

PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION Title of Project/Programme: Building Climate-Resilient WASH Services in Southern Africa Countries: Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe Thematic Focal Area¹: Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems Type of Implementing Entity: Multilateral Implementing Entity Implementing Entity: World Health Organization (WHO) **Executing Entities:** Governments of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe **Amount of Financing Requested:** 13 671 000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent) **Project Formulation Grant Request:** Yes ⊠ No Amount of Requested financing for PFG: US\$20,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent) Letters of Endorsement (LOE) signed for all countries: Yes ⊠ No NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/applyfunding/designated-authorities Stage of Submission: ☐ This pre-concept has been submitted before ☐ This is the first submission ever of the pre-concept Please note that pre-concept should not exceed 5 pages (in addition to this first cover page)

Project/Programme Background and Context

¹ Thematic areas are: Food security; Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; Transboundary water management; Innovation in adaptation finance.

Climate change poses a significant threat to global water resources, with Africa particularly vulnerable to increased water stress and shortages. By 2050, cities may experience a drastic reduction in water availability, leading to a potential 6 percent decrease in GDP due to losses in agriculture, health, income, and property (World Bank, 2016). This is especially concerning for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa, where changing weather patterns, lower water levels, and extreme weather events exacerbate existing challenges. Countries such as Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe face persistent threats from cyclones and floods, which severely impact the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector. Limited access to clean water and sanitation in rural areas increases the risk of waterborne diseases. while inadequate infrastructure further heightens vulnerabilities. Climate change intensifies these challenges by disrupting water supplies, damaging infrastructure, and contaminating water sources, Additionally, institutional issues like poor coordination, insufficient funding, and weak governance hinder the effectiveness of WASH interventions, increasing socio-economic vulnerabilities and slowing progress toward sustainable development outcomes.

The health sectors of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are increasingly challenged by frequent cyclones, exacerbated by climate change. Cyclones such as Idai, Freddy and, most recently, Filipo in 2024, strike annually, causing massive destruction and health crises. These storms fuel the spread of deadly diseases such as cholera, malaria, typhoid and yellow fever, which thrive in the aftermath of flooding and poor sanitation. With 61% of the population lacking access to safe drinking water and 72% lacking adequate sanitation (World Bank, 2021), building resilient infrastructure is urgent to control outbreaks and prevent future disasters. Climate resilience is essential to protect public health in these vulnerable regions.

The cholera epidemic in Southern Africa remained a significant public health challenge throughout 2023, severely impacting vulnerable communities and overwhelming healthcare systems. By the end of the year, about 188,000 cholera cases, including 3,000 deaths, were reported across eight countries in the region. Six countries continued to experience active cholera transmission into 2024, namely the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, with outbreaks that began as early as October 2023. Malawi was the hardest hit, reporting the highest number of cases in the region, with 59,000 confirmed cases. 2 Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe followed, each reporting between 10,000 and 50,000 cases. Tanzania and South Africa had fewer than 2,000 cases combined. In Zambia, a sharp increase in cholera cases led to the delayed opening of schools until mid-February 2024, affecting about 4.3 million learners. In Zimbabwe, by April 2024, there were 33,004 reported cases and 703 deaths, with a case fatality rate of 2.1%. 3Mozambique grappled with its largest cholera outbreak in 25 years, with over 43,000 cases reported between September 2022 and January 2023. As of February 2024, the Mozambique had reported a total of 43,200 cases and 165 deaths.4

The proposed intervention will support national health sector priorities in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe by addressing public health challenges related to cholera outbreaks, improving access to clean water, and enhancing disaster preparedness. It also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 13 (Climate Action), by strengthening resilience to climate change and promoting public health. For example, the project addresses structural challenges in WASH infrastructure, bolstering capacity to withstand climate-induced disasters such as floods and cyclones.

In recent years, the WHO has supported Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Mali, Malawi, and Niger in designing and implementing Climate-Resilient Water Safety Plans (CR-WSP). These projects align with existing regional initiatives, such as the ZIMFUND intervention in Zimbabwe, which responded to cholera outbreaks by restoring water and sanitation infrastructure. Collaboration with other WASH initiatives ensures efficient resource use and prevents redundant efforts, enhancing the impact of these interventions.

² https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/southern-africa-cholera-situation-snapshot-28-january-2024

https://www.afro.who.int/sites/default/files/2024-07/WHO%20-%20Cholera%20March%20%20April%20Bulletin.pdf 4 https://reliefweb.int/report/mozambique/mozambique-cholera-update-cholera-cases-continue-lead-rainy-season-31jan-2024

Project/Programme Objectives:

Overall objective: To enhance climate change adaptation and resilience of communities through sustainable access to Climate Resilient WASH services in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Specific objectives

- 1. To strengthen Early Warning Systems for water-related disease outbreaks in the face of climate change and extreme weather events.
- 2. To strengthen Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and practices to reduce water related diseases transmission and improve community resilience to climate change impacts.
- 3. To strengthen health systems' capacity for water related diseases surveillance, case management, and outbreak response in the context of climate change.

