



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Pre-Concept for a Regional Project

Countries/Region: Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe

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

Thematic focal area: Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems

Implementing Entity: World Health Organization (WHO)

Executing Entities: Governments of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe

AF Project ID: AF00000419

IE Project ID:

Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): 13,890,220

Reviewer and contact person: Timileyin Tobi Oyebade

Co-reviewer(s):

IE Contact Person(s): Ms. Elena Villalobos Prats

Technical Summary

The project “Building Climate-Resilient WASH Services in Southern Africa aims to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience of communities through sustainable access to Climate Resilient WASH services in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. This will be done through the three components below:

Component 1: Setting up and operationalization of Early Warning Systems (US\$ 2,200,000);

Component 2: Installation and operationalization of Climate resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Infrastructure (US\$ 7,600,000);

Component 3: Capacity building for Climate resilient WASH among key stakeholders (US\$ 1,810,220).

Requested financing overview:

Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 1,200,000

Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 12,810,220

Implementing Fee: USD 1,080,000

Financing Requested: USD 13,890,220

	<p>The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant and/or project formulation assistance grant of US\$ 20,000.</p> <p>The initial technical review raises some issues, such as the cost-effectiveness of the solution, environmental risks, and stakeholder participation, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.</p> <p>This second technical review finds that most of the issues raised related to PFG request, justification and cost-effectiveness etc. in the initial technical review remains un-addressed in the proposal.</p>
Date	May 2, 2025.

Review Criteria	Questions	First Review Comments February 12, 2025	Second Review Comments May 2, 2025
Country Eligibility	1. Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol and/or the Paris Agreement?	Yes.	-
	2. Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	Yes. <i>As per page 2: The health sectors of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are increasingly challenged by frequent Cyclones, floods, and droughts, exacerbated by climate change.</i>	-
Project Eligibility	1. Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?	Yes. As per the Endorsement letters dated 22nd January 2025, 19th December 2024 and 21st November 2024 respectively	-

