

TERMS OF REFERENCE: Feasibility Study

Country	Somalia/Somaliland
Project title	Increasing the sustainability of climate-resilient water supply services through systems strengthening in Somalia
Project holder	Welthungerhilfe
Donor	BMZ PA
Location	<u>Awdal Region</u> (up to 4 locations in Baki, Zeylac, and Lughaya Districts) and <u>Jubaland State</u> (up to 3 locations in Afmadow, Kismayo, and Badhaadhe Districts)

Introduction

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e. V. (WHH) is one of the largest non-governmental organisations in Germany operating in humanitarian assistance and development. In Somalia/Somaliland, Welthungerhilfe focuses on the sectors of agriculture, environment, wash, nutrition promotion, and economic development.

In cooperation with program partners, WHH has submitted a project idea to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ, Private Agency title) entitled “Increasing the sustainability of water supply services through systems strengthening in Somalia/bengo116551”. The idea has been accepted for full proposal development and a feasibility study is required to accompany the proposal.

Purpose and focus of the consultancy: feasibility study

The main purpose of this assignment is to conduct an independent and thorough analysis of the proposed project approach and to evaluate its feasibility to realise the intended project outcomes, considering the resources, institutional environment, and realities on the ground in Awdal Region (Somaliland) and Jubaland State (Somalia). The consultant is expected to propose adjustments or alternative feasible actions and to give concrete, actionable recommendations for the further development of the project concept. An independent and critical view of the project idea, together with practical recommendations, is sought to improve the project concept and approach ahead of full proposal submission.

About the project

The planned project focuses on strengthening WASH governance and climate-resilient, sustainable water supply in a context of recurrent drought and climate variability. Example barriers to strong water systems in context include weak institutional coordination, limited technical capacity, and inadequate oversight structures affecting the sustainability of water supply systems, as well as climate-related pressures on water resources and competition between domestic, livestock, and productive water uses. Target groups include the national and line Ministries of Water in Somaliland and Somalia, private water

service providers, community water management committees and water point operators, and NGOs.

Project Objective: To strengthen sustainable and climate-resilient water supply systems and governance through a systems approach that enhances service delivery, builds stakeholder capacity, and improves the long-term functionality of water infrastructure.

Planned project outputs include:

- Strengthened WASH governance and institutional capacity for improved coordination and oversight of climate-resilient and sustainable water services;
- Mapping of water sources, management, and groundwater resilience to establish a live database;
- Smart monitoring systems for real-time water management;
- Public-private partnership-based service delivery models established;
- WASH technical guidelines

Note: in line with feasibility study practice, the above outputs (PPP models, smart monitoring, technical guidelines) are proposed options to be validated through the feasibility study – they are not predetermined design elements. The study should assess whether these or alternative arrangements best address the diagnosed bottlenecks (see Section 2).

Additional project concept and design details will be provided to the successful applicant.

Purpose of the feasibility study

The feasibility study aims to appraise the concept (to be shared with the successful applicant) for a project addressing climate resilient water supply **systems strengthening** in Awdal Region and Jubaland State, with an emphasis on inclusive and sustainable service delivery. This includes providing recommendations for improving the project concept by clarifying project prerequisites, opportunities, and risks under existing framework conditions.

This feasibility study should analyze the status of water supply service delivery in target areas, opportunities and challenges, and the target groups and stakeholders at relevant levels (micro, meso, macro) including relevant system gaps and context, plausible alternatives to the proposed approach and their potential negative effects, and structural, economic, social, and ecological dimensions of sustainability, in line with BMZ/bengo guidance. It needs to critically review the planned project in terms of the OECD/DAC criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability (further detail: <https://web-archive.oecd.org/temp/2024-05-13/81829-daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>). On that basis, the study needs to provide recommendations for the project concept and project measures, including the results/impact matrix.

