



# Developing the Climate Rationale for Climate Resilient WASH Services in Uganda

## SUMMARY

With small investments in desk research and through extensive multi-stakeholder consultation, a demonstrated climate-rationale has been formulated in Uganda, in which the observed and projected impacts of climate change on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services are articulated through a solid analysis, and technical and non-technical solutions are identified to mitigate and adapt to the climate risks. The climate rationale sets out the evidence for embedding climate-related risks and vulnerabilities to both WASH policymaking and programming. It sets the broad trends of Uganda's exposure to climate change, highlights the effects of climate change on WASH critical infrastructure, and presents the rationale for a WASH sector response.

This Field Note describes the step-by-step approach adopted in Uganda to strengthen the delivery of climate resilient WASH services. It introduces a variety of approaches and tools that can be used as entry points for the effective integration of a climate lens in WASH sector diagnosis. Therefore, in each step and for all proposed activities, it presents i) the rationale, ii) the main methodological issues that need to be taken into consideration for its proper implementation, as well as iii) achieved results.

The document is primarily intended for UNICEF WASH officers and specialists, but the target audience also includes government planners, decision makers and practitioners at national, sub-national and local levels responsible for WASH services provision, and their associated WASH development partners. It provides useful guidance on "What to do" and "How to do it", in terms of actions that can be taken to strengthen WASH climate resilience.

## Rationale and Introduction

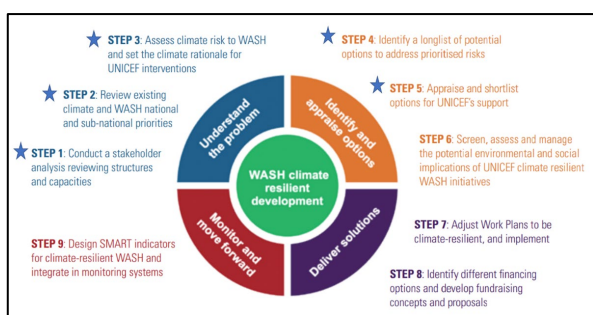
**There is an urgent need to make the climate shift in the WASH sector** - Climate change is already damaging vital water and sanitation infrastructure and services in homes, communities, schools, and health-care facilities, and causing negative impacts upon economies, livelihoods, and the environment. Through droughts, floods, and changes in rainfall patterns, impacts are already being felt by communities, services, and development programming itself, which are often ill-prepared to respond to these threats. To adapt to climate change and ensure

that services can continue to function as needed under increased uncertainty and pressures, there is an increasing need to design and implement programmes that are grounded in a comprehensive understanding of climate risks, which set a clear climate-based rationale as a central element.

**More and better tools available to guide the sector towards the Shift** - In 2014, the Global Water Partnership and UNICEF developed the Strategic Framework for WASH Climate Resilient Development as a sector-wide tool and have recently updated it in 2022. In 2020, anchored in this Framework, UNICEF developed a Guidance

Note to provide entry points and guidance for the design and implementation of programmes that are grounded in a comprehensive understanding of climate risks and that set clear climate-based rationales as a central element. This Field Note takes the UNICEF’s shift towards climate resilient WASH programming as the reference point and provides UNICEF Country Offices (COs) with detailed guidance on how to put the first five steps into an operational framework (see Figure 1 below), with the aim to set a clear climate-based rationale as a central element of climate resilient WASH programming.