Project/Programme Components and Financing:

| Project/Progra mme Component | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Countries | Amount (US\$) | |
|--|--|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Component 1: Setting up and operationalization of Early Warning Systems | Enhanced early warning systems for effective response to water-related disease outbreaks in the face of climate change and extreme weather events. | Mozambique and Zimbabwe. | Malawi, Mozambique | 2 200 000 | |
| | | stakeholders are trained on the utilization Early Warning Systems | Zimbabwe. | | |
| | | 1.4 Policy Reforms and Coordination Mechanisms Established for Effective Management of Climate- Informed Early Warning Systems (EWARS) at National and Sub-national Levels. | | | |
| Component 2: Installation and operationalizatio n of Climate- resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Infrastructure | Improved and climate-resilient WASH infrastructure, reducing vulnerability to climate-related risks like floods and landslides. | | | | |
| | | 2.2 Sustainable WASH technologies demonstrated | Malawi, | 7 200 000 | |
| | | 2.3 Catchment protection and flood control measures implemented. | Mozambique Zimbabwe. | | |
| | | 2.4 Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) surveys conducted with community awareness raised on Climate-resilient WASH practices. | | | |
| Component 3: Capacity building for Climate- resilient WASH | uilding stakeholders to | capacity of stakeholders | | Malawi, Mozambique | 1 810 220 |
| | | 3.2 Coordination mechanisms between health and WASH sectors strengthened | Zimbabwe. | | |

⁵ https://www.who.int/emergencies/surveillance/early-warning-alert-and-response-system-ewars

| stakeholders resilient V initiatives improving | monitor climate- resilient WASH initiatives, | 3.3 Regional Knowledge Products on Climate- Resilient WASH developed and disseminated | | |
|--|--|--|------------|------------|
| | improving disease surveillance and outbreak | 3.4 Regional policy paper on climate-resilient WASH produced and published | | |
| Total Project/Programme Cost (82%) | | | | 11 210 220 |
| Project/Programme Execution cost (9.5%) | | | | 1 298 745 |
| Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (8.5%) | | | 1 162 035 | |
| Total Amount of Financing Requested | | | 13 671 000 | |

Project Duration: 36 months

PART II: PROJECT/PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

This project is crucial in the context of the escalating climate change challenges faced by Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. As these countries grapple with frequent extreme weather events, such as cyclones, floods, and droughts, their vulnerability to water-related diseases, particularly cholera, has intensified. Climate change has exacerbated existing weaknesses in water, sanitation, and health systems, making the need for adaptive, resilient infrastructure even more pressing. By focusing on the development and implementation of climate-resilient WASH services, the project addresses both immediate public health threats and long-term environmental sustainability. Enhancing the resilience of communities in these countries will not only improve access to clean water and sanitation but also strengthen local capacities to prevent and manage waterborne diseases. This approach aligns with broader international efforts to address climate change, health security, and sustainable development, particularly through the integration of renewable, low-carbon technologies and nature-based solutions. Moreover, the project is designed to create tangible benefits for vulnerable groups, including women, children, and persons with disabilities, by improving health outcomes, reducing waterborne disease transmission, and generating new employment opportunities. In doing so, it will contribute significantly to the region's long-term socio-economic stability and climate resilience.

The project focuses on climate change adaptation by incorporating climate-resilient technologies and infrastructure in WASH, such as early warning systems for water-related disease outbreaks, flood control, and landslide management. It also strengthens health systems' capacity for surveillance and response to climate-related risks. The project will also promote low-carbon technologies with adaptation co-benefits through the utilization of sustainable, renewable materials, water-saving technologies, and nature-based solutions like catchment protection and ecosystem restoration. These efforts not only enhance climate resilience but also contribute to biodiversity conservation. Additionally, the project's emphasis on community engagement and capacity-building fosters a culture of environmental stewardship, encouraging sustainable behaviors in the long run.

The project is expected to have a multifaceted impact on poverty, employment, and wealth distribution. By improving access to clean water and sanitation, it will reduce healthcare costs, improve public health, and increase productivity. This will free up time for women and girls, allowing them to pursue education and income-generating activities. Employment opportunities will arise through infrastructure development, maintenance, and ecosystem restoration, benefiting local communities, particularly vulnerable groups such as youth and women. Temporary disruptions may occur during implementation, such as those related to construction or land acquisition. However, these challenges will be addressed through safeguards mechanisms, redress mechanisms, transparent communication, and community engagement. In the long term, the project is expected to significantly reduce waterborne diseases, improve community health, and strengthen resilience to climate change, ultimately enhancing quality of life and promoting more equitable wealth distribution.

