Terms of Reference

Tender Subject: Feasibility Study on "An integrated Climate Adaptation, Food Security and WASH project in Beledweyne District, Hiraan Region, Hirshabelle State in Somalia.

TenderReference:WARDI/Caritas/Feasibilitystudy/Beledweyn/ process-001/2026

Project Information

Contracting Organization	WARDI Relief and Development Initiatives
Project title	Strengthening Community-Based Climate Adaptation and Climate-Resilient Livelihoods in Food Security and WASH, Beledweyne District, Somalia.
Project Period	01.07.2027 – 30.06.2029 (24 months)
Project location:	8 villages in Beledweyne District, Hiran Region, Somalia (final village selection subject to feasibility study)
Project Donor	BMZ through Caritas Germany
Implement Partner	WARDI Relief and Development Initiative.

Tender Timeline

No	Description	Dates
1	Publication date of the call	12 November 2026, 8:00 PM EAT
2	Deadline for submission of offers	25 November 2026, 2:30 PM EAT
3	Minimum validity period of offer from the closing date	45 days
4	Opening date of offers	30 November 2026, 11:00 AM EAT
5	Planned evaluation date(s) of offers	1 December 2026, 11:00 AM EAT
6	Notification of contract awarding	2 December 2026

The proposal should be addressed to:

Abdijabir Sheikh Maad

Procurement manager

WARDI Relief and development initiatives.

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1. Introduction,

a. About CARITAS and WARDI.

CARITAS Germany is the international aid agency of the German Caritas Association, one of the largest social welfare organizations in Europe. It funds humanitarian assistance, disaster preparedness and long-term development cooperation worldwide, working through local Caritas member organizations and civil society partners. Its main sectors are food security and livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Caritas Germany is a recognized implementing partner of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and places strong emphasis on local partner capacity and community ownership.

WARDI is one of the leading national non-governmental organizations in Somalia with operational presence across six regions in South Central. Founded in 1993 and duly registered with the Federal Government of Somalia, WARDI's mission is to provide dignified support to people affected by crises to enable them to lead a dignified and prosperous life. WARDI has offices in Mogadishu, Beletweyne,Jowhar and Buloburte and matan in South Central, Guriceel in Galgadud region Galmudug State,Wanlaweyn and Afgoye districts in Lower Shebelle as well a liaison office in Nairobi. WARDI specializes in responding to humanitarian emergencies, bridging the gap between crisis and resilience as well as long-term developmental projects with track record in implementing high quality health and nutrition, food security and livelihood, education, protection, and WASH interventions. Our programming has the distinct attributes of applying bottom-up approach that puts the communities, local authorities, and governments (National and Federal states) we work with at the centre of our programmes.

2. Background, Preparatory Work, Project Description

2.2 Background

Beledweyne District, situated in the Hiraan region along the Wabi Shebelle River, is a recognized hotspot for compound climate risks. Geographic information system (GIS) analyses confirm that the district faces recurrent and increasingly severe riverine flooding, which frequently intersects with prolonged drought cycles (Osman, 2023). The World Bank (2020) documented that flooding from the Shebelle River has repeatedly inundated Beledweyne, displacing hundreds of thousands of residents and destroying critical infrastructure. These alternating extremes contaminate existing water points, degrade farmland, and accelerate riverbank erosion, forcing households to rely on unsafe, distant water sources during dry periods (Adaptation Fund, 2024).

The local economy, heavily reliant on rain-fed, traditional smallholder farming and agro-pastoralism, is highly susceptible to these shocks, resulting in chronic crop failure, livestock loss, and persistent food

insecurity (Adaptation Fund, 2024). The burden of these climate impacts is not distributed equally. Humanitarian assessments identify women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and minority/marginalized clans as the most acutely affected populations (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2023). Research further highlights that minority clans and women face heightened vulnerability due to pre-existing socio-economic marginalization and contested community-level governance over land and water resources (Wilkinson, 2023).

Without deliberate, localized adaptation measures, climate models project an intensification of both drought and flood extremes along the Shebelle River basin (Adaptation Fund, 2024). Current community-level governance of land and water is often weak or contested, which undermines sustainable communal land use and exacerbates resource-based tensions (Osman, 2023). However, recent interventions demonstrate that community consultations can successfully transform water-related tensions into collective action, establishing mediation processes and improving local resource governance (United Nations Climate Security Mechanism, 2023).

Community-based climate adaptation is a stated priority within Somalia's national policy frameworks. Somalia's Ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9, 2020–2024) and the ongoing NDP-10 (2025–2030) explicitly integrate environmental sustainability, climate adaptation, and durable solutions for displaced populations as core objectives (Federal Republic of Somalia, 2020; Global Water Partnership, 2024). Furthermore, Somalia's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the National Climate Change Action Plan (2025–2030) commit to building long-term adaptive capacity through coordinated, cross-sectoral approaches (Federal Republic of Somalia, 2021; NAP Global Network, 2025).