**Figure 1: The nine steps of UNICEF’S shift to climate resilient WASH programming with stars on the most relevant to develop a climate rationale for WASH interventions**



**The UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025 requires COs to start formulating the climate rationale for WASH** - The development of a clear and strong rationale for climate-resilient WASH programming is in line with the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2022-2025, in particular in reference to the high-level results under Goal Area 4, which states that “Every child, including adolescents, has access to water, sanitation and hygiene and lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment”, and its corresponding indicator 4.2.4., which refers to the “Number of countries that have developed a climate rationale for the impact of climate change and water scarcity on WASH services”. An evidence-based WASH climate rationale can serve different but complementary and mutually reinforcing purposes as below:

- Help stakeholders identify the most adequate climate resilient WASH solutions, including mitigation opportunities. This can be used to inform the development of work plans, situation analysis, programmatic theories of change, etc.
- Help stakeholders influence the formulation and revision of climate policies and strategies

(e.g., Nationally Determined Contribution or National Adaptation Plan) to include or strengthen the references to climate resilient WASH services.

- Help stakeholders influence the formulation and revision of WASH policies and plans to articulate the climate rationale for WASH services and to prioritise an evidence-based approach to climate resilient WASH activities in the WASH sector.
- Facilitate the development of a roadmap with specifics and granularity on “how” and “where” to implement identified broad WASH related national climate priorities.
- Support the formulation of climate financing proposals, since a demonstrated climate-rationale is a requirement for all climate financing streams.

**In Uganda, in collaboration with the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE), UNICEF implements a step-by-step approach to develop a climate rationale** - Adopting a step-by-step approach, and through extensive multi-stakeholder consultation, a demonstrated climate-rationale has been formulated, in which the observed and projected climate impacts on WASH services are articulated based on best available data, and technical solutions are identified to mitigate and adapt to key climate risks.

## Context and description of intervention

**Uganda is exposed to a variety of natural hazards which are projected to be exacerbated by climate change** - The country is vulnerable to climate change, primarily driven by poverty, land degradation, rapid and unplanned urbanization and weak enforcement of building codes and zoning regulations, and a lack of coordinated disaster response strategies. Between 2010 and 2014, estimates suggest a 3.5 per cent reduction of GDP performance due to disasters. Individual severe climate events can cause shocks to the economy, such as the drought conditions in 2010 and 2011, with an estimated loss of \$756 million. In 2020, across the water and sanitation sector, the damage and loss attributed to natural disasters was \$6,5 million, with total economic loss amounting to \$152 million.

**The primary natural hazards affecting Uganda are droughts, flooding, landslides, and heat**

**waves** - Climate change is expected to increase the risk and intensity of flooding, landslides, and heatwaves, as well as increase likelihood for water scarcity for certain areas of the country. Intense rainfall and flooding may also result in soil erosion and water logging of crops, decreasing yields and increasing food insecurity. Additionally, the increased likelihood of increased aridity and drought stress is expected to lead to water scarcity in some areas, resulting in increased demand for water, raising and the potential for conflict and biodiversity loss. Higher temperatures with increased aridity may also lead to livestock stress and reduced crop yields.

**Little progress has been achieved in improving access to WASH, and important gaps remain** - Over half, 28 million (62 per cent), of Uganda's population of 45 million lack access to improved sanitation, and 8 million (17 per cent) lack access to improved water sources, according to the latest figures by the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP). Only 19 per cent of the total population have safely managed drinking water, while an additional 40 per cent access basic services. The situation is worse in rural areas, where 19 per cent rely on unimproved sources and surface water. For sanitation, 21 per cent of the population have access to at least a basic service, while 4 per cent of the population practice open defecation, primarily in rural areas. Over three quarters (77 per cent) of the population lack a basic handwashing service. In addition, high population growth has stressed water and sanitation services and high urbanization rates have exacerbated the problem, particularly in peri-urban areas. Access to these services is significantly lower in poorer communities and among vulnerable groups, and urban populations living in poverty can pay as much as 22 per cent of their income to access water from private operators and water vendors. Spending such a high percentage of earnings on water reduces overall household income, limiting opportunities to build savings and break the cycle of poverty.

