unicef | for every child

TERMS OF REFERENCE

National WASH Consultant – WASH Sector Development, Policy and Coordination

CONTRACT MODALITY	Individual Consultancy
DUTY STATION	**Bangladesh Dhaka** & Office Based(With Travel)
DURATION OF CONTRACT	12 Months

Purpose of Assignment

UNICEF Bangladesh supports the Government of Bangladesh in strengthening national systems and fostering an enabling environment for inclusive, equitable, safely managed and climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. This support focuses on mobilising political commitment, securing stakeholder buy-in at technical and policy levels, reestablishing and operationalising the Sector Development Plan (SDP) 2026-2040 thematic groups, mobilising resources, and providing technical assistance for the implementation of sector-wide strategies and approaches. The purpose of this assignment is to provide technical support to the Policy Support Wing (PSW) of the Local Government Division (LGD), Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (MoLGRD&C). The support will strengthen upstream WASH sector functions and enhance capacity for evidence-based policy development, planning, coordination and budgeting, with the aim of delivering improved, equitable, sustainable and climate-resilient WASH services, including in emergencies. The consultant will provide dedicated technical support to strengthen the PSW's capacity for sector development and coordination, and to build the capacity of sector stakeholders. This will include supporting the review, development and dissemination of WASH sector policies, strategies, costed action plans, guidelines, standards and protocols. These instruments will reflect SDG 6 requirements, climate resilience and inclusion, enabling the effective delivery of quality, gender-responsive WASH services in community settings and institutions. The assignment will also strengthen government capacity in planning, budgeting, monitoring and sector financing, and foster cross-sectoral collaboration around WASH systems. In addition, the consultant will help strengthen coordination among WASH sector actors in Bangladesh, spanning five ministries and nine line departments and agencies. This will be achieved through the operationalisation of the Water Supply and Sanitation Forum, the Local Consultative Group (LCG) on WASH and Urban, the eight SDP thematic groups and other relevant coordination platforms.

Scope of Work

• Strengthen coordination among WASH sector actors in Bangladesh (WASH related line ministries i.e. MoHFW, MoE, MoPME, MoWR, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change etc. and line departments of GoB, development partners, INGOs, National NGOs, LGIs, Research Organizations, Academia & other stakeholders) through Local Consultative Group (LCG) for WASH & Urban, Water and Sanitation Forum, operationalization of SDP Thematic Groups.
• Technical support to Policy Support Wing (PSW) of LGD, DPHE, for effective WASH Sector policy, emphasizing effects of climate hazards on children, strategy, guideline review/development and development of implementation plan for policies and strategies.
• Forster partnership with Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), to stimulate political dialogue and leadership for facilitating signing Prime Minister compact/declaration to mobilize and align government bodies and development partners around policies and actions that deliver SDG6 and other related SDG targets.
• Provide technical support to PSB Ministry of LGD and WASAs, City Corporations and DPHE piloting Water Supply

and Sanitation Regulatory Mechanism with technical assistance from ADB, UNICEF, and the World Bank.
• Strengthen government capacity on emerging areas such as climate change, inclusion, SBC, WASH sector financing, sustainability, budgeting, monitoring and foster cross sectoral collaboration around WASH systems.
• Systems Strengthening for scaling up drinking water safety, ground water governance, faecal sludge management and Hygiene Services and in Bangladesh Research & Development to improve the lives and health of children

Work Assignments Overview	**Deliverables/Outputs**	**Delivery deadline to complete the deliverable**
Provide technical assistance to PSW, LGD for obtaining approval and dissemination of the National Policy for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) 2026 from the Cabinet Division and Government Gazette Notification	**Deliverable 1** Provide technical assistance to PSW, LGD for obtaining approval and dissemination of the National Policy for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) 2026 from the Cabinet Division and Government Gazette Notification	31 Jan 2027
Facilitate national and divisional dissemination the National Policy for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) 2026	**Deliverable 2** Facilitate 1 national and 7 divisional dissemination of the revised national WASH Policy	28 Feb 2027
Forster partnership with Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), to stimulate political dialogue and leadership for facilitating signing Prime Minister compact to mobilize and align government bodies and development partners around policies and actions that deliver Safe Water for All" compact/declaration for development of 5 years campaign/programme	**Deliverable 3** 1. Safe Water for all Position Paper reviewed and revised through LGD-led consultation process with relevant ministries, local government institutions and sector partners, leading to Ministerial (MoLGRD&C) endorsement when the review is complete. 2. Safe Water for all Position Paper reviewed and endorsed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister's (PM) and launching "Safe Water for All" as a national priority under the HoSI framework by preparation of necessary PM declaration and governmental	31 May 2027