To operationalize these commitments in Beledweyne, literature and project proposals prioritize a multi-faceted adaptation approach. This includes promoting climate-resilient and climate-smart agriculture, rehabilitating rangelands, and deploying decentralized, solar-powered WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) infrastructure—such as solar water pumping systems and V-shaped weirs—to ensure reliable water access during dry seasons (Adaptation Fund, 2024; NIS Foundation, 2022).

2.3 Project Description

The envisaged project aims to strengthen climate resilience, food security and sustainable access to water for vulnerable communities in Beledweyne District. It is an integrated, community-based approach with four outputs: climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable communal land use; solar-powered WASH infrastructure and water security; institutional capacity and local governance; and inclusive, accountable and locally owned community adaptation systems (gender, protection, feedback mechanisms, community adaptation plans and a sustainability/exit framework). The logic is simple: adaptation lasts only when technical measures (irrigation, water systems, restoration) go hand in hand

with community institutions that can run and maintain them, and with local authorities who anchor them in district planning.

The feasibility study is expected to assess the political, economic and social situation of the target project location in relation to the preliminary components, structured along the four outputs of the updated draft log frame (updated draft log frame to be provided by WARDI):

a. *Output 1 – Climate-resilient agriculture, irrigation and sustainable communal land use: participatory climate-risk, livelihood and natural-resource assessments; training for 1,200 households in climate-smart agriculture (drought- and flood-resilient production, soil and water conservation, water-efficient farming, integrated pest management) through an initial intensive course followed by at least three seasonal refreshers and coaching visits, with at least 50% women participants; demonstration plots (one per target village, 8 in total) and agricultural starter inputs (locally adapted, non-GMO drought-tolerant seed, tools, storage) distributed against transparent, pre-agreed targeting criteria and quality-checked before distribution; rehabilitation or upgrade of small-scale irrigation on communal farmland (proposed planning scope: 130 ha under functional water-efficient irrigation and cultivated by June 2029, against an assumed baseline of 100 ha – both figures are provisional and must be validated by this study); water-user and farmer/resource-management groups with at least 50% women members; participatory communal land-use agreements, one per target village; and soil restoration and ecosystem-based measures such as agroforestry, vegetative barriers and riverbank protection (proposed scope: 80 ha of unique degraded land, subject to technical, environmental and budget validation; sites requiring 12-month performance checks to be established by June 2028).*

b. *Output 2 – Sustainable solar-powered WASH and community water security: rehabilitation of six solar-powered water systems (boreholes, pumps, solar systems, storage tanks, pipes and distribution) serving 2,000 unique target households (approximately 14,000 people, assuming 7 persons per household), commissioned and handed over by December 2028. Siting and design must withstand floods and drought, respect safe-abstraction limits, include metering and flow-control devices where appropriate, undergo independent quality assurance and a contractor defects-liability period, and include water-quality testing, groundwater-level and abstraction monitoring. Access around water points must be safe and inclusive for women, girls, older persons and persons with disabilities. Community water-management committees will have at least 50% women members and 50% women in leadership positions, supported by technically reviewed water-safety, O&M and climate-risk management plans, and hygiene promotion on safe collection, treatment and storage reaching all 2,000 households. At least five of the six systems are expected to remain functional and community-managed six months after handover.*

c. *Output 3 – Institutional capacity and local governance: capacity assessments and a tailored capacity-strengthening package for WARDI and local CBOs/community structures (governance, financial management, procurement, MEAL, accountability), informed by an adapted, facilitated Organisational Capacity Assessment and combining training modules, simple management tools and at least two rounds of coaching and mentoring visits (proposed reach: 120 unique people, at least 50% women); training and mentoring of CBOs and community committees on climate adaptation, service delivery, O&M and community mobilisation; coordination with local authorities, traditional leaders and relevant technical actors.*

d. *Output 4 – Inclusive, accountable and locally owned community adaptation systems: gender-responsive and protection-sensitive programming, including PSEA, safeguarding, GBV risk mitigation and GBV referral pathways and disability inclusion; concrete inclusion measures such as representation quotas (at least 50% of decision-making positions held by women and at least one position held by a person from a marginalised group in each supported structure), targeted outreach and accessible arrangements; accessible community feedback and complaints mechanisms with confidential safeguarding reporting and referral arrangements in all 8 villages by June 2028; Community Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plans, one per target village, linked to district planning processes and climate/early-warning information; and a jointly owned sustainability/exit plan endorsed by Month 21 (March 2029), covering institutional ownership, O&M financing and technical support, with transition arrangements tested before project closure.*

e. *The feasibility study will lay the foundation for the project's relevance based on the needs of the target communities and will also serve as a starting point for the baseline assessment before the project's inception. The updated draft log frame (to be provided by WARDI) contains proposed targets that are explicitly provisional – notably the irrigated area (130 ha against an assumed 100 ha baseline), the restoration area (80 ha), the capacity-strengthening reach (120 people), the WASH catchment of 2,000 unique households/approximately 14,000 people and the planning assumption of 7 persons per household. These must be validated through this feasibility study and costed technical designs before the full proposal is submitted. Household and organisational baselines will be established or confirmed through this feasibility study and the household baseline survey that follows (Months 1–3 of implementation, with the baseline matrix completed by September 2027), then incorporated into the final project logic.*

