

# **'CALL FOR PROPOSALS' (CFP) - Nyahode Watershed, Nyahode Valley (Ward No.13), Chimanimani District, Manicaland, Zimbabwe**

## **United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)**

UNOPS is an operational arm of the United Nations, supporting the successful implementation of its partners' peacebuilding, humanitarian and development projects around the world. Our mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. UNOPS areas of expertise cover infrastructure, procurement, project management, financial management and human resources.

## **Project background**

Managed by UNOPS and funded by the World Bank, the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Programme (ZIRP) is a four-year response to Cyclone Idai, which affected the eastern part of Zimbabwe in early 2019. ZIRP seeks to rehabilitate the damaged community infrastructure in the districts of Chipinge and Chimanimani and restore the livelihoods of the affected communities.

The programme intends to carry out activities to rebuild damaged infrastructure under the build back better principle. In addition to UNOPS, ZIRP involves 7 other UN agencies, FAO, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO (referred to as Technical Agencies), providing support in health, nutrition, food security, education, agriculture, and resettlement.

To build resilience within local communities, UNOPS aims to assess the watershed schemes in several areas in Chimanimani and Chipinge in the Manicaland Province, paying close attention to the effects of climate change on the perennial sustainability of surface and groundwater sources in the targeted areas. The assessment will focus on areas affected by Cyclone Idai in 2019.

Zimbabwe is exposed to multiple weather-related hazards, suffering from frequent periodic cyclones, droughts, floods, and related epidemics and landslides. On 15 March 2019, tropical Cyclone Idai hit eastern Zimbabwe, and at least 172 deaths were reported, more than 186 people were injured and 327 were missing, while over 270,000 people were affected across nine districts, particularly in Chimanimani and Chipinge. Of those affected, 20,002 households (61.5%) or 100,106 people (74.2% of the 2012 population) were in Chimanimani. Meanwhile, ecosystem damage also occurred where boulders and mud were dumped downhill, affecting wildlife habitats, water quality, tourism activities and usability of land resources. The cyclone's aftermath has therefore increased environmental risks, which will, in turn, affect local adaptation. Loss of vegetation cover means the natural defence against future floodwaters and landslides is no longer available. Similar events in future are therefore likely to cause even more destruction.

Data provided by UNESCO highlights that Chimanimani district is highly susceptible to flooding and landslides in the event of extreme weather events. This makes it vital for interventions to be made in the district to mitigate the effects of inclement weather, particularly where they pose a risk to the lives and livelihoods of local communities. The data identifies eight wards in eastern Chimanimani as being the most susceptible to landslides, whereas three wards in western Chimanimani are at high risk of sustaining damage from debris-rich floods.

Chimanimani wards 11, 13, 17, and 20 are among the key at-risk areas identified in the UNESCO report in relation to flood and landslide risks. The successive loss of vegetation cover is identified as a leading cause of this increased susceptibility. The restoration of this vegetation cover, alongside the development of integrated water management systems, can help increase the resilience of the identified wards and simultaneously provide benefits for local communities that are facing challenges with the sustainability of domestic water supply. Lastly, interventions aiming to reduce the susceptibility of communities to flooding and landslides should be accompanied with the construction of risk mitigation features in low-lying areas and flood-zones, to mitigate the impact of period and seasonal flooding that is likely unavoidable, even where solutions for resilience have been successfully applied.