**The WASH situation in health centers and schools is also in need of improvement** - A study of the greater Kampala municipal area showed that 85 per cent of health care facilities had only limited WASH service, with a further 12

per cent having basic service, and few had functional hand hygiene facilities. Regarding the WASH situation in schools, the Ministry of Water and Environment's sector performance report (2017), showed that the WASH situation in schools is not meeting Uganda's national standard, with only 35 per cent of the schools having access to hand washing facilities. In addition, last report of the JMP shows a large urban – rural gap, with just 1 in 10 rural schools (12 per cent) having a basic hygiene service, compared with half of urban schools (52 per cent).

### Step 1: Stakeholder mapping and analysis, reviewing roles and capacities

This first step builds the list of partners and stakeholders that need to be considered and consulted throughout the process. The stakeholder analysis identifies those who have an interest or influence over WASH outcomes, but this needs to be broader than the 'traditional' WASH programming actors. It also informs which stakeholders are already engaging in WASH climate resilience, to be able to avoid duplication and build partnerships. Stakeholders can provide valuable inputs for many different aspects of the process – for example, on hazard and vulnerability assessments, identifying mitigation and adaptation options, or on the dissemination of information at local and national levels.

Tips and recommendations:

- The creation of specific taskforces or technical committees helps to structure the engagement of participants during the process. Where possible, however, it is recommended to base these taskforces on existing structures and coordination platforms, rather than creating new ones (thus avoiding duplication).
- The objectives, tasks, and timelines need to be clear, as well as roles and responsibilities of all experts.
- In terms of representation, it is recommended that the Task Force is comprised of 15-20 people, to ensure that there is diverse expertise represented in the group. In addition, it is recommended to ensure representation of women's groups and overall gender and youth (i.e., under 35) balance in the taskforce.

## BOX 1.

# METHODOLOGY: A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO MAKE THE CLIMATE SHIFT IN THE WASH SECTOR IN UGANDA

The approach is stepwise, commencing with a climate enabling environment assessment for WASH, that analyses climate and WASH policies and the climate financing landscape in Uganda. A “Climate and Water Scarcity Task Force for WASH” is also proposed to be formed, to subsequently drive the development of a clear “Climate Rationale for WASH” for Uganda. This is achieved through a “Climate and Water Scarcity Risk Assessment” and linked “Appraisal of climate resilience options”. Through a multistakeholder dialogue, a participatory methodology has been developed to appraise a set of technical and non-technical solutions for delivering sustainable and climate resilient services at national, regional, service provider and community levels. Following the development of the “Climate Rationale for WASH” for Uganda, support is proposed to be extended for the preparation and submission of a Concept Note for the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

As shown in the table below, this process is aligned with Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 of UNICEF’s Climate Resilient WASH Programming Shift.

UNICEF Climate Resilience Shift	Activities conducted in Uganda
Step 1: Stakeholder analysis and mapping	Creation of a Climate Task Force, with representatives from key WASH and climate stakeholders in the sector, closely involved in the development of the climate rationale, and leading parts of the process (Feb – Mar’21). See Step 1 below.
Step 2: Review existing climate and WASH established national and sub-national priorities	Assessment of national policies and strategies (Mar – Jun’21). Influence the elaboration process of the updated NDC. See Step 2.1 below.
	Scanning exercise of climate financing opportunities (Mar – Jun’21). Training on climate finance (Nov – Dec’21). See Step 2.2 below.
Step 3: Assess climate risks to WASH	Climate risk and vulnerability analysis for WASH sector (Jul - Nov’21). See Step 3 below.
Steps 4 & 5: Identify and appraise options for addressing prioritised risks	National consultation to identify and appraise Climate Resilience options to address climate risks, and to develop a response framework which if implemented can contribute to climate resilient WASH services in Uganda (Feb. 22). See Step 4 below.
Step 8: Identify different financing options and develop fundraising concepts and proposals	Support the formulation and submission of a GCF Concept Note (Mar - Oct’22). See Step 5 below.

- This taskforce could also be responsible for the next steps in promoting the implementation and monitoring of the road map or action plan resulting from this process. More specifically, the follow-up and monitoring should include the who (lead organization), the what (which activities need to be monitored) and the how

(accountability mechanisms in place, set of indicators to measure progress, etc.).