2.4 Preparatory Work

In 2026, WARDI field teams and community stakeholders in Beledweyne carried out an initial desk review and consultations. Target villages and water points were screened for infrastructure condition, water availability, community engagement and accessibility. The picture is broadly favourable: there is degraded but restorable communal farmland, existing boreholes that lend themselves to solar-powered rehabilitation, traditional leadership structures willing to support communal land and water governance, and clear community interest in adaptation measures.

More in-depth analysis is nonetheless needed to test assumptions, refine the design and adapt it to the local context. The feasibility study shall assess roughly eight (8) potential villages in Beledweyne District for suitability, looking at water-resource sustainability, land availability and tenure, infrastructure condition, accessibility, security and community support. It should confirm the final village selection, refine targeting criteria and adapt the approach through participatory consultations with farmers, women, water users, community representatives and local authorities. Beyond the DAC-criteria analysis of the planned approach, the study shall identify risks and barriers, including climate, tenure, elite-capture and conflict-related risks, and recommend implementation modalities, targeting and scaling. In particular, the study shall verify the catchment population and service capacity of the six candidate water systems, the availability of suitable land with legitimate use rights for irrigation and restoration, and whether dry-season water availability supports the proposed irrigation area without compromising domestic water supply.

3. Purpose, Objectives and Use

Before implementation, BMZ requires a feasibility study. Its purpose is to give Caritas Germany and WARDI a sound basis for the full project proposal by identifying prerequisites, opportunities and risks. The study will assess whether the project is feasible and how far its approach can plausibly deliver the planned changes under existing conditions. It will provide context information at micro, meso and macro levels, plus essential baseline data, and validate the provisional quantitative targets of the draft logframe (hectares, participant numbers and service reach) against technical evidence and the available budget.

The results will help Caritas Germany and WARDI tailor the project to the target group's needs, taking account of current and planned activities by government and other actors (UN agencies, GIZ, INGOs, LNGOs and other civil society organizations) in climate adaptation, food security and WASH in Hiraan, so overlaps are avoided and synergies created.

Using the DAC criteria, the study will verify the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the proposed intervention. Its concrete, practical recommendations should support the full proposal and the project's quality assurance.

3.2 Key Questions

a) Needs, Barriers & Socio-Cultural Context

- What are the main climate-related challenges (drought, flood, riverbank erosion, degradation) for the target groups in the fields of food security, livelihoods and water access?
- What are the main reasons households have not adopted climate-resilient practices to date (knowledge, inputs, tenure insecurity, labour, market access)?
- How do gender roles and decision-making dynamics within households affect women's participation in farming, water management and community structures?
- Which customary land-tenure and natural-resource governance arrangements exist, and can they support transparent communal agreements?
- Which climate-resilient agricultural, water-management or natural-resource-management practices do households already apply, and how secure is their current access to communal land, water and natural resources (baseline relevance for outcome indicators O-1 and O-3)?
- Do the target groups see any barriers or risks for the implementation of the project? Which socio-cultural barriers may impede the planned approach, and how can they be overcome?
- Which climate-related risks (drought, flooding, pests, and water scarcity) could affect implementation and sustainability, and what is the history of displacement in the candidate villages?

b) Water & Infrastructure Availability, Quality and Systems

- What is the current condition, functionality and water quality of existing water points/boreholes in the candidate villages, and what rehabilitation scope is realistic for each of the six proposed systems? What catchment (number of unique households and people) can each system realistically serve, and do the six systems together reach the planned 2,000 households without double counting?
- What are seasonal water level and abstraction patterns, and what safe-abstraction limits are appropriate to avoid over-extraction and maladaptation?
- Do hydrogeological assessments, pumping, yield tests, and seasonal water-quality testing confirm sustainable yield and safe water for each proposed site?
- To what extent is irrigation of communal farmland technically and hydrologically feasible, and what water-efficient options are appropriate? Is the proposed planning scope of 130 ha under functional irrigation (against an assumed baseline of 100 ha) realistic, and can dry-season water availability support it without compromising domestic supply?
- Are flood risks to infrastructure adequately addressable through siting, elevation and protection measures?

