

EU—WOP PROGRAMME

A Water Operators' Partnerships Programme
run by **GWOPA** and funded by the **EU**





EU—WOP PROGRAMME

**Helping water and sanitation service providers
help one another reach the SDGs**

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The EU-WOP Programme, funded by the European Union and managed by UN-Habitat-led GWOPA, leverages the demonstrated capacity of utilities to help one another reach the Sustainable Development Goals



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What

What is the EU-WOP Programme?

The EU WOP Programme is a four-year initiative, led by UN-Habitat's Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) and funded by the European Commission DEVCO. Through the programme, between USD 250,000 and 450,000 is available for **20 to 30 Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs)** projects of 36 months' duration.

[More](#)

What are WOPs?

WOPs are **peer support** between two or more water operators, carried out on a **not-for-profit** basis. Through mentorship, WOPs progressively strengthen beneficiary utilities' **capacity and performance** on management, financial and technical levels to implement operational and organizational changes that lead to better and more sustainable services.

[More](#)

UN-Habitat is calling on eligible water and sanitation operators to collaborate with partners to present WOPs Project Proposals for funding under the programme.

Download Call for Proposal Package

Submit your proposal [here](#) before 15 april 2021 (Midnight CET)

English

Français

Español



Context

An opportunity for utilities to help one another

Towards SDG6 Sustainable water and sanitation services for all

2.1 billion people still cannot count on contamination-free water, available on premises whenever they need it, and 4.5 billion still lack sanitation systems that protect them from disease. Effective local water and sanitation service providers are essential to reaching the Sustainable Development Goal of ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Improve Water Operators' Performance

Many water utilities' services are characterized by poor quality water, frequent cuts, limited coverage, high water losses, among other challenges. WOPs have a proven track record of helping utilities improve their operations, increase their efficiency and effectiveness, and make progress towards access goals.

Increase access to needed finance

With an estimated 1.7 trillion USD in funding needed to meet only SDG 6.1 and 6.2 by 2030, building the institutional capacity to effectively access and manage investments for sustainable public benefit is critical. The EU WOP programme aims to strengthen utilities' financial sustainability and facilitate access to finance for service improvements or extensions.

Support the capacity of water and sanitation service providers and their staff

EU WOP projects progressively strengthen and empower beneficiary utilities on management, financial and technical levels to implement operational and organizational changes that lead to better and more sustainable services. The WOPs will also help improve the skills and job quality of essential water and sanitation workers. Rather than substituting capacity, EU WOP project will help local utility staff to make lasting improvements that can continue well beyond the life of the partnership.

Funds for new and ongoing partnerships, led by mentors from the North and South

The EU WOP programme makes funding available to either extend ongoing WOPs, or to develop new partnerships between utilities. The programme encourages the involvement of first-time participants to WOPs, as well as experienced practitioners. Utilities from the North and South can apply to be mentors under the EU WOP Programme. South-south WOPs can be particularly effective as partners share common challenges and can adapt solutions.



Who Can Apply

Water operators' partnerships with:

1 Lead Partner

Mentor water and/or sanitation service provider.

At least 1 Beneficiary Partner

Mentee water and/or sanitation service provider.

0-5 Additional Partners

Co-mentors, utility associations, relevant local governmental institutions, financial institutions, knowledge and academic institutes, workers' unions, NGO or civil society organizations, community or private sector entities.

Falling under one of the two call windows:

Window 1	Window 2
<p>New WOPs in which the Lead Partner and the Beneficiary Partner(s) have no previous partnership history or up to, but not exceeding, one year of partnership history.</p>	<p>Recent or ongoing WOPs that build on at least one year of recent partnership history. Such partnership history must have occurred in the last three years.</p>



For more information on Eligibility of Partners, Projects, Activities and Costs, please refer to the [Call for Proposals Package](#) or the [Frequency Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).



Why You Should Participate



As lead partner utility
Exercise solidarity or corporate social responsibility with overseas communities.
Contribute to global sustainability objectives/ local or national development objectives.
Attract or retain staff through international exposure and mentoring experience.
Share skills with fellow peers and forge new alliances.



As beneficiary partner utility
Gain exposure to new knowledge and get help in implementing improvements.
Address pressing operational/capacity challenges.
Realize local development objectives and get international exposure and experience.
Acquire or sustain investments.



As supporting actor
Facilitate WOPs and increase visibility of the practice.
Include WOPs in development programming as worthwhile investment and/or precursors to investment.
Ensure an enabling environment for WOPs and support advocacy.
Encourage engagement of utilities.

Evaluation Criteria - Overview

Partnership Arrangements

Each partner adds unique, cost-effective value to the WOP, and demonstrate commitment to the WOP. The partners are appropriate and complementary (strengths, needs, language, size, culture etc.)...