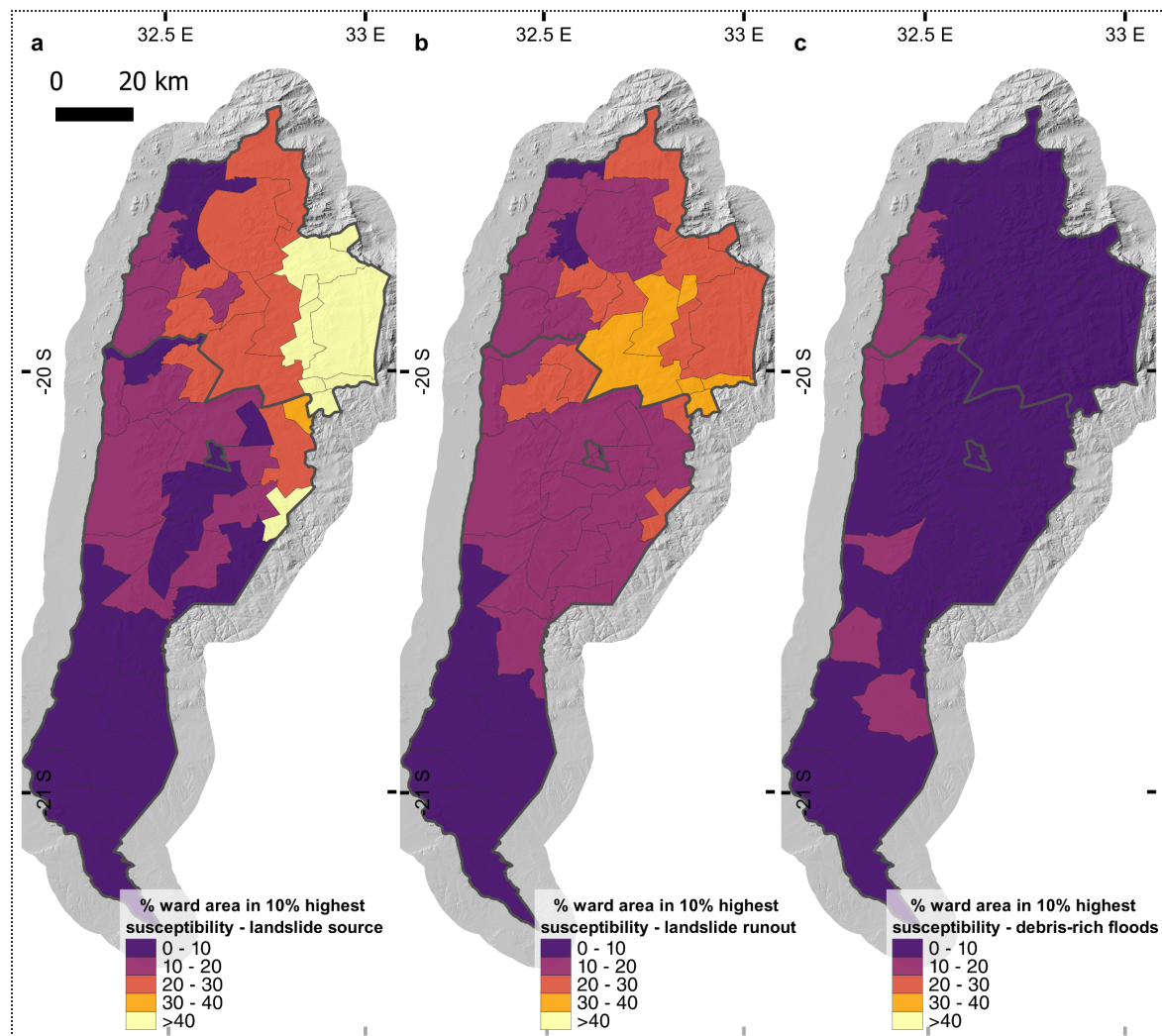


Figure 1: Landslide Risk Mapping for Chimanimani and Chipinge Districts highlighting the susceptibility of wards to landslides and debris-rich floods

## Objective

The overall objective of the initiative is therefore to reduce the vulnerability of communities in the Chimanimani District to severe weather and to increase their resilience to weather-related shocks through the participatory management of community-led micro-watershed schemes as well as ecosystem services in response to the uncertainty of future climate change.

The project is designed to approach the water-related risk and vulnerability through an integrated strategy that targets several aspects of disaster risk reduction and provides a scalable implementation of the project through a modular pathway and the development of case studies in target flood and landslide-prone areas.

The completion of this activity will contribute to the achievement of two specific outputs identified under the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project namely:

- The development of risk mitigation features in the Nyahode Valley in Chimanimani.

- The establishment of watershed management schemes in Nyahode Valley, Chimanimani, aiming to benefit approximately 200 households in the catchment area

The grantee will support UNOPS in the establishment of micro watershed management schemes targeting communities and households that were affected by Cyclone Idai and, as a result, have experienced lost livelihoods, reduced agricultural output, increased food insecurity, and unstable water supply from the ground and natural water sources such as rivers, springs, and wells.

