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TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR EMERGENCY (SURGE) MISSIONS

Title:	WASH Specialist for the Humanitarian – Development Nexus / Hydrogeology Expert
Reports to:	WASH Specialist/Manager
Duration:	3 Months (starting September 2024) with possible extension up to 6 months.
Location:	UNICEF Eastern and Southern African Regional Office (ESARO), can be based in Nairobi, Kenya

BACKGROUND

In the East and Southern African (ESAR) region, and how UNICEF seeks to make a difference in WASH for children, families and communities in its 21 countries. Countries that, in total, are home to 40% of the African population. There are critical challenges in the region that hugely impact on progress, and which reinforce, the need for improved WASH services which include the following:
High population growth coupled to weak economic growth: the region counts 554 million people including 219 million children under 15 years and is expected to grow to 1.1 billion by 2050 (UNFPA), while ethe region includes 10 low-income countries, 7 lower-middle and 3 upper-middle countries with 2 growing faster than 6% and an inflation in 2022 averaging 25% (IMF, 2023).
Vulnerability: 66% of children under 5 years are at risk of poor developmental outcomes due to inadequate health and nutrition (Source: unicef.org)
Governance and conflict: Eight countries in the ESARO region are on the list of fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCS), annually released by the World Bank Group (WBG, 2024).
Urbanization: Africa has the fastest urban growth in the world. Much of this growth is taking place in small and medium-sized towns (OECD, 2020). In the ESAR region, the majority of the population lives in urban areas (WB, 2023). Rapid urbanization is taking place with urban population growing annually with more than 4 percent in Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia, Uganda, and Zambia (WB, 2023).
Climate shocks and extreme events: three countries in the region are on the list of the 10 countries worldwide most at risk from climate disasters (Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia) of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the World Resource Institute (WRI), 2023).
All countries in the ESARO region score low on the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Country Index which summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change 14 of the ESARO countries score extremely high or high on the Children's Climate Risk Index which provides a comprehensive view of children's exposure and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change (https://data.unicef.org/resources/childrens-climate-risk-index-report/)

As of May 2024, the ESAR region with Sudan and Congo DRC included was hosting 6.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers and a further 28.3 million people were internally displaced in the region.[1] Among the forcibly displaced population, an estimated 40 percent are children below 18 years of age.[2] Most of the of forcibly displacement of people in the Eastern and Southern African region (refugees that cross international borders, and internally displaced people) are linked to conflict and climate induced stress including drought. Conflict in some areas within the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Kenya) has led to some people who have already been displaced having to move and move again. The region is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the impacts of climate change. Climate change has a disproportionate impact on children in Africa, a region that has contributed minimally to global carbon emissions[3]. In the Horn of Africa, over 20 million people and at least 10 million children faced severe drought conditions from 2021 to May 2023. The Horn has suffered an unprecedented drought, the worst in 40 years, with five successive failed rainy seasons which has destroyed the livelihoods of millions of people through the loss of livestock and crops, displaced populations, increased the risk of disease and malnutrition, and pushed children and families to the brink of death and destitution. Early 2023 heavy rains offered temporary relief but at the same time led to floods in historically parched areas, causing displacement and heightened risk of waterborne diseases.

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[1] https://data.unhcr.org/

[2] UNHCR. Refugee data finder (link: unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/, accessed March 2024).

[3] Time to Act: African Children in the Climate Change Spotlight"

Groundwater plays a major role as an accessible water supply in ESAR especially where surface water is either not available or storage, treatment and transmission infrastructure has not been developed. With the growing population, the reliance on and importance of accessible groundwater supplies is growing, given its often easier access, protection from floods and droughts, and ability to buffer against long-term climate change impacts. But with limited and erratic rainfall, hydrogeological complexity, limited resources, and drilling capacity constrain access to groundwater supplies.

In response to these challenges, and beyond short term lifesaving activities, there is a pressing need to shift away from costly emergency responses to drought and focusing on strengthening the preparedness and provide resilient solutions for vulnerable communities through better groundwater management. This approach aims to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of groundwater resources, thereby enhancing the resilience of communities to future droughts.

