

Terms of Reference (ToR)
Water Expert for Technical Assistance
Project Identification

April , 2025

1. Background

According to the UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Program (2021), just half of Ethiopia's has access to basic water services and fewer than 10 percent of the population can access basic sanitation services. Further as per the National WaSH Inventory-II & MIS (2021) the total water supply coverage at national level is 49% out of which the rural and urban water supply access coverages are reported to be 47%, and 57% respectively. Almost about 60 % are from ground water sources (in the type of Hand dug wells, shallow wells and Boreholes). Ethiopia faces both significant challenges and opportunities in its capacity to deliver sustainable and affordable water and sanitation services with the impacts of climate change aggravating development challenges in the WASH sector.

The Government of Ethiopia under the 10 years development (2021-2030), identifies improving access to potable water supply and sanitation services as a priority for in all regions and in all sectors. To this end multiple donor-funded projects supported the government's efforts in improving WASH sector. As part of the five years development Cooperation of the Czech Republic in Ethiopia, and the Memorandum of understanding (2024-2030) signed for development cooperation between the two countries, Water and sanitation remains to be the priority sector of programming. The Czech Republic intervention in the thematic sector majorly focuses on improving public services in water supply and distribution as well as capacity building of water utilities. The diverse development cooperation programs in the water sector have been successful with collaborative engagement with diverse stakeholders including implementing partners in the thematic area. The major actors in WASH include MOW&E, MOH, MOE, the Regional RBW, WASH coordination structure, Town water utilities and the Woreda WASH Teams (WWTs). Ministry of Water and Energy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is the lead partner for the Czech Development Cooperation initiatives in the water sector.

The Czech Republic in recent year funded a project (2020-2024) titled "Introduction of a sustainable drinking water supply system in selected kebel of Bura, Dale and Bona Zuriya woredas" with major objective providing water availability and sustainable management of water resources. In addition to building new water supply systems, the project was designed with capacity building component provided to operators, managers leading to the sustainable operation of systems from technical, social, environmental and economical point of view. An integral part of the project was also the assistance provided to water utilities in setting up a tariff system for sustainability of the service and citizens right to access affordable water.

In all of the water projects supported by the Czech signifies the collaborative action between government offices of Ethiopia at different level, Czech private companies and international Non-governmental organization.

The Intervention

Provision of Water supply in Ethiopian cities is the responsibility of the cities on which municipal water bureaus depend , whose capacity is limited specifically in small and medium-sized towns.

The Water development Fund (WDF) was established by the Ethiopian government in 2002 by Water Resources Development Fund Establishment and its administration Proclamation No. 268/2002. The fund was established with major objectives of

- Enabling institutions which are engaged in the provision of water supply and sanitation services to be fully self-sufficient in the provision of reliable and sustainable water supply service to the community;
- To make significant contribution in the course of development efforts directed towards attaining food self-sufficiency by expanding and ensuring the sustainability of irrigation development;
- To create favorable conditions for the realization of the objectives mentioned in Sub-Articles (1) and (2) of this Article and thereby grant long term loans on the basis of the principle of cost recover.

Up on establishment, the WDF was set up as a semi-autonomous body under the auspices of the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE). However, Proclamation No. 1263/2021 transferred the rights and obligations of Water Resources Development and integrated to the Ministry of Water and Energy. Currently regulations are being prepared to give it autonomy and is expected to become a self-governing agency again in the coming months. The fund now has 23 employees and 11 contract workers. An organizational diagnostic conducted by the institution bearing Point on AFD financing showed the strengths and weaknesses of WDF and drew up a transformation plan, including a component of priority actions to ensure its performance

The fund for the WDF come from donors and the regions themselves. The Water Supply program designed with major objective of supporting small and medium-sized towns for water supply and sanitation infrastructures investments and capacity building financed the Water development fund, and provided funding for water infrastructure in 43 small and medium-sized towns in 6 regions of the country: Oromia, Central Ethiopia, Southern Ethiopia, Southwest Ethiopia, Tigray and Amhara. The program is co-financed by French Development Agency (AFD), Italian Cooperation, and the European Investment Bank targeting 1.4 million people and is due to be completed in June 2025.

A second phase of program will be developed for funding based on analysis of the implementation of the first phase. The main objective of the second phase is to improve the living conditions of the Ethiopian population by sustainably improving the provision of safe drinking water supply in small and medium-sized towns through the technical support provided to the WDF. The WDF provides technical assistance and project supervision as well as capacity building for Town water utilities (TWUs) in the project intervention areas. An organizational audit of the WDF was carried out in 2023, to identify the areas for improvement in the administration and allocation of the fund to the water utilities.

