Climate Resilient WASH and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR)

Eligibility Criteria

This document has been prepared for The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as part of work to prepare the GCF Funding Proposal Climate Resilient WASH and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR).

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This annex provides a summary of the selection criteria for beneficiaries, sites, and eligibility for the proposed interventions under the Climate Resilient WASH and Disaster Management services for vulnerable children in the Central African Republic (CRDM-CAR). The purpose of this annex is to streamline project implementation by consolidating all necessary criteria into one document, ensuring consistency, efficiency, and compliance with GCF requirements. The following eligibility criteria work in addition to the provisions made in Annex 6 – ESMF, which takes precedence in the case of conflict.

This annex serves as a reference for eligibility per activity.

Output	Activity	Sub-Activity	Eligibility Criteria
Outcome 1: Strengthened national policies, systems, and institutional capacity for climate-resilient WASH (CR-WASH) services, water resources management (WRM), and climate disaster risk reduction (DRR)			
1.1 Climate change adaptation is integrated into national policies and regulations, and funding for adaptation is mobilized	1.1.1 Update/develop key national policies, strategies, technical standards and regulations	1.1.1.1 Developing, revising, and rolling out technical standards and programming guidelines for climate-resilient WASH	Participants (Validation Workshops): (i) Technical staff formally appointed from DGRH, ANEA, Ministry of Environment (ii) Minimum 30% female participation in consultation panels. (iii) Representation from active WASH NGOs with presence in target prefectures.
		1.1.1.2 Integrating the experience and lessons learned from the project into the next iteration of policies, strategies, and programs for the post-SDG era	Evidence Sources: (i) Data must be generated from project MEL systems (Output 1.2), Sustainability Checks, or verified national statistics (ICASEES). Stakeholder Participants: (ii) Members of the National Climate Coordination Committee and field staff involved in Component 2. (iii) Commitment to champion validated policies within respective ministries.
	1.1.2 Promote increased investment in adaptation and CR-WASH	1.1.2.1 Developing a CR-WASH funding needs assessment, strategy, and monitoring mechanism for CAR	Government Focal Points: (i) Budget officers from MEDHR and Ministry of Finance with mandates for sector investment planning. Data Eligibility: (ii) Financial data must be disaggregated by sub-sector and source (public, donor, household).
		1.1.2.2 Promoting the project at regional and global levels to raise visibility and mobilize additional funding	Participants: (i) Senior government officials (Ministerial/Director level) with decision-making authority. (ii) Commitment to submit a mission report and dissemination plan post-event. (iii) Technical experts capable of presenting detailed project innovation case studies.
1.2 Evidence based WASH, WRM, DRR, and EWS are informed by improved planning, climate and WASH monitoring information, MEL framework, data integration, and institutionalization of data-related mandates	1.2.1 Support government to strengthen climate-resilient DRR and water planning	1.2.1.1 Updating/specifying needs and developing/updating sub-national DRR and WRM plans	Geographic Scope: (i) Interventions must strictly target the three priority prefectures: Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga. Local Committees: (ii) Existing or newly formed Prefectural DRR Committees including local admin, civil society, women's groups, and youth. Data Inputs: (iii) Must utilize data from the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) and updated hydrogeological studies.
	1.2.2 Adapt and strengthen sectoral and intersectoral MEL	1.2.2.1 Developing a monitoring and reporting system and related capacities for the WASH sector	Institutional Unit: (i) The M&E Unit within DGRH or ANEA. Personnel: (ii) Staff with explicit IT/Data management responsibilities and willingness to adopt digital tools (e.g., mWater, Kobo). Indicators: (iii) Must align with GCF Integrated Results Management Framework (IRMF) and national SDG frameworks.