Joint learning from the study findings is expected to increase the effectiveness of the project and will be used to:

- Assess the feasibility of the project approach given the institutional, technical, and governance context in the target areas;

- Assess the capacities and roles/responsibilities of the proposed implementing partners and key local stakeholders (ministries, water management committees, private service providers), including which institutional strengths and resources can be built upon, and which organisational, technical, methodological or political capacities need to be strengthened;
- Assess the needs and priorities of target groups and other stakeholders;
- Assess the water-resource and climate context in which the project will operate, including groundwater/aquifer conditions and competing water uses, on a fit-for-purpose desk-review basis;
- Provide concrete inputs to improve the quality of the project concept and application, including the results/impact matrix.

The feasibility study will focus on the following core questions:

- Are the proposed interventions (governance strengthening, PPP models, smart monitoring, technical guidelines) the most suitable options to address the diagnosed system bottlenecks, compared with plausible alternatives?
 - Specifically: What are the potential effectiveness and sustainability of the planned interventions (governance strengthening, mapping/database, smart monitoring, PPP models, technical guidelines) and what are the principal risks to their success?
 - What are the likely affordability and lifecycle financing/O&M implications; what is the state of spare-parts and maintenance markets; what regulatory capacity exists to support these models; and does relevant institutional capacity exist to own, use, and sustain monitoring data and systems after external support ends?
- How do domestic, livestock, and irrigation/productive water demands interact in the target areas, particularly during drought? Could improvements in water infrastructure or pumping capacity (e.g., through solar pumping) increase pressure on shared water sources?
 - What allocation rules, conflicts/trade-offs, or opportunities for joint governance among competing users exist or are needed?
- What are the relevant water-related conflict risks and implications of displacement and pastoral mobility for the project approach, and how should the project design remain conflict-sensitive (Do-No-Harm)?
- What is the current institutional and technical capacity of relevant public authorities (Ministries of Water), water management committees, and private service providers, and what capacity strengthening is required?
- What can be established, on a desk-review basis, about the sustainability of the groundwater and other water sources underpinning the proposed service models - including recharge and abstraction pressures, groundwater-level and quality trends where data exists, drought/flood exposure, existing monitoring arrangements, abstraction rules, and institutional responsibilities for water-resource management?
 - *NOTE: any hydrogeological analysis will rely on existing secondary data and available assessments; it does not include field-based hydrogeological*

investigation (e.g., aquifer testing, borehole yield testing), which is beyond the scope of the 30-day desk-based level of effort. If a robust answer requires field-based hydrogeological data collection, the consultant should flag this explicitly as a data gap and limitation rather than attempt it within this assignment.

Methodology

The feasibility study is expected to be desk-review intensive, reflecting the systems-oriented nature of the project concept and the wealth of information and analyses available in the public domain on this and relevant topics in the Somali context as well as additional assessments provided by WHH. The study will be conducted primarily through document and secondary data review (national and regional water policy and strategy documents, sector assessments, prior project evaluations, and the documents listed in Section 9 below) - including, for the groundwater/water-resource and competing-use lines of inquiry above, any available hydrogeological studies, groundwater monitoring data, water-resource assessments, and climate/drought risk information held by government, WHH, or other actors - complemented by targeted key informant interviews (KIIs) with relevant stakeholders including government counterparts (Ministries of Water at all administrative levels), private water service providers, NGOs, and other relevant actors. A limited number of community-based focus group discussions with water management committees and an inclusive selection of water service users are required to ensure a participatory study and address gaps in desk review findings. Any field-based data collection will need to take account of the security and access situation in Awdal Region and Jubaland State, and the consultant should propose feasible modalities (in-person, remote/phone, or hybrid KIIs) accordingly in the inception report.

Note: Given the level of effort available for this assignment (see Section 5), the assessment of groundwater/aquifer sustainability and competing water-use dynamics is expected to be desk-review-based and fit-for-purpose rather than a field-based technical study. The consultant should clearly state in the inception report and final report where secondary data is insufficient to answer a question with confidence, and should not propose or undertake field-based hydrogeological investigation (e.g., aquifer testing) within this assignment.

Please note, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) is acceptable but must be explicitly mentioned in the offer and in the study itself.

Expected deliverables

- A. Inception Report containing proposed methodology (incl. list of documents to be reviewed, stakeholder/KII sampling, tools, and work plan)
- B. Post-research presentation introducing initial findings
- C. Draft Report allowing for feedback from WHH management, within one week from the end of the data collection period
- D. Final Report incorporating feedback from WHH management on the draft report, within 3 days of receiving comments

The report should not exceed 30 pages (excluding annexes), in line with donor requirements.

