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## Call for Expression of Interest

# Strengthen WASH in schools, health facilities and communities in SHEFA and MALAMPA Province

## CEF/VUT/2026/006

### 1 Timeline

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| **Posted** | Oct 28, 2026 |
| **Clarification Request Deadline** | Nov 6, 2026 |
| **Application Deadline** | Nov 18, 2026 |
| **Notification of Results** | Nov 20, 2026 |
| **Start Date** | Nov 30, 2026 |
| **End Date** | Dec 31, 2027 |

### 2 Locations

A Vanuatu
- a Malampa

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

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

### 4 Issuing Agency

UNICEF

### 5 Project Background

Project Background Vanuatu remains one of the most disaster-prone countries in the Pacific, facing recurrent cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic activity, flooding and the growing impacts of climate change. These hazards continue to affect essential services, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems in communities, schools and health care facilities. The December 2024 earthquake on Efate highlighted the vulnerability of existing infrastructure, causing widespread damage to water supply systems, sanitation facilities and hygiene services, affecting more than 80,000 people and disrupting access to essential services for communities, schools and health facilities. Assessments conducted following the earthquake identified significant damage to community water systems and school WASH facilities, while national reviews of health care facilities revealed

persistent gaps in WASH services, infection prevention and control (IPC), operations and maintenance systems, and resilience to climate and disaster risks. Many rural and remote health facilities continue to experience inadequate access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, limiting their ability to provide safe and quality health services and increasing the risk of healthcare-associated infections. To address these challenges, UNICEF is implementing two complementary initiatives : the Strengthening Disaster Resilience of Health Care Facilities in Remote Islands Project*, funded by the Government of Japan, and the WASH Earthquake Recovery in Schools and Communities on Efate Project, supported through The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The projects aim to strengthen the resilience, sustainability and management of WASH services in health facilities, schools and communities through a combination of infrastructure investments and capacity-building interventions. While significant investments are being made in the rehabilitation and upgrading of WAS infrastructure, sustained improvements require strengthened local capacity to assess, plan, operate and maintain services. UNICEF is therefore seeking an experienced implementing partner to deliver the software and capacity development components of both projects. The partner will work closely with government counterparts, including the Ministry of Health, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Education and Training, provincial authorities and local communities. Under the Strengthening Disaster Resilience of Health Care Facilities in Remote Islands Project, the partner will support twenty (20) health care facilities across Shefa and Malampa Provinces through the implementation of WASHFIT/Drinking Water Safety and Security Plan (DWSSP) assessments, development of facility improvement plans, procurement and distribution of twenty (20) WinHCF kits, and delivery of post-construction training on operation and maintenance (O&M;) and WASH service management following completion of infrastructure improvements. These activities will strengthen facility-level capacity to sustain safe and climate-resilient WASH services and improve infection prevention and control practices Under the WASH Earthquake Recovery in Schools and Communities on Efate Project, the partner will support ten (10) schools to conduct and update WASH Improvement Plans (WIPs) and strengthen school management structures responsible for WASH service operation and maintenance. In addition, the partner will facilitate the development of Drinking Water Safety and Security Plans (DWSSPs) in six (6) earthquake-affected communities on Efate to improve the safety, sustainability and resilience of community water supply systems. These participatory planning processes will empower schools and communities to identify risks, prioritize improvements and establish long-term management arrangements for their WASH services. Through these interventions, the proposed partnership will contribute to strengthening local ownership, improving service sustainability and enhancing the resilience of WASH services in health care facilities, schools and communities, ultimately supporting healthier and safer environments for children, families and frontline service providers in Vanuatu.

## 6 Expected Results

Expected Result 1 : Health Care Facilities Strengthen Their Capacity to Sustain Safe, Climate-Resilient WASH Services Twenty (20) targeted health care facilities in Shefa and Malampa Provinces have improved systems, capacity and governance to manage, operate and maintain safe and climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services, contributing to stronger infection prevention and control (IPC) practices and improved quality of care. Key Outputs WASHFIT and/or Drinking Water Safety and Security Plan (DWSSP) assessments completed in all 20 targeted health care facilities, with key risks and improvement priorities identified and documented. Facility-specific WASH Improvement Plans developed and endorsed by health facility management and relevant government authorities. Twenty (20) WinHCF kits procured, delivered and operationalized in targeted health care facilities. At least 20 health facility WASH management teams strengthened and trained on: Operation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure Preventive maintenance planning ; Infection prevention and control practices ; Climate and disaster risk preparedness. Facility-level systems established or strengthened for routine monitoring, operation and maintenance of WASH services. Indicators 20 health facilities complete WASHFIT and/or DWSSP assessments. 20 WASH Improvement Plans developed and validated. 20 WinHCF kits distributed and in use. At least 80% of trained health facility staff demonstrate improved knowledge of WASH management and O&M; practices. 20 health facilities have functional WASH management and maintenance arrangements in place. Expected Outcome Targeted health care facilities provide safer, more reliable and sustainable WASH services, reducing WASH-related risks for patients and health workers while improving resilience to future climate and disaster-related shocks. Expected Result 2: Schools Strengthen Management and Sustainability of WASH Services Ten (10) earthquake-affected schools on Efate have strengthened their capacity to manage, maintain and sustain inclusive and child-friendly WASH services through improved planning, governance and operation and maintenance systems. Key Outputs WASH Improvement Plans (WIPs) developed or updated in 10 targeted schools using participatory assessment approaches. School WASH Committees established or strengthened and actively engaged in WASH management. School leaders, teachers, WASH focal points and student representatives trained on: School WASH management ; Operation and maintenance of facilities; Hygiene promotion ; Emergency preparedness. Priority actions for sustaining rehabilitated WASH infrastructure identified and integrated into school management processes. School communities demonstrate improved awareness and practices related to safe hygiene and responsible use of WASH facilities. Indicators 10 schools have approved and updated WASH Improvement Plans. 10 functional School WASH Committees established or strengthened. At least 80% of participating schools have routine O&M; arrangements in place. At least 200 school stakeholders (teachers, committee members and students) trained on WASH management and hygiene promotion. Expected Outcome Schools maintain functional, safe, inclusive and resilient WASH services that support student health, attendance and wellbeing while strengthening preparedness for future emergencies. Expected Result 3: Communities Improve Water Safety Management and Governance Six (6) earthquake-affected communities on Efate strengthen their capacity to manage, protect and sustain community water supply systems through risk-based water safety planning and improved local governance. Key Outputs Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning (DWSSP) processes

completed in six targeted communities. Community water committees strengthened or established and trained on: Water security and safety planning ; System operation and maintenance ; Emergency preparedness and response. Community water system risks assessed and mitigation measures identified through participatory processes. Community-specific action plans developed to improve water quality, system functionality and long-term sustainability. Community awareness activities conducted to promote safe water handling, source protection and climate-resilient water management. Indicators 6 communities complete DWSSP processes. 6 community water safety plans developed and endorsed. 6 community water committees trained and actively functioning. 100% of targeted communities identify and prioritize risk mitigation actions for their water systems. Expected Outcome Targeted communities are better able to safeguard drinking water quality, maintain water supply systems and ensure continuity of safe water services during normal operations and emergencies.

## 7 Indicative Budget

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## 8 Other Information

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## 9 Selection Criteria

| Name | Description | Weight |
|---|---|---|
| Clarity of activities and expected results | | 25 |
| Local experience and presence | | 25 |
| Project management | | 25 |
| Relevance of proposal to achieving expected results | | 25 |

## 10 Concept Note Template

Download the document here

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

UN Partner Portal