		1.2.2.2 Carrying out biennial WASH resilience and sustainability checks for the WASH sector in CAR	Independent Monitors: (i) Third-party firms with no conflict of interest (not involved in construction/design). (ii) Proven experience in WASH sustainability audits. Sampling Frame: (iii) Statistically representative sample of sites, stratified by technology (solar/manual) and zone.
		1.2.2.3 Supporting the development and integration of CR-WASH and WRM indicators for cross-sectoral climate adaptation monitoring	Stakeholders: (i) Relevant staff from line ministries DGRH, ANEA, (ii) Systems must be capable of interoperability or data exchange.
		1.2.2.4 Generating, sharing, and using knowledge for sector-wide and intersectoral learning and improved adaptation effectiveness	Membership: (i) WASH professionals, researchers (Univ. of Bangui), government staff, NGO practitioners. Content: (ii) Knowledge products must be evidence-based and adapted to the CAR context.
	1.2.3 Improve hydrological data systems and impact scenarios	1.2.3.1 Strengthening hydrometeorological-related disaster risk knowledge and forecasting through studies, equipment, and improved data collection and monitoring, with focus on the three target prefectures of Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Ouham	Site Selection: (i) Critical catchment areas of the Chari Basin (Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, Vakaga). (ii) Secure land tenure (public land preferred) with long-term access. (iii) Technical viability for telemetry (GSM/Satellite) and security from vandalism. (iv) Non-duplication of existing functional stations (verified via gap analysis).
		1.2.3.2 Establishing and institutionalizing responsibilities and processes for data flow and integration	Institutions: (i) Directorate of Meteorology (DGMN), DGRH, Civil Protection (DGPC). Personnel: (ii) Staff formally appointed to relevant roles. (iii) Commitment to adhere to defined data sharing SOPs and inter-ministerial MoUs.
		1.2.3.3 Contributing to the development and rollout of an effective ‘last mile’ EWS communication strategy	Channels: (i) Community radios with verified reach in target zones. (ii) Mobile network operators with local coverage. Focal Points: (iii) Trusted community members literate in local preferred languages/dialects. (iv) Specific inclusion of women and youth town criers.
		1.2.3.4 Awareness raising, contingency planning, and preparedness measures	Target Communities: (i) Identified as "High Risk" in CCRA and sub-national DRR plans. (ii) Located in flood/drought hotspots. Participants: (iii) Minimum 50% female participation in awareness sessions.
		1.2.3.5 Contributing to the development and implementation of a CIEWS capacity building, operation and maintenance, and advocacy plan for increased sustainability	Trainees: (i) Technicians from DGMN/DGRH responsible for maintenance. (ii) Technical background in electronics/meteorology. (iii) Signed agreement to remain in service for min. 2 years post-training.
1.3 Institutional capacity and governance for CR-WASH and climate	1.3.1 Strengthen national institutional capacities on climate	1.3.1.1 Developing a capacity-building needs assessment and plan for key stakeholders	Scope: (i) Covers WASH, WRM, Environment, Health, and DRR sectors. (ii) Focus on climate adaptation gaps.

adaptation are strengthened		1.3.1.2 Implementing the first phase of the capacity-building plan	Trainees (National/Decentralized): (i) Civil servants in key directorates (DGRH, ANEA, DGMN) with roles linked to climate/WASH. (ii) Regional directors in target prefectures. (iii) Minimum 30% women in all training cohorts.
		1.3.1.3 Updating the capacity-building plan and rolling out the second phase (from 2030)	Trigger: (i) Evaluation of Phase 1 effectiveness based on the relevant changes Participants: (ii) New staff (turnover replacement) or advanced training for Phase 1 graduates.
	1.3.2 Improve cross-sectoral governance mechanisms	1.3.2.1 Revitalizing the National Climate Coordination committee and the WASH development partners' coordination platform	Entities: (i) National Climate Coordination Committee & WASH Platform. (ii) Formal mandate to coordinate climate/WASH activities. (iii) Written commitment to hold quarterly coordination meetings.
		1.3.2.2 Institutionalizing an annual WASH and WRM sector review	Content Criteria: (i) Must include specific session on climate resilience progress. (ii) Review of MEL framework indicators. (iii) Inclusion of field representatives from Component 2 communities.
Outcome 2: Climate-resilient rural WASH services, urban drainage infrastructure, WRM, and related local capacities adapted and scaled up to reduce climate and health risks in vulnerable communities			
2.1 CR-WASH services are accessible and used in rural, flood- and drought-prone areas of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga	2.1.1 Conduct hydrogeological studies	2.1.1.1 Conducting detailed hydrogeological field assessments in the project areas in the Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Ouham prefectures	Target Zones: (i) High-potential zones in Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Ouham. (ii) Areas with water scarcity or quality issues. Assessments will include: • Field mapping of proposed areas to identify existing boreholes (cross-checked with the national database), water features, and visible geological structures. The shortlist of potential areas for investigation will be based on the broader hydrogeological assessments conducted under Activities 1.2.1 and 1.2.3. • Identification of high-yield boreholes in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities already equipped with handpumps that could be upgraded with solar pumping systems. • Basic field water testing (e.g., conductivity and pH) by hydrogeological experts and the National Water Resource Directorate. • Community and local government consultations to gather information on water sources, experiences with past drilling, borehole functionality, and testimonies on past climate-related events and impacts. • Risk assessments of existing boreholes, including exposure to climate hazards, competing abstractions, and land use pressures.
		2.1.1.2 Conducting pumping tests and camera inspections on existing boreholes identified as viable	Boreholes: (i) Non-functional or low-performing units suitable for rehab. (ii) Structural integrity confirmed via downhole camera. (iii) Recharge rate >5 m³/h confirmed via step-drawdown test (for solarization).
		2.1.1.3 Analysing satellite imagery of the target areas	Partners: (i) Collaboration with EU-JRC or specialized institutes. Focus Areas: (ii) Zones with complex hydrogeology.
		2.1.1.4 Undertaking consultations with local water government staff and the communities and identifying priority climate-resilient water supply intervention sites	Communities: (i) Validated hydrogeological potential. (ii) Distance to water >30 mins or unsafe source. (iii) FPIC obtained from leaders/indigenous groups if required (iv) Site location agreed by all user groups (farmers/herders) to prevent conflict.

