

Strategic Programme Advisor Ethiopia (Individual Consultant or Consultancy Firm)

Assignment period: December 2026 – November 2030 (4 years)

Performance review: Annual

Probation period: 6 months

Location: World Waternet office at the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Expected availability: Approximately 8-12 days per month (on average) (0.4 - 0.6 fte)

Contract type: Consultancy Services Agreement

About World Waternet

World Waternet is a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving sustainable access to clean, sufficient and safe water for all. We support public water organisations through peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and long-term partnerships to strengthen water management and improve water services worldwide.

In Ethiopia, World Waternet implements two Blue Deal partnerships:

- **Blue Deal Abbay-Rift**, implemented together with the Abbay Basin Administration Office (ABAO), the Rift Valley Lakes Basin Administration Office (RVLBAO) and the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE), focusing on strengthening water governance and integrated water resources management.
- **Blue Deal Waste Water**, implemented together with the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE), the Ethiopian Urban Water and Sanitation Federation (EUWSF) and the water utilities of Hawassa, Shashemene and Adama, focusing on improving wastewater management and sanitation services.

In addition, World Waternet collaborates with Ethiopian partners through BRIGHT and WaterWorX.

To support the strategic development, positioning and long-term impact of these partnerships, World Waternet is looking for an experienced and well-connected Strategic Programme Advisor.

Eligibility

World Waternet welcomes applications from both individual consultants and consultancy firms. In the case of a consultancy firm, a lead consultant should be designated as the main contact person and primary service provider for the assignment. Any proposed replacement of the lead consultant during the contract period shall be subject to prior approval by World Waternet.

Scope of services

As Strategic Programme Advisor, you will act as the primary local counterpart and advisor to World Waternet's Country Director, the Dutch Blue Deal project leaders and the WaterWorX project leader(s) in Ethiopia. Your primary focus will be the two Blue Deal partnerships, while also contributing to the broader development of World Waternet's programmes in Ethiopia.

By maintaining strong relationships across government institutions, river basin organisations, utilities, development partners and financing institutions, you will help World Waternet and its partner programmes stay informed about relevant developments, priorities and opportunities within the Ethiopian water sector.

Based on these insights, you will advise the Country Director and project leaders on programme priorities, annual planning, stakeholder engagement and opportunities to strengthen the impact, sustainability and positioning of partnership activities.

You will:

- Maintain relationships with senior management and decision-makers within MoWE, ABAO, RVLBAO, utility federations, partner utilities and relevant Regional Water Bureaus, and support effective cooperation between partners.
- Maintain relationships with relevant government institutions beyond the water sector, including organisations involved in finance, irrigation, climate resilience and infrastructure development.
- Advise on sector developments, institutional priorities, stakeholder dynamics and opportunities relevant to the implementation and further development of World Waternet's partnerships in Ethiopia.
- Serve as a sounding board for Dutch Water Authorities project leaders, the WaterWorX project leader(s), World Waternet's Country Director and the Ethiopia team.
- Support the implementation and further development of the Blue Deal partnerships by advising on priorities, partner engagement, annual planning, review processes and opportunities to strengthen institutional ownership and long-term sustainability.
- Identify opportunities to strengthen cooperation, scale successful approaches and connect partnership activities to relevant sector programmes, policy processes and investment initiatives.
- Maintain relationships with development partners, financing institutions and sector programmes, and identify opportunities for collaboration, alignment and complementary support relevant to World Waternet's partnerships in Ethiopia.
- Support Dutch missions, stakeholder visits and high-level meetings, including preparation, stakeholder engagement and follow-up.
- Contribute strategic input to partnership initiatives, concept notes and future cooperation opportunities where relevant.

Required Qualifications and Experience

We are looking for a senior professional with an established reputation and network within the Ethiopian water sector. The ideal candidate combines strong strategic, programme management and relationship management skills with extensive experience working with government institutions, river basin organizations, water utilities and development partners.

Professional Experience

- At least 10-15 years of relevant professional experience in the Ethiopian water sector.
- Demonstrated experience in strategic advisory services, programme management, institutional strengthening and partnership development.
- Experience working with government institutions, river basin organisations, water utilities and development partners.
- Experience engaging with senior management, policymakers and decision-makers.
- Proven ability to navigate complex stakeholder environments and facilitate collaboration between institutions.
- Familiarity with major donor-funded programmes, development finance institutions and sector initiatives operating in Ethiopia.

Network and Sector Knowledge

- Strong professional network within the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE), Ministry of Finance, river basin organisations, water utilities, utility federations and Regional Water Bureaus.
- Connections with relevant institutions involved in irrigation, climate resilience, infrastructure development and water-related investment programmes are considered an advantage.
- Good understanding of water governance, integrated water resources management, river basin management and urban water and sanitation services.
- Strong understanding of the Ethiopian institutional and policy landscape.

Skills

- Excellent strategic analysis and advisory skills.
- Strong communication and stakeholder-management skills.
- Excellent networking and relationship-building abilities.
- Ability to operate effectively at both strategic and operational levels.
- Excellent spoken and written English and Amharic.

Preferred Background

We particularly welcome candidates with previous experience in consultancy, programme management or strategic advisory assignments within the Ethiopian water sector.

Experience working closely with government institutions, basin organisations, utilities, development partners and financing institutions will be considered a strong asset.

Availability

The assignment is expected to require approximately 8-12 days per month starting in December 2026, with flexibility during missions, workshops, stakeholder visits and strategic meetings.

Candidates with an existing professional role within the Ethiopian water sector are encouraged to apply, provided there is no conflict of interest and the assignment complements their existing professional activities and network.

The consultant will be expected to maintain a regular presence at the World Waternet office hosted within the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) in Addis Ababa.

What we offer

World Waternet offers:

- A long-term strategic advisory assignment covering the four-year project period.
- Collaboration with Ethiopian and Dutch water sector professionals.
- Engagement with leading institutions in the Ethiopian water sector.
- The opportunity to influence and support long-term water governance, river basin management and wastewater management programmes.
- Participation in high-level strategic dialogue and partnership development processes.
- Remuneration based on the qualifications, experience and proposed consultancy fee of the selected consultant or consultancy firm.

Interested?

Individual consultants are requested to submit:

- A motivation letter;
- An updated CV;
- Contact details of at least two professional references;
- An indication of your proposed monthly consultancy fee (in ETB or EUR). The maximum available budget for this assignment is EUR 25,000 per year.

Consultancy firms are requested to submit:

- A brief technical proposal (maximum 5 pages);
- Company profile and relevant references;
- CV of the proposed Lead Advisor;
- Contact details of at least two relevant references;
- An indication of your proposed monthly consultancy fee (in ETB or EUR). The maximum available budget for this assignment is EUR 25,000 per year.

Applications should be submitted to [\[joy.pengel@waternet.nl\]](mailto:joy.pengel@waternet.nl) no later than **10th of November 2026**.

World Waternet intends to conduct **interviews in Addis Ababa between 23rd and 27th of November 2026**. Candidates selected for an interview are requested to be available during this period.

The selection process will consist of:

- Review of applications;
- Interview;
- Reference checks.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

World Waternet is committed to equal opportunity and encourages qualified candidates from diverse backgrounds to apply.