

Rural sanitation approaches and costings analysis

Terms of reference and call for proposals

Background to this call for proposals:

The rural sanitation sector has historically been construction and supply-side focused, reflecting in large part the WASH sector's engineering bias. Over the past couple of decades, there has been a shift towards more demand-led approaches. Community-led approaches (CLTS) have predominated, but other approaches such as sanitation marketing or smart subsidies have emerged more recently and are gaining momentum. However, there are still several common problems, such as:

- Programmes/organisations' adherence to one or another approach, without sufficient recognition of limitations or understanding of, and adaptation to, the changing contexts in which they operate.
- Approaches suffer both from rigid and blurred definitions (CLTS and sanitation marketing respectively), which stifles innovation, learning and opportunities to combine and tailor approaches.
- The cost of facilitating and delivering these approaches is not well understood or estimated, leading to unrealistic assumptions about cost-effectiveness when designing sanitation programmes.

Although in recent years there has been substantial progress in terms of evidence and thinking around these issues, as well as some emerging innovations, standard practices across the sector are lagging behind, partly because of a lack of readily available guidance, as well as uncertainties about their relative performance.

To address this, Plan International USA, WaterAid and UNICEF are starting a joint programme to review and consolidate existing evidence and experience on these issues, with an aim to develop guidance documents for rural sanitation programme policy-makers, planners and implementers. The expected result of this work will be a shift towards more flexible, adaptive and context-sensitive rural sanitation programming informed by systematic and realistic considerations of prevailing critical factors and comprehensive costs analysis.

The joint programme will be divided into three tasks:

- 1) Review and analysis of rural sanitation approaches.
- 2) Development of a (rural sanitation) costings guidance.
- 3) Development of a (rural sanitation) approaches guidance.

This terms of reference and call for proposals cover the three tasks above, respectively, and each will be dealt with in turn below. Interested organisations can submit responses for one or all tasks. The conveners have a preference for those who can respond to all three tasks, but will treat each proposal on its own merits.

1) Rural sanitation approaches

Background

This task will aim to unpack the approaches that have recently dominated rural sanitation implementation, helping to identify, codify and draw comparisons between those approaches. By unpacking the approaches, a more nuanced analysis and discussion about costing and context suitability can be made, forming the basis for other tasks in this call for proposals.

Objective

This work aims to systematically analyse and characterise the rural sanitation approaches used in the sector.

Description of the assignment

- Mapping the main approaches that are currently used in the rural sanitation sector.
- Characterising the approaches appropriately, using key elements or attributes that help to categorise approaches – for instance, target level (ODF community vs covered household), behaviour change method (rational, emotional, psychological, etc), supply-side support arrangements, financing provisions, perspective on technology, equity considerations, sustainability mechanisms, scalability perspective, etc.
- On the basis of that characterisation, provide a commentary on the core elements of each approach, weaknesses or strengths, and any apparent inconsistencies, similarities, differences or incompatibilities between them.

The work will be primarily desk-based, including literature review and online interviews with researchers and practice experts.

2) Rural sanitation costings guidance

Background

Building on recent work by the University of North Carolina's Water Institute and Plan International in Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, this task aims to develop a harmonised framework for costing the 'software' components of rural sanitation programming. The guidance will help address the challenge of determining the costs of a rural sanitation programme or intervention (irrespective of approach). The guidance will also help policy-makers, planners and implementers review the cost-effectiveness of their interventions across their programmes.

Objective

This work aims to develop a harmonised framework for costing rural sanitation approaches with a specific focus on achieving ODF outcomes and universal access.

Description of the assignment:

- Reviewing previous and ongoing work on costing conducted by UNC/Plan International on CLTS. Review of other organisations' methodologies and practices in costing at-scale rural sanitation interventions.
- Developing a checklist of key parameters / cost centres¹ for consideration in costing sanitation interventions (similar to development of a bill of quantities).
- Costing post-ODF monitoring activities, including measures focused on promoting sustainability and O&M.
- Sharing the checklist among the organisations for a quick round of feedback to refine the guidance.

The work will be primarily desk-based, including literature review and online interviews with research and practice experts.

3) Rural sanitation approaches guidance

Background:

Sector practitioners including planners, policy-makers (especially at national levels) will benefit from this work as they continue to make decisions on the suitability of approaches and explore possibilities for adaptation or defining an appropriate combination of approaches for their context. At a global level, this work will stimulate and contribute to the continuous analysis of what works, where and how, in achieving universal access to sanitation outlined in the 2030 SDG agenda.

Objective:

This work analyses the conditions determining the suitability of rural sanitation approaches, considering context, timing and institutional issues.

Description of the assignment:

- Analyse and synthesise existing evidence of the conditions for the optimal selection/use/application of different approaches, building on the analysis from task 1.
 - Map and analyse existing innovations and experiences in combining and adapting approaches.
 - Prepare a framework/commentary that supports thinking and provides guidance about how to develop approaches that are adapted to the local context and conditions.
-

¹ Plan and UNC defined these as: staff time costs, Plan miscellaneous costs (transportation, space rental, etc), Government and internal actor time costs and community time cost.

Deliverables and timeline

Rural sanitation approaches			
Deliverables	Word length	Draft deadline	Final version deadline
Inception report	<2,000 words	10 March	15 March
Review document	<5,000 words	31 March	15 April
Summary/brief	1,000–2,000 words	20 April	30 April

Rural sanitation costings guidance			
Deliverables	Word length	Draft deadline	Final version deadline
Inception report	<2,000 words	10 March	15 March
Guidance document	<7,000 words	5 June	20 June
Summary/brief	1,000–2,000 words	25 June	5 July

Rural sanitation approaches guidance			
Deliverables	Word length	Draft deadline	Final version deadline
Inception report	<2,000 words	29 June	2 July
Guidance document	<7,000 words	29 July	8 August
Summary/brief	1,000–2,000 words	10 August	18 August

Proposal submission details:

Applicants are expected to send a proposal including at a minimum the following:

- How they understand the terms of reference.
- How they intend to carry out the work.
- Their suitability for the work.
- Costs involved (in US\$, all costs inclusive).
- Proposals should be sent to PSUAdmin@wateraid.org no later than **Monday 20 February 2017**. **Proposals should be submitted as PDF documents**, including 'Approaches & Costings Review' in the subject of the e-mail.
- Proposals that cover the three tasks are not expected to exceed a total of **3,500 words** (excluding cover page and table of contents). Proposals for individual tasks are not expected to exceed 2,000 words).
- CVs of lead personnel can be included, but only as appendices, and will not count towards the word limit.
- Proposals will be judged against the following criteria and relative weighting: technical quality of proposal (50%), strength of the applicant(s) (25%), and value for money (25%). Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee comprising UNICEF, WaterAid and Plan International USA. This committee may follow up with questions to the applicants, as necessary. All decisions of this committee are final.
- Final selection of consultant(s) is expected to take place by **6 March 2017**.

Management

WaterAid will be responsible for managing the project, post-award, on behalf of the conveners. Further details on management approach and operational details will be determined following final selection of consultant(s).

Payment schedule

Suitable arrangements will be made for payment against agreed milestones with the successful applicant(s) for this work. As guidance, the proposed payment schedule for each task is as below:

- 25% payable on completion of the approved inception report.
- 75% payable on completion of the approved final report and receipt of all deliverables.