	<p>2. Has the pre-concept provided necessary information on the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve, including both the regional and the country perspective?</p>	<p>Yes. However, additional information is required. As per page 4, 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.</p> <p>CR 1: The proposed intervention could be strengthened by including Zambia, considering an equally high rate of water-borne disease conditions exacerbated by climate conditions in the region. Please clarify the rationale behind the country selection.</p>	<p>Not Cleared.</p> <p>CR1: Further clarification has been provided with some tangible explanation on the selection of project location (countries). However, please, justify how these evident health challenges within the excluded countries would not undermine the impact of this project considering potential risks of disease spread. Please briefly include this justification <u>in the proposal</u> Tracked Change and Clean versions as well.</p> <p>After careful consideration of your comments and further consultation with both the countries already included in the proposal and with Zambia, we are pleased to inform you that Zambia will now be included in the project. This addition aims to strengthen the overall impact and sustainability of the initiative across the affected countries. Zambia's specific context and its alignment with the project objectives have been incorporated directly into the revised proposal.</p>
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	3. Have the project/programme objectives, components and financing been clearly explained?	Yes. As per pages 3 – 4, the proposal highlights the key components of the project and the expected outputs and outcomes.	-
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	<p>4. Has the project/programme been justified in terms of how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it supports concrete adaptation actions? - it builds added value through the regional approach? - it promotes new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation? - it is cost-effective? - it is consistent with applicable strategies and plans? - it incorporates learning and knowledge management? - it will be developed through a consultative process with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund? - it will take into account sustainability? 	<p>Yes. However, additional information is required.</p> <p>The proposal highlights contributions to the thematic area Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning Systems with outlined consultative procedure in the PFG request.</p> <p>CAR 1: Briefly highlight the cost-effectiveness of the proposed solution against existing alternatives, especially, given the potential environmental risks anticipated.</p>	<p>CAR1: Not Cleared</p> <p>Kindly briefly include this clarification from the Review Sheet in the tracked change and Clean version of <u>the Proposal</u>.</p> <p>Additional clarification has been provided on gap analysis and adoption of existing local solutions as well as evidence-based approaches with conservation effectively considered. However more details would be required on these at the Concept Note Stage including Risk Assessments.</p> <p>Thank you for the valuable feedback. We acknowledge the need to further elaborate on the cost-effectiveness of the proposed interventions, particularly in the context of the potential environmental risks identified.</p> <p>We have updated the proposal to provide a clearer justification of the cost-effectiveness of the selected approach, highlighting the following key elements:</p> <p>Use of Local Resources and Expertise: The majority of</p>
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			<p>project activities will be implemented at the national level using local labor, knowledge, and systems. External expertise will be limited to specific cases such as the introduction of new technologies and capacity strengthening, thereby minimizing costs and promoting local ownership and sustainability.</p> <p>Climate-Smart, Climate-Resilient Technologies: All technologies to be adopted through the project will be climate-smart and climate-resilient, ensuring their suitability for current and future climate conditions and enhancing the adaptive capacity of WASH and health systems in participating countries.</p> <p>Evidence-Based and Environmentally Sound Approaches: A comprehensive gap analysis will guide the selection of interventions. Technical options will be benchmarked against solutions outlined in the WHO and UN agencies' Compendium of Environmentally Sound Health Technologies, ensuring alignment with best practices</p>
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			<p>and promoting scalable, low-risk solutions.</p> <p>Lower Cost Per Beneficiary: By leveraging local solutions, shared regional systems, and efficient implementation mechanisms, the project is expected to achieve a lower cost per beneficiary compared to existing standalone or country-specific alternatives.</p> <p>Regional Collaboration and Economies of Scale: The project promotes cross-country learning and shared innovation through a regional innovation lab model. This will foster replication of successful approaches and reduce duplication, enhancing overall cost-effectiveness.</p> <p>Knowledge Management and Policy Integration: Regional knowledge hubs, communities of practice, and joint planning platforms will strengthen institutional learning and coordination. Shared monitoring tools and harmonized early warning systems will improve climate-health responses at reduced operational costs.</p>
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			<p>Environmental and Social Safeguards: The project will adhere to strict environmental and social safeguard standards throughout implementation, mitigating potential environmental risks.</p> <p>Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM): In compliance with the Environmental, Social, and Gender Policies of the Adaptation Fund, the project will implement a robust GRM. This will ensure that individuals or communities affected by project activities have access to a transparent, fair, and effective process to raise and resolve complaints related to environmental, social, or gender harms.</p> <p>These clarifications have been reflected in both the clean and tracked versions of the proposal. We also acknowledge that further detail, including comparative analysis with alternative options and environmental risk assessments, will be provided at the Concept Note stage.</p>
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	<p>5. Does the pre-concept briefly explain which organizations would be involved in the proposed regional project/programme at the regional and national/sub-national level, and how coordination would be arranged? Does it explain how national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs) would be involved as partners in the project?</p>	<p>Yes As per page 5, National and regional staff will coordinate the implementation. The committee will include members from relevant ministries, UNICEF, OXFAM, WaterAid, UNOPS, and other key WASH sector stakeholders.</p> <p>CR 2: Clarification would be appreciated on the role of the National Implementing Entities (e.g. EMA, SANBI) in the consultative process and implementation.</p>	<p>CR2: Not Cleared</p> <p>Please reflect this clarification <u>in the proposal</u> Tracked- change and Clean version.</p> <p>A Project Board/Steering Committee, co-chaired by WHO and the respective Ministries of Health, will convene annually at the regional level and biannually at the national level to review progress and make key strategic decisions. The committee will comprise representatives from relevant government ministries, all National Designated Authorities (NDAs), National Implementing Entities (NIEs), as well as key partners including UNICEF, Oxfam, WaterAid, UNOPS, and other stakeholders in the WASH sector. A Technical Working Group (TWG), consisting of experts from government, civil society, research institutions, and the private sector, will provide technical guidance and recommendations to the committee. The project will ensure the active engagement of NDAs and National Implementing Entities (NIEs), such as the Environmental Management Agency of</p>
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			<p>Zimbabwe (EMA), throughout the design, implementation, and monitoring phases. These entities will play a central role in coordinating national climate adaptation efforts and ensuring alignment with national climate strategies and priorities. Their responsibilities will include offering policy guidance, ensuring regulatory compliance, avoiding duplication of efforts, and helping identify key stakeholders—such as local communities and private sector actors—to ensure that interventions are contextually appropriate and responsive to national adaptation needs. This inclusive governance structure will enhance alignment with national climate frameworks, promote meaningful participation of local governments in decision-making, and support effective monitoring, reporting, and compliance with the Adaptation Fund's operational and fiduciary requirements.</p>
Resource Availability	6. Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the programme for regional projects/programmes?	Yes.	-