- What spare parts, technical expertise and supply chains are accessible for solar-powered systems?
- What are current distances and round-trip collection times to the main water sources, and what share of households already use a safe source within ≤500 m and ≤30 minutes round trip (baseline relevance for outcome indicator O-2)?
- What is the average household size in the candidate villages, and is the planning assumption of seven persons per household valid?

c) Intervention Design, Effectiveness & Acceptability

- How effective and acceptable are the proposed climate-smart agriculture practices, demonstration plots and input packages among target households?
- Are quality-assured inputs (locally adapted, non-GMO drought-tolerant seed, tools, storage) available locally, and which targeting criteria for the 1,200 agriculture households would be transparent and accepted by communities?
- To what extent are the proposed restoration and ecosystem-based adaptation measures (agroforestry, vegetative barriers, and riverbank protection) locally appropriate? Is the proposed restoration target of 80 ha of unique degraded land technically feasible, and which sites could be established by June 2028 to allow 12-month performance checks?
- How do the target groups evaluate community O&M and cost-sharing arrangements for water systems? Are they willing and able to contribute? What are the lifecycle costs of the systems, which tariffs or contributions are affordable, and which exemptions for vulnerable households and arrangements for major repairs and component replacement are realistic?
- How do the target groups evaluate the proposed approach overall? Do they have additional suggestions that can be integrated into the project?

d) Local Capacities, Sustainability, Participation & Coherence

- How does the project consider and strengthen local ownership, participation and capacity?
- How will sustainability be ensured in the long term through water-committee management, farmer-group capacity, community ownership, and engagement with government and local authorities?
- To what extent can the target group or certain sub-groups contribute to the project achievements? Do they have the time, financial means and physical capacity to make that contribution? What is the best way and timing for it, without disrupting their livelihoods? Which activities are suitable for the target group's own contribution?
- Which community structures can the project build on? Which could be particularly successful regarding strengthening of local capacities?

- What is the current organisational capacity of WARDI and partner CBOs (governance, finance and procurement, service delivery, MEAL and accountability, gender and protection), and is the proposed capacity-strengthening reach of 120 unique people appropriate?
- Which farmer groups, water committees and communal land/resource agreements already exist in each village, how functional and inclusive are they, and what minimum functionality and inclusion criteria would be realistic?
- Please identify possible synergies between the planned project and other projects/activities in the target area. What existing interventions overlap with the proposed project?
- In this specific context, what kind of indicators could best verify the intended results/impact? Which climate and early-warning information sources (FEWS NET, SWALIM, and FSNAU) can inform adaptive management thresholds? Are the indicators and targets of the updated draft log frame (outcome indicators O-1 to O-3 and output indicators 1.1–4.3) specific, measurable and realistic, and how should their baselines be measured?

e) Cross-Cutting Issues: Protection, Inclusion & "Do No Harm"

- To what extent are protection, safeguarding and PSEA considered in the planned approach? How can this be strengthened?
- To what extent have aspects relating to gender sensitivity, disability inclusion, cultural sensitivity, conflict sensitivity and human rights been incorporated in the project's objectives? How can they be promoted even more across the project?

f) Do no harm:

- Might the project have any unintended negative consequences (e.g., conflict over land or water, elite capture of agreements or inputs)?
- Is the selection procedure of beneficiaries for individual project inputs designed in such a way that it allows the identification of the most vulnerable and strategically appropriate beneficiaries? Kindly verify and recommend on composition of selection committees and selection criteria.
- Do all household members (particularly the most vulnerable) benefit equally from proposed project results, or does the project promote the exclusion of specific groups (e.g. women, elderly, and persons with disability)?
- Does the project overburden specific groups among the target population (task/time allocation within the household)?
- Does the project promote any environmental risks or other negative consequences (e.g., groundwater depletion, ecological damage from restoration works)? Which environmental and social screening and mitigation measures are needed for irrigation, drainage, infrastructure

rehabilitation and land restoration (e.g., erosion, waterlogging, standing water, construction waste, unsafe access)?