**Primary project/program title:**

Community Infrastructure

**and/or UNOPS reference number (if applicable):**

22005-001

## 1. General instructions for proposal submission

**How to submit?**

**Fill out this simple CFP form;** Grant Application Form - Nyahode Watershed Chimanimani **Annex 1**

**When to submit?**

Deadline 4th October 2022 before 1700hrs

**Where to submit?**

Office Address: UNOPS Chimanimani offices, Chimanimani Hotel Premises or email: [MoyizE@unops.org](mailto:MoyizE@unops.org)

## 2. Eligibility criteria as per project agreement

**Limitations:**

- Only not-for-profit organisations with demonstrated expertise in natural resource management or biodiversity conservation and hands-on training communities at the grassroots level are eligible to apply

**Minimum requirements/qualifications:**

- Only national NGOs, national community-based organizations registered in Zimbabwe
- Only entities with proven experience operating in the Chimanimani District of Manicaland Province of Zimbabwe
- Expertise in natural resource management or biodiversity conservation
- Expertise in hands-on training communities at grassroots level
- The maximum Grant amount requested should be **USD 180,000**

**Other critical considerations:**

- Past performance will be strongly considered when selecting the most suitable proposal.
- The grantee shall provide the outlined services in adherence to the Labour Management Procedures (refer to **Annex 2**) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (refer to **Annex 3**) agreed upon between the World Bank and the technical agencies under the ZIRP.
- The grantee and its staff shall ensure that the services provided are in accordance with the professionalism and ethical standards expected of UNOPS and the United Nations. To this end, the grantee mandates they have all the qualifications, experience, capacity, staff, other resources and facilities necessary for the proper performance of their contractual obligations. The grantee is entirely responsible

for any act, omission or negligence in the performance of their functions and will be expected to fulfil their obligations under the Agreement fully.

- The proposal budget should be realistic and include a detailed breakdown of costs. The budget breakdown should clarify the total allocated budget for each component that the project will contribute. The grantee budget shall clearly identify and budget for any cost and expense for all personnel, equipment, supplies, materials, tools, transportation and other facilities necessary for the proper delivery of all grant components.
- The grantee is expected to take measures to safeguard the interests and security of women in the workplace. Accordingly, the grantee must take measures to prevent gender-based violence and the sexual exploitation of women in the workplace and all other areas where the activities will be implemented.
- Gender consideration: The applicant shall submit a plan or documentation to ensure at least 30% of the unskilled workforce are women.

### 3. Description of scope of work

UNOPS will specifically engage the grantee for the following activities:

1. Identify viable communities and households that can be engaged in micro-watershed management schemes. The communities and households targeted should be able to implement the watershed schemes on land that they formally own and manage.

The grantee will recruit and mobilize work teams that will directly interact with the community in the process of identifying and mapping out viable micro-watershed schemes. For this activity, UNOPS requires the grantee to have in-depth knowledge of the areas and an extensive network in the target areas. It will be preferable for the grantee to be based in the Chimanmani district, with the ability to establish a presence in the target locations during the period of implementation. The grantee will be expected to identify micro-watershed schemes in areas where up to 20 households can be grouped together to establish the different components of the watershed management schemes to tap into groundwater sources.

2. Support UNOPS with the engagement and consultation of the communities targeted for the micro-watershed schemes, as well as other stakeholders in the areas of operation.

The grantee will be required to undertake all of the stakeholder engagement required at the community level in the process of developing the micro-watershed management schemes. This will include the initial engagement of traditional leaders in the targeted areas to seek permission to carry out the activities, as well as the engagement of the communities identified to benefit from the program. UNOPS will require the grantee to track and document the stakeholder engagement and maintain clear records for each engagement. The grantee will also be required to provide support for stakeholder engagement activities carried out at the district government level, which will be led by UNOPS.

3. Provide training to the targeted communities on a suitable curriculum that promotes sustainable land use and help them develop the layouts for their watershed management schemes.