	<p>7. Are the administrative costs (Implementing Entity Management Fee and Project/ Programme Execution Costs) at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme for implementing entity (IE) fees and at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme cost for the execution costs?</p>	<p>Partly:</p> <p>The Project Formulation Grant of US\$ 20,000 is appropriate for the Grant size and the number of countries.</p> <p>The Implementing Entity Management is at 9.29% but Executing Cost is at 10.38% i.e. above 10% of the Grant.</p> <p>CAR 2: Kindly revise Execution Costs to 10% of the Total Project Cost. Please consider using the Fees Calculator [https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/IE-and-EE-fees-Calculations-1.xlsx]</p> <p>CR3: Please clarify if WHO and World Health Organization and Ministries of Health in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe will all execute the PFG. If not, please only least on the PFG form the applicable executing entity(ies).</p> <p>CR4: Please amend the PFG budget to specify the IE fees as required by the PFG template available at Request for Project Formulation Grant (PFG) (57 kB, DOC).</p>	<p>CAR 2: Cleared.</p> <p>As per revised Execution Costs in the Project Components and Financing. Page 3</p> <p>CR3: Not Cleared.</p> <p>Please re-submit the PFG form reflecting the changes requested.</p> <p>CR4: Not Cleared.</p> <p>Please re-submit the PFG form reflecting the changes requested.</p> <p>The Implementing Entity (IE) management costs have been adjusted to align with the approved ceiling of below 10% of the grant amount. Execution costs have been revised to below 10% of the total project cost. The Project Formulation Grant (PFG) will be implemented solely by WHO, and all relevant changes and clarifications have been incorporated and highlighted in the PFG request form. The PFG budget has also been revised to clearly specify the IE fees, in accordance with the requirements of the PFG template.</p>
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Eligibility of IE	8. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	Yes. Accreditation Expiration Date: 24 November 2028	-
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ADAPTATION FUND

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, Zambia, 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, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Amount of Financing Requested: 18 644 000~~18 171 000~~ (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/apply-funding/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, [Zambia](#) 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, [Zambia](#), 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%.³ Mozambique 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 Beyond cholera, [Zambia](#) along with the other 3 countries also contends with a burden of other climate-sensitive waterborne diseases such as typhoid and dysentery, which are exacerbated by compromised WASH conditions following climate shocks. The existing WASH infrastructure in these countries particularly in vulnerable communities, is not adequately designed to withstand these increasingly frequent and intense climate events, leading to recurrent breakdowns and service interruptions. This situation places immense strain on the national health system, diverting resources from routine healthcare to emergency response.

The proposed intervention will support national health sector priorities in Malawi, Mozambique, [Zambia](#), and Zimbabwe by addressing public health challenges related to cholera outbreaks, improving access to clean water, establishing of climate resilient WASH infrastructure and technologies, 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.

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

³ <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-31-jan-2024>

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.

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, Zambia 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/Programme 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.	1.1 Vulnerability and adaptation assessments conducted in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe to inform Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS) ⁵ and WASH Infrastructure design	Malawi, Mozambique, <u>Zambia</u> , and Zimbabwe.	3 200 000 <u>950 986</u>
		1.2 EWARS established and operationalized in Malawi, Mozambique, <u>Zambia</u> , and Zimbabwe.		
		1.3 Government officials, Communities and relevant stakeholders are trained on the utilization Early Warning Systems		
		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 operationalization 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.	2.1 Climate-resilient WASH infrastructure installed and operationalized.	Malawi, Mozambique, <u>Zambia</u> , and Zimbabwe.	10 800 000 <u>10 800 000</u>
		2.2 Sustainable WASH technologies demonstrated		
		2.3 Catchment protection and flood control measures implemented.		
		2.4 Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) surveys conducted with community awareness raised on Climate-resilient WASH practices.		