4. Scope of work

- The planned project will take place in Beledweyne District, Hiran Region. Further consultations with community leaders, district and national level stakeholders will be necessary.
- The feasibility study will focus on:
- Review and analysis of all available project-planning documents (will be shared upon award).
- Development of an inception report outlining proposed research methodology, geographical area, target groups, and schedule to conduct the feasibility study.
- Review of existing policies, structures, guidelines, strategies, and programs as well as relevant studies and research projects on climate adaptation, agriculture and natural-resource management, WASH, food security, Somalia's National Development Plan, the WASH and Food Security Clusters, and protection frameworks in Somalia.
- Site visits to the potential target villages to conduct research, collect data (Focus Group Discussions and Individual Interviews, survey) and meet potential beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders at international, national and local level. Data collected must be validated in workshops with the proposed target groups and stakeholders.
- Technical site assessments should document, where applicable, GPS coordinates, infrastructure condition, indicative rehabilitation requirements, water-source and abstraction considerations, flood exposure, accessibility and photographic evidence where security and consent permit. The consultant should use a standardized site-assessment checklist agreed with Caritas Germany and WARDI.
- Validation of the provisional quantitative targets of the updated draft log frame – irrigated area (130 ha vs. 100 ha baseline), restoration area (80 ha), number and catchment of the six solar-powered water systems (2,000 unique households/approx. 14,000 people), household-size assumption (7 persons) and capacity-strengthening reach (120 people) – against technical findings and indicative costs, with clearly justified recommendations for any adjustment.
- A detailed analysis of the problem related to gaps and encountered challenges in the fields of climate adaptation, food security and WASH from a holistic point of view, incorporating opinions of diverse stakeholders and addressing the research questions for this feasibility study (see Annex 1 & section 5).
- Examine the identified target groups, their needs and their role in the broader societal context. Build a representative sample by deliberately seeking the views of women, persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities. The analysis should also show the

particular challenges and barriers these groups face, and the capacities available to them, to inform the design of the proposal.

- A stakeholder analysis covering government and non-government actors from village (micro) through district (meso) to national (macro) and international level, including their interests, so the project coheres with existing programs and policies and opportunities for synergies and new cooperation are identified.
- An evaluation of all available data and sources providing background information on identified issues, problem analysis, as well as the selected intervention to address identified needs.
- A critical review according to OECD/DAC criteria of the developed Logframe and activities (preparatory documents) with a specific focus on capacity development, networking and alignment of the project with existing policies and ongoing as well as planned programs.
- A revised logframe including suggested changes and additions to the updated draft logframe (to be provided by WARDI), including validated targets and indicator denominators.
- Assessment of the proposed project activities and required financial resources (budget volume), including indicative cost estimates for irrigation, restoration and WASH rehabilitation works and lifecycle O&M costs, as well as an assessment of the feasibility of the project in the given time frame (1 July 2027 – 30 June 2029), including whether WASH handover by December 2028 and establishment of restoration sites by June 2028 are realistic.
- A list of further practical recommendations for the project. In the recommendation, provide practical and contextually appropriate strategies to include persons with disabilities, women, elderly persons and ethnic minorities in the community-level project management structures.
- Identification of potential obstacles and alternatives to overcome foreseen challenges.
- Examination of technical and staffing capacities of the implementing partner, as well as its relation to the target group. Based on the findings, determine if there are areas in which the capacities of the local implementing partner need to be developed.
- Submission of a report containing the findings of the above items and specific recommendations for the full project proposal.

5. Methodology

The consultant with the inception report should provide a suitable and detailed methodology in line with the objectives of the study. This should involve a robust selection of quantitative and qualitative methods applied at the various points in the exercise and with different sampling units (individual, group, government stakeholders etc.).

- The following methodological standards should be adhered to:

- Disaggregated data: all data collected should be disaggregated by age, gender, disability, displacement/settlement status, income and any other relevant aspect, whenever possible.
- Inclusive and participatory approach: the study must include the meaningful participation of women, children, elderly people, minorities and persons with disabilities, deliberately seeking their views and reflecting them in the report.
- Gender: gender is not just a headcount of women and men in projects. It is a measure of whether the project contributes to real change in representation, resource distribution, norms and values.
- Triangulation: triangulate data types and methods where reasonable, including the perspectives of different stakeholders.
- Sensitive data: use methods suited to sensitive or taboo topics (gender-based violence, land disputes) and handle them with care. Where needed, ensure psychological support can be provided.
- Approval and pre-test of tools: share all tools with Caritas Germany and WARDI for approval before primary data collection starts. Pre-test all tools and adapt them if needed before data collection begins.
- FGD: use female facilitators for women and girls' discussions and male facilitators for men's and boys'. When choosing participants, consider whether men and women will discuss the topic comfortably in a mixed group, whether age shapes how people react, and whether people at different levels of hierarchy can speak equally.

