

Save the Children

PRO-WASH Scope of Work: Learning from Water Security and Resilience activities in the Sahel

ESTIMATED DATES: July 15, 2022 – November 15, 2022

LOCATIONS: Remote

TOTAL NUMBER OF ESTIMATED WORKING DAYS: 40-52 days

1. BACKGROUND

PRO-WASH (Practices, Research and Operations in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) is a five-year project led by Save the Children and funded by the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). PRO-WASH works with partners operating in development and humanitarian contexts to strengthen the quality, effectiveness and sustainability of WASH and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) practices in BHA-funded food security activities. As part of the award's core commitment to strengthening WASH service delivery, PRO-WASH provides opportunities for knowledge sharing, one-on-one technical assistance, and capacity strengthening, and resourcing for learning and applied research.

TerresEauVie is implemented by Winrock International which leads the USAID Water Security and Resilience (WSR) activity as part of RISE II¹. The Activity is intended to strengthen and improve water security by strengthening policy and governance approaches for sustainable water and land access and use, and improving the capacity and performance of households, commune, and regional governments to develop and manage multiple-use water systems, surface water resources, sanitation services, and sustainable and productive land management.

PRO-WASH, in collaboration with TerresEauVie, is currently seeking applications from qualified vendors to collaborate on knowledge gathering and learning on water security and resilience in groundwater-dependent catchments in drylands regions of Burkina Faso and Niger.

The Sahel today is marked by food and water insecurity, persistent poverty, poor governance, high population growth rates and recurrent climate shocks that enhance vulnerability to conflict and extremism. The magnitude of shocks exceeds local coping capacity, and people and systems are less able to manage the risks they face and recover when a shock occurs. Communities are mainly dependent on groundwater-based water point infrastructure such as shallow dug wells and boreholes for domestic supply, stock watering, and small-scale irrigation.

¹ USAID's Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) project has been implemented in Niger and Burkina Faso since 2012. The second phase, RISE II, continues the same efforts with the overall goal that chronically vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso and Niger, supported by resilient systems, effectively manage shocks and stresses and pursue sustainable pathways out of poverty. Within RISE II and led by Winrock's Sustainable Water Partnership, the USAID "TerresEauVie" Activity enhances communes' self-reliance by making social and ecological systems resilient through three components: (1) Improved water security; (2) Enhanced sustainable productive land use; and (3) Improved management of shocks, risks and stresses.

Recent initiatives in the region by TerresEauVie have included a focus on Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), which helps to restore catchments and make them more resilient to drought. This work has included the promotion of good agricultural practices such as gully treatment, reforestation, natural assisted regeneration, and restoration of degraded soils. Work has also been done on mapping local groundwater conditions. Local groundwater surveys have been completed, including assessing the best sites (sites with the highest probability to have wet boreholes) for the drilling of new boreholes.

The systemic aspects of water management have also received attention, including the relationship between local water point committees, and regional / catchment level management entities. Work is also underway to transition from regional water management along administrative boundaries (e.g. communes and regions), to management based on catchment boundaries. Efforts are also being made to leverage climate information systems at appropriate scales, including climate bulletins from FewNet and AGRHYMET to provide farmers with information on climate trends and likely shocks (particularly drought).

These ongoing initiatives allow an opportunity to capture and disseminate lessons learned on water security and resilience.

2. OBJECTIVES

PRO-WASH, in collaboration with TerresEauVie, is seeking a qualified vendor for collaboration in knowledge gathering and research in groundwater-dependent catchments in drylands regions of Burkina Faso and Niger. The overall objectives of this scope of work are to capture lessons learned on groundwater, water security, water governance and water resilience, and generate and disseminate findings and recommendations to share with current and future programs. This includes providing recommendations on how findings can be integrated/adapted to RFSa programming. Additional information on detailed deliverables encompassed within the partner's scope of work are included below.