Context/Synergies

The capacity and performance challenges, their impact on end users, and opportunities for synergies are well understood and compelling. There is an appreciation of how different stakeholders, especially vulnerable groups, are instrumental in or affected by the current situation...

Objectives/Expected Results

The proposed WOP expects to improve Beneficiary capacity and performance to address identified gaps, while to address climate change, apply a human rights approach, and better serve a vulnerable populations (the WOP contributes clearly to the SDG 6 targets and other relevant frameworks.)...

Approach

The approach/activities respond to demand and a sound assessment of challenges and strengthens, (not substitute) Beneficiary Partner capacity. Therefore, WOP activities build on ongoing priorities and activities of the Beneficiary Partner and aim to build knowledge and anchor it into operations/working routines identified...

Budget Considerations

The budget shows strong counterpart leverage on the grant amount. The Lead Partner has the capacity and mechanisms to manage the WOP as budgeted, and the Beneficiary Partner utility is contributing financially to the WOP...

Other Considerations

There is a possibility of continued partnership beyond the initial scope of the WOP, the WOP takes place in a Least Developed Country, or proposes integrated and innovative solutions/approaches that accelerate sustainable responses to ongoing challenges...



For more information on the Evaluation criteria, please refer to the [Call for Proposals Package](#) or the [Frequency Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).



Timeline

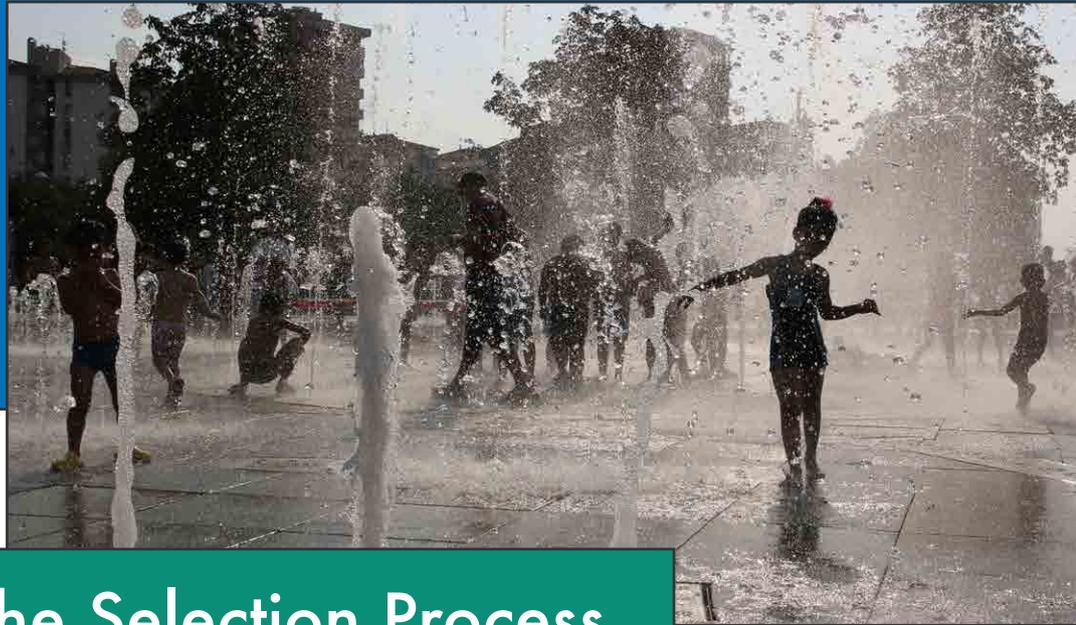
Phase I

- ↓ **15 January 2021**
Call for proposals open
- ↓ **15 March 2021**
Last day for submission of questions
- ★ **15 April 2021**
Deadline for submission of Phase I Applications
- ↓ **15 – 30 April 2021**
Selection Committee evaluation process
- ↓ **1 May 2021**
Notification to selected projects

Phase II

- ↓ **2 May 2021**
Opening of applications for phase II for selected project
- ★ **30 June 2021**
Deadline for submission of Phase II Applications
- ↓ **30 June – 15 July 2021**
Selection Committee evaluation process
- ↓ **15 July 2021**
Notification of selected projects
- ↓ **July to September 2021**
Processing of:
Agreements of Cooperation (AoCs)
EU-WOP Project Agreements (MoU or similar)
Additional agreements
- ★ **September 2021 – 2024**
Implementation of the EU-WOP projects

If any adjustment is needed to the application timeline presented here, it will be announced at gwopa.org/eu-wops.