DELIVERABLE/ MILESTONE	CONTENT	RESPONSIBILITIES
Inception Report	Consultant presents methodology (incl. list of documents to be reviewed, stakeholder sampling, tools, work schedule)	Consultant submits to WHH electronically
Data Collection	Briefing meeting with WHH on planned project (online/in-person) for feedback on the inception report and to clarify any questions the consultant may have Review of secondary information Key informant interviews in-person and/or remote as feasible Focus group discussions as required	Review of secondary data provided by WHH and identified by the consultant (in the public domain); data collection and interviews coordinated with support from WHH and local partners
Validation Presentation	Initial findings	Consultant to carry out a validation session for relevant WHH team members
Draft of the Final Report	Full report (max. 30 pages of main chapters, excluding annexes) following the structure, content, and length required by donor guidelines Detailed recommendations, including for the results/impact matrix List of references and background literature	Consultant sends the draft final report electronically
Final Report	Revised report incorporating WHH feedback	Consultant submits the final report electronically

Duration

The assignment is expected to be carried out within the period October–November 2026, with an estimated total level of effort of approximately 30 working days, indicatively distributed as follows:

ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED DAYS	COMPLETION DATE
Preparation (inception report) including presentation	5	14 October

Desk review and data collection in <u>Awdal Region</u> (up to 4 locations in Baki, Zeylac, and Lughaya Districts) and <u>Jubaland State</u> (up to 3 locations in Afmadow, Kismayo, and Badhaadhe Districts)	14	29 October
Draft study report including presentation	6	5 November
Final Report	5	20 November
Total	30	

Confidentiality

All documents and data acquired from documents as well as during interviews and meetings are confidential and to be used solely for the purpose of the feasibility study.

The deliverables, as well as all material linked to the feasibility study (produced by the consultant(s) or the organisation itself), are confidential and remain at all times the property of WHH.

If pictures from the process or from the project location are taken, they should also be given to the WHH team. Prior informed consent of the concerned persons is mandatory (guidelines and templates can be provided by the WHH team).

Lines of Communication

The consultant will report to the WHH Head of Programmes, and will work closely with the proposal development team and relevant staff from local partner organisations and WHH.

Qualifications of Consultant

The desired qualifications, skills, and experience are summarised below:

- Advanced university degree in water resources management, engineering, public policy, development studies, or other related fields is required;
- Given the water-resource and groundwater-resilience dimensions of this study, the consulting team should include or have ready access to expertise in hydrogeology or water resources management (WRM) sufficient to interpret existing secondary data on aquifer conditions, recharge/abstraction pressures, and water-use trends.
- Minimum 5 years of prior work experience and demonstrated knowledge in conducting feasibility studies, sector assessments, or research, especially in WASH systems strengthening and in the regional and international context;
- Understanding of natural resource governance, water-use conflict, and/or climate risk analysis in pastoral or agro-pastoral contexts is an advantage;
- Relevant work experience in water governance, institutional capacity strengthening, public-private partnerships, or WASH systems approaches is appreciated;
- Familiarity with monitoring and information systems for water resource management is an advantage;

- Knowledge of and working experience in Somalia/Somaliland is required; experience specifically in Awdal Region and/or Jubaland State is an advantage;
- Excellent writing, editing, and oral communication skills in English;
- Ability to travel to all study locations;
- Previous experience conducting feasibility studies for BMZ-funded projects is an advantage.

Background documents to be provided to the consultant

- Additional guiding information for the development of the study
- Project concept note and draft results framework
- Relevant national and sub-national water sector policy, strategy, and regulatory documents (Somaliland and Somalia/Jubaland)
- Prior sector assessments and evaluations relevant to the target areas
- Any available groundwater, hydrogeological, or water-resource monitoring data/studies and climate/drought risk assessments for the target areas
- BMZ/bengo Guidelines for Conducting Feasibility Studies (July 2024)
- Contact information for relevant respondents, where available