

Call for Expression of Interest

Inclusive access to protection-centred improved and sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services for Forcibly displaced persons and host communities in Sudan

HCR/SDN/2026/002

1 Timeline

Posted	Aug 15, 2026
Clarification Request Deadline	Aug 25, 2026
Application Deadline	Sep 15, 2026
Notification of Results	Oct 15, 2026
Start Date	Jan 1, 2027
End Date	Dec 31, 2029

2 Locations

- A Sudan
 - a North Kordofan

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

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

4 Issuing Agency

UNHCR

5 Project Background

Sudan continues to face a complex and volatile humanitarian situation marked by armed conflict, large-scale displacement, damaged public infrastructure, economic deterioration, disrupted supply chains, disease outbreaks, flooding and constrained humanitarian access. These factors have weakened already fragile water, sanitation and hygiene systems and increased pressure on basic services in refugee-hosting states exposing refugees to protection related risks. Sudan remains a major country of asylum, hosting refugees and asylum-seekers from South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, Syria and other countries. Refugees and asylum-seekers live in camps, camp-like settings, reception and transit locations, urban areas and host communities. WASH needs are particularly acute in key refugee-hosting states, including Kassala, Gedaref, White Nile and Blue Nile, as well as other accessible refugee-hosting and return-affected areas where services are under pressure. The conflict has affected the ability of

refugees, asylum-seekers, and host communities to access safe water, dignified sanitation, and hygiene services. In several locations, water systems require rehabilitation, expansion, preventive maintenance, and improved operational support. Some water supply systems continue to depend on fuel-powered energy, which increases operating costs and exposes services to fuel shortages and market disruptions. In areas receiving new arrivals, emergency water provision may be required while more sustainable water systems are established. Sanitation conditions also remain a concern in refugee camps, settlements, and high-pressure hosting areas. Latrine coverage is insufficient in several locations, and existing facilities are often damaged, full, unsafe or not adapted to the needs of women, girls, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. Inadequate sanitation increases the risk of open defecation, environmental contamination, disease transmission and protection risks, particularly for women and girls using communal facilities or walking long distances to access latrines and bathing areas. Public health, like protection risks, are closely linked to WASH gaps. Sudan has faced recurrent outbreaks of cholera, dengue, malaria and other communicable diseases, with displaced populations and refugees at heightened risk where water supply, sanitation, hygiene and environmental health conditions are inadequate. WASH interventions are therefore essential to reduce disease transmission, support epidemic preparedness and response, and protect the health, dignity and safety of refugees, asylum-seekers and affected host communities. UNHCR Sudan's WASH strategy seeks to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have equitable access to safe, sufficient, dignified and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services and to mitigate protection risks associated with scarcity of water. The strategy promotes a gradual shift from parallel refugee-specific service delivery towards shared, government-managed and community-driven systems where feasible, while maintaining emergency readiness and minimum WASH standards in volatile locations. This approach supports sustainability, equity with host communities and resilience of affected populations. The partnership will support refugee-hosting camps, camp-like settings, reception and transit locations, high-pressure hosting areas and selected non-camp or urban catchments. The response will apply an area-based approach where refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities rely on the same water sources, sanitation systems and public infrastructure. Integrated programme approaches that enable multi-sector synergies and anchor WASH interventions in sustainable community-led livelihoods initiatives that foster community ownership under state leadership is essential. Integrated WASH programmes will be expected to yield clear protection dividends. The partner will be expected to coordinate closely with UNHCR, the Commission for Refugees, Humanitarian Aid Commission, state water authorities, Water and Environmental Sanitation structures, State Ministries of Health, locality authorities, WASH sector partners and community structures. Age, gender and diversity considerations will guide all WASH interventions. WASH programmes should be designed with protection considerations at the fore and should articulate clearly the expected protection outcomes, including ensuring sustained safe and dignified access for women and girls, including menstrual health and hygiene needs, as well as children, older persons, persons with disabilities and households with specific needs. This includes accessible water points and latrines, safe locations, privacy, sex-segregated facilities, lighting where feasible, safe pathways, community consultation and functional feedback mechanisms.

6 Expected Results

The partnership will contribute to UNHCR Sudan's multi-year results framework under Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. Relevant impact statement: Forcibly displaced persons and host communities progressively achieve sustainable self-reliance through strengthened socioeconomic inclusion, equitable access to quality multi-sectoral services and expanded livelihood opportunities, enabling them to meet their basic needs, enhance their resilience and improve their overall wellbeing. Relevant outcome statement: Forcibly displaced persons and host communities in Sudan have equitable access to safe, sufficient, dignified and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services that are progressively integrated into national systems and contribute to the resilience of affected populations. Expected result 1: Safe access to drinking water is provided to Forcibly displaced persons and host communities according to WASH standards. Forcibly displaced persons and host communities in targeted locations will have improved access to safe and sufficient water through the operation, maintenance, rehabilitation and expansion of water supply systems. Water systems will be supported to provide reliable access to safe water, targeting minimum WASH standards, including at least 20 litres per person per day in refugee camps where feasible. The partner is expected to contribute to improved water access through activities such as rehabilitation and expansion of intakes, Water Treatment Plants, boreholes, shallow wells, hafirs, pumps, storage tanks, pipelines and water distribution points; routine operation and preventive maintenance of water systems; emergency water supply where required; and transition from temporary water trucking and water vouchers to more sustainable systems where feasible. Water safety will be strengthened through regular treatment, chlorination, testing and monitoring of water quality at source, distribution and household levels either directly by the partners in emergency situations or through support to government and community led initiatives. The partner will support provision and use of water treatment chemicals, testing kits and reagents, and will promote safe household water collection, transport, storage and treatment. Where technically feasible and cost-effective, the partner

