Summary:

| Purpose | Final Evaluation of EC-UNICEF “Improvement of the Health and Livelihood of Rural Communities in Southern Sudan and the Three Transitional Areas through Increased Access to Safe and Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Facilities” Project. |
| Location | Khartoum & State visits / Juba and state visits |
| Reporting to | Chief, WASH Section, UNICEF Juba & Khartoum |

Background:

The contribution of UNICEF to WASH development and humanitarian activities in Sudan is significant and needs to be periodically evaluated. UNICEF is currently implementing an ambitious WASH programme across ten states in Southern Sudan1 as well as in the Three Transitional Areas2. Although the programme design has been slightly modified to align with new Operational Planning tools which UNICEF rolls out at the end of 2011, the programme essentially has the following three core pillars:

1. Policy & Strategic Planning and Development
2. Delivery of safe & sustainable water supply services to most vulnerable communities
3. Building Community Approaches to Total Sanitation & Hygiene Promotion

The European Commission and UNICEF are jointly funding the “Improvement of Health and Livelihoods of Rural Communities in Southern Sudan and the Three Transitional Areas through the Increased Access to Safe and Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Facilities Project”. The project, financed under African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) -EU Water Facility, commenced in March 2007 for a period of four (4) years, ending in February 2011. The Action’s overall budget is EUR16 million to be financed in equal halves between the EC and UNICEF. Of the total project budget, Southern Sudan and Transitional areas budget shares are 72% and 28% respectively, with the cost of the final evaluation being borne by UNICEF South Sudan.

In 2009, there was a mid-term evaluation of the project, recommendations from which guided the re-direction of the programme, particularly in addressing supply chain and capacity building challenges.

By the end of February 2011, the implementation of the joint EC-UNICEF WASH project component had ended. According to the original terms of the project agreement, UNICEF agrees to undertake an independent evaluation of how the EC-UNICEF contribution has impacted the broad objectives of the WASH programme and to provide recommendations which will further guide the development of sustainable safe WASH systems in rural and growing peri-urban communities, managed to an increasingly devolved level of technical & planning accountability between County and Community stakeholders. It would also gauge the impact of results that contribute to UNDAF (2009-2012) Outcome and Output results.

This evaluation exercise is considered as a final evaluation of the joint EC-UNICEF component of the WASH programme implemented in Southern Sudan and the Three Transitional Areas. The period of evaluation of the programme will focus on the last two years since mid-2009 interim project evaluation was conducted. It is not considered to be an overall evaluation of the project design (as this was accomplished by the interim evaluation conducted in 2009) but more a process of reflection to define what a future course of action for WASH system

1Southern Sudan: 652,500 people in 980 communities
2Transitional Areas: 200,500 people in 400 communities
sustainability might be, one which is more relevant to the population dynamics we face today (returnees groups and those displaced by insecurity who gather at the urban periphery) and cognizant of the present realities and evolving capacity in local government.

This document sets out the background for the evaluation, describes the overall purpose of the evaluation, defines scope and terms, methodology, deliverable, conditions and qualifications required

**Overall Scope and Purpose of the Evaluation**

The proposed evaluation of the joint EC-UNICEF component of the WASH Programme will examine issues of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, Impact and sustainability. Issues of sector coordination, inter-sectoral funding, management, sustainability and monitoring, and how best to achieve results in these areas will be examined in the context of the socio-economic and political realities of Sudan. The evaluation will also review the programme through the lens of the human rights based approach to programming, i.e., whether girls and boys, women and men were equally benefiting, whether it helped in key areas such as decentralizing the decision making, participation of women and men in planning, documenting, information sharing, management and service delivery. The evaluation will provide lessons learned and make recommendations for improving the programme’s efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and conformity with the basic human rights-based approach. The evaluation will also validate what has been successful, identify areas that need improvement and make recommendations for improving the quality of the programme in the future. The findings and recommendations of this evaluation will provide future direction for the WASH programme beyond the current programme cycle (2012-2013).

The evaluation will cover the 3 sub-programme components: Policy & Strategic Planning and Development; Safe Water Supply Services and Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion. Although the period covered by the evaluation is 2007-2011, the evaluation should draw particular attention to the past two years of programme implementation (2009-2010).

The evaluation is expected to generate findings, lessons learnt, conclusions and recommendations which address the following dimensions of the WASH project:

1. **Relevance of the Action**
   i) To the needs and constraints of the area of the country where the action has taken place
   ii) To the needs and constraints of the target groups and end-beneficiaries (including the specific needs of women, children and vulnerable groups)
   iii) To synergise with any other initiatives, avoid duplication and build coherence with the national water policy and local government reforms.

2. **Description of the action and its efficiency and effectiveness**
   i) Describe the proposed activities, expected results and the management of activities particularly with regard to their geographical spread.
   ii) Role of all partners, other stakeholders and end beneficiaries in project implementation
   iii) Analyze factors within and beyond UNICEF’s control that are influencing performance and success of the project (including the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) in contributing to the realization of the Outcome.
   iv) The efficiency and the effectiveness of the project monitoring procedures.