The project targets selected districts in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, with an estimated 94.7 million beneficiaries. Direct beneficiaries include community members, especially vulnerable groups such as farmers, youth, students, persons with disabilities and women. Indirect beneficiaries include healthcare workers, local NGOs, community-based organizations, and relevant government agencies involved in water, sanitation, health, environment, infrastructure, and governance. The project aims to build climate resilience by improving access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices, reducing waterborne disease transmission, strengthening early warning systems, and enhancing disease surveillance and outbreak response capacities.

Participatory processes, including community consultations and stakeholder engagement, informed project design, ensuring alignment with national health and climate strategies. The involvement of WHO country offices and Ministries of Health facilitated effective communication and collaboration with national governments. The project presents both environmental and social implications. Adverse effects may include ecosystem disruption, increased energy consumption, and potential social issues related to land use. To mitigate these risks, WHO will adhere to internationally recognized Environmental and Social Safeguards, conducting thorough assessments to identify impacts and incorporating mitigation measures. These may include habitat conservation, energy-efficient practices, and resettlement programs where necessary, with associated costs factored into the project budget. Positively, the project will improve access to clean water, reduce waterborne diseases, and enhance ecosystem resilience through sustainable infrastructure, ecosystem restoration, and community-based natural resource management initiatives.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The World Health Organization (WHO) will take full responsibility for managing and overseeing the project, including financial, monitoring, and reporting functions, adhering to internationally accepted procurement principles, practices, and regulations. The Ministries of Health (MoH) in the target countries will serve as the Executing Entities, responsible for implementing the project at national and subnational levels under WHO's guidance and support. A Project Management Unit (PMU), jointly established by WHO and the MoHs, will include staff embedded in the MoHs and Regional Staff to execute the project. National and regional staff will coordinate the implementation, ensuring compliance with WHO policies and procedures for procurement and fund disbursement.

A Project Board/Steering Committee, co-chaired by WHO and the Ministry of Health, will meet annually at the regional level and biannually at the national level to review progress and make key decisions. The committee will include members from relevant ministries, UNICEF, OXFAM, WaterAid, UNOPS, and other key WASH sector stakeholders. A Technical Working Group (TWG) consisting of representatives from government, civil society, research institutions, and the private sector, will provide expert advice and recommendations to the committee on technical matters.

The governance structure, including the PMU, is designed to mitigate governance-related risks. The PMU, led by a Project Manager hosted within the MoH in the three countries and supported by a Project Coordinator at WHO country offices, will oversee day-to-day management, coordination, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation functions. This ensures accountability and transparency. The project will follow WHO procurement policies and procedures to ensure transparency and fairness in procurement, with regular audits conducted in accordance with WHO standards to prevent fraud and corruption. Financial information will be made available as needed to enhance accountability and integrity in the project's execution.

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government⁶

| MALAWI Mr. Robert Mwanamanga Director, Debt and Aid Management Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs | Date : 22 January 2025 |
|---|-------------------------------|
| P.O. Box 30049, Lilongwe 3, Malawi Tel: +265 999 814 796 rbmwanamanga@gmail.com; | |
| MOZAMBIQUE Ms. Emilia Dique Fumo Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Land and Environment Rua de Kuassende, 167 CP 2020, Maputo, Mozambique Tel: +258 846 978 463 / 9440 769 emiliadiquefumo@gmail.com; | Date: 19 December 2024 |
| ZIMBABWE Mr. Washington Zhakata Director, Climate Change Management Department Ministry of Environment, Water, & Climate 11th Floor, Kaguvi Building, 11th Floor, Kaguvi Building, Harare, Zimbabwe Tel: +263 4 701681/3 Climatechange@environment.gov.zw; washingtonzhakata@gmail.com; | Date: 21 November 2024 |

B. Implementing Entity certification

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans in the Republics of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.

Jeremiah MUSHOSHO, Team Lead – Climate Change, Health and Environment (WHO AFRO)

DEPT -

Implementing Entity Coordinator

VILLALOBOS PRATS, Elena villalobose@who.int

Date: 31 December 2024 Tel. and email: mushoshoj@who.int

Project Contact Person: Dr. Jeremiah MUSHOSHO, Team Lead – Climate Change, Health and Environment (WHO

AFRO)

Tel. And Email: mushoshoj@who.int , Tel +242 06 419 3924 or +263 772 326 001

Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

Telephone: 01 789 355 Telefax: 01 789 173

Telex: 44407

Email: finance@finance.gov.ntw



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, EO BOX 30049, CAPITAL CITY, LILONGWE 3.