The grantee will be required to provide the beneficiary communities with training in a suitable curriculum that promotes sustainable land use, with the aim of empowering the communities to maximise the utility of their land through environmentally friendly methods. The grantee will also work with the communities to develop layouts for the development of micro-watershed management schemes on their land. The layouts for the schemes should be developed following consultations between all households expected to benefit from the scheme. The layout of the schemes should be designed to ensure that they can be established solely through the use of community labour and without the need for any mechanized or technical equipment. For this activity, the grantee must be able to demonstrate past experience in the development of functioning micro-watershed management schemes at a community level. During the

training of the communities, the grantee will support UNOPS in providing the mandatory sessions required by the donor under ZIRP. This includes sessions on HIV/AIDS awareness, Gender-Based Violence, Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and the ZIRP's grievance redress process and mechanisms.

4. Work directly with the members of the targeted communities to establish the micro-watershed management schemes based on the layouts that were developed.

The grantee will be required to use their technical teams and expertise in the development of micro-watershed management schemes to help the beneficiary communities set up the schemes on their land. UNOPS will require the schemes to be established based on the same layouts initially developed by the beneficiaries. The grantee will be responsible for the procurement and supply of the material, tools, and supplies that will be required to establish the schemes. The establishment of the schemes will be fully participatory, involving the use of the communities' own labour, to ensure they attain the skills required for the establishment of the schemes, later allowing them to maintain and manage the schemes with the minimal involvement of third parties and heavy equipment. UNOPS will expect the grantee's team to supervise the activities carried out and ensure compliance with UNOPS' and the World Bank's HSSE policies.

Some examples of the water resource management solutions that could be used are given below;

- Establishment of small drains and gabions.
  - Linking mitre drains from the road to existing and new in-field contour ridges.
  - Planting Vetiver grass along the waterways and on contour ridges.
  - Establishment of small earthen check dams or gabions to reduce runoff velocity, erosion and gully in the channel and allow sediments to settle out.
  - Establishment of community earth storm drains to protect infrastructure located on steep slopes and water harvesting swales.
  - Agroforestry for the high rainfall areas.
  - Gully reclamation.
  - Stabilisation of earthworks and uphill origins of high-hazard sites with gabions and biological barriers.
  - Planting agroforestry designs for fuel woods, soil improvers and indigenous fruit trees.
  - Protection of livestock water points.
  - Establishment of the technical water table, river flow and landscape monitoring features.
  - Setting up monitoring systems (technical, livelihoods, land use, biodiversity) & end of project assessment.
  - Topographic research and identification of specific intervention sites; on-site engagement of resource users and stakeholders.
  - Site planning and authorisation of site development proposals.
  - Specialist eco-engineering of small-scale check dams: (mapping, pegging, calculations of water intake, storage capacity, outflow design and risk assessment under extreme weather events).
5. Work with the communities to formally establish Water-Users' Associations that will manage the micro-watershed schemes and ensure that all of the households involved have equal access to water.

UNOPS will require the grantee to work with the beneficiary communities to formally constitute Water-Users' Associations that will govern the use of the water produced through the micro-watershed management schemes. All households in the association will sign a written agreement that will outline key details such as the quantity of water each household is entitled to, the durations when they have access to the water, and the schedule for maintenance work. The agreement will also outline the contributions that each household will make toward the management and maintenance of the scheme.

6. Integrate basic systems for monitoring the impact of activities for future use once the project has ended.

The grantee will develop basic systems which are easy to implement and use by the communities to measure the impact of the activities. These could include but are not limited to the following;

- Monthly weather patterns: weather stations linked to electronic systems
- Rainwater harvesting capacity: volume of swales & infiltration pits related to rainfall and catchment above
- Soil moisture at interval distances from swales/check dams
- Borehole/measuring pit recharge related to landscape structures
- Biological monitoring of rangelands (plant population density & species diversity / m<sup>2</sup>)
- Livelihood indicators (water availability / HH, food & nutrition security)
- Livestock data (herd composition, herd performance & livestock sales)
- River flow volume in different seasons
- Agroforestry species plant growth and yield over years

#### Deliverables

1. The grantee is to develop a plan (template provided) demonstrating how their approach, methodologies, actions and deliverables will be implemented within a specific timeframe. The plan should indicate intervals at which key milestones are met and the deliverables or targets that will be used to measure progress towards completion.
2. All relevant stakeholders are consulted in the process of identifying the communities before the initiation of any activities for the identified micro watershed schemes.
3. A minimum of 100 households (per Lot) is identified and mobilized for engagement in the establishment of the micro watershed schemes.
4. Micro watershed schemes are established covering all of the households (per Lot) identified and registered.
5. All households identified for the watershed management schemes are registered under Water Users' Associations, which exist under formal agreements that the participating households have entered.