5.2 Proposed relevant stakeholders to be contacted for interviews (not complete):

Partner/ Stakeholder name	**Relevance for the Project**
Beletweyne District Commissioner	Information on political stability and village selection relevance
Hiraan Regional Administration / line ministries	Information on district planning, climate adaptation priorities and alignment
Traditional leaders / village elders	Information on communal land governance, tenure arrangements and community entry
Water point caretakers / existing water committees	Information on system condition, O&M history and willingness for cost-sharing

Area Based Coordinator (ABC) lead in Hiraan region	Information on partners working in which villages to avoid overlap of services
UN Cluster chairpersons (Food Security, WASH, Protection)	Information on existing gaps and partners working in which villages
Farmer groups and agro-pastoral associations	Information on farming practices, extension needs and market access
NGO/local experts in irrigation, solar systems and restoration	Information on technical feasibility, pros and cons, and what to avoid during set-up
District water/health officer	Information on water-quality standards, WASH gaps and referral pathways
Relevant state line ministry for energy and water resources	Information on groundwater data, borehole registration, water-quality standards and abstraction regulation
FAO SWALIM, FSNAU and FEWS NET focal points	Climate, river-level, early-warning and food security data to inform adaptive-management thresholds
Women's groups, organisations of persons with disabilities and representatives of marginalised groups	Information on barriers to safe participation, access to benefits and inclusion in community structures

6. Deliverables

The study will produce the following deliverables:

- An inception report (max. 10 pages) with a short context, project description, target groups, proposed survey design, methods, data collection tools and a timeline for the study. Caritas Germany must approve the inception report before the feasibility study starts.
- A presentation of the key findings to the WARDI and Caritas Germany teams, online or in person.
- A comprehensive report of approx. 30 pages (structured as in Annex 2) with a detailed problem analysis, stakeholder analysis, and information about the target group, and a risk analysis with mitigation strategies, answering the research questions. The report should also include:

- a revised logframe with SMART indicators for the project objective and sub-objectives and related activities with estimated resources required, validated targets and denominators (2,000 project/WASH households and the 1,200-household agriculture subset) and recommended baseline measurement approaches
- a list of practical recommendations and relevant annexes
- a qualified statement about the required budget
- a short local implementing partner assessment
- a do-no-harm assessment
- Appendices: data collection tools for the baseline study and continuous monitoring (including unintended and unexpected changes), the list of interviewees, and the primary data, qualitative and quantitative.
- A consolidated site-assessment matrix for all candidate villages and water/infrastructure sites, including key technical findings, feasibility ranking and recommended final village/site selection.
- A target-validation table summarizing, for each provisional log frame target (hectares, households, people, water systems, participants), the evidence used, the feasibility assessment and the recommended final value.
- The language of the report is English.

7. Research Ethics, Safeguarding and Protection

The consultant shall follow accepted ethical research standards: informed consent, confidentiality, voluntary participation and safeguarding. Data collection involving children or other persons at risk requires informed consent from caregivers and assent from the persons concerned. Enumerators shall comply with safeguarding, PSEA and protection standards, and with WARDI's and Caritas Germany's codes of conduct. Data collection must be conflict sensitive and apply do-no-harm principles throughout.

8. Timetable

The consultant has a maximum of 22 working days to complete the assignment. The assignment is expected to run from 7 December 2026 to 7 January 2027, with primary field data collection principally undertaken in December 2026. The consultant shall submit a detailed work plan identifying field days, WARDI coordination days, analysis and reporting days, and time allocated for review and revisions. The schedule shall allow for WARDI and Caritas Germany review and approval of deliverables.

9. Expert Profile and Qualifications

The contract will be awarded to a recognized team of consultants able to field a research team that meets the following criteria:

a. Relevant degree(s) in social sciences, agronomy, water engineering, environmental sciences or development studies or similar.
b. The Lead Consultant should hold at least a Master's degree in Climate Adaptation/Environment, Agriculture, WASH, Development Studies, Humanitarian Action, Monitoring and Evaluation, International Studies or a closely related field, with at least 7 years of relevant professional experience, including substantial experience in feasibility studies, evaluations or applied research. A PhD will be an added advantage.
c. Strong experience with and knowledge of participatory qualitative and quantitative research methods and sampling strategies.
d. Statistical analysis skills and strong proficiency with data analysis packages.
e. Sound knowledge in project proposal development and results-based project management.
f. Proven experience in conducting feasibility studies, evaluations and other research projects, with research experience in the areas of climate adaptation, smallholder agriculture, irrigation, WASH, natural-resource governance, livelihoods of rural communities and capacity strengthening of local communities.
g. Minimum of 5 years work experience with international organizations or development partners.
h. A gender-balanced team with a combination of staff with qualifications and experience in agriculture WASH and community development will be preferred. Having experts on protection as well as disability inclusion in the team will be an added advantage.
i. Strong writing, communication, and interpersonal skills in English, with substantial experience in communicating with and managing multicultural teams.
j. Knowledge of Somali language is the basic requirement; knowledge of local dialects (Maay) in Hiraan is an advantage.
k. In-depth knowledge of Somalia and its regions, including government and community-level service delivery structures.
l. Extensive experience with humanitarian and/or development projects.
m. No conflict of interest regarding WARDI and Caritas Germany (contracting entity).
n. Willingness and readiness to work and travel in the above-mentioned project region in Somalia (under consideration of the security situation and integration into the security plan of the partner organization).