Among the specific objectives of the new program, Strengthening the WDF to ensure efficiency and sustainability of water infrastructure projects and Capacity building of municipal public enterprises in target cities will be of the major interest for potential identification by the Czech development Agency. Thus, Czech Republic capitalizing on its past experience and expertise of

the diverse Czech institutions in providing efficient support in water infrastructure development, water utilities capacity building and water resource management, strengthening the WDF stand out as the priority interest of component of the Czech intervention of the second phase of the Program.

Therefore, based on the need assessment report and in collaboration with the AFD, Embassy of Czech republic is set to develop a project identification directing in capacitating the WDF and respective water utilities for improving service quality, efficient use of resources and administration of the water infrastructure. From the priority needs of WDF, the Czech republic support will specifically be directed to the technical assistance and be integrated in to the second phase of the program to be jointly developed with the AFD.

2. Objective

The objective of this call is to recruit expert to provide support in

- Developing a project identification for providing technical assistance to the Water Development Fund (WDF), the Regional Bureau of water and town water utilities , complementing the second phase programme to be co- designed with AFD. This project identification will shape the priority needs of the WDF and the support to be delivered through Czech expertise in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

3. Scope of Work

Embassy of Czech Republic will hire water expert to conduct a project identification to determine potential technical assistance to be provided for the WDF aligning with the second phase program to be jointly designed with AFD.

Desk review

- Conduct a desk review of available documents on water sector development in general and WDF in particular to organize and interpret project documents, for initial indications of project alignment, strengths/weaknesses in governance structures and potential partners, expected impacts and to identify gaps to be addressed by the technical assistance

Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination

- Engage primarily with government agencies, AFD, and other stakeholders working with WDF
- Facilitate and participate in discussions and consultations to gather input, provide feedback and validate ideas.

Project Identification and Assessment

- Analyze policies , legislation in the water sector , analyze the existing support structure to WDF, sampled Regional Bureau of water, Town water utilities, , and identify demand-supply gaps.

- Review the findings of the diagnostic assessment done on WDF to identify and prioritize the funding actions for provision of Technical Assistance .
- Design the project identification for provision of Technical assistance with Expected objective, outcomes, result indicators and possible strategies suitable for strengthening Water Development Fund.

4. Deliverables

The Water Expert is expected to deliver the following outputs:

1. Completed Project Identification document as per the template provided by the Embassy.
2. Draft collaborative framework document outlining how the identified Technical assistance by the Czech republic will be in contribution to the second phase Program with detailed mechanism of execution.

Terms of Execution

- Upon notification of the contract, the expert will review the terms of its mission and report all points requiring additional information or clarification.
- The expert should support his/her analysis of the capacity of the Czech Republic in provision of technical assistance with relevant data and state how this has been sourced.
- The expert acting as service provider will make sure to present himself/ herself as such for all discussions held within the framework of the service.

Location and Duration

- The expert will be required to travel to the regions in Ethiopia for data gathering and collaborative work with AFD in certain period of time. The expert may be required to work remotely as per the project's needs.
- Contract duration will initially be two month with a possibility of an extension should further services of the expert is required .
- The expert will be expected to start to work on May 2025.

No	Deliverables	Timeline/2025
1	Preparatory Phase (desk research, inception call with the Embassy)	May- June
2	Field work	
3	Project identification	

Profile of the Expert

The water expert will have the following qualifications and experience:

- A minimum of Master's Degree in Water Resources Management, water engineering, water infrastructure development .
- Minimum 5 years relevant working experience on water sector project identification/formulation in development context preferably in international, bilateral/multilateral organizations.
- Previous work experience in projects funded by the Czech development agency or other development agencies would be an asset.
- Strong knowledge of water resource assessment, conducting feasibility studies, and stakeholder coordination with government offices at federal and regional level, sectoral offices (specifically water utilities)
- Detailed knowledge and understanding of the Czech Republic Expertise in the water sector .

Other Requirements:

- Fluency in written and spoken in Czech and English.
- Excellent analytical skills and project document formulation
- Experience in dealing with senior government officials;
- Good team player while being independent and able to work autonomously

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Relevant experience and expertise in water sector project identification.
- Understanding of feasibility study methodologies and stakeholder engagement.
- Cost-effectiveness of the proposed professional fees.
- At least two verifiable references from similar assignment

Application process

Interested candidates should submit in Czech and/ English

- An up-to-date CV with an application letter
- Technical sample of previous work done by the expert
- Detailed technical details outlining the approach and professional fee for delivering the service
- Only complete applications will be considered. The applicant should submit the above details with the subject Application for water Expert, to barbora.zak-vlasova@mzv.gov.cz until 24th of April 2025