## BOX 2.

### CREATION OF CLIMATE AND WASH TASK FORCE IN UGANDA

*The Task Force integrated WASH and climate experts from both governmental and non-governmental organizations.*

*Stakeholders need to be broader than the 'traditional' WASH programming actors, and in Uganda this included sector stakeholders representing main water-related institutions and organizations, such as the Ministry of Water and Environment, UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, UNCDF), networks of experts (Global CAD), and independent consultants.*

*The task force was in charge of i) inputting and validating the climate risk and vulnerability analysis (e.g., sharing information, providing feedback to the final report, scoring hazards, exposure, and vulnerability criteria, etc.); ii) participating as experts in the national consultation to identify and appraise climate solutions; iii) acting as a reference group for developing the final "Climate Rationale for WASH" report; and iv) supporting the implementation and monitoring of the action plan relating specifically to climate change.*

#### Step 2.1: Assessment of Climate and WASH national priorities

The objective of the review was to assess the links between national climate priorities and WASH, as well as to determine to what extent the needs of children and the most vulnerable had been included in those priorities. As part of the review, it was identified whether there were any major revisions to national or subnational climate and WASH policies and strategies planned or underway. These revisions represent golden opportunities to influence climate and WASH policies. Some key documents to help assess the status of national climate planning include the National Communication reports to the UNFCCC, the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) or the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement, among many others.

#### Tips and recommendations:

- It is important to initiate conversations and engage in consultations with relevant agencies and institutions responsible for formulating and reviewing climate policies at the governmental level. Also, identify which other organizations provide technical support to governments to address gaps in focus areas of the process to formulate and implement NDC or NAPs.

## BOX 3.

### INFLUENCING THE ELABORATION PROCESS OF THE UPDATED NDC IN UGANDA

*In April 2019, Uganda launched the updating process of the first NDC in pursuance of paragraph 24 of Decision 1/CP.21 of the UNFCCC, under the leadership of the Climate Change Department, Ministry of Water and Environment, with financial support from the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) of the NDC Partnership. The process was coordinated by a technical team comprised of experts from the Ministry of Water and Environment; Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED); National Planning Authority (NPA); civil society; and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).*

*During the end of 2021 and 2022, UNICEF was engaged in this participatory process, with the aim to strengthen the links between national climate planning and WASH services. A series of remote and face-to-face workshops were conducted, and various drafts of the NDC were reviewed before its final publication, in September 2022.*

*As a result of this process, the updated NDC considers water and sanitation as the second highest priority sector for adaptation, with special attention given to securing resilient access to water supply and sanitation. It also sets up a range of mitigation policies and measures in relation to wastewater and sanitation, particularly in urban areas. Although the interim NDC aims to further strengthen mitigation actions as adaptation actions, adaptation remains the country's priority response to climate change.*

- Assess climate risks and response, and then use knowledge and information to influence and inform formulation and/or revision of policies, strategies, and plans. In addition, action should relate to analyze and prioritize WASH climate resilience measures, also building on current good practice.
- In those countries where the assessment suggests that WASH is already well represented in national climate policies and strategies, ensure that national climate and WASH policies and strategies are well aligned, describing linkages to other general sector processes (e.g., Joint Sector Reviews, etc.). Also, assessing the actual implementation of policies, plans and strategies, identifying bottlenecks that constrain progress.

## Step 2.2: Assessment of Climate Financing

This step provides a clear understanding of the current climate financing landscape. More specifically, it is aimed at understanding first whether the WASH sector in particular, or the broader water sector more generally, has benefited from climate financing schemes, or if there are on-going plans to do so.