10. **Indicative timetable of the feasibility study**

No.	Milestone / Activity	Working days (indicative)
1	Document review, preparation of tools and inception report	5
2	Stakeholder interviews (district, state, cluster level)	3
3	Field visits to candidate villages: FGDs, KIIs, site assessments (water points, farmland, restoration sites)	8
4	Data validation workshops with target groups and stakeholders	2
5	Analysis, revision of logframe and drafting of report	3
6	Presentation of findings, finalisation after feedback	1
	Total	**Max. 22 working days**

11. **Management of the Feasibility Study**

The selected consultant(s) will work under the overall guidance of the Project Manager at Caritas Germany, in close cooperation with WARDI.

After the award, WARDI will provide the coordinates of the foreseen target locations, a concept note with the updated draft logframe, the timeframe, activity descriptions and general information on the proposed project. WARDI's contact person in Beledweyne will share the contacts of village elders to facilitate community entry and will support community mobilization. WARDI will also provide security information before and during the study. The consultant remains responsible for the security of its personnel during data collection and for arranging its own transport, in coordination with WARDI's security procedures.

Caritas Germany will provide the BMZ guidelines for feasibility studies, review and approve the inception and draft reports, and consolidate the final study for submission to BMZ together with the full project application.

12. Terms of Payment

WARDI Relief and Development Initiatives shall be the contracting organization and sole entity responsible for making payments to the consultant. Payments shall be made in USD by bank transfer through the WARDI main office within fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of a valid invoice and written acceptance of the relevant deliverable, subject to applicable statutory deductions. The proposed payment schedule is: (i) 20% upon approval of the inception report; (ii) 40% upon acceptance of the draft feasibility study report and presentation of findings; and (iii) 40% upon approval of the final report and all required annexes, datasets and revised logframe. No payment shall be due for rejected or incomplete deliverables until satisfactorily corrected. WARDI Finance Director shall authorize payment following documented technical acceptance by the designated project focal point and any required Caritas Germany review.

13. Application Process

Applications must be submitted electronically in signed, non-editable PDF format to no later than 25 November 2026 at 2:30 PM East Africa Time (EAT). Address submissions to the Procurement Manager, WARDI Relief and Development Initiatives, and clearly indicate the tender reference WARDI/Caritas/Feasibility study/Beledweyn /Process-001/2026 in the email subject line. Technical and financial proposals must be attached as separate clearly named PDF files. Bids received after the deadline may be rejected. WARDI may request clarifications in writing but shall not permit material changes to a bid after closing.

13.1 Cancellation

a. The procurement procedure is competitive and may include written clarifications or negotiations with eligible bidders where permitted by applicable donor procurement rules. Any negotiation shall be documented and conducted fairly without giving any bidder an improper advantage. WARDI reserves the right to request supporting documentation or cancel the procedure on objectively justified grounds. All bidders will be notified of cancellation through the same communication channel used for the tender.

Cancellation may occur where:

a. The bidding procedure has been unsuccessful, mainly where not qualitatively, financially worthwhile quotations have been received, or there has been no response at all. The economic or technical parameters of the project have been fundamentally altered.
b. Exceptional circumstances or force majeure renders normal performance of the project impossible; all technically compliant quotations exceed the financial resources available.
c. There have been irregularities in the procedure, where these have prevented fair competition.
d. Note- under no circumstances will WARDI be liable for damages, whatever their nature (damages for loss of profits) or relationship to the cancellation of a bid, even if WARDI has been advised of the possibility of damages. The publication of a procurement notice does not commit WARDI to implement the programme or project announced. The Contractor or supplier shall provide any detailed information requested by WARDI, or by any other qualified outside body chosen by the donor or by the WARDI for the purposes of checking that the activities implemented in the context of the present contract are being properly carried out

13.2 Complaints, Confidentiality and Bid Integrity

a. Bidders may submit written procurement complaints to WARDI through the designated complaints email, **procurement@wardi.org**, or report complaints through WARDI's **toll-free hotline, 2089**. All complaints must clearly indicate the tender reference number, the nature of the complaint and any relevant supporting information.

b. All complaints shall be treated confidentially, reviewed impartially and addressed without discrimination, intimidation or retaliation. Complaints involving the procurement contact person or any member of the evaluation committee shall be referred to an independent, duly authorized WARDI officer to ensure fairness, accountability and transparency.

c. WARDI shall maintain the confidentiality and integrity of all bids, evaluation proceedings, financial offers and proprietary bidder information. Such information shall not be disclosed to unauthorized persons except where required for internal or external audits, donor compliance, regulatory obligations or applicable law.

d. Any attempt by a bidder to improperly influence the procurement process, interfere with the evaluation committee or obtain confidential information may result in disqualification, subject to applicable procurement procedures.