	2.1.2 Promote CR-WASH and sanitation (CLTS)	2.1.2.1 Awareness-raising campaigns on climate adaptation and CR-WASH	Audience: (i) General population in target prefectures (ii) Segments for youth, women, pastoralists. Media: (iii) Local language radio and community theater. (iv) Utilisation of preferred mediums and languages
		2.1.2.2 Training national and local government staff and local facilitators on the adapted, climate-sensitive CLTS approach	Facilitators: (i) Fluency in local languages. (ii) Willingness to deploy to remote areas. (iii) Gender-balanced teams (female facilitators mandatory).
		2.1.2.3 Implementing the adapted CLTS approach, and supporting local masons and vulnerable households through sanitation market development approaches and post-ODF sustainability and resilience reinforcement	Communities: (i) High open defecation rates (>30%) and flood vulnerability. (ii) Willingness to participate in triggering. Masons: (iii) Local residency and commitment to affordable service provision. (iv) Willingness to learn resilient techniques (lined pits, raised slabs).
	2.1.3 Construct/rehabilitate CR-WASH infrastructure	2.1.3.1 Constructing/rehabilitating climate-resilient water systems in communities	Communities: (i) Pop. size sufficient for mechanized system (>500 for small, >2,000 for large). (ii) Willingness to establish WUA with >40% female membership. (iii) Commitment to O&M contribution based on the most appropriate model agreement. Technical criteria will include the following indicative (non-exhaustive) list for WASH design. Assessment will be informed from the above activities in outputs 2.1 (e.g. hydrogeological survey) and 1.2 (e.g. available monitoring data) Site selection: (iv) Avoidance of flood-prone areas based on available weather and disasters documentation, stakeholder consultation and community consultation (including women and pastoralists) (v) Ensuring geological stability (e.g. avoid landslide, erosion prone, seismic activity areas) based on available weather and disasters documentation, stakeholders' consultation and community consultation (vi) Pump tests consistent with long term sustainable yields under drought scenarios. Pump test to respect protocol of series of 6 steps test of 1 h minimum duration and a consistent test of Constant rate pumping tests will be carried out during seventy-two (72) hours in length followed by a twelve (12) hours recovery period. The pumping rate for the constant rate pumping test should be 120% of the design pumping rate unless the step drawdown test results show that the well efficiency for this discharge rate is below 0.5 (vii) Catchment protection in terms of pollution and competing withdrawals (viii) Prevention of contamination through distance from sanitation infrastructure and technical specifications. Boreholes should be located at least 30 meters away from any potential source of contamination, including pit latrines, septic tanks, livestock pens, and solid waste dumps. This is a widely accepted benchmark for safe siting Construction aspects (ix) Casing and screening, 125 to 140 mm PVC casing with sufficient screening to ensure effective infiltration of water in the borehole column. (x) Installation of reliable solar pumps in terms of durability (xi) Sealed and Elevated Apron with and drainage system at the borehole head. Reinforced concrete apron at least 1 m above flood level, sloped for drainage and a Sealed Platform and Ensuring the platform is watertight with proper drainage channels to divert floodwater away. (xii) Gravel Pack & Sanitary Seal: Install a graded gravel pack and a cement sanitary seal (minimum 3–5 m) to prevent surface water infiltration (xiii) Elevated concrete slabs for the water kiosks with a drainage system.