### BOX 4.

## ASSESSMENT OF CLIMATE FINANCING IN UGANDA

*Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) estimated that Uganda needed US\$206.8 million for water supply and \$32.2 million for sanitation and hygiene annually in order to achieve 80 percent safe water supply and basic sanitation coverage for the country by 2020, estimating the then financing gap at \$80 million for water supply and \$26 million for sanitation and hygiene per year. The sector's on-budget share of the national budget decreased from 4.03% (US\$353m) budget funding against the national budget of \$7bn in the FY 2018/19 to 2.73% (\$309m) on budget funding in the FY 2019/20 against the national budget of \$11.3bn, according to the 2020 Sector Performance Report.*

*Multi- and bilateral climate finance to the sector has decreased in the past 10 years,*

*including the proportion dedicated to basic WASH. Challenges in accessing climate finance include the lack of a policy framework and strategy, and capacity for management of climate financing for WASH and climate change programming.*

Tips and recommendations:

- The analysis can be largely desk-based, complemented by interviews with key in-country stakeholders from the WASH, climate, and water resources sectors, including government actors and non-government actors (including relevant UN agencies).
- The assessment should cover climate financing from the national budget; bilateral aid activities; the OECD DAC External Development Finance Statistics for climate change; multilateral funds (such as the Green Climate Fund, Global Environmental Facility, Adaptation Fund); philanthropy; and the private sector.
- For each type of funding scheme, the scanning exercise examines the country profile with country contacts, and projects financed.
- It is important to develop tailored opportunities and recommendations to see how to increase climate finance for basic WASH, if relevant.

## Step 3: Assessment of climate risks and vulnerabilities for WASH

With the premise that WASH systems that are informed by risk assessments are more resilient and more likely to withstand shocks and stresses, this step convenes the WASH sector and other key stakeholders identified in Step 1 in a workshop to validate and complete the national WASH climate risk assessment. Therefore, the analysis is built on existing evidence, observed climate impacts, and climate projections (at the timescale and geographical scope available).

The WASH risk assessment seeks to understand which communities and systems are most at risk (e.g., communities practicing open defecation in flood prone areas) from current and future climate risks, providing valuable evidence in making the case (climate rationale) for effective action by government and WASH sector partners. It applies the methodology proposed by GWP and UNICEF, in which risks result from the interaction of hazard, vulnerability, and exposure.

#### Tips and recommendations:

- In short, the key questions that should guide the analysis are:
  - What are the shocks and stresses (hazards) and the likelihood/probability that they occur?
  - Which populations and systems are exposed to shocks and stresses, and where?
  - Who are particularly vulnerable to shocks and stresses? What are their characteristics?
- Therefore, the methodology assesses separately hazard, exposure, and vulnerability, and then bring these aspects together to provide an overall scoring of risks.

The stakeholders attending the workshop should include the Task Force and must represent the WASH and Climate Change sectors, including representatives from the private sector, NGOs and donors, users, including those living with a disability, women, indigenous groups, etc. Multiple stakeholders from each organisations should ideally be invited, to have representation and to participate in several simultaneous group discussions on specific topics throughout the workshop.

#### BOX 5.

### ASSESSMENT OF CLIMATE RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES FOR WASH IN UGANDA

*In February 2022, over two days of a consultative workshop, 24 sector stakeholders (6 women and 18 men) participated in a national workshop conducted in Kampala to identify, appraise, and prioritize a set of technical and non-technical solutions for delivering sustainable and climate resilient WASH services.*

- *Shallow wells, serving one out of four Ugandans, are particularly exposed to drought, water pollution, and water overexploitation. Similarly, protected springs, serving around 22 percent of the population, are also vulnerable to drought and to floods. Almost 35 percent of protected springs and 42 percent of*

*shallow wells are located in areas of moderate drought intensity, while 5 and 7 percent of protected springs and shallow wells are located in areas of high and very high intensity (the majority in the Karamoja region and the North).*

