

Call for Expression of Interest

Advancing Learning, Capacity Development and Technical Guidance for WASH in Schools and Menstrual Health and Hygiene

CEF/USA/2026/010

1 Timeline

Posted	Jul 6, 2026
Clarification Request Deadline	Jul 20, 2026
Application Deadline	Jul 31, 2026
Notification of Results	Aug 31, 2026
Start Date	Sep 15, 2026
End Date	Oct 15, 2028

2 Locations

- A United States of America
 - a New York
- B Kenya
 - a Nairobi City

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

- A WASH and Environment
 - a Basic sanitation
 - b Hygiene
 - c WASH in emergencies

4 Issuing Agency

UNICEF

5 Project Background

WASH in Schools (WinS) is a critical foundation for children's health, wellbeing, learning, dignity and resilience. Access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, hand hygiene facilities and menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) services in schools contributes to improved educational outcomes, disease prevention, gender equality and school participation, particularly for adolescent girls. Over the past decade, countries have made important progress in expanding access to WASH services in schools and implementing national WinS programmes. As the sector matures, there is growing demand for practical guidance and tools that help countries operationalize emerging priorities such as safely managed

sanitation, climate-resilient WASH, sustainable financing, system strengthening and integrated school health approaches. There is also a need to consolidate and translate existing evidence and country experiences into practical guidance, document lessons learned from implementation, strengthen investment cases for WinS, and facilitate knowledge exchange across countries and regions. Furthermore, growing recognition of the links between menstrual health and hygiene, adolescent health, maternal health and WASH highlights the need for practical guidance that supports more integrated programming approaches across the life course. UNICEF and partners have developed a range of global frameworks, tools and guidance to support countries in strengthening WinS programmes, including the WinS Acceleration Framework, the Climate-Resilient WASH in Schools Framework, the Three Star Approach (jointly with GIZ), and global guidance on menstrual health and hygiene. Building on these investments, UNICEF seeks to establish a strategic partnership with an international organization to review and synthesize evidence, country experiences and lessons learned from implementation, and translate them into practical technical guidance, learning products and capacity development resources that support governments and partners in strengthening WASH in Schools programmes. UNICEF is seeking a partner with demonstrated global expertise in WASH in Schools and menstrual health and hygiene programming in low- and middle-income countries. Preference will be given to academic institutions or other reputable international organizations with a strong track record in developing evidence-based technical guidance, implementation tools, learning products and capacity development resources for governments and development partners. The selected partner is expected to apply a mixed-methods approach combining evidence reviews, document analysis, key informant interviews, stakeholder consultations and validation processes. All products should be grounded in existing evidence, available guidance, reports and data from UNICEF, the WinS Network and partners, implementation experience and country realities, and should be designed to be practical, user-friendly and readily applicable by governments, UNICEF country offices and implementing partners, and the wider WinS Network. There is no travel budget available for this partnership, and interviews and consultations would need to be done using online platforms.

6 **Expected Results**

Outcome Countries, UNICEF, the WinS Network and partners have improved access to evidence-based, practical and scalable guidance, tools and learning opportunities that strengthen the quality, sustainability, climate resilience and institutionalization of WASH in Schools and menstrual health and hygiene programming. Output 1. Strengthened Technical Guidance and Implementation Tools for WASH in Schools Countries, UNICEF, the WinS Network and partners have access to updated and practical guidance that supports the application of safely managed and climate-resilient sanitation concepts in school settings, strengthens hand hygiene programming in schools, and accelerates the institutionalization and scale-up of the Three Star Approach within national education systems. Activities 1. Develop a technical brief illustrating how safely managed sanitation and climate-resilient sanitation concepts can be applied in school settings and its implications for the broader enabling environment (combining technical and systems guidance). 2. Develop a technical brief illustrating how the WHO/UNICEF Normative Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Community Settings can be applied to school settings. 3. Update and align the UNICEF-GIZ Three Star Approach concept and implementation guidance, incorporating lessons learned, emerging evidence, country experiences, and practical approaches for institutionalization and scale-up. Output 2. Practical Insights for Scaling and Financing WASH in Schools Practical lessons and promising practices from WASH in Schools programmes are synthesized and documented, providing governments, UNICEF, the WinS Network and partners with actionable recommendations on programme scale-up, sustainable financing and investment in WASH in Schools. Activities 1. Develop a lesson learned document on cost-effective and replicable programming approaches that have successfully scaled WASH in Schools programmes through system strengthening. 2. Develop a lesson learned document on costing and financing WASH in Schools programmes, including operation and maintenance financing from school to national level, costing tools, and financial leveraging. Output 3. Global Learning, Capacity Development and Knowledge Management Strengthened UNICEF staff, governments, the WinS Network and partners have increased access to learning opportunities, technical resources and knowledge-sharing platforms that support the uptake and application of good practices, guidance and tools for WASH in Schools programming. Activities 1. Design and facilitate a global learning webinar series on WinS Acceleration Framework, Climate-Resilient WASH in Schools Framework, Three Star Approach, Costing and financing of WinS, Hand hygiene in schools, Safely Managed WinS, other emerging priorities. 2. Strengthen knowledge management for WinS, including the development of a compendium of key WinS resources and tools. Output 4. Strengthened Evidence and Programmatic Guidance for Integrated WASH, Menstrual, Adolescent and Maternal Health Programming UNICEF and partners have practical guidance and implementation considerations for designing and strengthening integrated programmes that address the interconnected menstrual health, adolescent health, maternal health and WASH needs of girls and women across the life course. Activities 1. Conduct a desk review of global evidence, policies, frameworks and programme models linking menstrual health, adolescent health, maternal health,

WASH and related sectors. 2. Develop an integrated conceptual framework illustrating the menstrual health and hygiene, adolescent health and maternal health needs of girls and women across key life stages ("Journey of a Girl" framework). 3. Identify evidence-based entry points, intervention packages and delivery platforms for integrated programming across sectors. 4. Develop practical programme guidance for UNICEF and partners, including practical recommendations, illustrative intervention packages and implementation considerations for different contexts. 5. Disseminate findings in a global learning webinar.

7 **Indicative Budget**

265000.00000

8 **Other Information**

-

9 **Selection Criteria**

Name	Description	Weight
Sector expertise and experience	Demonstrated expertise in WASH in Schools, school health and wellbeing, and menstrual health and hygiene programming. · Proven experience developing global technical guidance, implementation tools, frameworks, learning products and capacity development resources. · Strong experience working in low- and middle-income countries. · Demonstrated ability to synthesize evidence and implementation experience into practical guidance for governments and development partners. Experience facilitating global learning and knowledge exchange initiatives. · Experience working with UNICEF, UN agencies and national governments.	50
Relevance of proposal to achieving expected results	Demonstrated understanding of the objectives and expected results of the partnership. · Clear explanation of how the proposed approach will contribute to the expected outputs and outcome. · Demonstrated understanding of the need for practical and country-applicable products.	30
Clarity of activities and expected results	Clear and feasible methodology. · Appropriate use of evidence reviews, document analysis, key informant interviews, stakeholder consultations and validation processes. · Demonstrated approach for ensuring products are practical, user-friendly and grounded in country realities. · Realistic workplan and timelines. · Appropriate quality assurance mechanisms.	20

10 **Concept Note Template**

[Download the document here](#)

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

[UN Partner Portal](#)