The Selection Process

The Selection Committee shall ensure independence and rigor in the evaluation and selection process, and compatibility with partnership policies and the established **objectives of the EU-WOP Programme**.

As part of the evaluation process, proposed projects and partners will be vetted to ensure that they comply with the eligibility criteria and UN rules and regulations.

WOP Projects must be compliant with **GWOPA's Code-of-Conduct**. Lead Partners and Additional Partners also commit to not enter into commercial contracts with the WOP Beneficiary Partner(s) for at least four years after the end of the WOP.



The **EU-WOP Programme** design builds extensively on past **WOP** programmes studied or managed by **GWOPA**, the evaluation of the 2010 European-funded **EU-ACP** partnership programme and draws from consultation with senior staff within **UN-Habitat** and a wide range of external stakeholders.

Funded by



Managed by





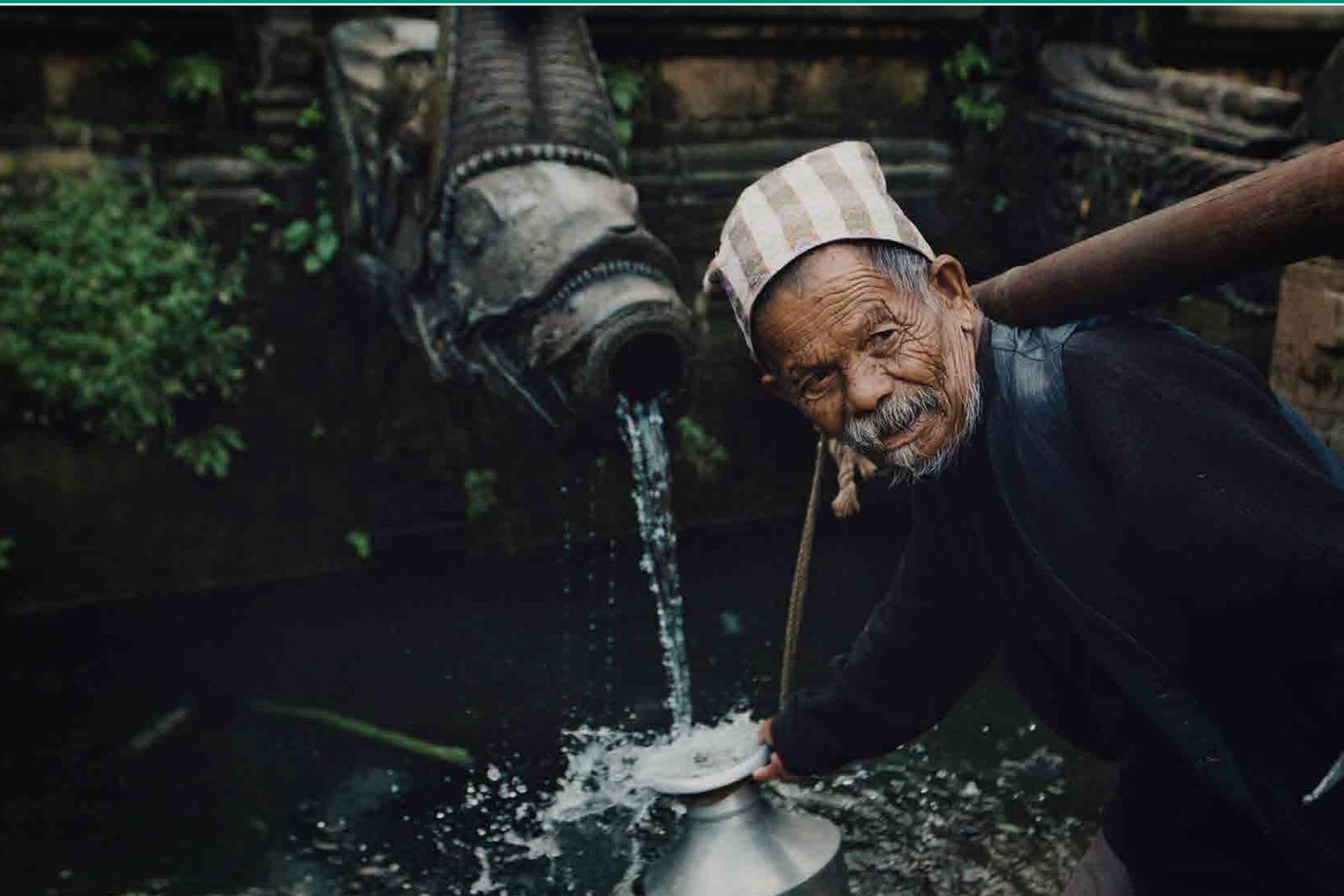
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