The selected vendor will primarily use secondary data analysis, document reviews, and online key informant interviews (KIIs)/discussion groups with staff and partners of TerresEauVie, including government and private sector actors, and PRO-WASH to explore the following three themes:

- **Theme 1: Learning from groundwater studies in Niger and Burkina Faso**
- **Theme 2: Water security from local water users associations and/or water users committees to regional watershed agency in Burkina Faso**
- **Theme 3: Locally negotiated solutions to better protect natural resources and improve water security in Niger and Burkina Faso**

The contract will be managed by PRO-WASH but significant input and technical direction will be provided by TerresEauVie in collaboration with PRO-WASH. The consultant will work closely with the other RISE II partners, as needed. PRO-WASH will lead the overall management of this recruitment.

3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Start-up Activity: Consult with PRO-WASH and TerresEauVie on the scope of work and draft an inception report to outline the timeline, overall methodology, including a list of proposed KIIs/Discussion Groups, and plan for achieving the scope of work. This includes briefly reviewing available materials and an actor mapping that will be provided by the USAID Sahel Collaboration and Communication activity. *Estimated LoE = 3-5 days*

Learning Activity/Theme 1: Local groundwater studies strategic summary. Estimated LoE = 10-13 days

Theme 1: Learning from groundwater studies in Niger and Burkina Faso. This theme will explore the following questions:

- What are the key findings from the 21 local groundwater studies (*potential of communal hydraulic resources studies*) and maps (*depth, aquifer, water potential*) carried out under TerresEauVie?
- What are the lessons learned from conducting these groundwater studies, on dissemination efforts, and on use of the reports that can inform future groundwater studies, dissemination activities, and use in additional communes?
- Which audiences have been reached to date with the groundwater studies? How can these studies/outputs and future studies/outputs be made more accessible for use by intended users such as the government, the private sector, RFSAs and others?
- How are the findings being used? What are the barriers to using the findings from the groundwater studies? How are barriers different per relevant stakeholder?
- Are the studies able to contribute to (perceived) water security and resilience of the communes and communities as intended?
- How can hydrometeorological information available in the study areas strengthen and complement future groundwater surveys/reports?

Learning Activity 1

- **Document Review:** Review the 21 (*18 from Niger and 3 from Burkina Faso*) local groundwater studies and maps and compile key points, major issues, and information from the studies into a **short summary report**. This report will be aimed at RFSAs, other development partners, and USAID, to use when setting medium to long term priorities.
- Draft KII/Discussion Group guide and methodology, to be finalized based on TerreEauVie and PRO-WASH input
- Conduct 5-10 KIIs/Discussion Groups with intended users of the groundwater reports, to explore the above learning questions
- Code and analyze data to generate findings and recommendations.
- Provide a **summary report** on key findings from the KIIs/Discussion Groups, which includes the methodology, results, and a list of recommendations for future groundwater studies, outputs, and dissemination efforts, based on feedback from intended users. The main audiences for this report are RFSAs, TerreEauVie, PRO-WASH, USAID and other actors, including government and private sector actors, working on water security and resilience in the Sahel. The format for the report will be decided in collaboration with the vendor, PRO-WASH and TEV.

Proposed methodology: Document review and KIIs/Discussion Groups with intended users of the groundwater studies and stakeholders, as identified in collaboration with PRO-WASH and TerresEauVie.

Theme 2: Water security and local water users associations and/or water users committees to regional watershed agency in Burkina Faso. This theme will explore the following questions:

- How do the linkages between local water structures² and regional watershed agency function? What role does each actor play in terms of water security at the watershed level and what are the shortfalls/gaps to note? What could be done to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of that system?
- How can local water structures best contribute to improved water security and resilience at the community level? What are critical interventions could better equip the local water structures to contribute meaningfully to water security objectives?
- How do the water users associations, water users committees, local water committees and water agencies benefit from interventions done by development partners (focus on USAID and BHA funded partners)? What are some gaps/needs committees might feel lacking in order to perform well in their role and how can development partners support better? What could be done better to improve perceived water security at the watershed level? Is there evidence of collaboration and common engagement to address / to impact water security?
- What are necessary steps to ensure the sustainability of the local structures, considering the evolving security and political context in Burkina Faso?
- How can partners better engage supporting partners and stakeholders to get impact at scale (sub-watershed level)?
- How can impact on (perceived) water security at community level, at sub-watershed level, be measured? What are key interventions that can provide a visible impact on water security?
- Are local water users associations and water agencies using hydrometeorological information in their water governance/management activities? If yes, how? If not, what are the barriers?