14. **Content of offer**

a. Company's profile (experience in the sector, experience in MEAL) and registration certificate
b. CVs of key consultants indicating all relevant experiences as well as copies of relevant academic degrees and certificates (especially those travelling)
c. Contacts of at least 3 professional references related to successful completion of similar assessments
d. Sample of similar research or feasibility report (confidentiality is guaranteed)
e. Signed self-declaration of non-exclusion grounds (using the applicable declaration annex supplied with the tender)
f. Declaration of independence and absence of conflict of interest for the consultant/consultancy team.
g. Technical offer: assessment design concept, a clear description of the proposed research methodology, the data collection tools and analysis planned, and the proposed time frame (days in the field, at the WARDI office, and at the consultant's office).
h. Financial offer: clearly distinguish daily honorarium, travel expenses and taxes. The budget should present consultancy fees over the full period of up to 22 working days

15. **Evaluation Criteria**

a. Submissions are assessed on the qualifications of the consultancy team, the quality of the technical proposal and the details of the financial proposal. The technical proposal is judged against the quality criteria below and its responsiveness to these Terms of Reference.
b. Following evaluation and any permitted clarifications or negotiations, the successful bidder shall enter into a consultancy contract with WARDI Relief and Development Initiatives. WARDI shall administer the contract and make all payments. Caritas Germany shall retain the technical review and approval role stated in this TOR, without becoming the paying or contracting party. Award is subject to satisfactory verification of eligibility, references, conflict-of-interest declarations and compliance with applicable donor requirements.
c. Evaluation shall use a quality-and-cost-based method comprising 70 points for the technical proposal and 30 points for the financial proposal. Technical scores shall be allocated as follows: (1) understanding of the assignment and Beledweyne context — 10 points; (2) methodology, sampling design, data analysis and technical feasibility approach — 25 points; (3) relevant organizational experience in comparable feasibility studies — 10 points; (4) qualifications, multidisciplinary composition and experience of proposed personnel — 15 points; and (5) work plan, quality assurance, research ethics, safeguarding and data-management arrangements — 10

points. Only bidders obtaining at least 50 out of 70 technical points and satisfying mandatory eligibility requirements shall proceed to financial evaluation. The lowest evaluated financially responsive offer shall receive 30 financial points; each other qualifying offer shall receive 30 × (lowest evaluated responsive price / bidder's evaluated responsive price). Total score = technical score + financial score (maximum 100). The highest-ranked responsive offer shall be recommended for award, subject to due diligence and any donor approvals. Evaluation committee members shall declare conflicts of interest and maintain confidentiality. All scores, reasons for exclusion and clarifications shall be documented in a signed evaluation report.

16. **Additional Tender and Contract Conditions**

a. Eligibility and compliance: Bidders shall submit valid business registration documentation, evidence of relevant professional capability, signed declarations of independence and non-exclusion, and details of any proposed subcontractors. WARDI may verify all information and reject materially false or misleading submissions.

b. Clarification and addenda: Questions on the TOR must be sent in writing to jabir@wardi.org before the submission deadline. Any material clarification or amendment affecting competition shall be communicated consistently to all known bidders, with an extension of the deadline where necessary.

c. Confidentiality and ownership: All project information, research tools, anonymized datasets, transcripts, reports, photographs and other deliverables produced under the contract shall be delivered to WARDI. The consultant shall protect personal data, obtain informed consent and shall not publish or disclose project information without prior written authorization from WARDI.

d. Independence and conflicts of interest: Bidders and proposed personnel must disclose actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest. WARDI may require mitigation measures or exclude a bidder where independence cannot reasonably be assured.

e. Quality control and corrections: The consultant shall provide editable final report files and relevant analysis files alongside signed PDF versions. WARDI and Caritas Germany may request reasonable corrections necessary to meet the approved methodology and TOR, without additional consultancy fees.

f. Scope of technical tests: The proposal must explicitly state which physical tests (including pumping tests, water-quality laboratory tests and hydrogeological investigations) are included in the quoted price and which findings rely on existing records or indicative assessments. No costly intrusive testing shall be assumed unless specified in the agreed inception report and contract.

g. Fraud, safeguarding and audit: The consultant shall comply with WARDI and donor anti-fraud, anti-corruption, safeguarding and PSEA requirements and maintain supporting records for authorized verification and audit. Any suspected misconduct must be reported through designated confidential channels.

17. Bibliography

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18. Annexes

- **Annex 1:** Table of Contents for the Inception Report
- **Annex 2:** Table of Contents for Evaluation Report
- **Annex 3:** Template for Work plan – Timeframe
- **Annex 4:** Evaluation Matrix Template
- **Annex 5:** Financial Proposal
- **Annex 6:** Consultant declaration
- **Annex 7:** Consultant declaration of honor
- **Annex 8:** Ethical standard declaration
- **Annex 9:** Fraud and anti-corruption policy