

European Microfinance Platform

WASH Action Group

Terms of Reference

Water and Sanitation – Knowledge Session Coordinator

Background

The European Microfinance Platform (e-MFP) is the leading network of European organisations and individuals active in the microfinance/financial inclusion sector in developing countries. e-MFP fosters activities which increase global access to affordable, quality, sustainable and inclusive financial services for the un(der)banked by driving knowledge-sharing, partnership development and innovation. Through its Action Groups (AGs) which are an important driver of the network's activities, e-MFP provides opportunity for members to join forces on specific projects or activities on common areas of interest.

In order to meet SDG 6 by 2030, the water and sanitation economy faces significant challenges. 2.2 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water and 4.2 billion people are without sanitation amenities. Moreover, achieving SDG 6 requires an estimated US \$114 billion per year in the run-up to 2030, which currently is not available. According to OECD data, only 1.36% (\$2.14 billion) of the total private finance mobilised from 2012-17 (\$157.2 billion) has been mobilised in the water and sanitation sector. This presents an opportunity for (impact) investors and financiers to engage and understand the role their capital can play in bridging this financing gap, while securing social and financial returns on SDG 6 related investments.

Many investors working in developing countries find it difficult to grow their Water and Sanitation (W&S) portfolios, because they lack clarity about the sector. The e-MFP WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Action Group was created in June 2021 aiming to tackle key information/knowledge gaps in the water and sanitation sector, and to map and define water and sanitation indicators that can be widely used by different stakeholders in the financial inclusion sector, particularly by the investors in their decisions.

The project

The project was approved by the e-MFP Board on 6 July 2023 and includes 3 activities, to be initiated in the second semester of 2023 and implemented until December 2024.

Activities:

Activity 1- Pilot testing of Water & Sanitation indicators: based on the WASH AG work developed with consultant Jeroen Trimpe Burger from Rebel in 2022. The aim of this activity will be to conduct field testing of the W&S indicators with a group of selected financial institutions.

Activity 2 - Climate and WASH Webinar Series: aiming to explore opportunities, identify products, and build an understanding of the convergence between Water & Sanitation and Climate Financing to help close existing knowledge gaps. A junior consultant to be recruited by e-MFP will support in the organisation of the webinars.

Tentative topics:

- a) What is climate-WASH financing, why is it necessary?
- b) Opportunities
 - Clean and resilient WASH solutions
 - What can investors do? Catalysing climate finance for WASH
- c) Product/solution mapping on climate-WASH
- d) Success stories/Is it bankable?

Activity 3 - Investor sharing sessions: closed group sessions led by AG members to share experiences from specific transactions/deals in order to challenge investors' preconceived notions regarding W&S investments. AG members can highlight financial, operational, impact outcomes information via "inside the deal" structure. Number of sessions dependent on availability of the AG members.

This term of reference concerns Activities 2 and 3 with deliverables and timeline described below.

Role of consultant

e-MFP is seeking a dedicated and proactive **Junior Consultant to organise and coordinate a series of webinars in collaboration with the e-MFP WASH Action Group**. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing the end-to-end process of planning, scheduling, executing, and documenting a series of webinars designed to engage the financial inclusion actors working on and interested in WASH.

The responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Plan, schedule, and execute webinar series in collaboration with Action Group members.
- Coordinate speakers, schedules, and briefing materials for seamless participation.
- Evaluate webinar effectiveness to facilitate improvements for future sessions.
- Support the e-MFP Secretariat in managing logistics and promote webinars through various channels.
- Collect notes and summarise key messages/takeaways from webinars and prepare dissemination documents as described in deliverables.

The consultant will work closely with the e-MFP Secretariat and the AG Head, Owais Shafiq, and will report progress to the AG Head and interact with AG members receiving and integrating their inputs into the project deliverables. The work will be conducted off-site and will not require travel.

Deliverables

- 1) End-to-end execution of six online web-based sessions for AG members and beyond, including proposing the session format for webinars in Activity 3, liaising with external partners, coordinating session invitations, and moderating sessions.
- 2) Dissemination document/report on Climate and WASH to showcase the key takeaways/messages of the Activity 2 webinar sessions (format to be defined)

- 3) “Key Takeaways” 1-2 pager dissemination document prepared from Activity 3 investor sharing sessions.

All written outputs are to be presented in English.

Timeline and payment

The work will be conducted between September 2023 and mid-December 2024. The consultancy corresponds to up to 15 working days at a daily rate depending on experience.

The consultant will be paid on satisfactory completion of the deliverables, with possibility of an early payment to be discussed with the consultant.

Profile of candidate

- Degree in a relevant field (e.g., business, communications, marketing, development economics, economics, microfinance).
- Strong organisational and project management skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication abilities in English.
- Experience in webinar platforms and related technologies.
- Attention to detail and the ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously.
- Familiarity with investor relations, financial concepts, water, sanitation, and hygiene is a strong plus.
- Capacity to work independently, to be resourceful, and to manage stakeholder expectations.

To apply

If you are interested, please send **your CV, references (name, contact), and required daily rate** together with **a 1-page expression of interest** presenting how you see yourself contributing to this project.

Contact: Joana Afonso – jafonso@e-mfp.eu and Owais Shafiq o.shafiq@aquaforall.org

Deadline: 10th September 2023