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

Component 3: Capacity building for Climate- resilient WASH among key stakeholders	Strengthened capacity of stakeholders to plan, design, implement, and monitor climate- resilient WASH initiatives, improving disease surveillance and outbreak	3.1 Capacity-building programs conducted for stakeholders	Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.	1 800 000
		3.2 Coordination mechanisms between health and WASH sectors strengthened		
		3.3 Regional Knowledge Products on Climate- Resilient WASH developed and disseminated		
		3.4 Regional policy paper on climate-resilient WASH produced and published		
Total Project/Programme Cost				158000001
Project/Programme Execution cost (9.5%)				1 632
Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (8.5%)				1 460
Total Amount of Financing Requested				18 644

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, Zambia, 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 proposed intervention emphasizes cost-effectiveness by prioritizing local capacity, knowledge, and resources while leveraging its regional nature. Most project activities will be implemented at the country level using local labor, with limited reliance on external experts—only where necessary for the adoption of new technologies and the training of national counterparts. This approach reduces implementation costs while building long-term national expertise and ownership. Local knowledge and context-specific solutions will be prioritized throughout all project phases. A comprehensive gap analysis will guide the identification of needs, and selected technical approaches will be benchmarked against best practices outlined in the

WHO and UN agencies' Compendium of Environmentally Sound Health Technologies (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240095380>). All technologies adopted will be climate-smart and climate-resilient, ensuring they are suitable for current and projected climate conditions, and enhance the long-term adaptability of WASH systems and health responses.

The project is expected to achieve a lower cost per beneficiary compared to existing alternatives, thanks to its focus on locally appropriate, scalable solutions, efficient use of resources, and value created through regional collaboration. Shared tools, knowledge platforms, and systems will generate further savings through economies of scale and reduced duplication.

A regional innovation lab model will facilitate the generation, testing, and adaptation of solutions across countries, promoting cross-country learning and the replication of effective approaches. This collaborative model enhances efficiency and ensures interventions are tested and tailored to diverse contexts. The project also strengthens regional cooperation and knowledge management, including:

- Harmonized early warning systems and information-sharing mechanisms across borders;
- Regional knowledge hubs and communities of practice;
- Joint planning platforms and shared monitoring tools;
- Strengthened regional policy dialogue and coordination mechanisms.

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. To manage potential environmental and social risks, the project will adhere to strict environmental safeguards and will implement strict and internationally recognized social and environmental safeguards standards in line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental, Social, and Gender Policies. A Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be established to provide affected individuals and communities with an accessible, transparent, fair, and effective process for addressing complaints related to environmental, social, or gender harms associated with project activities. 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, Zambia, 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 and Adaptation Fund policies and procedures for procurement and fund disbursement.

A Project Board/Steering Committee, co-chaired by WHO and the respective Ministries of Health, will convene annually at the regional level and biannually at the national level to review progress and make key strategic decisions. The committee will comprise representatives from relevant government ministries, all National Designated Authorities (NDAs), National Implementing Entities (NIEs), as well as key partners including UNICEF, Oxfam, WaterAid, UNOPS, and other stakeholders in the WASH sector. A Technical Working Group (TWG), consisting of experts from government, civil society, research institutions, and the private sector, will provide technical guidance and recommendations to the committee. The project will ensure the active engagement of NDAs and National Implementing Entities (NIEs), such as the Environmental Management Agency of Zimbabwe (EMA), throughout the design, implementation, and monitoring phases. These entities will play a central role in coordinating national climate adaptation efforts and ensuring alignment with national climate strategies and priorities. Their responsibilities will include offering policy guidance, ensuring regulatory compliance, avoiding duplication of efforts, and helping identify key stakeholders—such as local communities and private sector actors—to ensure that interventions are contextually appropriate and responsive to national adaptation needs. 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. This inclusive governance structure will enhance alignment with national climate frameworks, promote meaningful participation of local governments in decision-making, and support effective monitoring, reporting, and compliance with the Adaptation Fund's operational and fiduciary requirements.

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

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government⁶

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.