			(xiv) Installation of solar powered pump systems that ensure yields in worst case scenario situations. Foreseen pumping rate of 3 to 5 m3 per hour depending on -site sustainable yield. Installation of sensors to avoid over exploitation of groundwater. Monitoring (xv) Installation of 12 piezometers 3 per targeted prefectures and monitoring of ground water tables in the 200 boreholes with sensors or dippers installation of sensors to momentarily stop pumping if the water table is too low and prevent over exploitation. (xvi) Water quality testing after the pumping test and before the handover to communities. Additionally periodic water quality testing will be conducted by DGHR and trained community members.
		2.1.3.2 Constructing/rehabilitating CR-WASH infrastructure in highly climate vulnerable primary schools	Schools: (i) Target prefectures; no functional safe water/sanitation. (ii) Located in flood/drought zone. (iii) Commitment to O&M contribution. (iv) Technical criteria such as available space for gender-segregated latrines. Technical criteria: (v) Elevated toilets concrete slabs of 50cm in potentially flood risk areas. (vi) Sanitary seal in facilities (schools and health centers) toilets blocks. With the possibility of desludging when necessary.
		2.1.3.3 Constructing/rehabilitating CR-WASH infrastructure in health care facilities	Facilities: (i) Functional centers with adequate staffing. (ii) Critical need for water/sanitation. (iii) Technical feasibility for waste pits/incinerators. (iv) District commitment to take over O&M.
	2.1.4 Develop capacities for O&M	2.1.4.1 Designing and delivering capacity-building sessions and providing material for local governments, water management committees/user associations, community leaders, and the local private sector to better design, operate/maintain and monitor CR-WASH services, including solar-powered systems	Trainees: (i) WUA members, pump operators, area mechanics. (ii) Target 50% women in committees (incl. executive roles).
		2.1.4.2 Designing and delivering capacity-building sessions and providing material for well-managed and sustainable climate-resilient CR-WASH in the primary schools	Trainees: (i) Teachers, Parents, Student WASH Clubs. (ii) Focus on hygiene, maintenance, Menstrual hygiene management.
		2.1.4.3 Designing and delivering capacity-building sessions and providing material for well-managed and sustainable climate-resilient CR-WASH in the health care facilities	Trainees: (i) Health staff, cleaners, waste managers. (ii) Focus on Infection Prevention and Control, waste management, maintenance.
	2.1.5 Financial schemes & entrepreneur support	2.1.5.1 Assessing context-relevant, affordable and viable financial schemes for climate-resilient WASH services (e.g. 'tontines', village savings and loan associations, revolving funds, etc.)	Study: (i) Analysis of willingness/ability to pay. (ii) Review of microfinance/ Village Savings and Loan Association landscape. (iii) Focus on O&M sustainability.