- *Water and sanitation infrastructure and services are not climate resilient, particularly pit latrines, which are used by more than 80 percent of Ugandans.*
- *Service providers are financially vulnerable to climate change. Financial sustainability of service providers is often hit through a combination of i) poor revenue collection, and ii) increased costs of service provision due to infrastructure damages and supply chain disruptions.*
- *Climate impacts and extreme weather events affect women and children disproportionately, as they are usually in charge of fetching and carrying water. Similarly, people that live in informal settlements are also exposed to water pollution, since they typically access water through unimproved sources. Ugandan farmers are affected – since most rely on rain-fed crops for subsistence, changes in precipitation and water availability impact their livelihood, with possible income losses.*

**Figure 3: Multi-stakeholder workshop appraising solutions to the prioritised climate risks to resilient WASH services**



#### Step 4: Identification of climate options to address prioritized risks

Following on the result of the WASH risk assessment, this step aims to identify a longlist of potential solutions to address the impact of climate change on WASH, keeping in mind the threefold objective of:

1. Ensuring that WASH infrastructure, services and behaviours are sustainable, safe and resilient to climate related risks, as well as the sustainable use, protection and management of surface and groundwater resources, and resilient waste management.
2. Ensuring that resilient WASH programmes contribute to building community resilience to adapt to the impacts of climate change. To achieve this, inequalities in service provision that disproportionately expose vulnerable groups to climate threats or restrict their capacity to respond effectively, need to be addressed first.
3. Working towards a low-carbon WASH sector by improving water and energy efficiency and ensuring, where possible, the use of renewable energy for water and sanitation operations to lower Green House Gases (GHGs) emissions, and energy generation from waste.

Tips and recommendations:

- The UNICEF-GWP framework for WASH Climate Resilience provides a generic Results Framework, from the enabling framework for WASH sector design and commissioning on the one hand, to local-level technologies, institutional reform and behaviour change on the other, which needs to be adjusted to the country context by the workshop participants, based on findings from the previously conducted WASH Risk Assessment.
- During the workshop, a variety of potential WASH climate resilience options will be identified and appraised through a “climate lens” and a set of “climate principles”. The output will be a set of response frameworks for all climate hazards included in the risk analysis (Step 3), for the relevant hazards for the country or region which the analysis is focused on.
- Each one should include, where relevant, i) solutions to improve the delivery of services at community and local level (in relation to infrastructure and supply, institutional reform and management, and demand and behaviour change); ii) solutions to build resilience through increased WASH-WRM cooperation, at watershed level; and iii) solutions to improve the enabling environment for climate resilient WASH, at national level.
- The participants should go through a prioritization exercise to help identify what is needed to be implemented in the short term and what should be implemented in the long

term. This should also address any potential overlaps and fragmentation among proposed solutions, as well as synergies and complementarities.

- In order for the participants to start thinking about the implementation of the proposed solutions, the rationale for the response frameworks should be elaborated, with a focus on the opportunities, risks and limitations, and the capacity gap, for each of the proposed solutions, which could ultimately accelerate or hamper the proper implementation.

**BOX 6.**

**IDENTIFICATION OF CLIMATE OPTIONS TO ADDRESS PRIORITISED RISKS IN UGANDA**

*The Response Frameworks in Uganda focused on droughts, flooding and water pollution as the most relevant hazards, with the following solutions prioritised:*

- *At the **enabling environment** level, the main priority solutions were focused on supporting allocation of adequate **financial resources**, including a dedicated budget for adaptation and mitigation goals, while strengthening the **capacities** of all sector stakeholders for climate resilient delivery of services.*
- *In order to strengthen WASH and WRM cooperation at the **watershed level**, the elaboration of **water policies** incorporating climate risks and recognize the importance of sustainable water use through e.g., water conservation, efficiency, water source protection, and environmental protection were proposed.*
- *At the **community** level, there was consensus on the need to improve design and implementation of **standards for climate smart infrastructure and technologies**, as well as strengthening the **capacities of the local government and the private sector** to implement and monitor WASH resilient programming. Finally, all groups pointed out the need to **increase awareness of communities** about WASH risks associated to climate change, and to build consensus on response actions.*



## Step 5: Identification of financing options and development of climate proposals

The last step involved the identification of climate financing options for climate-resilient WASH programming, which requires strong technical capacity and a particularly strategic approach to financing opportunities.

