



CONSULTANCY - TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title: WASH Innovation Consultant – Problem Statement

Analysis

Division: UNICEF Sustainable WASH Innovation Hub, Copenhagen, Denmark

Duration: Approx. 104 days, over 6 months

Duty Station: Remote

Advertising summary

The vision of the UNICEF Sustainable WASH Innovation Hub (WASH Hub) is to be a global home for building, accelerating and scaling transformational climate resilient solutions for a WASH secure future of universal and equitable access to services, addressing the full ambition of the SDG6. The WASH Hub is seeking to source, pilot and scale transformational innovations that address the lack of supportive environments for WASH SMEs, characterized by limited access to finance and unfavorable governmental policies. This challenge is limiting the capacity of SMEs to expand and flourish, hindering their ability to effectively contribute to WASH governance and services.

The Consultant will support the WASH Hub by defining the challenges to the SME enabling environment and conducting a strategic 'deep-dive' analysis of the problem, assessing current gaps and limitations, and globally seeking potential transformative across the WASH and/or other sectors with potential for scaling across multiple countries and continents.

Child Safeguarding

Is this project/assignment considered as "Elevated Risk Role" from a child safeguarding perspective? YES NO

If YES, check all that apply:

Direct contact role YES NO

If yes, please indicate the number of hours/months of direct interpersonal contact with children, or work in their immediately physical proximity, with limited supervision by a more senior member of personnel:

Child data role YES NO

If yes, please indicate the number of hours/months of manipulating or transmitting personal-identifiable information of children (name, national ID, location data, photos):

More information is available in the [Child Safeguarding SharePoint](#) and [Child Safeguarding FAQs and Updates](#)

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfill their potential. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for everyone.

And we never give up.

For every child...innovate

UNICEF has a 70-year history of innovating for children. We believe that new approaches, partnerships and technologies that support realizing children's rights are critical to improving their lives. The **Office of Innovation** is a creative, interactive, and agile team in UNICEF. We sit at a unique intersection, where an organization that works on huge global issues meets the start-up thinking, the technology, and the partners that turn this energy into scalable solutions.

The **Sustainable WASH Innovation Hub**, based in Copenhagen, Denmark, aims to source, pilot and scale transformational and frontier climate resilient innovations that respond to key programmatic challenges that, if solved, will unlock faster progress for a water secure future for children and young people. One of the key global challenges that the Hub will address through exploration and scale of innovative solutions will be tackling foreseen climate change impacts on WASH services and delivery access. The Hub will also support research and innovation on the links between climate change and water, sanitation and hygiene.

The Hub will bring together a passionate community of strategic partners including children and young people, academia, private entrepreneurs, public policy makers, social development and humanitarian actors, and our global UNICEF WASH / CEED and innovation colleagues in 150+ countries. Collectively we will co-create, advocate, enable, convene, and motivate for innovative sustainable solutions to long-standing barriers and emerging opportunities for a WASH secure and climate resilient future for every child.

What is the challenge?

UNICEF has identified problems that, if solved, will unlock faster progress towards SDG 6. Innovation is key to co-creating new solutions to problems like lack of handwashing stations, leaks in water networks, climate-resilient sanitation services, remote monitoring of water or wastewater systems, remote sensing and other technologies for locating water sources in water scarce environments, fecal sludge management in humanitarian settings, absence of adequate sanitation products and accessible menstrual health information for women and girls.

More specifically, the WASH innovation portfolio aims at addressing the following four problems:

1. *Lack of adequate and climate-sensitive groundwater mapping and development leads to poor drinking water quality, challenges in locating sustainable water sources, and impedes progress towards child development and Sustainable*

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Development Goals, especially affecting Small Island Developing States.

- 2. Insufficient climate-sensitive data and a poor understanding of integrating climate change impacts into WASH programming present challenges to WASH practitioners modeling long-term sustainability of water resources, impacting the resilience of the service.*
- 3. A lack of supportive environments for WASH small and medium enterprises (SMEs), characterized by limited access to finance and unfavorable governmental policies is limiting the capacity of SMEs capacity to expand and flourish, hindering their ability to effectively contribute to WASH governance and services.*
- 4. Complexities in innovative finance options make it difficult to implement, scale, and replicate effective solutions, exacerbated by the increasing challenges to secure finance for WASH projects in a resource-scarce environment*

The WASH Hub has undertaken a global exercise to source solutions to the identified problem statements. Potential scalable solutions have been identified for some problems; however, no solutions considered suitable for scaling were identified for problem statement 3 above (relating to SMEs).

