency preparedness and response

1. State-level workshop to conduct tabletop exercise with 50 IAG members to assess operational readiness, identify systemic gaps, share best practices, and document lessons learned from past emergencies.
2. Mapping of resources [capacities, sectoral presence, and resources (land, vehicle, warehouse, kitchen, financial)] of IAG members published on IAG website to support response coordination.
3. Two coordination workshops in two high-risk prone districts with IAG members and government entities to enhance GO-NGO emergency response coordination.
4. IAG annual meet with 80 IAG members and the State-level Government department to develop a coordination plan and procedures.
5. Develop situation reports, compilation of response on disasters by IAG members (At least 3 reports).

Output 2: Strengthening village-level preparedness and risk-informed local governance systems

1. Multistakeholder consultations in 5 identified districts for implementation of CBDRR programme in alignment with NDMA's and MoPR guidelines.
2. Provide Handholding support to develop model panchayat and test the SOP for wider scale-up on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) in a multi-hazard scenario (in two GPs of one district).
3. Documentation of mock drill conducted in one MPCS for the demonstration of utilisation and evacuation for 29 GP members in one district.
4. One district-level workshop with Suraksha Sathi and Aapda Mitra to share best practices and enhance response coordination.

Output 3: Strengthening capacities and plans for climate-resilient WASH systems

1. Refresher capacity building of 40 state-level master trainers on safety, dignity, occupational health, and protection systems for rural sanitation workers.
2. Capacity building and facilitation of 400 rural sanitation workers across 3 districts on multiple job roles, operation and maintenance of sanitation infrastructure, occupational safety, rights and entitlements, and appropriate usage of PPE kits.
3. Provide handholding support in 3 districts for strengthening access to social security entitlements and uptake of safety protocols (at least 20 days of handholding support in each district).
4. Development and Implementation of Climate-Resilient Operation and Maintenance (CR-O&M;) Plans with Water Tariff Reform and conduct targeted community awareness and capacity-building campaign to promote regular water tariff payment and sustainable service delivery in the two climate and disaster-vulnerable Gram Panchayats.

7 **Indicative Budget**

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8 **Other Information**

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9 **Selection Criteria**

Name	Description	Weight
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<p>Relevance of proposal to achieving expected results</p>	<p>Approach and methodology to achieve desired results in a cost-effective and sustainable manner by working closely with Government line departments, district administrations, Panchayati Raj Institutions, IAG partners, and community institutions. The proposal should demonstrate a clear understanding of disaster risk reduction (DRR), emergency preparedness systems, climate resilience, and community-based WASH resilience in Gujarat. The methodology should include strengthening inter-agency coordination systems, village-level preparedness and risk-informed governance mechanisms, capacity building of community institutions and frontline workers, and strengthening resilience and protection systems for rural sanitation workers. The proposal should highlight sustainable approaches for strengthening preparedness planning, SOP development, mock drills, emergency coordination mechanisms, occupational safety systems, and institutional capacities for long-term resilience outcomes.</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>Local experience and presence</p>	<p>At least five years' work experience in DRR, climate resilience, humanitarian preparedness, community-based disaster risk reduction, WASH, and/or emergency response systems in Gujarat. Credible experience of working with Government departments, district administrations, Panchayati Raj Institutions, IAG partners, communities, frontline workers, sanitation workers, women and youth groups on preparedness planning, capacity building, emergency coordination, WASH resilience, and community engagement processes. Experience of working in disaster-prone geographies including coastal, flood-prone, drought-prone, or vulnerable districts of Gujarat is desirable. Geographical presence with a local office and field-level implementation capacities in Gujarat. Experience from projects/programmes outside Gujarat (within India) on DRR, humanitarian response, climate resilience, and WASH systems strengthening for cross-learning of best practices will be an added advantage. Experience of state level IAG coordination will be added advantage.</p>	<p>35</p>
<p>Sector expertise and experience</p>	<p>Required technical expertise and experience in disaster risk reduction, humanitarian preparedness and response, climate resilience, community-based disaster management, WASH systems strengthening, occupational safety of sanitation workers, and capacity building of frontline workers and institutions. Demonstrated experience in development of SOPs, facilitation of mock drills, preparedness planning exercises, training modules, community engagement tools, and coordination mechanisms for emergency preparedness and response. Experience in strengthening safety, dignity, occupational health, and protection systems for sanitation workers, including awareness on rights, entitlements, social protection, and PPE usage. Proposal should demonstrate integration of gender-responsive, equitable, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable approaches within proposed activities. Partner's PSEA capacity self-assessment and data protection and information security self-assessment should be completed and submitted (where relevant to the partnership).</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>Cost effectiveness</p>	<p>The budget should be economical, efficient, and effective with clear justification of proposed costs in relation to expected outputs and outcomes. The proposal should demonstrate effective utilization of resources for strengthening institutional systems, preparedness capacities, community resilience mechanisms, and sustainable service delivery systems. Preference will be given to proposals that leverage existing government systems, local institutional structures, and convergence opportunities to maximize long-term sustainability and cost efficiency. The proposal should clearly indicate how investments in capacity building, preparedness systems, coordination mechanisms, and safety and protection systems will contribute to sustained project outcomes beyond the project period.</p>	<p>15</p>

10 Attachments

Description	URL
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Interested organizations are expected to use the standard concept note temp

[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](#)