3. **Immediate outcome/Impact of the Action:**
   i) How the project contributes to increase access to improved water and adequate sanitation for the targeted population
   ii) How the action has contributed to the improvement of the health situation and livelihood of target groups/beneficiaries.
4. **Sustainability of the Action**
   i) Analyze the main operational assumptions and risks assessed before the start-up, during the implementation phase of the project and in the medium term future and which are likely to sustain positive project outcomes.
   ii) What financial and planning management factors have been / need to be addressed to build sustainable action.
   iii) Assess material, service and labour dimensions of the local market to determine factors which are likely to contribute to sustainable WASH action.
   iv) Analyze institutional factors, specifically capacity building needs which should be addressed in building stronger local ownership for community WASH systems.

5. **Complementarity & Visibility of the Action**
   i) The complementarities and the synchronization of EC contribution and other major donors in achieving the objectives of the project.
   ii) The Project visibility and visibility of the donors who are contributing to the implementation of the project at federal, state and site level.

6. **Gender and Human Rights, including child rights**
   i) Reported findings, conclusions, recommendations and lessons provide adequate information on gender equality, and human rights aspect including child rights.

**Timing & Methodology**

The evaluation will be undertaken over a period of 6 weeks starting from the first week of September 2011.

The evaluation team shall use relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability evaluation criteria to conduct the project evaluation. The consultant shall review project documents, make field visits to project areas and conduct interviews/discussions with project stakeholders and partners both in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas.

A Joint UNICEF, government and EC Team will be established at both Khartoum and Juba levels to guide and assist the consultant. The joint team will be responsible for coordinating, organizing, and managing the evaluation including liaison with partners, backstopping and providing relevant documentation, logistics support and feedback to the evaluation team.

At the commencement of the mission, UNICEF shall provide the following documentation to the evaluation team:
   i) Project funding document;
   ii) The most up-to-date field progress reports;
   iii) Mid-term evaluation report.

The evaluation will cover all project activities as enumerated in the project document, and where appropriate, in collaboration with other development partners that are contributing to the achievement of the project outcome.

The project evaluation findings are expected to provide strategic insights to strengthen current and future programme cooperation modalities in general and to re-direct UNICEF programme managers and all stakeholders in addressing sustainability and capacity building challenges facing the WASH sector at this momentous time of transition.
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<th>Time frame</th>
<th>Main Activity</th>
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| 1 – 21 Sept 2011 (21 days) | • Inception /consultation meetings with EC, UNICEF WASH Section and WASH government authority (Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation) in Juba.  
  • Desk review in consultations with the joint team.  
  • Prepare for the field trip with the joint team.  
  • Conduct field trips to selected representative States.  
  • Debriefing for EC and UNICEF/Government in Juba. |
| 22- 30 Sept 2011 (9 days)  | • Inception /consultation meetings with EC, UNICEF WASH Section and Public Water Corporation in Khartoum.  
  • Desk review in consultations with the joint team.  
  • Prepare for the field trip with the joint team.  
  • Conduct field trips: (Blue Nile, South Kordofan & Abyei are currently insecure areas and field mission prospects will be reviewed nearer to the date of visit)  
  • Debriefing for EC and UNICEF/PWC at Khartoum.                                           |
| 1 - 7 Oct 2011 (7 days) | • Prepare and share draft evaluation report.                                                                                                                                                                |
| 14 - 17 Oct 2011 (5 days) | • Get comments and finalize the Evaluation Report                                                                                                                                                         |

**Expected Deliverables:**

The incumbent shall submit final report of evaluation findings with clearly defined specifics both for South Sudan and Transitional areas that should include the following:

- **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
- **BACKGROUND**
- **METHODOLOGY**
- **EVALUATION FINDINGS**, mainly project relevance, effectiveness, impact, sustainability, complementarities and visibility, gender and human rights, including child rights
- **LESSONS LEARNED**
- **RECOMMENDATIONS**
- **ANNEXES**
Expected Background and Experience

The evaluator should be an experienced independent international consultant (to be nominated in consultation between UNICEF and EC) with following minimum qualifications and experiences:

- Advanced degree in Water Engineering, Sanitary Engineering, Public Health or related field.
- At least five years of proven experience and knowledge in supporting and managing rural WASH institutions, programs or systems for developing countries, especially in Africa or in a similar context.
- Sound professional experience in conducting rural WASH project evaluations or other similar evaluations.
- Previous experience in Sudan or the region, and knowledge of EC and UNICEF procedures and programme implementation strategies will be additional advantages.

General Conditions

Procedures and Logistics

The consultant is expected to work independently with minimum supervision. The consultant will avail him/herself laptop as necessary to carry out the assignments. UNICEF will provide a computer outlet with internet connections to facilitate communication with all stakeholders. The consultant will be provided an office space in field offices wherever UNICEF has presence. UNICEF will facilitate booking of accommodation and payment should be covered by the consultant directly. The consultant and not UNICEF will be responsible for any such personal expenses.

Travel

Travel to Sudan will be undertaken in accordance with established Rules & Procedures governing such travel entitlements for senior ranking staff members. All travel within Sudan will be arranged by UNICEF following UNICEF rules, regulations and procedures.