	directives.	
Facilitate approval for campaign materials and roll out campaign for MHM School campaign	**Deliverable 4** MHM Campaign SBC materials reviewed, revised and finalized based on technical feedback and government approval MHM campaign rolled out in schools of selected districts through digital platform/app (Approximate 100 schools in 1st phase**)**	30 June 2027
Support PSW, LGD for development of development of national service standards and guidelines for climateresilient rural water supply and capacitating partners on climate finance	**Deliverable 5** 1. National service standards for climate-resilient water supply for rural communities are developed and endorsed by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C). 2. national service guidelines for climate-resilient water supply for rural communities are developed and endorsed by the MoLGRD&C. 3. 120 key sectoral partners are trained on the new national service standards and guidelines (incl. checklists) 4. the capacity of 50 key sectoral partners is enhanced on the topic on climate finance for the WASH sector is enhanced	31 Aug 2027
Support PSB institutionalizing the Water Supply and Sanitation Regulatory Mechanism with technical assistance from ADB, UNICEF and piloting activities in WASAs and Paurashava	**Deliverable 6** 1.Development of Key performance Indicator (KPI) and standard guideline for WASH regulatory mechanism 2. Facilitate piloting regulatory	30 Sept 2027

	mechanism in 3 selected WASAs and two Pourashavas 3. Finalize KIPs, standard and guidelines through piloting and receiving sector feedback and consultations and endorsed by steering committee	
Support PSW in developing a Guideline for Private Sector Participation in the WASH Sector, including organizing Technical/ Working Committee and meeting of the National Forum for WSS and sector consultations	**Deliverable 7** Guideline for Private Sector Participation in the WASH Sector has been endorsed by National Forum for WSS and national dissemination facilitated	31 Oct 2027
Support PSB in development of Guideline for Gender Mainstreaming in the WASH Sector and Guideline for Private Sector Participation in the WASH Sector	**Deliverable 8** Guideline for Gender Mainstreaming in the WASH Sector and Guideline for Private Sector Participation in the WASH Sector has been endorsed by National Forum for WSS and national dissemination facilitated	30 Nov 2027
Facilitate functioning WASH sector coordination mechanism and interministerial coordination tough activating National Forum for WSS, Local Consultative Gorup for WASH & Urban and 8 SDP thematic Gorup	**Deliverable 9** PSB action plan/meeting calendar developed, technical guidelines working paper, office order, meeting notice, meeting minutes etc. prepared, endorsed and circulated in time. Atleast 1 National forum for WSS meetings, at least 2 LCG meetings, 2 thematic Group meetings for 8 each thematic groups, 1 technical Support Committee, 1 Policy Support Committee meetings etc.) in time.	31 Dec 2027

Payment Schedule:

Payment will be made on submission and acceptance of deliverables. UNICEF reserves the right to withhold payment in case the deliverables submitted are not up to the required standard or in case of delays in submitting the deliverables on the part of the consultant.

Important Notes

- Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract will not be considered "staff members" under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and UNICEF's policies and procedures and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants and Individual Contractors. Consultants and individual contractors are responsible for determining their tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.
- Contracts are conditional upon the selected candidate's willingness to comply with any current or future vaccination requirements that may be established by UNICEF, where applicable. Failure to comply with applicable vaccination requirements, where required and without an approved medical exemption by UNICEF, may result in the withdrawal of the consultancy offer or termination of the contract in accordance with the General Terms and Conditions of Contract.
- UNICEF offers reasonable accommodation for consultants with disabilities. This may include, for example, accessible software, travel assistance for missions or personal attendants. We encourage you to disclose your disability during your application in case you need reasonable accommodation during the selection process and afterwards in your assignment.

QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE/ COMPETENCIES (CORE/TECHNICAL/FUNCTIONAL) / LANGUAGE SKILLS REQUIRED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

Minimum requirements:

Education: Master's Degree in social sciences, public Health, Business Administration or a field relevant to WASH related development assistance.

Work Experience: At least ten years working experience in development field, preferably in the water and sanitation sector (UN or development agency, donor, government regulatory body, academic institution or the private sector).

Skills: Well conversant with policies and strategies of the water supply and sanitation sector in Bangladesh.

Extensive experience in organizing and facilitating meetings/workshops/seminars;

Familiarization with the policy environment of Bangladesh, the challenges within the WASH sector and the capacities of various stakeholders, would be considered an asset.

Good interpersonal, leadership and management skills in implementing multi-party development projects.

Well conversant with the development programme aspects of water supply and sanitation;

Working experience with donors funded Government projects/ organization/ international NGOs.

Language Requirements: Good communication skills in Bangla and English

Desirables: Passion and commitment to UNICEF's mission and values

Previous experience in similar activities with the UN or INGOs, government.

Good background and skills in facilitating training, workshops, seminar, coaching, and mentoring others Ability to work in a multi-disciplinary team and support unexpected tasks.