Globally it is seen that governments are not enabling SMEs to flourish, they lack the finance instruments tailored to their situation and sometimes cannot access government support due to their informal nature. The WASH Hub wants to identify sustainable, scalable approaches to establishing enabling environments that are favorable to WASH SMEs, with finance instruments that are more suited to informal service providers. Whilst UNICEF does work that addresses individual elements (e.g. some countries have financing mechanisms for SMEs and others support regulation development); however, no holistic solutions have been identified that have potential to scale globally.

Challenges to scaling potential solutions are varied, but typically solutions are either not holistic (typically addressing just some aspects of SME needs), are not sustainable (relying on continuous incentives or financial support) or unscalable, typically reliant on onerous high of support or capacity building that cannot be affordably scaled.

Because of this the WASH Hub is looking to hire a consultant to undertake a deep dive globally across the WASH and other relevant sectors to identify potential solutions. Specifically, they are looking for a consultant to review solutions and identify any potential solutions that may be ready for scaling into UNICEF programme countries and any that are one to two years away from being ready to scale. Should no solutions be identified it is expected the consultant will then make recommendations for addressing the problem statement that will potentially guide the sector to develop a scalable solution.

How can you make a difference?

The Consultant will contribute to the objectives of the WASH Hub by:

1. Reviewing the following WASH Innovation problem statement on SME enabling environments and mapping of the current situation, challenges and gaps:
A lack of supportive environments for WASH Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), characterized by limited access to finance and unfavorable governmental policies is limiting the capacity of SMEs capacity to expand and flourish, hindering their ability to effectively contribute to WASH governance and services.

2. Engaging with key stakeholders (UNICEF Office of Innovation, UNICEF Programme Group, other key players in the WASH and other relevant sectors) to assess the current level of understanding of the problem;
3. Explore potential solutions and assess their scaling potential/pathway and viability through a review of approaches globally, both within and external to the WASH sector;
4. Provide a strategic recommendation on potential adaptation/adaptation of solutions and recommendations on pathways to scale for potentially transformative solutions that address the problem statement.
5. Identify and detail gaps that may remain in providing a holistic solution to WASH SMEs providing being able to deliver sustainable WASH services to the poorest and most remote regions

It is expected that the deep dive will involve reaching out to entrepreneurs, innovation incubators, I/NGOs, donors, foundations, other UN agencies, private sector actors and anyone else working in the WASH sector to understand current solutions and areas of exploration that are ongoing. From this a range of solutions can be identified and assessed for viability. A similar process will need to be undertaken for other sectors where solutions may also be relevant, such as the energy sector, health and finance.

It is important to have a strong scoping as this will inform recommendations, viability and timelines for the rest of the deep dive. It is expected as part of the inception report that a methodology for the scoping method is outlined and agreed along with the process and criteria to assess risk, business case, innovation, scalability and impact – building on the Office of Innovations 5D model for evaluating innovations.

The consultant will be expected to outline the feasibility of scaling identified solutions, key actors, processes, timelines and approaches – for which the WASH Hub can then take forward. Should no solutions be identified then the consultant will outline the reasons for this and what role the WASH Hub can play to develop the enabling environment.

Description of assignment

Detailed responsibilities / deliverables:

	Deliverables/Outputs	Tasks	Delivery deadline	% of payment
1	Inception report defining the problem statement, review of the current situation/ gaps, proposed approach to deep dive and proposed list of interviewees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct at least 12 Key Informant Interviews (KII) with key stakeholders (UNICEF and other key sectoral players) to identify gaps in understanding - Suggest pathway for mapping possible solutions and their viability 	21 days	25%
2	Narrative assessment of scaling potential and viable options	Conduct deep dive assessment into academia, private sector, development and humanitarian sectors and other relevant sectors to identify potential solutions to the problem statement	40 days	30%

3	Develop pathway and viability	Based on the assessment of viable options develop pathways to scale including gaps that need to be addressed and appropriate approaches	22 days	15%
4	Draft report with presentation	Draft report presented to the WASH innovation hub team for discussion and review before finalisation	11 days	20%
5	Final report including 2 page summary document	Strategic recommendation on adaptation/adaptation on solutions and recommendations on pathway to scale for potentially significant solutions	10 days	20%

To qualify as an advocate for every child you will have...