MALAWI Mr. Robert Mwanamanga Director, Debt and Aid Management Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs P.O. Box 30049, Lilongwe 3, Malawi Tel: +265 999 814 796 rbrmwanamanga@gmail.com ;	Date : 22 January 2025
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
ZAMBIA Mr. Billy Katontoka National Coordinator, Ministry of Green Economy and Environment Corner of Nationalist and John Mbita Road, Opposite Ridgeway Campus, P.O. Box 50555, 10101 Lusaka, Zambia Tel: +260 211 252625 / +260 97 536627 4 Email: bBilly.katontoka@mgee.gov.zm	Date: 2 June 2025
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

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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, <u>commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund</u> 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)  Implementing Entity Coordinator VILLALOBOS PRATS, Elena villalobose@who.int	
Date: 31 December 2024	Tel. and email: mushoshoi@who.int
Project Contact Person: Dr. Jeremiah MUSHOSHO, Team Lead – Climate Change, Health and Environment (WHO AFRO)	
Tel. And Email: mushoshoi@who.int , Tel +242 06 419 3924 or +263 772 326 001	

Telephone: 01 789 355
Telefax: 01 789 173
Telex: 44407
Email: finance@finance.gov.mw



MINISTRY OF FINANCE
AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,
P.O. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Mwanamanga'.

Robert Mwanamanga
Director, Debt and Aid Management
For: **SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY**



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
MINISTRY OF LAND AND ENVIRONMENT
PERMANENT SECRETARY OFFICE

Ref. 222/SP/MTA /2024

Date: 19 December, 2024

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
emiliadiquefumo@gmail.com;

To: **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 Mozambique, 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 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 Zimbabwe.

Sincerely,


Ms. Emilia Dique Fumo
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Land and Environment



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

In reply please quote

No.
NDA/71/21/9

MINISTRY OF GREEN ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

Corner of John Mbita & Nationalist Road
P.O BOX 30147
Lusaka-Zambia

2nd June, 2025

The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
1818 H Street NW
MSN N7-700
Washington, D.C., 20433
United States of America

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

In my capacity as the Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in the Republic of Zambia, 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 Zambia.

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 the Republic of Zambia.

Faithfully,

Billy Katontoka (Mr.)

NATIONAL COORDINATOR - NATIONAL DESIGNATED AUTHORITY
MINISTRY OF GREEN ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

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 Central 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr. Washington Zhakata'.

Mr. Washington Zhakata

Director, Climate Change Management Department

Nationally Designated Authority

Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife



Revised PFG Submission Form¹ (additions in red)

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: 3 June 2025

Adaptation Fund Project ID: AF00000419

Country/ies: Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia

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

Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): Multilateral Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: World Health Organization (WHO)

Executing Entity/ies:

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	01 October 2025
Completion date of PFG	30 March 2026

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget note²
Four (4) Country Missions to conduct stakeholder consultation meetings and Concept note drafting.	Agreed project outputs and outcomes and project development milestones.	US\$ 20,000	Cost for 4 missions to the 4 countries by WHO. These include flights, accommodation and meeting expenses.
Total Project Formulation Grant		US\$ 20,000	

Please describe below each of the PFG activities and provide justifications for their need and for the amount of funding required:

The proposed country missions are essential to ensure a participatory and inclusive approach to project design, consistent with the Adaptation Fund's requirements. These missions will facilitate

¹ As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.

² The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break-down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

in-depth stakeholder consultations in each of the four participating countries, enabling the identification of country-specific climate vulnerabilities, adaptation priorities, and alignment with national strategies. The consultations will also ensure the meaningful involvement of vulnerable groups, including women and marginalized communities, and will contribute to the integration of gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches. The missions will support the co-development of the project concept note through joint planning sessions with national counterparts, NDAs, NIEs and key sector stakeholders. The requested funding of US\$ 20,000 is a cost-efficient investment to cover essential travel, accommodation, and meeting costs for WHO personnel, ensuring high-quality and contextually relevant project design with strong national ownership.

For LLA Projects only:

If requesting additional funding for LLA projects to enable devolving decision making to the local level, please specify the activities that would directly serve to enable devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level and enable local actors to make informed decisions on how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, and implemented:

Please provide justifications for their need and for the amount of additional funding required:

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
VILLALOBOS PRATS, Elena villalobose@who.int		3 June 2025	Dr. Jeremiah Mushosho	+263772326001	mushoshoj@who.int