In light of this, UNICEF's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) is seeking the support of a WASH Specialist for Drought Response and Groundwater Management. This specialist will play a crucial role in supporting the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programmes in the regional and country offices. Their focus will be on improving groundwater management in the affected areas, thereby ensuring the availability of potable water and mitigating the impacts of drought.

By investing in better groundwater management, we can help safeguard water supplies for the future, protect livelihoods, and ensure the health and well-being of communities in Eastern and Southern Africa. This is a critical step towards achieving water security and resilience in the face of climate change and environmental challenges.

PURPOSE

To support the regional office and country offices with developing integrated water resources management and groundwater management strategies and programmes. This includes contributing to drought and flood preparedness by the establishment of groundwater monitoring, strengthening knowledge and capacity on integrated and groundwater management, generating evidence, developing approaches and programmes related to aquifer recharge, develop partnerships and exchange and disseminate experiences and strengthen local partners and UNICEF staff.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

1. *Support UNICEF and Government stakeholders in groundwater resources assessment by providing expertise, coordination, and building capacity.*
2. *Manage the groundwater resources assessment, monitoring and aquifer recharch / groundwater storage components of the RWASH programme.*
3. *Contribute timely and effective technical advice, guidance and input to climate-resilient groundwater and water reuse programme strategies, planning, implementation, and evaluation.*
4. *Contribute actively to groundwater governance through the formulation of groundwater policies and strategies that consider climate-resilience, Disaster Risk Reduction and Response.*
5. *Provide support related to water resources development with specific emphasis on drought mitigation.*
6. *Undertake studies, appraisals on water resources assessment and water resources development, including groundwater mapping, monitoring or recharge / storage*
7. *Hand-over groundwater resources management to the UNICEF WASH Section or clients where relevant*
8. *Support evidence generation on water resources in the region.*
9. *Support projects and country office teams with developing water management and groundwater management or recharge projects proposals, terms of references, establishing collaboration networks and promoting exchange opportunities*
10. *Coordination:*
    - *Coordinate implementation of the (ground) water resources management with key stakeholders, including academia, UN agencies, private stakeholders, NGOs donors etc.*

Promoting dialogue and collaboration with local and international Academic institutions to deepen the knowledge and applications for a sustainable water use.

  - *Coordinate groundwater management initiatives within UNICEF ESAR, UNICEF innovation team and with other relevant development stakeholders, and regional programmes, with IGAD, SADEC*
  - *Develop alliances on the groundwater management (mapping, monitoring, storage or recharge) with academic institutions*

11. *Support the capacity development of stakeholders, at state, county, community levels directly or by leveraging UNICEF teams, but also third party academia or technical partners*
12. *Project design, Resources and Partners Mobilization*
13. *Other tasks, as assigned by UNICEF and pertinent to the Humanitarian – Development Nexus.*

KEY DELIBERABLES

The following is a summary of the key deliverables:

1. UNICEF coordination on groundwater management is done with key stakeholders
2. MAR/Nature based solutions feasibility studies completed in the horn of Africa and in another ESARO country
3. Standardized monitoring system set up and documented for aquifer monitoring
4. Short executive summary reports developed on findings;
5. Detailed comprehensive reports with links to data;
6. Plan and develop at least two water resource monitoring and or management appraisals and bankable project proposals;
7. Capacity development strategy with proposals/ToRs/budgets to implement; and

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

- MSc in Hydrogeology with up to 10years of experience
- Experience in handling, analysing and presenting hydrological and hydrogeological data
- Has experience with modelling tools and GIS
- Good programme management skills and ability to communicate and present both verbally and in written form to a wide variety of stakeholders
- Ability to work in a transdisciplinary team and in general be a good team player
- Fluency in English (verbal and written). Good written and spoken skills in French is an advantage

Initiated/Drafted by:

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Signature ________ ________________________ **Date** **9/7/2024**

Reviewed by:

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Signature ______________**Date15.07.2024**