Learning Activity 2: Systemic / governance aspects of watershed management in Burkina Faso.

Estimated LoE 12-15 days

- Using available documents, local experience and knowledge, analyze the “state of play” with respect to water governance institutions in the study areas, from local level to regional and national level. This should take into account the applicable water laws and policies.
- Draft KII/Discussion Group guide and methodology, to be finalized based on TerreEauVie and PRO-WASH input
- Conduct 5-10 KIIs/Discussion Groups with stakeholders from the local water users associations, water agencies and other relevant stakeholders. Exact number to be determined during the inception phase.
- Code and analyze data to generate findings and recommendations.
- Provide a **summary report** on the methodology and results/findings from the desk review and KIIs/Discussion Groups, including an assessment of what is working well, major issues arising from the implementation of the water governance system in Burkina Faso, provide a list of recommendations to improve future interventions related to local water governance and water security. The main audiences for this report are RFSAs, TerreEauVie, PRO-WASH, USAID and other actors, including government and private sector actors, working on water security and resilience in the Sahel. The format for the report will be decided in collaboration with the vendor, PRO-WASH and TEV.

² Comité Local de l'Eau (CLE), Comités d'Usagers d'Eau (CUE), Associations des usagers de l'eau (AUE)

Proposed methodology: Document Review and KIIs/Discussion Groups with intended users (RFSAs and other stakeholders identified in collaboration with PRO-WASH and TerresEauVie)

Theme 3: Locally negotiated solutions to better protect natural resources and improve water security in Burkina Faso and Niger. This theme will explore the following questions:

- What is currently being done to disseminate the information contained in the local conventions, (chartes foncières locales), to ensure that transhumant pastoralists are aware of their rights and duties with regards to access to water? How could this dissemination be strengthened?
- Who are the potential winners and losers where and when local conventions (chartes foncières locales) are being implemented? Do these agreements contribute to increased (perceived) social cohesion? If so what are the supporting factors? If not what are the barriers?
- What are the positive and negative impacts on the power dynamics around access to water of the local agreements (chartes foncières locales)?
- Can these agreements be quickly renegotiated considering the evolving context, in particular the climate shocks affecting the region? If not, what are the barriers to that? Note the differences and similarities in each country.
- What recommendations are there about how best practices around locally negotiated solutions to access to water can be replicated?
- What hydrometeorological information is currently being used by local conventions (chartes foncières locales)? What information would be considered most useful? If little to no information is being used, why?

Activity 3: Local solutions (local land charters, local conventions) to better protect/manage natural resources, thus improving water security. *Estimated LoE 12-16 days*

- Review an example of local convention and chartes foncières locales, and develop learning methodology and KII/Discussion Group Guide, to be finalized based on TerreEauVie and PRO-WASH input
- Conduct 5-10 KIIs/Discussion Groups with stakeholders and users of the local conventions (chartes foncières locales). Exact number to be determined during the inception phase.
- Code and analyze data to generate findings and recommendations.
- Provide a **summary report, which should** include methodology, list of KII key findings/results, including an assessment of what is working well, a list of the major issues arising from the implementation of locally negotiated solutions, recommendations for future interventions around locally negotiated solutions, based on feedback from key informants.. The main audiences for this report are RFSAs, TerreEauVie, PRO-WASH, USAID and other actors, including government and private sector actors, working on water security and resilience in the Sahel. The format for the report will be decided in collaboration with the vendor, PRO-WASH and TEV.