#### Implementation Period

- The duration of the implementation shall be 6 months.

## 4. Evaluation process

In line with UNOPS evaluation principles of fairness, transparency and integrity, an independent Grant Evaluation and Selection Committee will be responsible for the review of proposals and the Grantee selection. The review is based on the criteria outlined in the 'Call for Proposals' (CFP) and includes an assessment of the grant proposal's formal eligibility, technical, financial and organizational capacity aspects. The review should usually include at least two (2) 'substantially compliant' proposals and result in the selection of the lowest priced, substantially compliant proposal. Any non-compliant proposal may automatically be eliminated from the evaluation process.

#### Evaluation Criteria:

##### Mandatory requirements:

- The applicant should be registered as a not-for-profit entity with a minimum of 5 years in Zimbabwe. applicants should submit a copy of their registration certificates.
- The applicant has to be registered with the local authorities to operate within the geographic area targeted. Certificate of registration to be provided.
- The applicant should have successfully completed at least one (1) similar type of work within the last 5 years. The applicant should submit a completion certificate or letter confirming the successful completion of the given job.

**Technical Criteria:**

The Evaluation Committee will address the following questions during their appraisal:

1. Relevance:
  - Is the information provided in the proposal complete and sufficient for the appraisal?
  - Is the project based on a good understanding of the context in the respective project site?
2. Effectiveness:
  - Is the project approach and methodology innovative, feasible and appropriate?
  - Are the methodologies based on previous experience and evidence-based knowledge?
  - Is the idea technically feasible and likely to achieve the stated results?
3. Efficiency:
  - Does the proposed implementing organization and its partners have the necessary technical expertise, experience and capacity to implement the project?
  - Does the budget demonstrate value for money for the project, in particular in relation to the expected results? Is it adequate to deliver the outputs?
4. Sustainability:
  - Does the project demonstrate a good case for sustainability of the proposed outcomes and impacts beyond the funding period?
  - Is the partnership built on long-term trust relationships?
5. Gender Mainstreaming:
  - Does the proposal include a plan or documentation to ensure at least 30% of the unskilled workforce are women?
6. Implementation and Monitoring Plan:
  - Does the proposal include a clear timeline for implementation linking to the deliverables?
  - Does the proposal include a clear and structured plan for monitoring and evaluating the grant project, both during its implementation and at completion?
7. Grant Budget Breakdown:
  - Is the project Budget realistic and provides a breakdown of costs according to the activities?
8. Risks
  - Has the proposal sufficiently considered major internal and external risks and indicated risk mitigation measures to be developed?

**Key Personnel:**

The applicant is required to provide a minimum of the following key personnel and is required to provide CVs and relevant certificates for each applicant.

1. Project manager/coordinator (1 No.)
2. Community mobilizers (3 Nos.)
3. Water Resources Management Officers (1 No.)
4. Administration officer (1 No.)
5. Training officers (1 No.)



## 5. UNOPS Grant Support Agreement

The UNOPS Standard Grant Support Agreement (GSA) containing UNOPS General Conditions for Grant Support Agreements (**Annex 4**) of the [UNOPS Grant Support Agreement template](#) is herewith. The GSA constitutes an integral part of this CFP as it is mandatory to accept this agreement with its conditions before submitting a proposal.

## 6. Interest / Grantee Application template

If your organization is interested in submitting a grant proposal in response to this CFP, please kindly prepare a short 'Expression of Interest' statement (below) and/or complete the Grant Application template (herewith attached as **Annex 1**)

My organization \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby formally interested in the advertised grant program/component and will submit a proposal within the established timeframe.

**Authorized signature:**

**Title:**

**Date:**