

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Standby UNICEF WASH partner - Emergency, DRR and Climate Resilience

Location: Liberia

Duration: 3 months (extendable to 6 months)

#### 1. Background and Justification

Liberia's experience with Ebola, COVID-19, floods and Mpox have underscored the life-saving role of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services in emergencies. As the world's 30th most climate-vulnerable nation, Liberia faces severe flooding (exposing 44% of its population i.e. 2.2 million people), while 70% lack basic sanitation and 34% practice open defecation, with heightened risks in coastal/riverine communities.

Amid funding cuts and scaled-back WASH programs, public health emergencies from Mpox to waterborne diseases intersect with climate hazards. Flood-affected communities, especially informal settlements, see spikes in gender-based violence against girls and children when accessing unsafe WASH services while education and health services are disrupted. An integrated approach to put disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate-resilient WASH with emergency preparedness is needed in the country for community resilience.

In this light, UNICEF aims to strengthen DRR and climate resilience in its WASH programming building upon existing initiatives. However, technical and operational capacity for this support remains limited. UNICEF seeks to engage a standby partner to strengthen preparedness in view of delivering timely WASH emergency interventions during flood events, while integrating climate resilience and DRR measures at national and county levels.

#### 2. Objectives

- i. Ensure rapid and effective WASH emergency preparedness, and DRR during floods and climate-related disasters.
- ii. Strengthen coordination, and national and county-level capacity and preparedness for related emergencies.

#### 3. Scope of Work

##### **i. Conduct comprehensive flood-risk mapping in UNICEF at least one priority county and Montserrado**

- Identify flood-prone communities using vulnerability assessments, and historical flood-event data. Remote support from experts could complement this work if sufficient secondary data is available.

- Prioritize informal settlements and densely populated areas where flooding poses heightened risks to WASH infrastructure, water quality, and public health.
- Produce county-level flood-risk profiles showing exposure, vulnerability, and critical WASH assets at risk.

## **ii. Support the development of national, county- and community-level WASH Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Plans**

- Facilitate participatory planning workshops with national/ local WASH teams, authorities, NGOs, and communities.
- Integrate climate-risk information, early-warning triggers, emergency supply chain pathways, and clear WASH response protocols.
- Prepare County-specific WASH Emergency Preparedness and DRR Plans with local authorities and partners.
- Ensure alignment with the National WASH Emergency Preparedness and Response Strategy and UNICEF Core Commitments for Children (CCCs).

## **iii. Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and training manuals**

- Prepare context-specific SOPs covering emergency f WASH and floods preparedness and response.
- Create modular training packages, handouts, facilitator guides, and monitoring checklists to support ongoing partner capacity development.
- Ensure all materials integrate gender, disability inclusion, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and environmental safeguards.

## **iv. Provide training and technical support to implementing partners on WASH in Emergencies, DRR, and Climate Resilience**

- Conduct training sessions for national and county WASH officers, NGOs, and community-based groups on emergency WASH and flood response.
- Strengthen partner capacity on humanitarian standards, emergency coordination frameworks, and rapid WASH assessments.
- Support capacity building of partners and UNICEF staff on Community-Led Disaster Preparedness.
- Enable a relevant academic institution to internalize and sustainably replicate the training.

## **v. Produce a comprehensive final technical report**

- Document achievements, bottlenecks, and lessons learned.
- Provide actionable recommendations to strengthen long-term WASH resilience, climate adaptation, and emergency response capacity in high-risk counties
- Include maps, data visualizations, training results, and updated risk classifications.

#### **4. Deliverables**

- i. County Flood-Risk Profiles (Montserrado + at least one prioritized county):
  - a. Map pack (A3), exposed population & WASH assets tables, 2-page narrative (drivers/hotspots/typical impacts).
  - b. Methods note (sources, assumptions, limitations)
- ii. Early-Action SOPs (national + county annexes)
- iii. Training package (slides + facilitator notes + job-aids) and session report
- iv. Data & reproducibility bundle: GeoPackage, layer styles, and a README (assumptions/QA). (Keeps hand-over clean.)
- v. Final technical report with recommendations for long-term resilience.

#### **5. Duration**

Initial engagement: 3 months; possible extension up to 6 months.

#### **6. Coordination**

The partner will report to UNICEF Liberia WASH Specialist and coordinate with NDMA, NPHIL, MoH, EPA, MPW, and county-level WASH structures.

#### **7. Expected Impact**

- i. Improved coordination and county-level preparedness on DRR and WASH emergencies.
- ii. Rapid and effective WASH response during floods and climate-related disasters.
- iii. Strengthening community resilience to climate shocks notably floods.

#### **8. Minimum requirements**

##### **Education**

- An advanced university degree in one of the following fields is required: public health, water related studies, environmental sciences, health and hygiene behavior, geology or earth sciences, WASH-related engineering, disaster risk reduction and mitigation, biology or another relevant technical field is required.
- Additional relevant post-graduate courses that complement/supplement the main degree are highly desirable.
- A first University Degree in a relevant field combined with seven years of professional experience may be accepted in lieu of an Advanced University Degree.

##### **Experience**

- A minimum of 5 five years of progressively responsible professional work experience in WASH-related programmes planning and management in humanitarian and development contexts is required.
- Relevant experience at national and/or international levels in programme management in WASH related areas preferably with combination of WASH and climate change related programming within the UN system agency or organization is required.
- Demonstrated experience in applying results-based management required.
- Experience in areas related to development cooperation in climate change adaptation and mitigation, environment, engagement; and is advocacy and policy development related to climate action and socio-economic development is highly desirable.
- Experience working in the humanitarian coordination system is desirable.
- Experience in building partnerships with national governments towards strategy or policy development in areas related to environment, climate change, risk management etc. is highly desirable.
- Previous experience within UNICEF and/or other UN agencies in different contexts is an asset.

#### **Language**

- Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language or local language of the duty station is considered as an asset.

#### **Desirable:**

- Developing country work experience and/or familiarity with emergency.

**The UNICEF competencies required for this post are...**

- (1) Builds and maintains partnerships
  - (2) Demonstrates self-awareness and ethical awareness
  - (3) Drive to achieve results for impact
  - (4) Innovates and embraces change
  - (5) Manages ambiguity and complexity
  - (6) Thinks and acts strategically
  - (7) Works collaboratively with others
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