

Requesting Division	Knowledge Management Division
Area of Expertise	Public affairs with focus on water and environment, or a related field
Category	1 International Consultant
Submission	Applicants shall submit their application documents to warrenz@carecinstitute.org before 24:00(Beijing Time), 11 June 2020.
Application Documents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Curriculum Vitae 2. Cover letter and brief for experience on water management or UNICEF related projects (within 1000 words) 3. Optional - Preliminary design on report structure and case study(within 500 words) (Annex 3 if applicable)

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
UNICEF and CAREC Institute (CI) Joint Research Cooperation on Water Resources
Management**

International Consultant as the Water Research Team Leader (70 working days, USD 250 per day, teleworking/potential field visits, starting from June 2020)

Fresh water is one of the most crucial factor for economic, social and human development around the globe. The UN forecasts that a half of population of the planet or more than 5.5bn people will suffer from water shortage by 2050. The water shortage at surface and aquifer level has become an acute issue for the Central Asian region whose population is expected to hit 90mn people by the mid-21st century. Amid these conditions, the issue of international cooperation on sustainable water resources management and conservation of this vital resource for future generations gains a critical importance. Agriculture plays prominent role in the development strategies of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Uzbekistan, requiring an emphasis on efficient water use.

Globally, more than 800 million and 2.5 billion of the world's population, respectively, do not have access to safe drinking water and water sanitation, while for the relevant CAREC countries in this research, the populations with access to safe water is all below the world's average. At the same time, pressure on the region's water resources is expected to continue rising due to climate change impact and positive demographics. According to the World Bank, due to climate and wasteful consumption of water in agriculture, coupled with central Asian population growth at its current rate of 1.5 % per year, the amount for water supply is estimated to be just one-quarter of current average consumption. Moreover, due to climate impact, water availability will be reduced by 7-8% by 2030 (CAREC Institute.2020).

The Central Asia region has a highly varied geography, which includes high mountains; vast deserts; and treeless, grassy steppes. The two major rivers are the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya. The Aral Sea is another major water reservoir for the region. However, the distribution of water resources is very difficult in Central Asia. This makes cross border water cooperation to be another important issue.

Effective, fair and mutually beneficial water cooperation is highly needed to catalyze the development of countries connected by common water basins. Therefore, efficient water management and effective transboundary cooperation in these countries will become even more crucial in the years to come.

Main Responsibilities and Tasks

1. Under the supervision of the UNICEF-CI Joint Task Force, lead and work in close coordination with consultant team members to ensure successful delivery of research results;
2. Lead the analysis on water status of the 3 selected CAREC countries (Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) e.g. on aspects of water for people (including sanitation and hygiene); water for food; water for nature; water for industries (incl. energy) and/or other use; and identify the critical challenges of rural and urban communities most in need;
3. Take the lead in design and implementation of technical routes, work plan and time table, research methodology, report structure, relevant surveys, questionnaires, interviews, drafting and editing of the final research report and guiding the preparation of country-specific reports by research team members;
4. Guide the national consultants to compare policies and practices between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and selected CAREC countries (Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) on supply of safely managed water and related sanitation and hygiene (such as WASH in schools and health facilities), efficient water application and treatment (including nexus approach for water, food and energy to ensure sustainable water resources) and climate-resilient water solutions, particularly for most vulnerable women, children and their communities;
5. Develop the matrix of feasible modalities to strengthen community-based water schemes and balance the distribution of water for drinking, agriculture and other needs in rural areas of the selected countries (including modeling work to balance demand/supply of water resources) by sharing experience and good practices of similar situations among CAREC member countries, including the PRC;
6. Provide options how to promote South-South knowledge sharing and application of environmentally friendly, energy-efficient and climate resilient technologies for local water management to help ensure access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene;
7. Identify regional and national demands of investment in the selected countries for improving access to safe water supply and related sanitation and hygiene (incl. looking at potential linkage with water infrastructure projects to benefit end-users); and conduct case studies of best practices on WASH supply chain and investment cases for sustainable water management solutions to benefit local communities;
8. Ensure good coordination with UNICEF-CI Joint Task Force, and contribute to timely updates and reporting to on research progress and results as required;
9. Coordinate regular consultant team meetings, and participate in the planned seminar and CAREC Think Tank Forum session and deliver presentations if required;
10. Contribute to the dissemination of research findings.

Key Deliverables

1. An original publishable main research report (minimum 15,000 words, English and Chinese versions, and translations of executive summary available in Russian and Mongolian, in line with format and publishing requirements of UNICEF and CI).

2. Three country-specific case study reports with policy briefs (minimum 8,000 words each) on cooperation modalities and policy options in selected CAREC countries.
3. A South-South cooperation project proposal (minimum 3000 words) for submission to multilateral development partners.
4. Contribution in seminar and conferences organized by UNICEF and CI, if and as requested.

Minimum Qualifications and Competencies

1. Advanced university degree in public affairs with focus on water and environment, or a related field;
2. A minimum of 15 years of work and related research experience in the field of water, environment, sanitation and hygiene, and relevant field experience working for the UN, international financial institutions and/or INGOs;
3. Good knowledge of international and national policies, best practices and technology for water supply and related sanitation and hygiene aspects, water application efficiency and climate-resilient water management, preferably in the context of CAREC countries;
4. Strong interpersonal and team coordination skills, and ability to work independently under tight deadlines;
5. Fluency in English (verbal and written) is required, and a good written and spoken proficiency in another CAREC language (such as Russian or Mongolian) is an asset.