Ref. No. FIN/DAD/P/5/1/

22nd January, 2025

The Adaptation Fund Board

C/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat | Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org

Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: ENDORSEMENT FOR THE PROJECT TITLED "BUILDING CLIMATE-RESILIENT WASH SERVICES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA".

in my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Malawi, I confirm that the above regional project proposal titled "Building Climate-Resilient WASH Services in Southern Africa" is in accordance with the Government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Malawi.

Accordingly. I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the Project will be implemented by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa and executed by the Ministry of Health of Malawi and the Ministries of Health from Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Yours Sincerely,

Robert Mwananianga

Director, Debt and Ald Management

For: SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

Telephone: 01 789 355 Telefax: 01 789 173

Telex: 44407

Email:secmof@finance.gov.mw



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS P.O. BOX 30049, CAPITAL CITY, LILONGWE 3. MALAWI

Ref. No. FIN/DAD/5/1/7/NC

16 June 2024

The Adaptation Fund 1818H Street, NW, MSN 7N-700 Washington, DC 20433, USA

Dear Adaptation Fund Secretariat,

RE: <u>ENDORSEMENT FOR THE PROJECT TITLED "BUILDING CLIMATE-RESILIENT WASH SERVICES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA".</u>

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Malawi, I confirm that the above regional project proposal titled "Building Climate-Resilient WASH Services in Southern Africa" is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Malawi.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa and executed by the Ministry of Health of Malawi and the Ministries of Health from Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. Nations Msowoya

DIRECTOR

FOR: SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY



Rer. 212/SP/MTA /2024

Date: December, 2034

From: Ms. Emilia Dique Fumo

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Land and Environment Rua de Kuassende, 167 CP 2020, Maputo, Mozambique

Tel: +258 846 978 463 / 9440 769 emiliadiqueftano@email.com:

To: The Adaptation Fund Board

e/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org

Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Dear Sir, Madam,

RE: ENDORSEMENT FOR THE PROJECT TITLED "BUILDING CLIMATE-RESILIENT WASH SERVICES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA".

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Mozambique, I confirm that the above regional project proposal titled "Building Climate-Resillent WASH Services in Southern Africa" is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Mozambique.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa and executed by the Ministry of Health of Mozambique and the Ministries of Health from Malawi and Zimbaliwe.

Sinceret

Ms. Emilia Dique Fumo Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Land and Engironment

All communications should be addressed to

"The Secretary for Environment, Climate, Tourism and Wildlife

Telephone: 701691/2

Telegraphic address: "TOURISMT"

Fax: 702054



ZIMBABWE

Secretary for Environment, Climate and Wildlife

11th Floor, Kaguvi Building

Corner 4th and Contral Avenue

Harare

ZIMBABWE

21 November 2024

The Adaptation Fund Board

c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org

Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Dear Sir, Madam,

RE: ENDORSEMENT FOR THE PROJECT TITLED "BUILDING CLIMATE-RESILIENT WASH SERVICES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA".

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Zimbabwe, I confirm that the above regional project proposal titled "Building Climate-Resilient WASH Services in Southern Africa" is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Zimbabwe.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa and executed by the Ministry of Health of Zimbabwe and the Ministries of Health from Malawi and Mozambique.

Sincerely,

Mr. Washington Zhakata

Director, Climate Change Management Department Nationally Designated Authority Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife



Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: 2nd February 2025

Adaptation Fund Project ID:

Country/ies: Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

Title of Project/Programme: Building Climate-Resilient WASH Services in Southern Africa

Type of IE (NIE/MIE): Multilateral Implementing Entity Implementing Entity: World Health Organization

Executing Entity/ies: World Health Organization and Ministries of Health in Malawi,

Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

| Start date of PFG | 01 March 2025 |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Completion date of PFG | 30 May 2025 |

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)

Describe the PFG activities and justifications:

| List of Proposed Project Preparation | Output of the PFG Activities | USD Amount | |
|--|---|------------|--|
| Activities | | | |
| Three (3) Country Missions (Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe) to conduct stakeholder consultation meetings | Full Concept Note with agreed project sites, outputs and outcomes, implementation arrangements and project development milestones. \$20,000 | | |
| | | \$20,000 | |
| Total Project Formulation Grant | | · | |

C. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board's procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund's criteria for project identification and formulation

| Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name | Signature | Date (Month, day, year) | Project Contact Person | Telephone | Email Address |
|--|-----------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Jeremiah MUSHOSHO | gyer | February 6 th 2025 | Jeremiah Mushosho | +242067371271 | mushoshoj@who.int |