		2.1.5.2 Promoting context-relevant, affordable and viable financial schemes for climate-resilient sanitation services	Beneficiaries: (i) Households investing in resilient latrines. (ii) Local masons needing working capital. Schemes assessed/promoted: (iii) Village Savings and Loan Associations, Tontines, Revolving Funds.
		2.1.5.3 Promoting context-relevant, affordable and viable financial schemes for climate-resilient water services.	Operators: (i) Water User Associations (WUAs)/private operators managing project systems. (ii) Requirement for transparent accounting/ring-fenced O&M funds.
		2.1.5.4 Supporting the engagement of local entrepreneurs / youth-led businesses in climate-resilient WASH services	Entrepreneurs: (i) Youth/Women-led small businesses. (ii) Focus on WASH services (spare parts, soap, waste). (iii) Basic business plan and local residency.
2.2 Climate-resilient urban drainage infrastructure is reinforced and expanded in Bangui to reduce, anticipate, and better withstand flood risks	2.2.1 Strengthen urban drainage	2.2.1.1 Undertaking flood risk assessments and detailed technical design studies	Area: (i) Strictly flood-prone arrondissements of Bangui (3, 4, 6, 8). Stakeholders: (ii) Municipality of Bangui, Urban Planning/Public Works Ministries. (iii) Neighborhood leaders (Chefs de Quartier).
		2.2.1.2 Setting up planning, monitoring, and coordination mechanisms	Stakeholders: (i) Municipality of Bangui, Urban Planning/Public Works Ministries. (ii) Neighborhood leaders (Chefs de Quartier).
		2.2.1.3 Rehabilitating and constructing/expanding stormwater drainage networks in target neighborhoods	Sites: (i) Geographic screen: within Bangui flood hotspots identified by pluvial risk mapping and historical impact records (≥ “High” flood susceptibility class; ≥2 significant inundation events in last 10 years). (ii) Technical screen: corridors/drains protecting critical WASH assets (pipelines, kiosks, schools/HCs) within ≤300 m; climate-robust design options; no net downstream risk (hydraulic check). (iii) O&M/affordability: municipal drainage department confirms budget line and routine desilting plan that will include communities’ engagement as per 2.2.1.4; service agreements signed pre-award (reference OM).
		2.2.1.4 Implementing nature-based solutions to prevent or mitigate flood effects	Sites and intervention selection: (i) Technical criteria including upstream catchments/buffers suitable for vegetation. (ii) Non-invasive, stabilizing species selection Stakeholders: (ii) Local environmental NGOs/groups.
		2.2.1.5 Mobilizing communities, raising awareness of risks and behaviour change needs, and ensuring social and environmental measures	Audience: (i) Residents adjacent to canals.
		2.2.1.6 Strengthening operation and maintenance capacity	Entity: (i) Municipal technical services, neighborhood committees.
2.3 Communities and youth are enabled to manage water resources and disaster risks in priority high-risk localities of Ouham, Bamingui-Bangoran, and Vakaga	2.3.1 Engage and train local stakeholders on risk	2.3.1.1 Conducting participatory local climate and conflict risk assessment	Communities: (i) 45 priority high-risk communities in target prefectures. (ii) History of climate-related disaster. Participants: (iii) Diverse representation (farmers, herders, IDPs, women). (iv) Use of conflict-sensitive tools.
		2.3.1.2 Supporting awareness, engagement, training, and planning in high-risk, priority communities,	Groups: (i) Village Development/DRR Committees.

		schools, and health care facilities	Output: (ii) Validated Community Resilience Plan/Risk Map.
		2.3.1.3 Facilitating coordination, progress monitoring and learning meetings at prefecture level	Participants: (i) Prefecture authorities, mayors, NGOs, community reps. (ii) Alignment with regional development plans.
	2.3.2 Strengthen local water monitoring	2.3.2.1 Identifying gaps and local needs in water resource monitoring	Assessment: (i) Inventory of monitoring capacity in the 45 target communities.
		2.3.2.2 Providing technical training and equipment for priority high-risk communities	Monitors: (i) Permanent residents (low mobility) with basic literacy. (ii) Trustworthiness/acceptance. Equipment: (iii) Low-tech, durable tools (rain gauges, piezometers).
		2.3.2.3 Data integration, sharing, and use	Protocol: (i) Compatibility with national systems (DGRH). (ii) Reliable transmission.
	2.3.3 Support community-led WRM/DRR solutions	2.3.3.1 Organizing participatory solution design	Solutions: (i) Low-tech, locally maintainable and compatible with ESMF provisions (ii) Prioritized in Community Resilience Plan.
		2.3.3.2 Implementing the selected small-scale DRR and WRM measures	Mode: (i) Community labor (cash-for-work/voluntary). (ii) Engineering supervision for safety. (iii) Vulnerability-based beneficiary selection.
		2.3.3.3 Operation and maintenance training, and peacebuilding and governance integration	Committees: (i) Responsible for asset maintenance. (ii) Trained in conflict resolution. (iii) Representation of all user groups (incl. pastoralists).