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Call for Expression of Interest

Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus through WASH and Climate Action in West Nile.

CEF/UGA/2026/020

1 Timeline

Posted	Oct 20, 2026
Clarification Request Deadline	Oct 24, 2026
Application Deadline	Oct 31, 2026
Notification of Results	Nov 6, 2026
Start Date	Nov 15, 2026
End Date	Nov 15, 2027

2 Locations

- A Uganda
 - a Central

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

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

4 Issuing Agency

UNICEF

5 Project Background

Uganda hosts about 1.9 million refugees, including 208,100 in Yumbe District and 190,051 in Madi-Okollo District. Both districts, characterized by predominantly rural and dispersed populations, face persistent water scarcity due to harsh agroclimatic conditions marked by erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells and declining groundwater levels resulting from over-extraction. Access to improved water sources is at 89.1 in Yumbe and 75.2% in Madi-Okollo and improved sanitation at 22.5% in Yumbe and 17.4% in Madi Okollo at district level. These values vary further at subcounty levels with sub-counties such as Pawor in Madi Okollo having as low as 40.26% having access to an improved water source and only 9% having access to improved sanitation while in

Yumbe, Kei subcounty presents 69% access to an improved water sources and only 12.9% access to improved sanitation. This highlights the disparities in water access at lower levels and the extremely poor sanitation coverage in Yumbe and Madi- Okollo. Sanitation coverage is extremely poor, with only about 60 per cent of households having basic facilities, while open defecation remains a social norm. Only 38 per cent households access basic handwashing and menstrual hygiene management practices. Weak sanitation markets and limited access to microfinance, constrain household investment in latrines and hygiene products, resulting in poor hygiene behaviours. WASH services in institutions are constrained with limited WASH services. In schools, pupil-to-stance ratios average 71:1 which is well below the recommended national standard of 40:1. In health facilities, one third of these institutions do not have water supply and sanitary facilities adversely impacting the service delivery. Disparities between refugees and host communities are high – leading to tensions in their co-existence triggering and fueling conflict. According to UNHCR, about 95 per cent of refugee access water supply and 46 per cent access sanitation services due to UNHCR investments within the settlements relative to limited Government of Uganda investment in the host communities. The host community water supply remains at 46 per cent and corresponding sanitation coverage remains at 19 per cent. Moreover, most of the people who collect water for household use are women and girls. Such a disparities affect the health and education outcomes for women and girls and create tensions over the access and use of basic WASH services. The weak functionality of the local government institutions at community levels limits effective operation and maintenance, constrained by inadequate training, poor cost recovery, and weak financial accountability. Overall, low local government investment, limited stakeholder coordination, and insufficient community engagement, especially the involvement and participation of women and girls in Operations and Management of WASH investments, continue to undermine the sustainability, equity and resilience of WASH service delivery across both refugee and host populations. According to the national micro planning handbook for WASH in public primary and secondary schools in Uganda, menstrual hygiene management system stood at 43%, leaving a significant gap of 57% without any system of managing the menstrual hygiene in primary and secondary schools. Poor menstrual hygiene management affects school attendance, retention, completion of school by adolescent girls, thus resulting into poor education outcomes for girls and further exacerbating gender inequalities in the education sector in Uganda. The proposed project will focus on building resilient communities in the two refugee-hosting districts, enabling both host communities and refugees to reside in harmony. It will strengthen coherence and complementarity in resilient WASH service delivery complemented with improved hygiene and sanitation behaviours to improve health, dignity and well-being.

6 Expected Results

- Enabling Environment: Established climate resilient, gender and disability inclusive WASH facilities with integrated water resource management at institutional and community levels.
- System Strengthening: Strengthened institutional-led sustainable WASH systems using Community-Based Management Systems Plus (CBMS+), WASH FIT and IPC with representation of both women and girls
- Community Engagement/Demand: Improved household and community sanitation and hygiene environment which is gender and disability inclusive using market-based sanitation and inclusive approaches.

7 Indicative Budget

256700.00000

8 Other Information

This Closed CFEI is open to ONLY the pre-selected National and International Civil Society Organizations. This Closed CFEI is a follow up of the pre-selection process of the partners under the WASH, Climate and Environment Programme of the 2026 – 2030 GOU-UNICEF Country Programme.

9 Selection Criteria

Name	Description	Weight
Clarity of activities and expected results	Clear description of the design and approach, innovation, strategy, alignment and linkages to other initiatives, and expected results and intended impact.	19
Sector expertise and experience	The required specific skills, sector specialists, knowledge and human resources.	35



Project management	Ability to deliver project objectives, accountability mechanisms and sound financial management, considering the audit results of the previous UNICEF funded/ funded/ another humanitarian projects, past performance and the external audit of partners' financial statements and adopting to banking system. Partners that have three consecutive qualified audit opinions for UNICEF funded projects may not be considered.	15
Local experience and presence	On-going programme in the area of operation as well as experience implementing similar interventions	11
Cost effectiveness	Reasonableness of proposed budget in relation to expected results, including appropriate balance between programme and administrative costs. Demonstrated contribution of partner resources (financial or in-kind) that complement UNICEF funding and enhance programme value.	10
Contribution of resource	Evidenced and documented contribution of resources to the project in cash or in kind (e.g. human resources, suppliers and/or equipment) by the partner that are presently available (or potentially mobilized by the partner) in order to supplement UNICEF resources. Short narrative description on contribution source	5
Experience working with UN	Demonstrated contribution of partner resources (financial or in-kind) that complement UNICEF funding and enhance programme value and sustainability	5

10 Attachments

Description	URL
Attachment I_Proposal Document	Download the document here
Attachment II_Budget Template	Download the document here
Copy of the Closed Call for Expression of Interest	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](#)