- An advanced university degree (Master's or higher) in WASH, entrepreneurship, business administration or other relevant field.
**A first University Degree in a relevant field combined with 2 additional years of professional experience may be accepted in lieu of an Advanced University Degree.*
- A minimum of 8 years of relevant professional experience in innovation or supporting investments in a portfolio approach.
- Experience in systems change research, analysis, and insight generation.
- Experience of landscaping studies and deep dives of technical sectors and an ability to succinctly synthesize complex information into reports and formats that are easy to understand. Ideally links to examples should be provided.
- Demonstrable understanding of SMEs in development contexts.
- Understanding of WASH approaches and systems is an asset.
- Ability to draw parallels from relevant sectors where there is transfer of learnings and approaches.
- Understanding of different contexts and experience working in developing countries.
- Knowledge of international development, technology for development and key challenges affecting children in developing countries desired.
- Developing country work experience and/or familiarity with emergency is considered an asset.
- Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian or Spanish) or a local language is an asset.

Travel

- No travel is required for this position

Payment details and further considerations

Payment of professional fees will be based on the submission of agreed deliverables. UNICEF reserves the right to withhold payment in case the deliverables submitted are not up to the required standard or in case of delays in submitting the deliverables on the part of the consultant.

How to apply:

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- Interest applicant is required to submit a financial proposal with all-inclusive fee. Please see the financial proposal template.
- **Applications without a financial proposal will not be considered.**

The Technical Proposals will be evaluated against the following:		
REF	CATEGORY	POINTS
1.	Experience of the consultant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidenced experience in innovation or supporting investments in a portfolio approach • Experience in systems change research, analysis and insights generation. • Experience of defining landscaping studies and deep dives of technical challenges into easy to understand formats 	45
2.	Proposed Methodology and Approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed proposal with main tasks, report structure and key outputs identified to deliver within a tight timeframe. • Vision and sound methodology of achieving key outputs with an understanding of scaling pathways in this setting. • Clarity of the proposed approach with demonstrated understating of the realities of work in UNICEF programme countries • Realistic, timed and costed plan of action. • Experience of developing pathways to scale and appropriate approaches desirable 	35
Total Technical (max 80)		
Only Proposals which receive a minimum of 50 points will be considered further.		
3.	Financial proposal	20
Total Financial (max 20)		
Total Overall (max 100)		

For every Child, you demonstrate...

UNICEF's values of Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust, Accountability, and Sustainability ([CRITAS](#)).

To view our competency framework, please visit [here](#).

UNICEF is here to serve the world's most disadvantaged children and our global workforce must reflect the diversity of those children. The UNICEF family is committed to include everyone, irrespective of their race/ethnicity, age, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, socio-economic background, or any other personal characteristic.

UNICEF offers reasonable accommodation for consultants/individual contractors with disabilities. This may include, for example, accessible software, travel assistance for missions or personal attendants. We encourage you to disclose your disability during your application in case you need reasonable accommodation during the selection process and afterwards in your assignment.

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UNICEF has a zero-tolerance policy on conduct that is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations and UNICEF, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination. UNICEF also adheres to strict child safeguarding principles. All selected candidates will be expected to adhere to these standards and principles and will therefore undergo rigorous reference and background checks. Background checks will include the verification of academic credential(s) and employment history. Selected candidates may be required to provide additional information to conduct a background check.

Remarks:

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and advance to the next stage of the selection process.

Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract will not be considered “staff members” under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and UNICEF’s policies and procedures, and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants and Individual Contractors. Consultants and individual contractors are responsible for determining their tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.

The selected candidate is solely responsible to ensure that the visa (applicable) and health insurance required to perform the duties of the contract are valid for the entire period of the contract. Selected candidates are subject to confirmation of fully-vaccinated status against SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) with a World Health Organization (WHO)-endorsed vaccine, which must be met prior to taking up the assignment. It does not apply to consultants who will work remotely and are not expected to work on or visit UNICEF premises, programme delivery locations or directly interact with communities UNICEF works with, nor to travel to perform functions for UNICEF for the duration of their consultancy contracts.