Proposed methodology: Document Review and KIIs/Discussion Groups with intended users (RFSAs and other stakeholders identified in collaboration with PRO-WASH and TerresEauVie)

Activity 4: Workshop / knowledge sharing event. *Estimated LoE = 3 days*

- Prepare for and hold an online workshop to present the outputs of this scope of work to RFSAs and other partners in the region, including a listening exercise to co-create knowledge of some of the main barriers to more resilient water supplies. This will include preparing powerpoint

presentations, shared Google documents, polls, and/or other methods to ensure participatory exercises for the listening exercises.

- Compile a short report from the workshop, listing attendees, key points agreed on, and a list of recommended actions. The consultant will also include links to final presentations.

4. TABLE OF DELIVERABLES

No.	Deliverable	Description	Estimated level of Effort
1	Inception report	Consult with PRO-WASH and TerresEauVie on the scope of work and draft an inception report to outline the timeline, overall methodology, including a list of proposed KIIs/Discussion Groups, and plan for achieving the scope of work. This includes briefly reviewing available materials.	3-5 days
2a	Summary report of key findings and information from the Niger and Burkina Faso Groundwater studies Document Review:	Review of the (18 from Niger) and 3 from Burkina Faso local groundwater studies, maps, and compile key points, major issues, and information from the studies into a short summary report . This report will be aimed at RFSAs, other development partners, and USAID to use when setting medium to long term priorities.	10-13 days
2b	Provide a summary report on key findings from the KIIs/Discussion Groups	Provide a summary report on key findings from the KIIs/Discussion Groups, which includes the methodology, results, and a list of recommendations for future groundwater studies and outputs, based on feedback from intended users. The main audiences for this report are RFSAs, TerreEauVie, PRO-WASH, USAID and other actors, including government and private sector actors, working on water security and resilience in the Sahel. The format for the report will be decided in collaboration with the vendor, PRO-WASH and TEV	

3	Summary report on systemic / governance aspects of watershed management in Burkina Faso	<p>Provide a summary report on the methodology and results/findings from the desk review and KIIs/Discussion Groups, including an assessment of what is working well, major issues arising from the implementation of the water governance system in Burkina Faso, provide a list of recommendations to improve future interventions related to local water governance and water security. Annexes to this report will include the KII/Discussion Group Guide and coded data sets.</p> <p>The main audiences for this report are RFSAs, TerreEauVie, PRO-WASH, USAID and other actors, including government and private sector actors, working on water security and resilience in the Sahel. The format for the report will be decided in collaboration with the vendor, PRO-WASH and TEV.</p>	12-15 days
4	Summary Report on Local solutions (local land charters, local conventions) to better protect/manage natural resources, thus improving water security	<p>Provide a summary report, which should include methodology, key findings/results, list of KIIs, including an assessment of what is working well, a list of the major issues arising from the implementation of locally negotiated solutions, recommendations for future interventions around locally negotiated solutions, based on feedback from key informants. Annexes to this report will include the KII/Discussion Group Guide and coded data sets.</p> <p>The main audiences for this report are RFSAs, TerreEauVie, PRO-WASH, USAID and other actors, including government and private sector actors, working on water security and resilience in the Sahel. The format for the report will be decided in collaboration with the vendor, PRO-WASH and TEV.</p>	12-16 days

5	Workshop report, presentation deck, and list of attendees	Recording from holding an online workshop to present the outputs of this scope of work to RFSAs and other partners in the region. Short report from the workshop, listing attendees, key points agreed on, and a list of recommended actions. The consultant will also include links to final presentations.	3 days
Total estimated working days			40-52 days

QUALIFICATIONS

The vendor should have the proposed expertise requirement as described below:

- The proposed individual or team should include appropriate expertise and qualifications; (i) Degree in relevant fields such as Water governance, Water security, Integrated Water Resource Management, Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Geology, Hydrology, Microbiology, Public Health or a related discipline; (ii) Knowledge of and experience with water security/integrated water resource management in low- and middle-income settings, particularly in rural settings; (iii) Demonstrated technical writing ability; (iv) demonstrated experience in qualitative research methods ; (v)Strong understanding of and/or experience with USAID funded projects is preferred
- **Strong preference for consultants residing in the Sahel or with previous experience in Niger or Burkina Faso.**
- Experience leading the development of technical reports, briefs, guides, etc
- Extensive experience with desk reviews, compiling and analyzing data and conducting qualitative KII/Discussion Groups in French.
- Strong communication, analytical and writing skills. **Reporting can be done in French or English, depending on the consultant’s preference.**
- Fluency in both French and English.

5. TO APPLY:

Please submit a proposal in **French or English** by **July 6, 2022** to prowash@savechildren.org and nweber@savechildren.org

Questions: Please email prowash@savechildren.org with any questions before June 24, 2022. All answers to the questions received will be posted on the FSN Network.

Proposals can be submitted in French or English should include the following:

A. Technical Proposal: Cover page, including individual or company name, contact information, company biography and proposal summary including:

- Proposed Project Narrative Plan that includes
 - Ability and availability of the vendor(s) to undertake this work between July-November 2022, and their approach to project management.
 - Estimated calendar of the work and deliverables
 - Related Project Experience: Please provide some evidence of successful service of projects of similar scope as detailed above, including demonstration of ability to work collaboratively with project partners; experience with water security and water governance in rural settings in Sahel, and with USAID projects, is preferred.
 - Names and contact details of at least two professional references from clients for which similar work has been carried out in the last 5 years
 - Links to at least two samples of relevant work (similar to what is expected under this scope of work).
 - Team hierarchy: as part of the vendor's submission, provide details and responsibilities for the different team members to be engaged under this scope of work, including copies of CVs for all team members

B. Cost Proposal: The total cost needed to complete the Deliverables.

- The budget should be detailed and itemized and include a breakdown of project expenses by deliverables, type of cost, and unit costs needed to complete this scope of work.
- The budget should include the time allotted for each staff member/s to complete the needed activities for each deliverable.
- All costs need to be reasonable, allowable, and allocable and compliant with 2 CFR 200, Subpart E, "Cost Principles."

C. Registration Information

- The applicant should send appropriate license and registration information to confirm that the applicant is legally registered to operate in their respective country.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Individuals and firms are eligible to apply

The proposals will be evaluated by a committee comprised of representatives from TerresEauVie and PRO-WASH. The committee will select the applicant whose proposal provides the best value, considering both technical and cost factors. Technical and cost factors will be evaluated relative to each other, as described herein. The technical evaluation factors, taken as a whole, are of greater importance than cost or price in determining best value.

Applicants should note that these criteria: (1) serve as the standard against which all proposals will be evaluated, and (2) serve to identify the significant matters which Applicants should address in their proposals. Each proposal will be evaluated on the criteria listed below and the criteria will be weighted according to the following allocations:

1. Previous experience and/or quality of samples provided: (Maximum 35 points)

- a. Does the vendor have experience in working on similar projects?
- b. Do other organizations/vendors recommend this vendor?
- c. Does the vendor have substantial experience in desk reviews, document reviews and qualitative methods including KIIs/Discussion Groups?
- d. Does the vendor have demonstrated experience and familiarity with the Sahel context and related water supply and resilience challenges?

2. Reasonableness of the submitted budget: (Maximum 30 points)

- a. Are the costs proposed reasonable and realistic for the tasks?
- b. Are the costs proposed allowable?
- c. Are the costs clearly explained and necessary for the completion of the deliverables?

3. Narrative plan: (Maximum 35 points)

- a. Does the staffing structure proposed respond to the technical requirements of the work?
- b. Does the vision of the narrative plan correspond to PRO-WASH's goals of learning and generating recommendations?
- c. Does the proposal show a collaborative approach to management and working with partners?

7. PAYMENT CONDITIONS

Payment will be made on completion of the above deliverables.