will support solarization of Water treatment plants, boreholes and pumping systems to reduce dependence on fuel, lower recurrent operating costs, improve reliability of water supply and reduce the environmental footprint of WASH services. Expected result 2: Forcibly displaced persons and host communities have safe and protection centered access to emergency communal or household latrines and bathing facilities , ensuring safe, dignified and gender-sensitive sanitation. Forcibly displaced persons and host communities in targeted locations will have improved access to safe, dignified, gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive sanitation facilities. The partner will work with local government and communities and will support construction, rehabilitation, maintenance, desludging and safe decommissioning of sanitation facilities, including household, family-shared and communal latrines, bathing facilities and handwashing stations. Sanitation facilities should be designed and appropriately located to reduce public health and protection risks. Facilities should be safe, accessible, culturally appropriate, sex-segregated where communal, lockable from inside, private, and adapted for children, older persons and persons with disabilities. Lighting and safe access routes should be considered where feasible. The partner will support safe sludge management, including regular desludging, transport and disposal of waste. Working with the community, the partner will also support community-led drainage improvement, latrine cleaning and disinfection, solid waste collection, safe disposal and community-led clean-up campaigns to reduce environmental health risks and disease transmission. The partnership will lead community sensitization and awareness creation to reduce open defecation, improve environmental sanitation and enhance dignity, privacy protection and safety for refugees, asylum-seekers and affected host communities. Expected result 3: Forcibly displaced persons and host communities have access to hygiene items and services that enable safe and dignified hygiene practices. Forcibly displaced persons and host communities in targeted locations will have improved access to hygiene support, including hygiene promotion, menstrual hygiene management and essential hygiene items. The partner will work with community organisations to conduct regular hygiene promotion activities focusing on handwashing with soap, safe water storage, household water treatment, safe excreta disposal, food hygiene, latrine use, menstrual hygiene management and environmental cleanliness. The partner will work towards capacity strengthening of community-based hygiene

7 Indicative Budget

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8 Other Information

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9 Selection Criteria

Name	Description	Weight
Sector expertise and experience	The required specific skills, sector specialists, performance, knowledge, material and human resources. Knowledge of relevant protection, humanitarian principles and the approach to Age, Gender, Diversity (AGDM). Approach to the participation of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in the Programme Cycle. Partner's PSEA capacity self-assessment and data protection and information security self-assessment have been completed and submitted (where relevant to the partnership). Ensure that WASH activities are protection-sensitive, inclusive, technically sound and adaptable to Sudan's evolving context, including insecurity, access constraints, disease outbreaks, flooding, fuel shortages and population movements. The partner should coordinate closely with UNHCR, government counterparts, WASH actors and community structures, while prioritizing sustainability through preventive maintenance, community ownership, cost-efficient solutions and solarization where feasible. Demonstrated knowledge and evidence based expertise in Emergency Response, Integrated and Area Based Programme delivery, HDP nexus, resilience and development programming, Mainstreaming measures to integrate environmental sustainability within proposed activities. Environmental considerations are aligned to the objectives of UNHCR's Strategic Framework for Climate Action.	30

Project management	Ability to effectively deliver project objectives with robust management systems/processes, and meet the expectations of all stakeholders, as well as provide accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, taking into account the audit results of the previous UNHCR-funded projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements and pending open audit recommendations (accounts receivables and internal control related recommendations) where applicable. Clear segregation of duties policy, as well as the integration of risk management; adequate control over procurement, of assets and inventory (if applicable).	10
Local experience and presence	Ongoing programme in the area of operation; local knowledge; ability to expeditiously deploy to other locations, participation in inter-agency coordination fora, engaging forcibly displaced and stateless persons in the programme cycle; trust from local communities; local presence; partner policy on community relations; feedback and complaint mechanisms for affected communities; self-organized groups of forcibly displaced and stateless persons; and other factors that would facilitate access to and better understanding of the affected communities and that would reduce administrative difficulties.	15
Cost effectiveness	Evidence of a methodology for allocation of shared costs to project activities. Evidence of procedures/systems that ensure maximum resources are directed to project outcomes while also ensuring that resources are also directed to activities that ensure project risks are being appropriately managed.	20
Accountability to communities and community relations	Evidence of involving affected communities of diverse age, gender and diversity (AGD) in the full programming cycle of activities. Evidence of sharing information and communicating transparently in a manner that is appropriate and accessible to all community groups. Evidence of using (or planning to use) a standard tool which supports collective approaches to feedback and response, and adjusting their project workplan based on community feedback accordingly. Evidence of working and growing community capacity establish organization to successfully develop, lead and sustain initiatives the sector.	20
Access/security considerations	Ability to operate in security conditions of the Project site(s) or country as well as existence and functionality of partner's organizational policies, procedures and practices related to security risk management. Applicants are expected to demonstrate operational flexibility and capacity to scale up activities, including the ability to expand to additional areas of operation, should protection and assistance needs evolve during implementation. Applicants should therefore outline their staffing, logistical, coordination and risk-management arrangements to ensure timely and effective response in new locations, as required and in coordination with UNHCR.	5

10 Attachments

Description	URL
Interested organizations in Sudan are invited to submit concept notes and o	Download the document here
Call for Expression of Interest - CFEI/HCR/SDN/2026/002 - Water, Sanitation	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](#)