Tips and recommendations:

- There are available resources that provide practical information on the various funding opportunities, the conditions and criteria for accessing such funds, and how to apply, with links to sites for further information. These resources seek to facilitate the development of funding proposals.
- However, in addition to exploring funding options for new projects focused on WASH, UNICEF and partners should also support the WASH sector itself in exploring how to integrate a WASH component in climate projects and associated potential funding sources for national governments, since WASH is often excluded from these opportunities.
- The GCF Water Project Design Guidelines, published in February 2023, is aligned with the Climate Shift framework and the methodology proposed by GWP and UNICEF, presented in this Field Note.
- Submitting a Green Climate Fund proposal, one of the key finance mechanisms to assist developing countries in adaptation and mitigation to counter climate change, is a very time-consuming process, requiring comprehensive background data on climate change effects on WASH services, and how the project will contribute to a paradigm shift for climate resilient WASH, as per the GCF guidelines: “Climate resilient WASH applied to the full water cycle in a sustainable way and implementing climate risk smart innovation technologies, will lead to health improvements, better agricultural livelihoods, reduction of environmental risks, low-energy emissions and generates more-income activities, and as such performs a shift to building more resilient communities” .

### BOX 7.

## CLIMATE RATIONALE FOR WASH SERVICES IN UGANDA

*One key output in Uganda was the “climate rationale” for WASH in Uganda, summarizing the main findings from all steps outlined above.*

*This document sets out the evidence for embedding climate-related risks and vulnerabilities to WASH services in both policymaking and programming in Uganda. It is a ten pages document, in which the observed and projected impacts of climate change on WASH services are articulated through a solid analysis, and technical and non-technical solutions are identified to mitigate and adapt to the climate risks. In addition, the response frameworks are presented as a separate annex.*

*The document is intended to policymakers, donors, and sector practitioners. It sets the broad trends of Uganda’s exposure to climate change, highlights the effects of climate change on WASH critical infrastructure, and presents the rationale for a WASH sector response.*

*This provided the basis for the elaboration and submission of a Concept Note for the Green Climate Fund. The Climate Rationale provide a key part of the Theory of Change for the proposal, mapped against the components of the proposed project. It was submitted with support from an international consultancy firm to adjust and tailor the narrative of the proposal to the specific requirements and criteria of the donor through the Simplified Approval Process (SAP). This process vastly simplifies the process and documentation required to bring innovative climate solutions from concept to impact (e.g., key documents are simplified, and presented in a single, up-front list; and the total length of funding proposals should not exceed 20 pages or 10,000 words). In a SAP, the GCF contribution cannot exceed USD 25 million.*

## Lessons Learnt and Next Steps

Over the last year, significant efforts have been made in Uganda for strengthening the evidence base to inform the identification and prioritization of options for Climate Resilient WASH Programming. Through extensive multi-stakeholder consultation, involving government representatives and sector experts, a climate risk assessment of the WASH sector has been conducted, together with the identification and appraisal of solutions to make WASH services delivery more resilient to these risks. In terms of the concept and the approach, there are some lessons learned which are briefly outlined below:

### **Access to available information is crucial -**

There is need to invest time to have access to available information and data to conduct the policy review, the analysis of climate risks, water demand management (WDM), etc. This includes reports, grey literature, studies, climate and WASH policies, climate and WASH data, atlas of climate risks, etc. However, in some cases information might be very limited.

### **Different entry points and different implementation approaches can lead to the formulation of a climate rationale, ultimately depending on the expected output -**

The combination of the different steps, i.e., policy review, analysis of risks, and the prioritization of solutions, provides a validated roadmap for the country to strengthen the delivery of climate resilient WASH services. This roadmap can input different processes (e.g., establishing climate and WASH priorities in national policies and strategies, supporting the WASH sector in making the climate shift, informing WASH sector programming, developing climate proposals, etc.).

### **The Response Frameworks can be further developed into an Action Plan to operationalise and discuss financing of the proposed solutions -**

The Response Frameworks can be elaborated further, with comprehensive stakeholder participation in a multistakeholder workshop, to prepare an action plan in detail (activities and sub activities, costs, responsibilities, etc.). In addition, a separate discussion about the financing of the action plan could be also promoted, identifying opportunities for resource mobilization, and developing a dedicated strategy to mobilise climate finance, for

example through a dedicated Climate Fund under an autonomous agency.

**The creation of a dedicated national WASH and Climate Task Force could contribute to improve accountability** - Among other tasks, this dedicated working group could provide advice to the formulation of climate and WASH policies, as well as to monitor the implementation of related plans and strategies, effectively being an accountability mechanism for the response frameworks and related Action Plan.

**The process can contribute to the elaboration of national policies, including for climate finance** - Efforts should be directed to support the formulation and subsequent implementation of relevant national policies and strategies, including the NAP, to ensure climate risks to WASH are outlined sufficiently, and to update the Uganda National Climate Change Policy to reflect new NDC priorities, as well as enhance the narrative of the Long-term strategy for Climate Change and response plans for the water sector.

### **The development of climate proposals is time-consuming and requires mobilization of funds**

- There is appetite in various countries to combine the implantation of the climate shift with the development of climate proposals. There is, however, little understanding of the actual implications of what does it entail in terms of resources, capacities, and timeline. Building capacities and training might be a starting point to provide UNICEF staff and gov't officials with adequate understanding of different options, opportunities, challenges and limitations.

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## About the Series

UNICEF's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) country teams work inclusively with governments, civil society partners and donors, to improve WASH services for children and adolescents, and the families and caregivers who support them. UNICEF works in over 100 countries worldwide to improve water and sanitation services, as well as basic hygiene practices. This publication is part of the UNICEF WASH Learning Series, designed to contribute to knowledge of good practice across UNICEF's WASH programming. In this series:

*Discussion Papers* explore the significance of new and emerging topics with limited evidence or understanding, and the options for action and further exploration.

*Fact Sheets* summarize the most important knowledge on a topic in few pages in the form of graphics, tables and bullet points, serving as a briefing for staff on a topical issue.

*Field Notes* share innovations in UNICEF's WASH programming, detailing its experiences implementing these innovations in the field.

*Guidelines* describe a specific methodology for WASH programming, research or evaluation, drawing on substantive evidence, and based on UNICEF's and partners' experiences in the field.

*Reference Guides* present systematic reviews on topics with a developed evidence base or they compile different case studies to indicate the range of experience associated with a specific topic.

*Technical Papers* present the result of more in-depth research and evaluations, advancing WASH knowledge and theory of change on a key topic.

*WASH Diaries* explore the personal dimensions of users of WASH services, and remind us why a good standard of water, sanitation and hygiene is important for all to enjoy. Through personal reflections, this series also offers an opportunity for tapping into the rich reservoir of tacit knowledge of UNICEF's WASH staff in bringing results for children.

*WASH Results* show with solid evidence how UNICEF is achieving the goals outlined in Country Programme Documents, Regional Organizational Management Plans, and the Global Strategic Plan or WASH Strategy, and contributes to our understanding of the WASH theory of change or theory of action.

*COVID-19 WASH Responses* compile lessons learned on UNICEF's COVID-19 response and how to ensure continuity of WASH services and supplies during and after the pandemic.

Readers are encouraged to quote from this publication but UNICEF requests due acknowledgement. You can learn more about UNICEF's work on WASH here: <https://www.unicef.org/wash/>

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